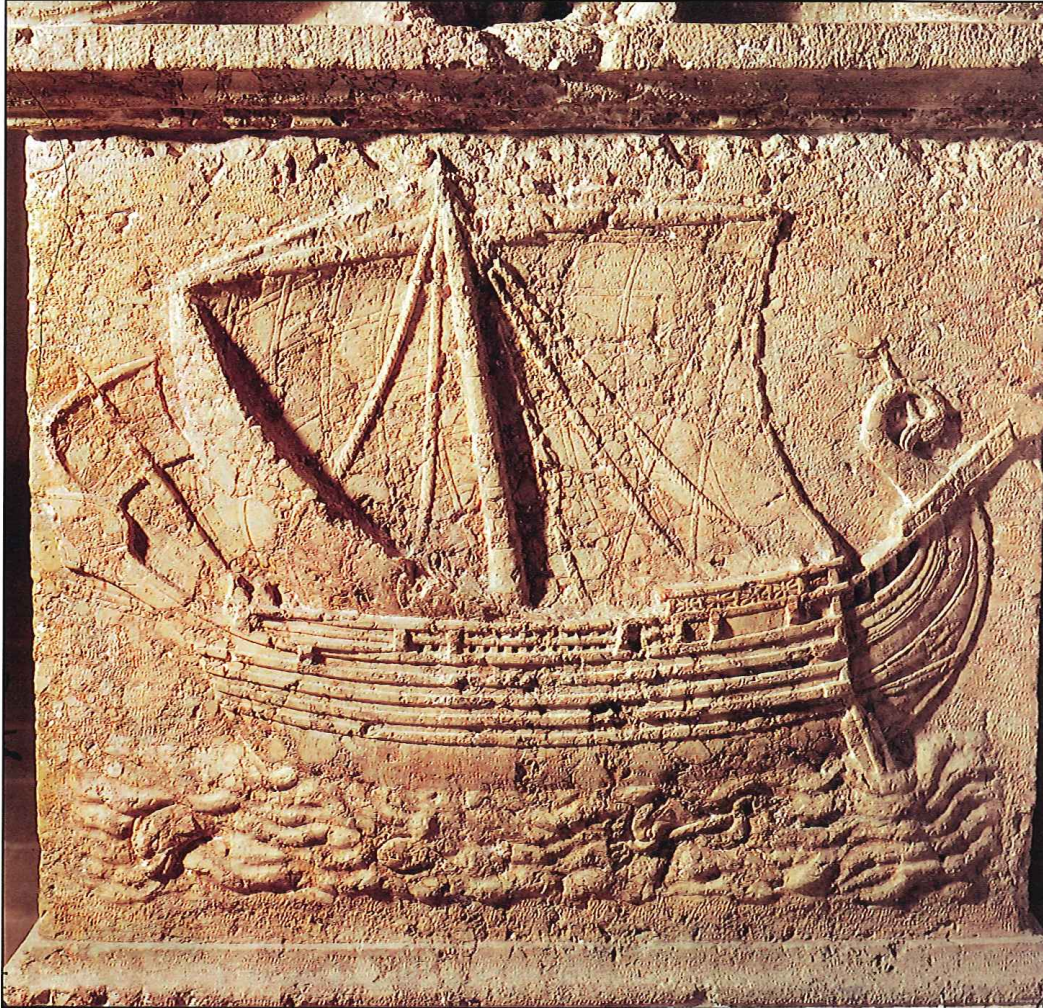


CHAPTER



The Phoenicians and the Hebrews



Relief of Ancient Phoenician Ship

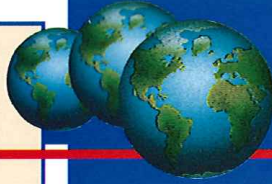
Chapter Focus

READ TO DISCOVER:

- ♦ How trade helped the Phoenicians and the Hebrews build their civilizations.
- ♦ What important cultural contributions were made by the Phoenicians and the Hebrews.
- ♦ What religious beliefs were held by the Hebrews.

