**Teacher Copy of Notes on the Israelites and the Rule of Law**

**THE BASIC BELIEFS OF JUDAISM**

**Judaism** is known as the world’s oldest **monotheistic** religion. **Followers** of **Judaism** are called **Jews**. The **Jewish** people **believe** that there is only **one** God who **made** a covenant with them. A **covenant** is a special **promise** between **God** and a **leader**.

They have a holy land in **Israel**, located **north** of **Egypt** and **west** of **Mesopotamia**

1. What is a monotheistic religion? ***A religion that believes in one god, goddess, or deity.***
2. What is one belief of Judaism? **Sample answers include:**

* ***There is one God.***
* ***God made a covenant with them.***
* ***They have a holy land located in Israel.***

1. What civilizations is Israel located by? ***Egypt and Mesopotamia.***

**THE TANAKH (“The Old Testament”) AND THE TORAH**

The **sacred** text for **Judaism** is called the **Tanakh**. It includes the same books as the **Old** Testament in the **Bible**, the sacred text for Christianity.

The first **five** books of the **Tanakh** are called the **Torah**. The Torah contains **laws** that Jews must **follow**. The **origins** of Jewish **faith** are explained throughout the **Torah** as well.

1. What is the Tanakh? ***The Tanakh is the sacred text for Judaism similar to the Old Testament in the Christian Bible.***
2. What is the Torah? ***The Torah is the first five books of the Tanakh with laws and the origins of Jewish faith.***

**THE FOUNDING OF JUDAISM**

The **origins** of Judaism start with **Abraham**. He made a **covenant** with **God** where he promised that Abraham’s **descendants** would create a **nation**, and that nation became **Israel**.

Judaism is not the **only** religion that believes in **Abraham**. Both **Christianity** and **Islam** believe in Abraham, and all three are known as **Abrahamic** religions.

1. Who was Abraham? ***A leader who made a covenant with God. God said his descendants would create a nation called Israel.***
2. What is an Abrahamic religion? ***A religion that believes in Abraham; examples are Christianity and Islam.***

**THE HISTORY OF THE ISRAELITES**

In 1430 BCE, the **Egyptians** began to enslave the **Israelites**, also known as the **Hebrews**. The Hebrews were **enslaved** by **Egypt** until 1280 BCE when **Moses** freed them. The Israelites traveled past the **Red** Sea to Israel with the Ten **Commandments**, which **God** gave to **Moses**.

The **Ten** Commandments are a **series** of **laws** explaining what **believers** can and cannot do. These laws help **establish** the **rule** of law.

1. Who was Moses? ***A leader who freed the Hebrews/Israelites and brought them to Israel. God gave him the Ten Commandments.***
2. What is the rule of law? ***The rule of law is the idea of equality under the law where everyone is equal and must follow the same laws and rules.***