

History of the Ancient Hebrews – Outline

I. Origins

- a. Semitic nomads of Mesopotamia
- b. Circa 2000 BCE – patriarch Abraham led his people from Ur to the Mediterranean shore
- c. Circa 1400 BCE – relocated to Egypt because of a drought
 - i. Biblical story of Moses and Passover

II. Early leaders

- a. Originally ruled by judges, tribal elders, or rabbis
- b. King Saul
 - i. Reigned circa 1047 BCE-circa 1007 BCE
- c. King David
 - i. Reigned ca. 1007 BCE-ca. 970 BCE
- d. King Solomon
 - i. Reigned ca. 970 BCE-ca. 930 BCE
- e. King Rehoboam
 - i. Reigned ca. 930 BCE-915 BCE

III. King Saul

- a. First real king
- b. Anointed by Samuel
- c. United Hebrews

IV. King David

- a. Biblical story of David and Goliath
- b. Extended boundaries
 - i. Conquered Canaanites in Canaan
 1. Canaanites eventually intermarried with Phoenicians
 - ii. Conquered Philistines
 1. Origin of the term “Palestine”
- c. Strong united government
- d. Credited with writing “Psalms”

V. King Solomon

- a. Built a large palace
- b. Built first Jerusalem Temple
 - i. “First Temple Period”
- c. Levied high taxes to pay for construction projects
 - i. Made him somewhat unpopular
- d. Credited with authoring “The Song of Solomon”

VI. King Rehoboam

- a. Discontent over high taxes
- b. Ten northern tribes revolted and established kingdom of Israel (932 or 931 BCE)
- c. Two southern tribes remained loyal as the kingdom of Judah
- d. Separate states not as strong as unified state

VII. Hebrews’ fate

- a. Israel
 - i. Conquered by Assyria, 721 BCE
- b. Judah
 - i. Conquered by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, 586 BCE
 - ii. Temple destroyed
 - iii. Babylonian captivity, 586-538 BCE

1. Ended when Babylon was conquered by King Cyrus of Persia, who allowed the Hebrews to return to Jerusalem

VIII. Second Temple Period

- a. Peace under Persian rule for two centuries
- b. Alexander the Great conquered Persia and took over Palestine (333-325 BCE)
 - i. Greeks ruled for approximately 150 years
- c. Maccabean Revolt (167-164 BCE)
 - i. Independent country for 100+ years
- d. Roman conquest (63 BCE)
 - i. Jewish kings (Herodians) ruled under Roman protection
 - ii. 6 CE – became an imperial province

IX. The Jewish-Roman Wars

- a. Jewish Rebellion, 66-73 CE
- b. Kitos War, 115-117 CE
- c. Bar Kokhba Revolt, 132-136 CE

X. First Jewish-Roman War, 66-73 CE

- a. Jewish rebellion
- b. Revolt crushed by future Emperor Titus
- c. Second Temple destroyed
 - i. Treasures displayed in Rome

XI. Kitos War, 115-117 CE

- a. Revolt by Jews throughout the Roman Empire
- b. Cyprus, Egypt, Judea, Libya, Mesopotamia, and Syria
- c. Sparked when Roman forces fought the Parthians
- d. Romans won
- e. Second Jewish-Roman War

XII. Bar Kokhba Revolt, 132-136 CE

- a. Last (Third) Jewish-Roman War
- b. Jews led by Simon bar Kokhba
 - i. Many believed him to be the messiah
- c. Crushed by the Romans
 - i. Led by Hadrian
- d. Results
 - i. Jewish Diaspora (barred from Jerusalem)
 - ii. Early Christians began to separate themselves from Judaism

XIII. Hebrew contributions

- a. Monotheism – belief in one god
- b. Jewish Talmud
 - i. Book of Jewish laws and thoughts
- c. Christianity and Islam
 - i. World's two largest religions are based around Jewish beliefs, practices, and teachings
- d. Jewish Tanakh
 - i. Largely the same as the Christian Old Testament
 - ii. Many stories have counterparts in the Muslim Qu'ran (Koran)

XIV. Review questions

- a. Where did the Hebrews originate?
- b. Who is considered to be the first real king of the Hebrews?
- c. Who built the first Jerusalem Temple?
- d. How did the Hebrews come to form two separate kingdoms, Israel and Judah?
- e. What is the Babylonian captivity?
- f. Describe the Jewish revolt of 66-73 CE and its consequences.