At the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea lies a piece of land shared today by Lebanon (leb' uh nuhn) and Israel. In ancient times, it was the bridge that connected Egypt and Mesopotamia, and it was known as Canaan (kā nuhn). Soldiers, shepherds, and merchants who passed through Canaan carried new ideas and goods between Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Two groups—the Phoenicians and the Hebrews—settled in Canaan and formed small kingdoms. Each group was interested in trade and in learning. Through these peaceful activities, they made important contributions to later civilizations.



1200 B.C.–510 B.C.

KEY TERMS

treaties
holy of holies
colonies
descendants
social justice
judge
psalms
prophets
sabbath

Section

1

THE PHOENICIANS

The Phoenicians lived in the northern part of Canaan. Most of what is known about them comes from the Bible, the writings of other ancient peoples, and the ruins of their cities and ships.

Two different groups formed the Phoenician people. One was the Canaanites (kā' nuh nīts), who came from the desert south and east of Canaan. The Canaanites were herders who wandered from pasture to pasture. The second group was the Philistines (fil' uh stēnz), who came from the eastern Mediterranean near Greece. The Philistines were traders and ship-builders.

The Growth of Trade By 1200 B.C., the Phoenicians had built cities and towns along a narrow strip of land between the mountains and the sea. Although the land was rich, there was not enough to grow food for all of the people. For this reason, many Phoenicians turned to the sea to make a living.

The mountains near Phoenicia were covered with cedar forests. These forests provided wood that the Phoenicians used to build strong, fast ships. The Phoenicians started out as coastal traders. In time, they became widely traveled merchant shippers who controlled the trade of the Mediterranean. They exchanged cedar logs, cloth, glass trinkets, and perfume for gold and other metals. Many Phoenician ships were traveling workshops. Sailors who were also artisans carried their tools with them and worked on board the ships.

Phoenician sailors and explorers plotted their courses by the sun and stars. They traveled to places where no one else dared to go. They brought Middle Eastern culture to unexplored areas of the western Mediterranean. Some experts believe the Phoeni-

PHOENICIAN TRADE The Phoenicians were excellent sailors and sailed very far in order to trade. They may have traveled as far as Britain to trade for tin. In this painting, Phoenicians are shown trading their purple cloth. Why was this Phoenician trade important to the Mediterranean area?



cians actually sailed around the west coast of Africa to India. They may even have sailed across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas 2,000 years before Columbus.

From their business dealings, the Phoenicians learned the value of making agreements. They used the same idea to keep peace with their larger, more powerful neighbors. They signed peace **treaties**, or agreements between states or countries, in which they promised to supply free shipments of goods. In exchange for these shipments, the other countries agreed to guarantee Phoenician independence.

The Cities of Phoenicia Phoenicia never became a united country. Mountains separated one group of Phoenicians from another. The only contact was through narrow mountain passes or by sea. As a result, Phoenicia remained a collection of independent city-states. The largest of these were Tyre (tīuhr), Byblos (bib' lus), Beirut (bā rūt'), and Sidon (sīd' uhn).

Though the people of all of these city-states spoke the same language and practiced the same religion, they did not always get along. The search for more profit from trade led to jealousy and quarrels among the city-states. The Phoenicians called themselves by the name of their city-states. Only people from other places called them Phoenicians.

At first, each city-state was ruled by a king who also served as high priest. In time, rich merchant families made the kings share their power with councils of merchants. Soon, the councils were telling the kings what to do.

Most Phoenician cities had stone walls around them for protection. Behind these walls stood the family-owned shops of merchants and artisans. Shopkeepers sold their goods outside their shops. Since wood was plentiful, many of the Phoenicians were carpenters and cabinetmakers. They also were very good at metalwork, which they learned from the Egyptians and the Mesopotamians.

