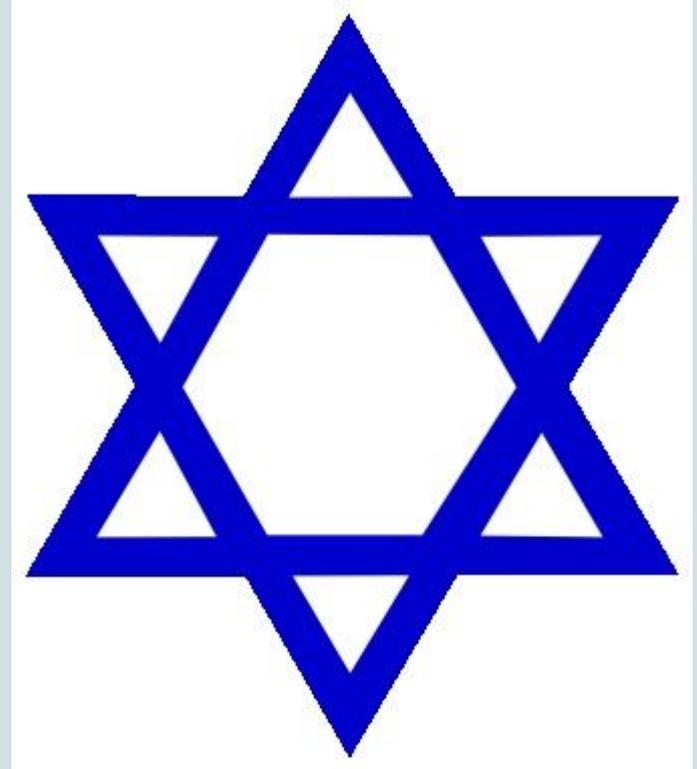




# The Hebrews

# Monotheism

- **Monotheism**: the belief in one god
- Ancient Hebrews worshipped one god (**Yahweh**)
- Ancient Hebrews founded a religion called Judaism



# Hebrew Prophets

- Abraham and Moses
- **Prophet**: Greek word, means “to speak for”
- Ancient Hebrew prophets delivered messages from Yahweh



# Abraham

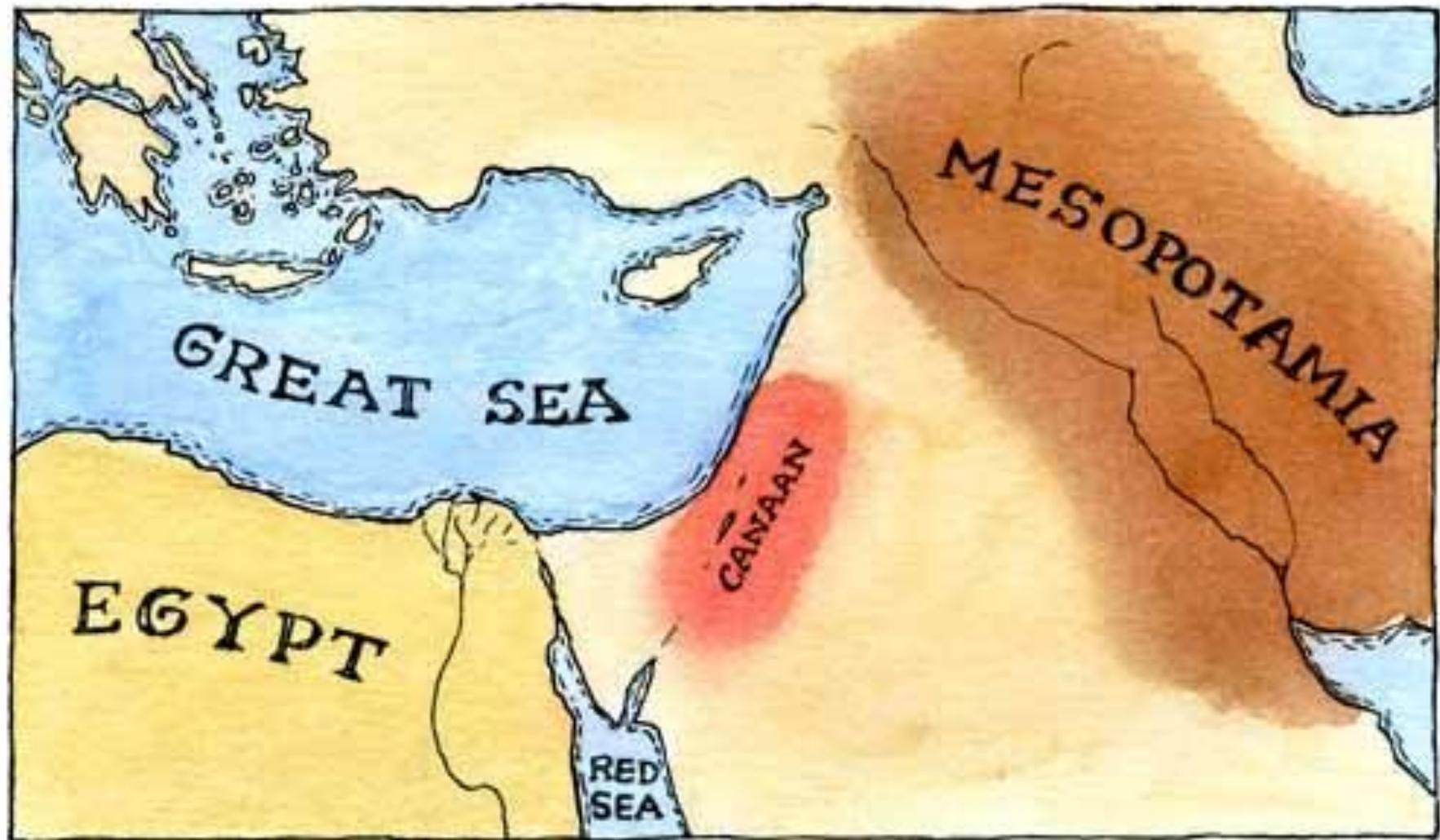
- Important Hebrew prophet
- “Father Abraham” because he started Jewish religion
- Led Hebrews to the promised land (Canaan)
- Made covenant (or agreement) with Yahweh

