

A glowing human head is shown in profile, facing left. The head is translucent and filled with bright, swirling light and energy. At the base of the brain, an open book is visible, with light emanating from its pages. The background is a dark, starry space with a teal glow.

Judaism and the Jewish People

Ch. 5/Sec. 1:
The Origins of Judaism

Judaism

- Developed 3,000 years ago in the Fertile Crescent
- One of the world's oldest religions
- First religion based on one God
- Shaped Christianity and Islam
 - impacted ideas about laws and human rights

Origins of Judaism

- History is found in the Torah:
 - Torah is the first 5 books of the **Hebrew Bible** (same as the Christian Bible-Pentateuch):
 1. Genesis
 2. Exodus
 3. Leviticus
 4. Numbers
 5. Deuteronomy

Did You Know?

The word Torah is Hebrew. Its meaning comes from a root word that was used in archery (yareh). This word means to shoot an arrow in order to hit a mark. The mark/target, was the objects the archer aimed for.

Therefore, when related to Judaism and the Torah, the target is the truth about God and how one related to him. Torah teaches, points out moral direction, and instructs the believer.

The usual translation of the word is “law” but this isn’t quite accurate.

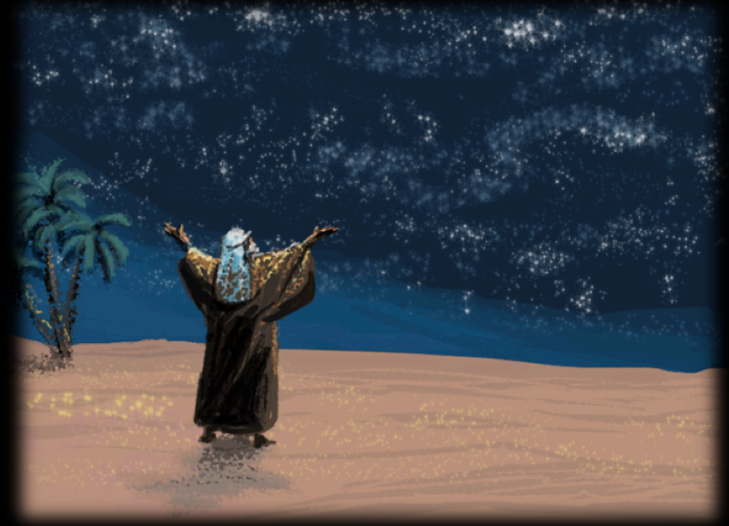
The Israelites & the Worship of One God

- The Israelites had neighbors in the Fertile Crescent that were polytheistic.
 - The Israelites were unique because they were monotheistic.
 - Believed God called them to act based on right and wrong
 - Teachings and practices of the Israelites became known as Judaism



Abraham's Covenant

- The Torah tells the story of Abraham,
 - lived around 1700 B.C.
 - Home was Ur (Mesopotamia--Fertile Crescent)
- God told Abraham to leave Ur and travel to Canaan
- God made a covenant (binding agreement) with Abraham:
 1. Descendants would be as numerous the stars
 2. The Promised Land (Canaan) would belong to Abraham and his descendants
 3. In return, Abraham would worship God as the one and only true God



The Patriarchs



- Abraham led his people to Canaan
- Founding Fathers of the Jewish people:
 - Abraham
 - Isaac (Abraham's son)
 - Jacob (Isaac's sons)
- Jacob had 12 sons, each would be in charge of a tribe.
 - Jacob later renamed "Israel"
 - The people of the 12 tribes became known as the Israelites

The Exodus

- A famine occurred in Canaan.
 - traveled to Egypt
- The Israelites population grew over time.
 - The pharaoh of Egypt feared a rebellion
 - He enslaved and mistreated them



MOSES

- Moses was an Israelite
 - kicked out of Egypt
 - God appeared to Moses and asked him to rescue his people from slavery in Egypt.
 - Moses asked the pharaoh to do so, but he refused.
 - In response, God brought terrible things to Egypt (plagues)
 - The pharaoh finally agreed after the final punishment; death of the first born son.