Phoenician cities were very crowded. Streets were narrow and buildings were close together. Most buildings were made of stone or brick and had high narrow doors, windows, columns, and tiled roofs. Some houses had roof gardens.

Outside the walls of the city stood the port. It was the center of activity. Ships docked to load and unload goods. Phoenician merchants kept records of shipments of papyrus, gold, and linen from Egypt, pottery from Mesopotamia, and copper and hides from Cyprus (sī' pruh). Goods were stored in great warehouses until they went to market in Phoenicia or were shipped overseas.

Phoenician cities were also important cloth-dyeing centers. The Phoenicians made an expensive purple dye that was in great demand. In fact, the name "Phoenician" means "of purple merchants." According to legend, a Phoenician god named



Phoenician Gold Earrings

Phoenician Vase





PHOENICIAN TOMB The Phoenicians offered human sacrifices to please their gods. Inside this underground burial chamber at Carthage are clay urns that hold the ashes of victims who were sacrificed. Why were human rather than animal sacrifices made to the Phoenician gods?

Melqart (mel' kart) was walking along the seashore with his girlfriend Tyrus (tī' rus) and a dog. When the dog picked up a shellfish called *murex* (myuhr' eks) and bit into it, the dog's mouth turned purple. Tyrus liked the color so much that she said she would not marry Melqart unless he gave her a gown of that color. Melqart gave her the gown and started the dye-making trade in Phoenicia.

Gods and Goddesses The Phoenicians believed in many gods who were closely tied to nature. Since they thought the gods met people only on hills and under trees, they worshiped only in these places at first. Later, they built temples. Each had an entrance hall, a main hall, and a **holy of holies**, or most sacred chamber, where the image or sacred stone of the god was kept. Sacrifices of wine, perfume, animals, and humans were made on a nearby stone altar. Only priests could offer these sacrifices. It was thought that this strengthened the power of the gods and kept them friendly toward people.

The Phoenicians believed in a life after death. At first, they buried their dead in clay *urns* (ernz), or ornamental vases. Later, influenced by Egyptian customs, they embalmed the bodies, wrapped them in linen, and placed them in stone coffins in hillside cemeteries.

Carthage Some Phoenician sailors and traders set up trading posts along the coast of North Africa. Other Phoenicians built colonies, or permanent settlements, in these areas. These colonies soon turned into cities.

The most famous of these cities was Carthage (kar' thij), founded in 814 B.C. in present-day Tunisia (tū nē' zhē uh). Legend states the city was founded by a Phoenician princess named Dido (dī' dō). At first Dido ruled the city of Tyre. Her brother, however, thought that he should rule Tyre. So, he killed Dido's husband and overthrew Dido. She fled to North Africa where she and her followers built Carthage.

Carthage soon became a Mediterranean power. It was a great trading city. Ships from Carthage may have traveled to the British Isles in search of tin, a metal highly valued by merchants.

The Alphabet Through trade, the Phoenicians spread ideas as well as goods. Their most important gift was the idea of an alphabet. The Phoenicians did not invent the alphabet. They did, however, pass it on to other cultures.

At first, the Phoenicians used a system of picture writing. However, it was difficult to keep trade records this way. So, they looked for an easier writing system. They borrowed a simple version of Egyptian hieroglyphs from the people of the Canaanite towns that lay to the south. By the time the Canaanite system of writing reached Phoenicia, it had become an alphabet.

ALPHABETS This chart shows how different alphabets developed from the Phoenician alphabet. The characters of the alphabets closely resemble each other. On whose system of writing did the Phoenicians base their alphabet?

