

Chapter 6
Lesson 1
Beginnings

Beginnings

- polytheism-worship in many gods, or deities
- monotheism**-worship in one god
- Judaism
 - both an ancient and modern religion
 - monotheism was unique in ancient religions
- Israelites
 - believed **prophets**, or messengers, were sent to share God's word

The Hebrew Bible

- Israelites recorded beliefs and history
 - known as the Hebrew Bible, Tanakh
 - became known as Judaism
 - followers now known as Jews
- Judaism played big role in development of
 - Christianity
 - Called Hebrew Bible the Old Testament
 - Islam
 - accepted many beliefs and practices

Abraham

- migrated from Mesopotamia to Canaan
 - God told Abraham to go there and the land would be his and his descendants forever.
 - Canaan is often called the Promise Land

Isaac and Jacob

- Abraham's son and grandson headed the family
 - angel named Jacob Israel
 - later his descendants were called "Israelites"
 - 12 sons became leaders of **tribes**, or separate family groups
- Jacob's family left Canaan because of famine
 - migrated to Egypt
 - after many generations and increase in Israelites the Egyptian pharaoh reduced them to slaves

Moses and the Exodus

- God called to Moses to tell the pharaoh to let his people go
 - the pharaoh refused and God sent 10 plagues upon Egypt
- After they left for Canaan, the pharaoh sent his army after them
 - when they reached the Red Sea, God parted the water for his people and flooded the army
- Exodus**-departure of the Israelites out of slavery
 - celebrate Passover to remember their freedom

The Covenant

- covenant**-agreement with God
 - to follow God's teachings
- Moses was the chosen leader
 - received teachings known as the **Torah**; later became the first part of the Hebrew Bible
- important part was the Ten **Commandments**, a rule that God wanted the Israelites to follow
 - later shaped the moral principals of many nations
 - democratic belief that laws should apply equally to all

The Land of Canaan

- Moses died before reaching Canaan and Joshua took over
- When they got to Canaan others were there who had different ways of life and worshipped many gods

Who Were the Canaanites?

- Phoenicians were skilled sailors and traders
 - used the sun and stars to plot long sea voyages
 - ships with oars were used for trade
 - controlled Mediterranean shipping and trade
 - purple dye from shellfish was used to dye cloths
- Carthage-settlement on coast of North Africa became most powerful city
 - because of these settlements ideas and goods began to spread
 - the Phoenician's **alphabet**-group of letters that stand for sound, was one of these

Philistines

- known as the "Sea People" who invaded the Mediterranean area about 1200 B.C.
- skilled in making tools and weapons which helped them create the strongest army
- kept own language and religion

Military Conquest

- Joshua led them in battles to conquer Canaan
 - Battle of Jericho
 - marched around the city walls for 6 days
 - 7th day the wall collapsed and they took control of the city
- fought many battles
 - any land seized was divided among the 12 tribes
- after Joshua died, judges ruled the tribes
 - woman judge, Deborah, was admired for her wisdom and bravery

Life in Canaan

- after many battles, Israelite tribes won hilly region of central Canaan
 - settled here to farm and herd animals
 - rocky and dry land with little water
 - stored water in caves for the dry season
 - houses made of mud brick or stone plaster
 - slept on the roof at night and worked inside during the day

The Tabernacle

- worshipped in tent-like structures called tabernacle
- believed it housed God's presence
- housed the Ark of the Covenant
 - gold-covered wooden chest held tablets, or stone slabs

