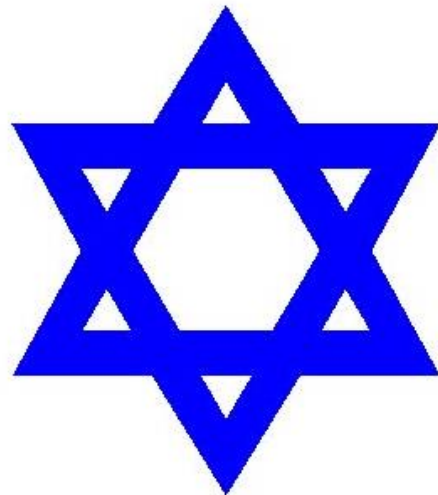


Do Now!

What helps Jews from all around the world feel as if they are part of a community?

What makes Jews so well known? Why “major” religion?



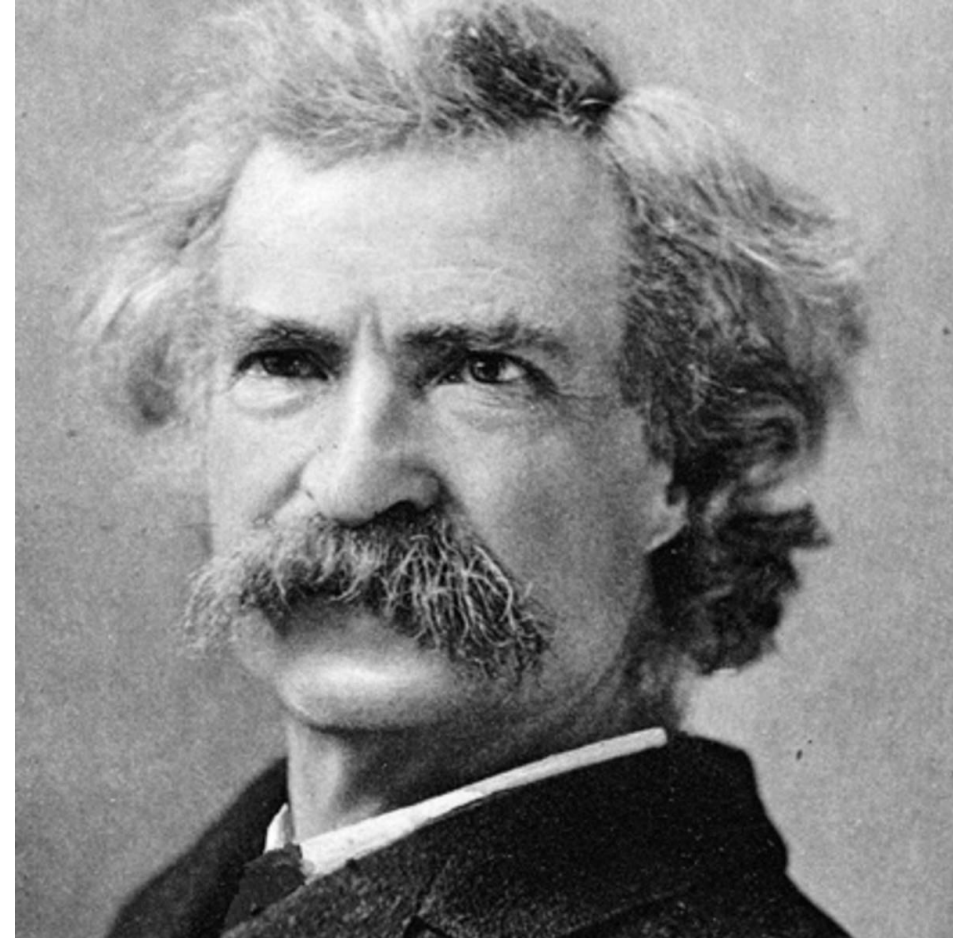
Mark Twain On the Jews

"If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk.