Modern Characters	Ancient Phoenician	Ancient Hebrew	Ancient Greek	Early Roman	Greek Names
A	𐤀 𐤁	א	Α Α Α	Μ Α Α	Alpha
B	𐤂 𐤃	ב	Β Β	Β Β	Beta
G	𐤄 𐤅	ג	Γ Γ Γ	Γ Γ	Gamma
D	𐤆 𐤇	ד	Δ Δ Δ	Δ Δ	Delta
E	𐤈	ה	Ε Ε Ε	Ε	Epsilon
F	𐤉	ו	Ϝ Ϝ Ϝ	Ϝ	Digamma
Z	𐤊	ז	Ζ	Ζ	Zeta
HE	𐤋	ח	Η Η	Η	Eta
TH	𐤌	ט	Θ	—	Theta
I	𐤍 𐤎	י	Ι Ι	Ι	Iota

The Canaanite system of writing had 22 symbols, or letters, from which any number of words could be formed. Since it was easy to use, the Canaanite system provided the writing system Phoenician traders needed for keeping records.

The Phoenicians made the Canaanite alphabet their own. They carried it to Europe, where the Greeks borrowed it and made a few changes. Later, the Romans borrowed it from the Greeks. Most western alphabets, including the English, are based on the Roman alphabet.

Section 1 Review

1. **Identify:** Canaan, Phoenicians, Canaanites, Philistines, Tyre, Carthage
2. **Define:** treaties, holy of holies, colonies
3. Why did the Phoenicians turn to trade to make a living?
4. How did the Phoenicians view their gods?

Critical Thinking

5. Why is an alphabet a major contribution to civilization?

Section

2

THE HEBREWS

Like the Phoenicians, the Hebrews were a small group among the peoples of the ancient Middle East. Because of their religion, however, they have had a great influence on the world's civilizations. Their religion still exists today. It is called Judaism (jū' də iz uhm).

Most early Hebrews were *nomadic* (nō mad' ik), or wandering, herders; some were traveling merchants. Leading long trains of donkeys loaded with goods, these merchants walked from one trading post to the next. The Hebrews followed a route that started from the city of Ur on the Euphrates River. There, Hebrew artisans made goods from gold, copper, and ivory. Hebrew merchants then stuffed the goods into bags, loaded them on donkeys, and started up the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates. At Harran (hah rahn'), a city near the Turkish mountains, they exchanged their goods for silver. Sometimes, merchants continued west and then south along the Mediterranean coast to trade with Egyptian, Phoenician, and Cretan (krēt' uhn) merchants.

Hebrew Ivory Box



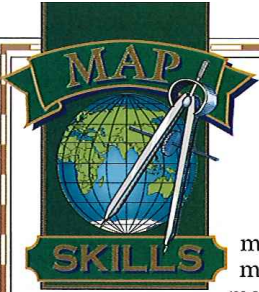


ABRAHAM Abraham taught the Hebrews to worship Yahweh. Here, Abraham is shown leading the Hebrews on their journey from Ur to Canaan. Why did the Hebrews eventually leave Canaan?

The God of Abraham The story of the Hebrews and their god is written in the Bible. It states that Yahweh (yah' wā), or God, made an agreement with Abraham. Abraham and his followers were to leave Ur and go to Canaan. There, they were to worship and obey Yahweh as the one true god. In exchange, Yahweh promised that they and their **descendants**, or offspring such as children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and so on, could always live in Canaan.

During ancient times, most people believed in many gods. These gods behaved like humans but were more powerful. The Hebrews, however, believed that Yahweh was different from humans. He did not get hungry or thirsty, marry, or have children. According to the Hebrews, Yahweh did only what was just and right, even though He was powerful and could do whatever He wanted.

Abraham and members of his household settled in Canaan around 1800 B.C. In Canaan, they raised flocks of sheep and grew wheat, figs, and olives. Abraham's grandson, Jacob, had 12 sons. Each son led a separate family group. These Hebrew groups later formed 12 Hebrew tribes. The Hebrews stayed in Canaan for about 100 years. Then, a drought came, and they went to Egypt where they could get food.



Reading A Map Scale

Maps provide many kinds of information. One thing maps can show is distance, or how far one point on a map is from another. To do this, most maps have scale.

