



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT  
STANDARD 6.3**

## The Ancient Hebrews

**Overall Objective:** Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Ancient Hebrews.

Read the information below to answer questions on the next page.

**c. 1800 B.C.**

- According to tradition, Abraham made a **covenant**, or agreement, with God in which he promised to obey God in return for God's protection of the Hebrews.
- Abraham's agreement marked beginning of **monotheism**, belief in a single god.
- Monotheism contrasted sharply with beliefs of others at the time who believed in many gods.
- Hebrews believed that God watched over all peoples everywhere.

**c. 1700 B.C.**

During a severe drought, Hebrews went to Egypt.

**c. 1250 B.C.**

- According to tradition, Moses led the Hebrews out of Egypt (an event called the Exodus) and received the **Ten Commandments** from God.
- The Ten Commandments became basis for civil and religious laws of Judaism.
- The Ten Commandments and other laws emphasized equality and the need to live a good life,
- The Ten Commandments had lasting influence on later belief systems.

**c. 1020 B.C.**

Saul united the Hebrews and became the first king of a new kingdom—Israel.

**c. 962 B.C.**

King Solomon became king of Israel and built a great temple in Jerusalem.

**586 B.C.**

- Babylonians captured Jerusalem and destroyed the temple.
- Jews were forced into exile.
- Prophets helped to keep Judaism alive.

**515 B.C.**

- The second temple in Jerusalem was completed.

**63 B.C.**

- Judea was conquered by Romans.

**A.D. 70**

- Romans destroyed the second temple.
- The **Diaspora** began, the forced movement of Jews out of Palestine (Israel).
- To keep Judaism alive, Jews built synagogues (places for prayer and worship) and schools wherever they went.

### Sacred Writings of Judaism

#### Hebrew Bible

- **Torah:** first five books of Bible. Tells the origins of humanity and Judaism.
- **Prophets:** stories about and writings by Jewish prophets.
- **Writings:** collection of poetry, history, stories, and writings.

#### Talmud

- **Mishnah:** written versions of Jewish oral (or spoken) law.
- **Gemara:** includes explanations and interpretations of the Mishnah.