THE 10 PLAGUES OF EGYPT



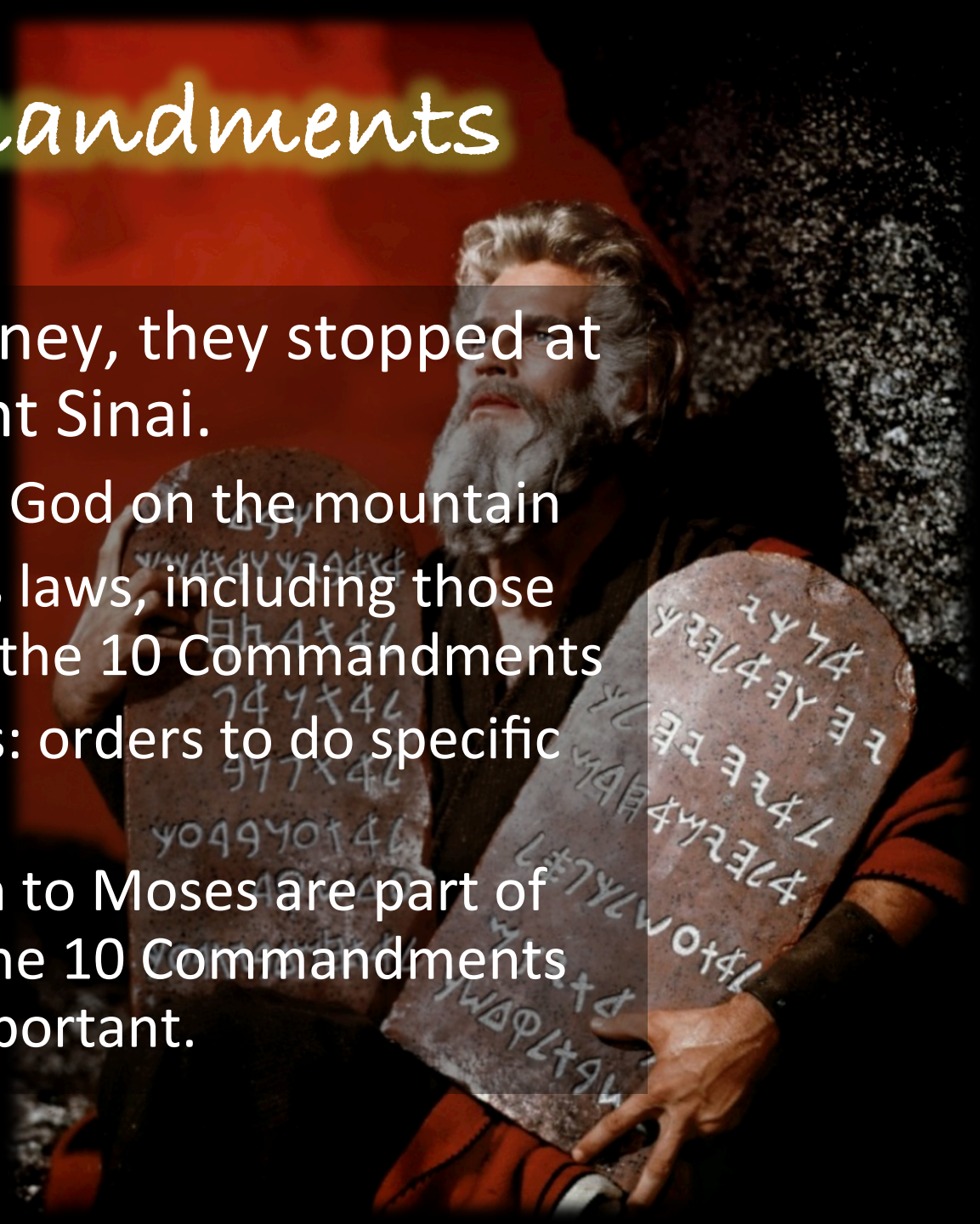
- 1 Water to Blood
- 2 Frogs Way of Horus
- 3 Lice
- 4 Flies
- 5 Cattle Disease
- 6 Boils
- 7 Hail & Fire
- 8 Locusts
- 9 Darkness
- 10 Death

The Exodus out of Egypt

- Moses led the Israelites to the Sinai Peninsula
 - Escape is called the Exodus
 - Believed to have occurred during the 1200s B.C.
- The Torah states the people lived in the desert for 40 years
 - God was preparing them for the Promised Land by giving them specific instructions
 - Learned ways to worship God and created religious objects
- Traveling to Canaan they faced harsh conditions

The 10 Commandments

- During their journey, they stopped at the foot of Mount Sinai.
 - Moses met with God on the mountain
 - God gave Moses laws, including those known today as the 10 Commandments
 - Commandments: orders to do specific things
 - Many laws given to Moses are part of the Torah, but the 10 Commandments are the most important.



Laws for Living

- The 10 Commandments are still important to Jews today—rules for the believer
 - They still believe they have a covenant with God; thus they have to follow the Torah teachings
 - They believe that each person has worth because they are created in God's image
 - They believe we have a responsibility to do what is right.

Return to the Promised Land

- Moses died before the Israelites reached the Promised Land (Canaan)
 - Joshua took his place as the leader
 - Conquered cities along the way; the first was Jericho.
 - The 12 tribes settled in different areas

