**ANCIENT HEBREWS**

**#18**

**I. Introduction**

In the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt, there lived a group of ancient people called the Ancient Hebrews. Their religious beliefs and their traditions have been passed down for thousands of years and have many effects on our society. Today, the people who follow the religious beliefs and traditions of the **Hebrews** are called **Jews** and practice a religion called **Judaism**. Judaism began about 4000 years ago in the Middle East. Abraham, a Hebrew man, is considered the father of the Ancient Hebrews.

**DIRECTIONS: Actively read (highlight/underline important words/phrases, circle words that you do not understand) about the beliefs of Judaism. Evaluate how these beliefs/ideas influence the lives of its followers by filling in the template that follows.**

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| **BELIEFS/IDEAS:** |
| **Monotheism:**  Most of the people in the ancient world were *polytheistic*. This means that they believed in many gods. However, the Hebrews were *monotheists*. This means that they only pray to one god. The word *monotheism* comes from the Greek word “mono” which means “one” and “theism,” meaning “god.” The Hebrews said that they only have one god. In their eyes, God was all-powerful. |
| **The Covenant (*Promise*):**  According to the holy books of the ancient Hebrews (called the **Torah** by Jews or **the Old Testament** by Christians), Abraham made a **covenant**, or promise, with God. Abraham and his wife Sarah were old and childless. They were told by God that they would have as many children as there are stars in the sky and that they would one day have their own land called Canaan. In exchange, Abraham and Sarah had to obey God’s laws. |
| **The Path of the Ancient Hebrews:**  Abraham’s descendants were forced to migrate due to a famine. One of the places they moved to was Egypt. There, they were enslaved by the pharaohs and were forced to be slaves for 400 years. Moses was chosen by God to free the Ancient Hebrews. Moses led the Ancient Hebrews to Canaan and there, they established their kingdom. |
| **Patriarchal Society:**  The society of Hebrews was **patriarchal**, which means fathers and husbands held great legal and moral authority (control). The father or oldest male relative was head of the household and arranged marriages for his daughters. Women had few legal rights, although some laws protected them. |
| **Ethics—How to Behave:**  Prophets, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah warned that failure to obey God’s law would lead their people to disaster. The prophets preached a strong code of **ethics**, or moral standards of behavior. They called for rich and powerful people to protect the poor and weak. All people, the prophets said, were equal before God. This was unlike many other ancient societies, which the ruler was seen as god. Rather, the Jews saw their leader as fully human and must obey God’s law like everyone else. |
| **The Ten Commandments:**  God gave Moses a set of laws which guides still guides Jews and Christians today. The laws were called the **Ten Commandments** and are part of the Torah (the Jewish holy books). The Ten Commandments are the following:   1. You shall have no other gods before Me. 2. You shall not make idols. 3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain. 4. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. 5. Honor your father and your mother. 6. You shall not murder. 7. You shall not commit adultery (infidelity: unfaithful/disloyal to your wife/husband). 8. You shall not steal. 9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. 10. You shall not covet (want). |

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band:\_\_\_\_**

**Directions: Using TEAL strategies, answer the following question:**

**How does Judaism affect the lives of its followers?**

Judaism has many beliefs, which influence its followers in a **positive/negative (circle one)** way.

One belief of Judaism is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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This influences its followers **positively/negatively (circle one)** because \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| **EXCELLENT**   * **T**opic sentence clearly states a specific position. * **E**vidence has 3 or more supporting facts from the document to support position. * **A**nalysis is in-depth and completely supports the position taken. * **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is clear and connected to the topic sentence. | **GOOD**   * **T**opic sentence is clear, but does not state a specific position. * **E**vidence has 2-3 supporting facts from the document to support position. * **A**nalysis is vague and/or partly supports the position. * **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is connected to the topic sentence | **SATISFACTORY**   * **T**opic sentence is not clear and/or does not state a position. * **E**vidence is present, but does not have details and/or support position taken. * **A**nalysis has little details and/or does not support the position. * **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is not clear and/or present and/or does not connect to the topic sentence. | **UNSATISFACTORY**   * **T**opic sentence is not present. * **E**vidence is not present to support position and/or evidence does not support the position taken. * **A**nalysis is not present and/or does not support the position taken. * **L**ink of the evidence and analysis is not present. |