His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are also very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers. He has made a marvelous fight in this world in all ages; and has done it with his hands tied behind him. He could be vain of himself and be excused for it. The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished.

The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities, of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies, no dulling of his alert but aggressive mind. All things are mortal but the Jews; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? "

- September 1897 (Quoted in *The National Jewish Post & Observer*, June 6, 1984)



Terms, People, and Places

Monotheistic:

Torah:

Abraham:

Moses:

David:

Solomon:

Covenant:

Patriarchal:

Sabbath:

Prophet:

Ethics:

Diaspora:

Lesson Objectives:

- Understand what made the ancient Israelites' belief system unique from others at that time.
- Outline the main events in the early history of the Israelites.
- Analyze the moral and ethical ideas of Judaism.

CHAPTER
2
SECTION 5
Section Summary
ROOTS OF JUDAISM
READING CHECK

Who is considered the “father of the Israelites”?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *undertook* mean in the underlined sentence? Read the underlined sentence aloud, but leave out the word *undertook*. What word could you use in its place? Use this strategy to help you figure out the meaning of *undertook*.

READING SKILL

Identify Supporting Details Find two details in the Summary that support the idea that Jews maintained their identity during the Diaspora.

About 4,000 years ago, the ancient Israelites developed Judaism, one of today’s major religions. Unlike neighboring peoples, Israelites were **monotheistic**, believing in only one god. They believed every event reflected God’s plan. So, they recorded events and laws in the **Torah**. It is the most sacred text of the Israelites, or Jews, and includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

According to the Torah, about 2000 B.C., **Abraham**, and his family migrated to a region called Canaan. Abraham is considered the father of the Israelites. The Israelites believed that God made a **covenant**, or binding agreement, with Abraham. This covenant promised a special relationship with God and a homeland in Canaan. However, famine forced the Israelites into Egypt, where they became slaves. Much later, **Moses** led their exodus, or departure, from Egypt back to Canaan.

There, they established the kingdom of Israel around 1000 B.C. Under the second king, **David**, the feuding 12 tribes of Israel were united into one kingdom. Then, David’s son Solomon undertook the task of turning Jerusalem into an impressive capital city. He completed a massive temple and increased Israel’s influence in the region. However, after his death, the kingdom split and eventually fell to the Assyrians and Babylonians.

Israelite society was **patriarchal**, meaning that men held the greatest authority. Also from early times, law was central to Judaism. The Torah contains laws on such subjects as cleanliness, food preparation, and crime. Also in the Torah is a special set of laws called the Ten Commandments. These laws stress moral conduct and religious duty, such as keeping the **Sabbath**, a holy day of rest and worship. Often in Jewish history, **prophets**, or spiritual leaders, arose. They urged social justice and taught strong codes of **ethics**, or moral standards of behavior.

During a 500-year period called the **Diaspora**, the Jews left or were exiled from Israel, and they spread out around the world. Still, they maintained their identity in close-knit communities, following religious laws and traditions. This helped them to survive centuries of persecution.

Judaism has been an important religion. From that culture and faith, both Christianity and Islam emerged, creating an ethical legacy we call the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Review Questions