A map scale shows the relationship between the distances on the map and the actual distances on Earth. The length of a scale represents a certain number of miles or kilometers on Earth. Using this scale, it is possible to figure actual distances between any two points on this map.

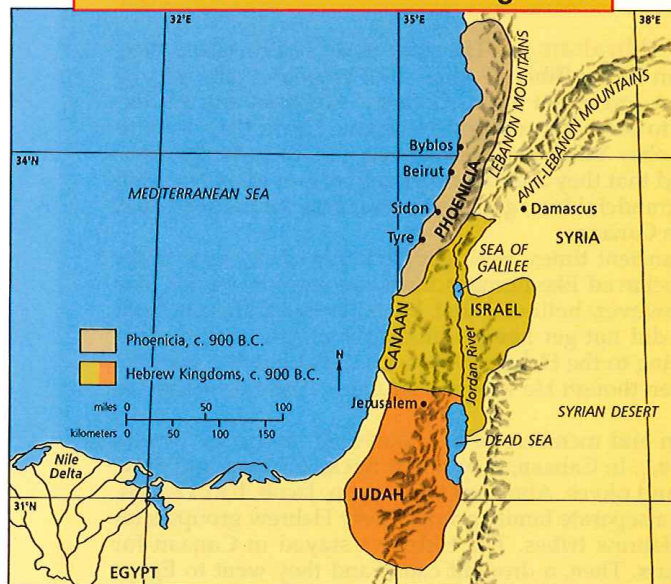
For example, to figure the distance between the cities of Beirut and Tyre, use

a ruler to measure how far apart they are. Now, compare this length with the map scale. Since Beirut and Tyre are about one-half inch, or 1.3 centimeters, apart on the map, the actual distance between them on Earth is about 50 miles, or 80 kilometers.

Map Practice

1. What is the distance between Sidon and Damascus?
2. From north to south, how long is the Dead Sea?
3. How far is it from Jerusalem to Beirut?

Phoenicia and the Hebrew Kingdoms





MOSES According to the Bible, Yahweh allowed Moses and the Hebrews to pass through the Red Sea. The waters then closed again, drowning the pharaoh and his army. What important set of laws did God give Moses on Mount Sinai?

Moses and the Ten Commandments After the Hebrews settled in Egypt, they were enslaved. About 600 years later, Moses, the Hebrew leader at the time, appeared before the pharaoh and told him to end Hebrew enslavement and let the Hebrews leave Egypt. The pharaoh at first refused but later agreed. Moses then led the Hebrews out of Egypt. The pharaoh again changed his mind and led his army in pursuit. According to the Bible, Yahweh parted the Red Sea to allow the Hebrews to cross and they escaped into the Sinai (sī' nī) Desert. They called their escape the *Exodus* (ek' suh duhs).

Life in the desert was hard, but Moses told the Hebrews not to give up. Moses led them to Mount Sinai. There, he climbed to the top of the mountain to receive a message from God. The Bible states that Yahweh told Moses that He would protect the Hebrews and lead them back to Canaan. In return, they were to renew the *covenant* (kuv' uh nuhnt), or agreement, with Him. They were to promise to obey certain laws, the most important of which became the Ten Commandments.

The Ten Commandments stated that the Hebrews were to give their loyalty only to Yahweh. They were not to worship other gods or idols (ī' dls). The Ten Commandments also taught that it was wrong to lie, steal, or murder, and that people should honor their parents and respect other people's property.

The Hebrews believed God was just, and they too should be just. They used laws to influence the way people behaved. Their

laws affected not only individuals but the whole community. The Hebrews believed in **social justice**. Everyone had a right to be treated fairly.

The Promised Land Moses died shortly before the Hebrews reached Canaan. The Hebrews were afraid that without a strong leader they would not be able to enter Canaan. The people who already lived there had built many walled cities on hill-tops. Soldiers in lookout towers guarded the cities against enemy attack. However, Joshua, a new leader and a good general, brought the Hebrews safely into the promised land.