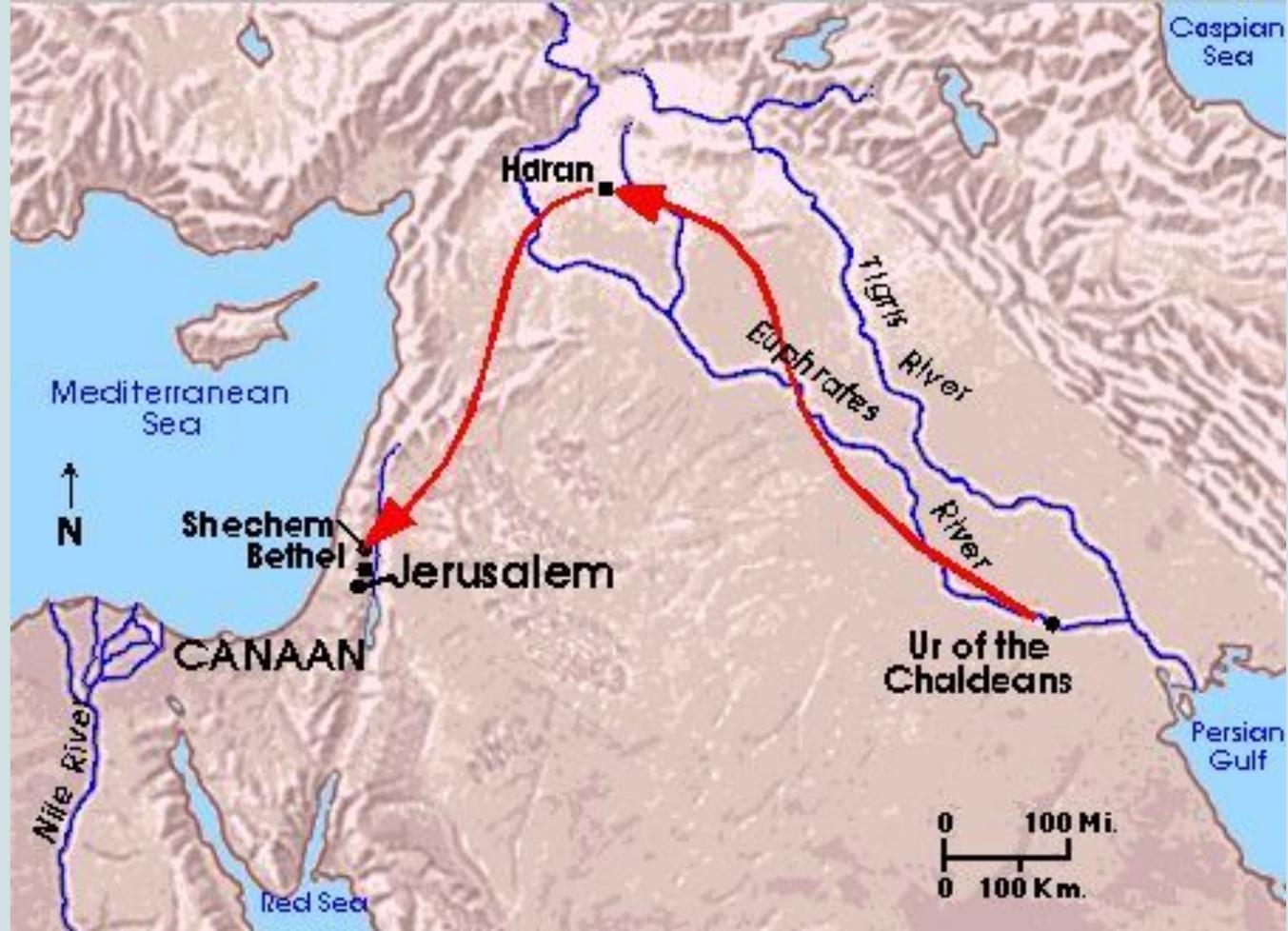


# Abraham's journey to Canaan

- At first, Abraham lives in Ur (a city-state in Mesopotamia) in a polytheistic society
- God (Yahweh) appears before Abraham, tells him “to go and raise a great nation”
- Abraham leads the Hebrews on a long journey to Canaan