1. What is the Torah?

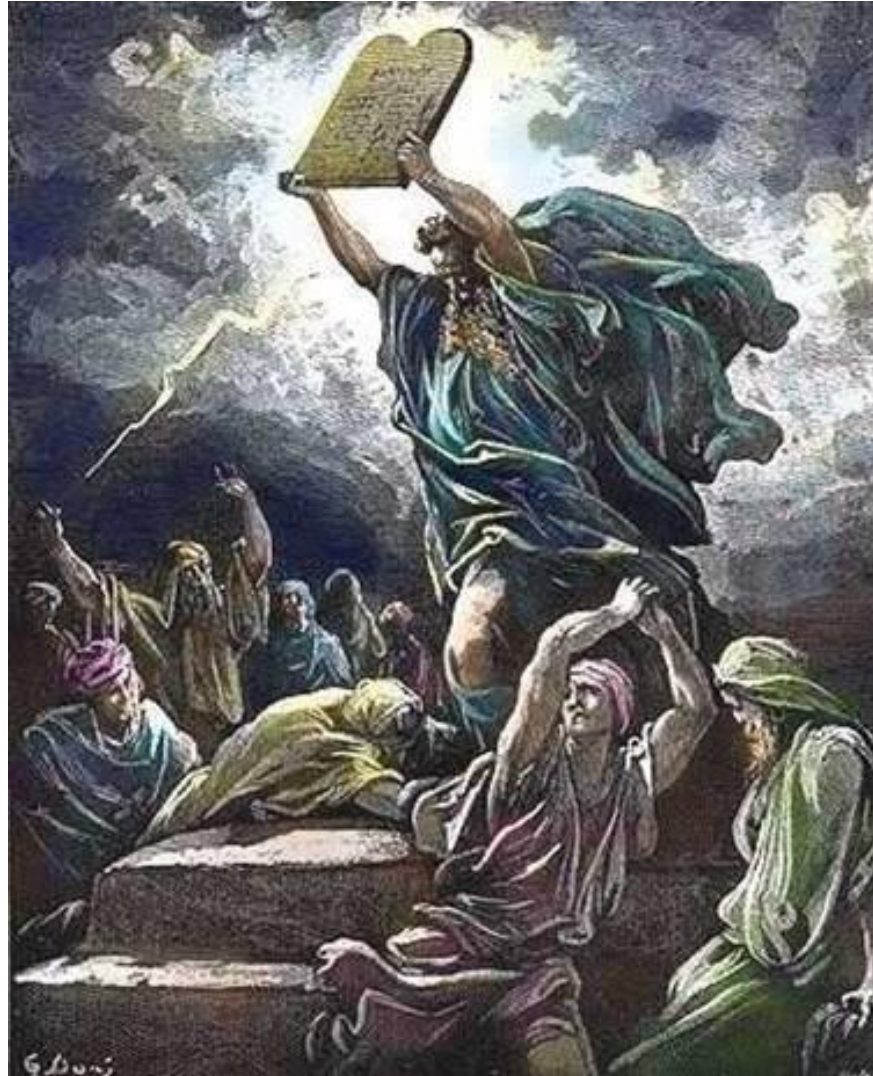
2. What was the Diaspora?

Summary

“Roots of Judaism”

The Hebrews developed Judaism, a monotheistic religion based on the worship of one G-d, whose laws are set out in the Torah and the Ten Commandments. This religion was unique in the ancient world because it was monotheistic.

Aim #8: How did Judaism & Jews develop?



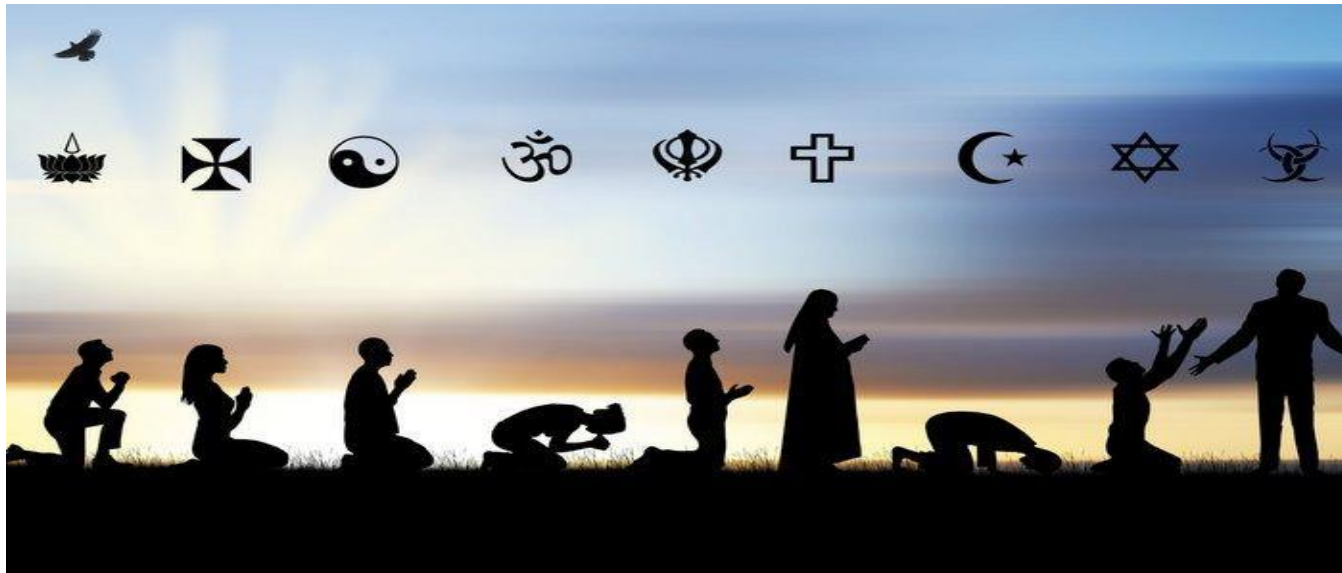
What is Religion?