Once they had settled in Canaan, the Hebrews became farmers and shepherds. They copied the Canaanites' tools and borrowed their alphabet. Canaan was rocky and dry. There was little water. So, during the two months of the rainy season, farmers collected and stored water in small caves or underground basins. During the dry season, they used what they had stored to irrigate their crops of olives, flax, barley, wheat, and grapes.

Most Hebrews lived in one-room houses. The room was divided in two, with one section slightly higher than the other. During the day, people cooked and did other household chores in the lower level. At night, donkeys and goats bedded down there, while the family slept on the upper level. The walls of the houses

HARVEST IN ANCIENT ISRAEL Hebrew writers called Canaan "a land flowing with milk and honey." This area, however, had a dry climate and little water. The Hebrews had to work hard to farm the land. Hebrew farmers and their workers gathering the harvest are shown in this painting. **What crops did the Hebrews grow in Canaan?**





Painting of Joshua

were made of mud-brick or stone plastered with mud and white-washed. Floors were made of beaten clay. Wooden beams supported a flat, thatched roof, which was covered with clay.

Kings After Joshua died the 12 Hebrew tribes split apart. Each tribe was led by a council of elders. In times of crisis, a temporary leader called a **judge** settled disputes and led troops into battle.

In time, the Hebrews decided they needed a king to unite them. A warrior-farmer named Saul became their first king. He ruled well for several years. Toward the end of his reign, however, he lost the people's support. When Saul died in battle, David became the new king.

David reunited the Hebrews and defeated the Canaanites. He captured a Canaanite fortress and on that site established Jerusalem (juh rū' suh luhm), the capital of the Hebrew kingdom. A fine musician, David wrote many of the **psalms** (sahms), or sacred songs, found in the Bible.

After David died, his son Solomon (sahl' uh muhn) became king. Through trade and treaties with other lands, Solomon brought peace and made the Hebrew kingdom more powerful. He built a huge temple in Jerusalem out of limestone, cedar wood, and gold. It was designed and built by artisans from Phoenicia.

Solomon's wealth and wisdom became known all through the Middle East. Many Hebrews, however, were not happy with Solomon. They did not like working on his building projects or paying the high taxes he demanded. After Solomon died, the Hebrews in the northern part of the country set up their own separate kingdom called Israel. A southern kingdom, which was ruled from Jerusalem, became known as Judah. For nearly 200 years, the two kingdoms fought each other off and on. Gradually, both became weak enough for others to conquer.

The Prophets Prophets, or persons claiming to have messages from God, appeared in the Hebrew kingdoms. They came from cities and villages. They were teachers, farmers, and shepherds. They criticized the way the Hebrews were living. The rich were mistreating the poor, and government officials were accepting bribes. The prophets reminded the Hebrews of their duty to God and to one another. They warned the Hebrews that Yahweh would punish them if they did not return to His ways.

Some prophets added a new meaning to the laws of Moses. They taught that Yahweh was the god not only of Hebrews, but of everyone.

The people refused to listen to the prophets' warnings. Then, it was too late. Powerful neighbors took over the Hebrew kingdoms. After 722 B.C., the Israelites, the people of the northern kingdom, disappeared. Although the Judeans survived, most were forced to move to Babylonia in 586 B.C.




Stained-glass Window
Showing David



While in Babylonia, the Judeans, or Jews, made changes in their religion. Having lost the great temple at Jerusalem, they had to find some other way to worship God. They began meeting in small groups on the **sabbath**, or day of rest. The groups would pray and talk about their religion and history. The Jews wrote down their laws, sayings, and stories of the past on scrolls. The study of these writings led the Jews to value learning, and their teachers became important leaders.

The Jews spent 70 years in Babylonia before they were allowed to return to their homeland. They rebuilt Jerusalem and the temple. Under a scribe named Ezra, they wrote down the laws of Moses in five books called the *Torah* (tor' uh). Other writings were added later to make the Old Testament of the Bible.