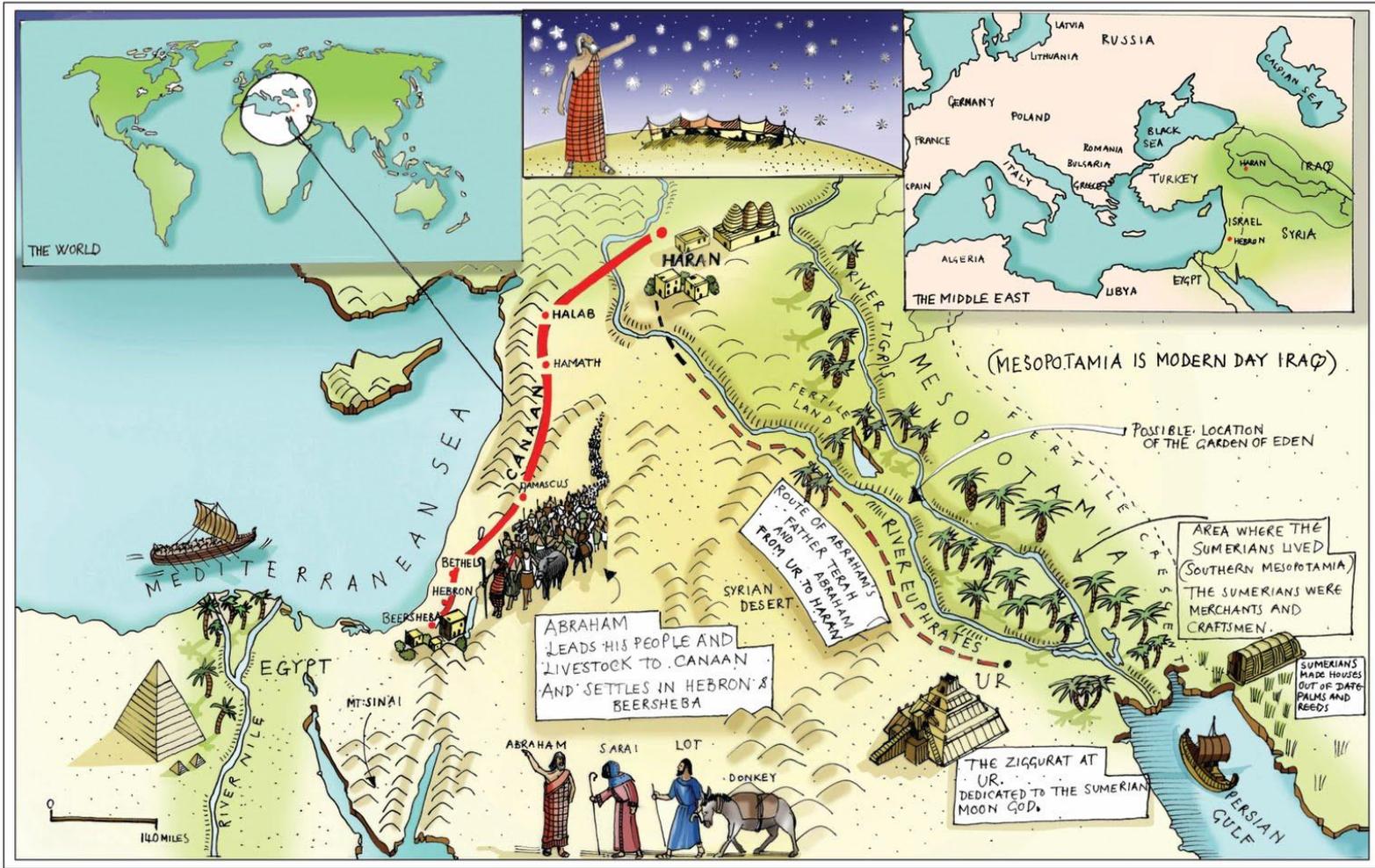






Abraham's journey to the "Promised Land" of Canaan

# The Faith of Abraham.



# Yahweh tests Abraham's faith

- In a vision, Yahweh asks Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, to prove his loyalty
- Just before Isaac is sacrificed, an angel speaks to Abraham and tells him to stop
- Abraham sacrifices a ram instead



*Abraham and Isaac*, Rembrandt, 1634



*The Sacrifice of Isaac*, Caravaggio, 1603

# Yahweh's covenant with Abraham

- Abraham passes the test of faith
- Yahweh makes a **covenant**, or agreement, with Abraham
  - Abraham: agrees to worship Yahweh as the one and only god of the Hebrews
  - Yahweh: agrees to protect the Hebrews and give them the "Promised Land" (**Canaan**)

# Israelites in Egypt

- ▶ Abraham's grandson Jacob took name "Israel" which means "*God ruled*" and organized Israelites into 12 tribes
- ▶ Tribes settled in Egypt (due to drought and famine) and were subjected to Pharaoh rule and slavery

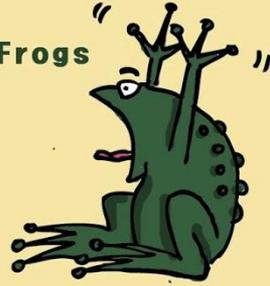
# Moses

- Born and raised in Egypt, where Hebrews are slaves to the pharaoh (Ramses II)
- Adopted by the pharaoh's daughter
- Later in life, Yahweh calls to Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt (**Exodus**)