- A set of **beliefs** about the nature of the universe, the existence of one god or several gods, the meaning of life, & what happens after death.

- A set of **customs & practices** that relate to the worship of one god or several gods, & a set of rules for proper conduct.



- An **organization**, such as a church or synagogue, that oversees the conduct of religious practices.



*Think about how religion relates to & influences its society & its arts

Ancient Israelites Shape a Unique Religion

- Israelites (Hebrews) were unique bec. of monotheism
- History & faith interrelated
- **Torah** is a record of events, laws, & morals
- Additional customs & laws written in Talmud



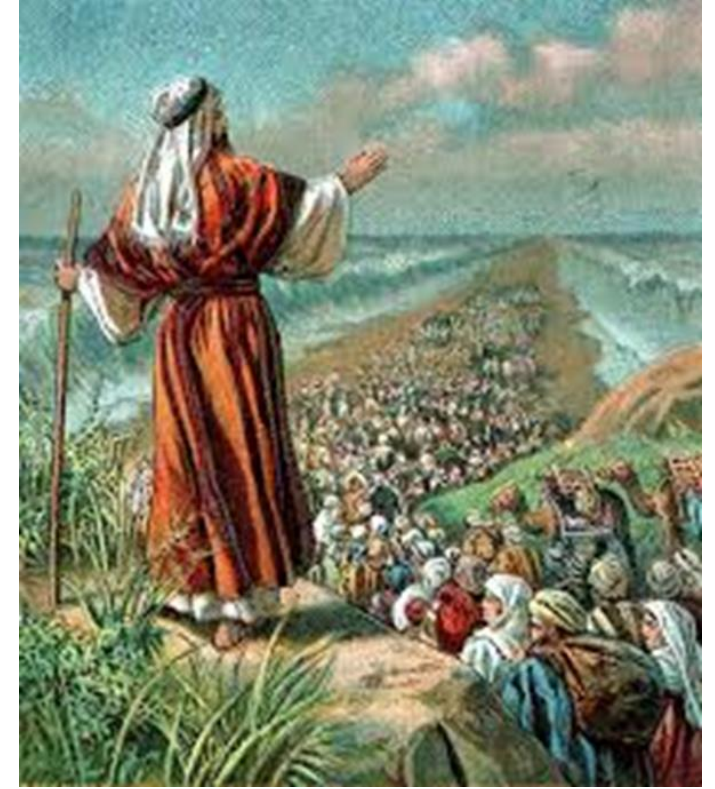


Checkpoint

What made the ancient Israelites' belief system unique from others at the time?

The Ancient Israelites

- 2000 BCE, Abraham migrated from Mesopotamia to Canaan
- G-d made covenant w/ Abraham:
 - Required fulfillment of certain obligations & duties
 - He & descendants are g-d's "chosen people"
 - Israel will one day be their "promise land"
- Moses renewed g-d's covenant & led Hebrews out of bondage (1391–1271; 1300 BCE?)
- 1000 BCE, 12 Israelite tribes set up Kingdom of Israel & united by King David
- Solomon made Jerusalem into impressive capital & built Holy Temple (966 BCE)



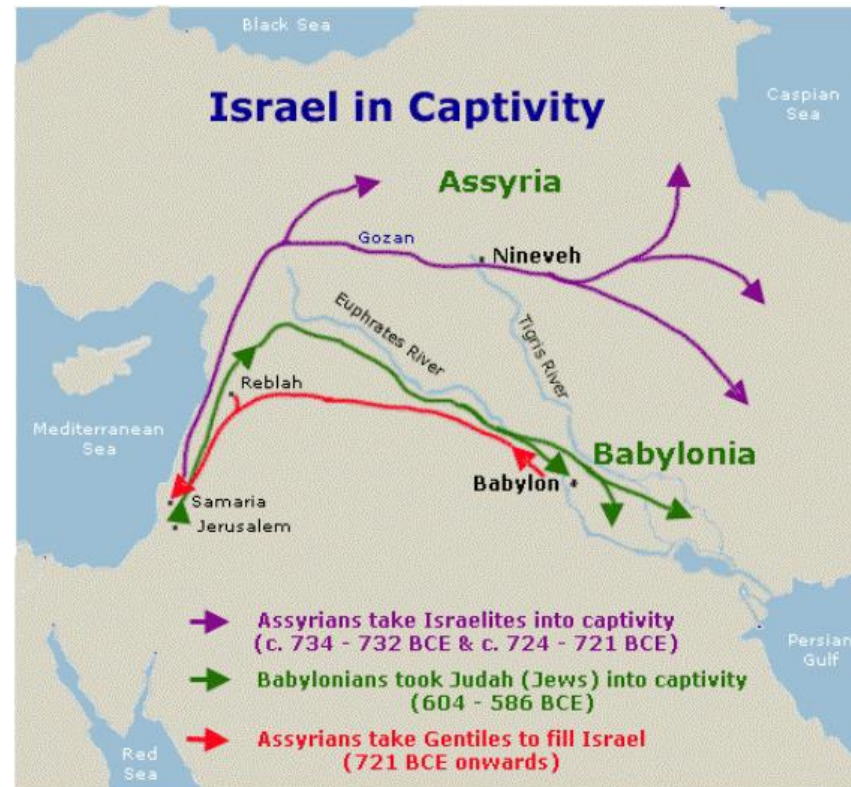
G-d makes a covenant with Abraham

“You shall be the father of a multitude of nations... I will make nations of you and kings shall come forth from you. And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be G-d to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you, and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan...”

--- Genesis 17:4-8

Israel Suffers Division & Conquest

- High taxes & revolt led to split of Israel in N. & Judah in S. (922 BCE)
- 722 BCE, Israel conquered by Assyrians
- 586 BCE, Judah conquered by Babylonians & forced exile for 50yrs
- 539 BCE, Judah conquered by Persians & Israelites became known as Jews





Checkpoint

What were the main events in the early history of the Israelites?

Judaism Teaches About Law & Morality

- Torah- Book of Laws & Principles (morals)
 - reflects Israelites' respect for law by including many laws for moral behavior
- **patriarchal** society
- Ten Commandments at heart of Judaism
 - First 4, toward g-d
 - next 6, between fellow Jews
- Prophets
 - interpret g-d's will
 - remind Jews of their duties
 - taught code of **ethics** (help weak & equality)

The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-14)

I the Lord am your God...You shall have no other gods besides Me.

You shall not make for yourself a sculptured image, or any likeness of what is in the heavens above, or on earth below...You shall not bow down to them or serve them.