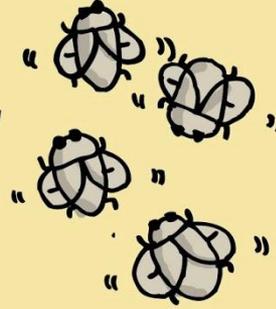


1. Water to Blood

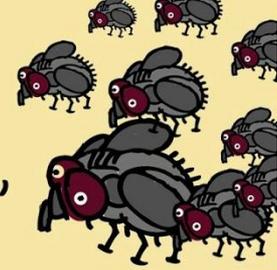
2. Frogs



3. Gnats or Lice



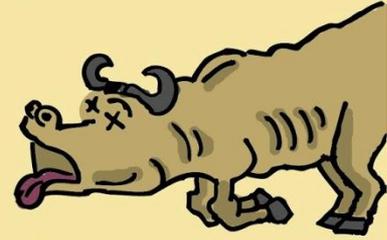
4. Flies



9. Darkness



10. Firstborn boys die

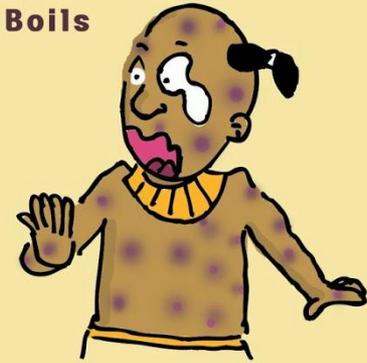


5. Animals Sick, die

7. Hail



6. Boils



8. Locusts

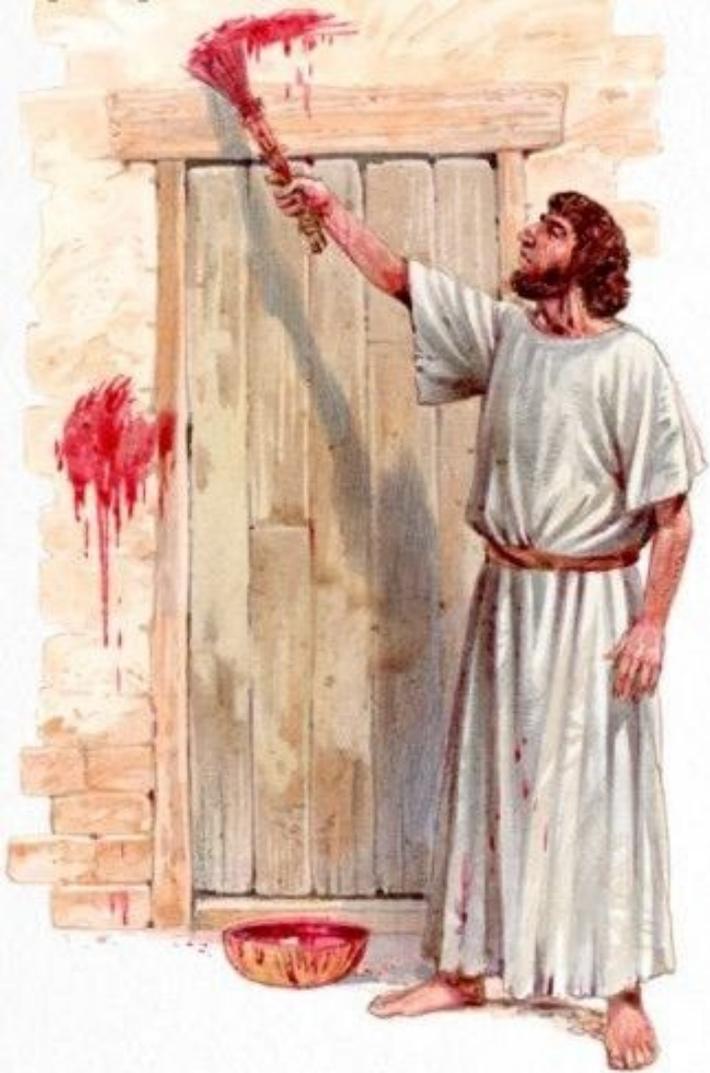


John Martin, "The Seventh Plague of Egypt" 1823 (MFA Boston)



# The Plagues and Passover

- Moses, with the help of God, brings the plagues upon Egypt until the pharaoh agrees to let his people go
- The final and worst plague was the killing of each firstborn of Egyptians (including the pharaoh's son)
- Hebrews marked their doors with lamb's blood, so the angel of death would "pass over" their house



# The Exodus

- After the final plague, the pharaoh agrees to let Moses lead the Hebrews out of Egypt
- However, pharaoh changed his mind at the last minute and chases after the Hebrews
- Moses parts the Red Sea to allow the Hebrews to travel back towards Canaan



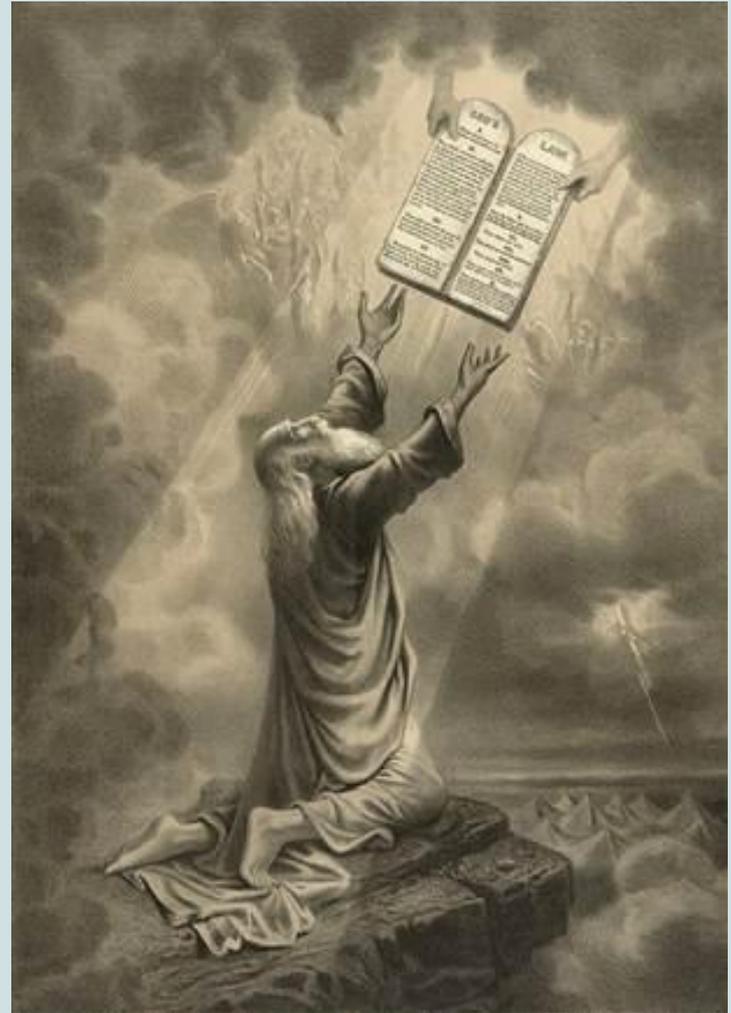
Clip from *The Ten Commandments* (1956) -- Moses parts the Red Sea