You shall not swear falsely by the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath (day of rest) and keep it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

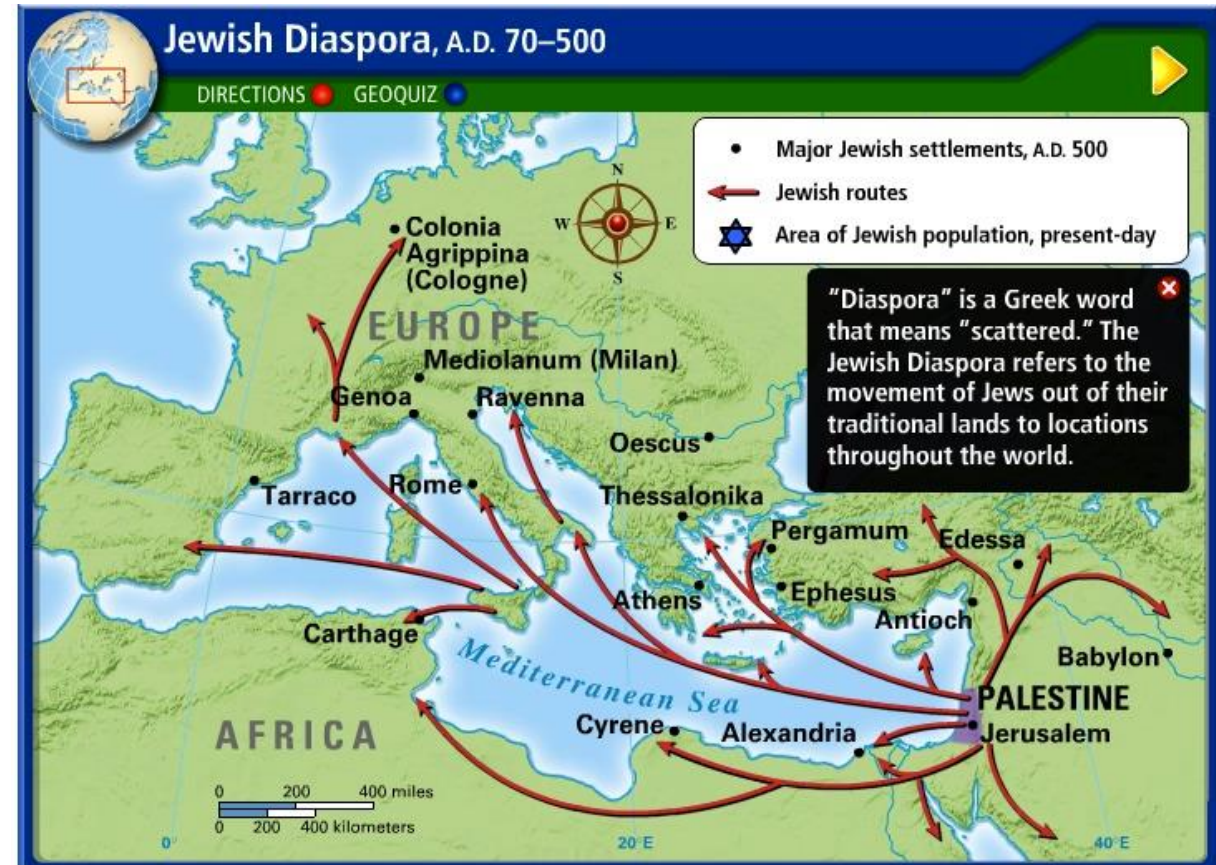
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet (desire)...anything that is your neighbor's.



Jews Maintain Their Beliefs Over Time & Place

- **Diaspora** began following Babylonian Captivity (538 BCE)
- Identity remained through:
 - close-knit communities
 - obeying laws
 - keeping traditions
 - Symbols
 - History
 - Hatred/tragedy
- Today, Judaism is a major world religion due to its contribution to
 - religious thought; influencing Christianity & Islam
 - Human progress

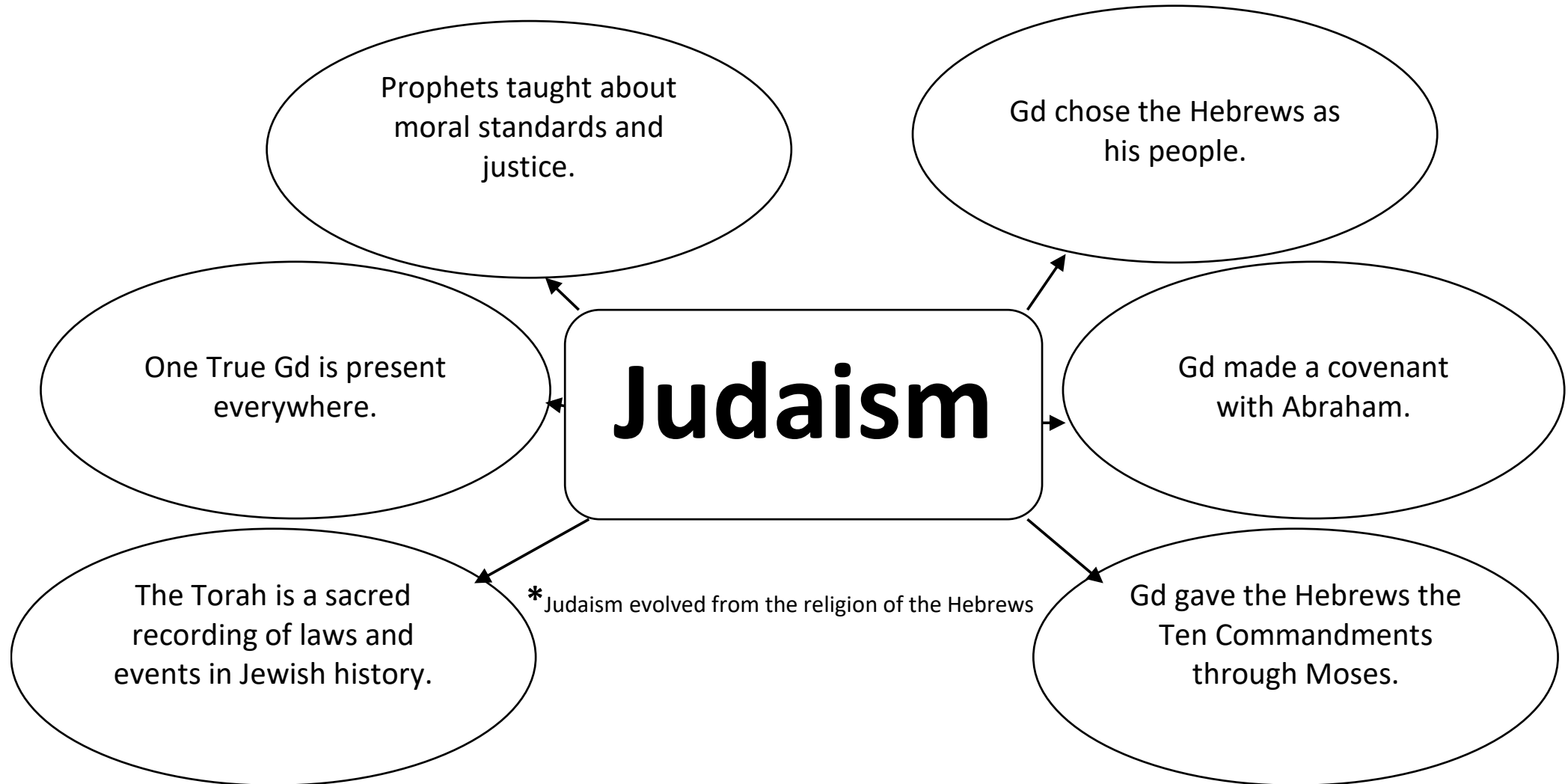




Checkpoint

What are the moral and ethical ideas of Judaism?

Graphic Summary: *Judaism: The Religion of the Hebrews*





I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD
Please jot down what you
have gotten from today's
lesson and what you still
have questions on.