Route of the Exodus from Egypt to Canaan

# Moses climbs **Mt. Sinai**

- After crossing the Red Sea, Moses and the Hebrews wander in the desert for 40 years
- Early in this journey, Moses climbs Mt. Sinai and receives the **Ten Commandments**



# Ten Commandments

- Important laws given to the Hebrews by Yahweh
- Inscribed on two stone tablets
- Received by Moses on Mt. Sinai



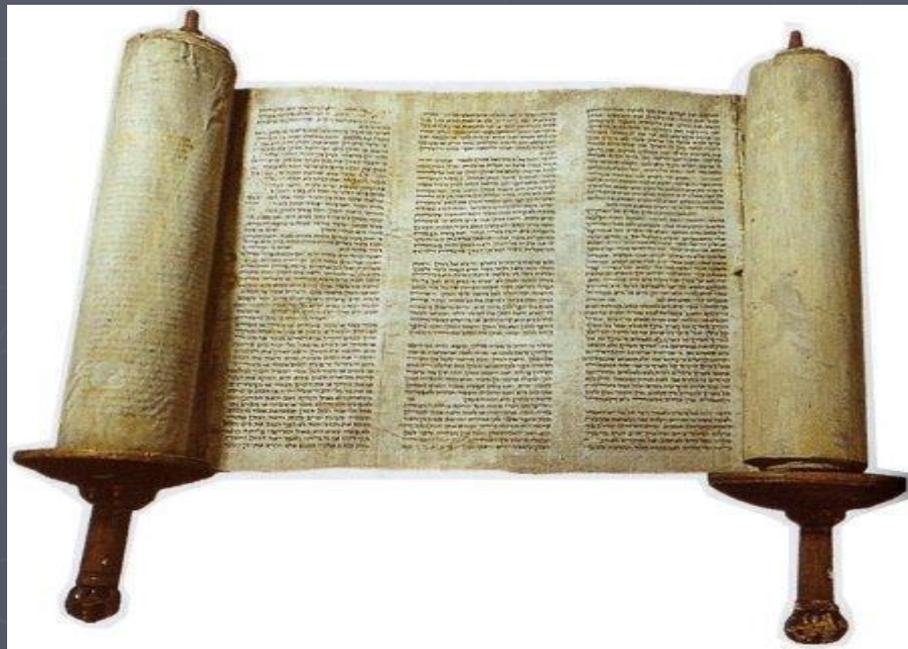
# An example of Ten Commandments

- 1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
- 2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them.*
- 3. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.*
- 4. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work,*
- 5. Honor thy father and thy mother.*
- 6. Thou shalt not kill.*
- 7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
- 8. Thou shalt not steal.*
- 9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.*
- 10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.*

*How are these different from Hammurabi's Code?*

# Torah

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> 5 books of the Bible
  - Genesis
  - Exodus
  - Leviticus
  - Numbers
  - Deuteronomy
- ▶ Written as a scroll
- ▶ Each temple has a Torah which teaches about Jewish history and laws



# Dead Sea Scrolls

- discovered in 1947
- an early version of the Torah



# The Sabbath

- In the Hebrew creation story, after creating the world, God took the seventh day as rest
- Commandment #4 says “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.”



# Sabbath

- ▶ Starts at sundown on Friday and goes to sundown on Saturday
- ▶ People go to the temple to worship.



# Diaspora

- First started when the Romans broke up large groups of Jews in the empire in the hopes that Jews would give up on their faith and convert to believing in the Roman gods.
- Today it refers to Jews living outside Israel