HEBREW PROPHETS

	Name	Teachings	
	Elijah c. 850 B.C.	Everyone should behave in a moral way.	
	Amos c. 755 B.C.	Prayers and sacrifices do not make up for bad deeds. Behaving justly is much more important than ritual.	
	Hosea 745-730 B.C.	God is a god of love and compassion who loves His people the way a father loves his children. God suffers when people turn from Him and do not follow His commandments.	
	Isaiah of Jerusalem 740-701 B.C.	People can have peace and prosperity only if they carry out God's will.	
	Micah 714-700 B.C.	The future depends on how justly one behaves in the present. Both rich and poor have to obey God's laws.	
	Jeremiah 626-587 B.C.	It is important to "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." Suffering is the result of wickedness. God will make a new covenant with the Jews in the future.	
	Ezekiel 593-571 B.C.	People are responsible for their own behavior.	
	Isaiah of Babylon c. 545 B.C.	God is the god of all people. God will free Israel and lead it back to the promised land	

Major Contributions The Hebrews were the first people to believe in one god. At first, they believed God was concerned only about them. They expected other people to worship many gods. Later, some prophets said God cared about all peoples and all nations.

The Hebrews were the first to believe in a just god. They believed individuals and society should likewise be just. Their laws were designed to teach people to treat one another fairly.

Section 2 Review

1. **Identify:** Hebrews, Judaism, Yahweh, Abraham, Moses, Saul, David, Jerusalem, Solomon, Israel, Judah, Jews, *Torah*
2. **Define:** Nomadic descendants, social justice, judge, psalms, prophets, sabbath
3. Where did early Hebrews trade? What goods did they trade?
4. What new ideas did Hebrews develop and contribute to later civilizations?

Critical Thinking

5. How was the Hebrew belief in one god significant to civilization?

Chapter Summary

1. Phoenician civilization began to develop about 1830 B.C.
2. Because Phoenicia's farmland was limited, many Phoenicians earned a living from the sea.
3. Phoenicia became well known for its cedar and purple dye.
4. The Phoenicians had many gods.
5. One of the most important Phoenician contributions to later civilizations is the spread of an alphabet.
6. The Phoenicians established many colonies along the North African coast, the most important of which was Carthage, founded in 814 B.C.
7. According to the Bible, God made an agreement with Abraham whereby the Hebrews could always live in Canaan if they would worship Him alone.
8. After a drought hit Canaan around 1700 B.C., the Hebrews moved to Egypt.
9. About 1200 B.C., the Hebrews, who had been enslaved by the Egyptians, escaped and, under Moses' leadership, made a new covenant with God, promising to obey the Ten Commandments.
10. An important Hebrew contribution to later civilizations was the belief in one, just god and a just society.

CHAPTER Review 6

Building Vocabulary

Imagine that you are a traveler to Canaan. Use the following words to write a letter home explaining the new ideas that you have learned about in your visit.

treaties
holy of holies
colonies
descendants
social justice
judge
psalms
prophets
sabbath

Check for Understanding

1. Why were Phoenicians successful long-distance sailors?
2. How did the Phoenicians keep peace with their powerful neighbors?
3. What were some features of a Phoenician city-state?
4. What burial process did the Phoenicians learn from the Egyptians?
5. According to the Bible, what agreement did God make with Abraham?
6. Why did the Hebrews believe in social justice?
7. Why did the Jews make changes in their religion while living in Babylonia?
8. What did the Hebrews believe was the purpose of laws?

Critical Thinking

1. How can people who have very limited natural resources still manage to earn a living?
2. Why were language and religion by themselves not enough to unify the Phoenician people?
3. How does the idea that God is just affect the way in which people behave?
4. Explain the phrase, "do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God."
5. Why do you think many people during this time did not think people should listen to prophets?



Geography in History

PLACE The Hebrews moved from place to place within the same region along the Mediterranean Sea. Choose one of their migrations and describe the geography and features of the land through which they passed.

Using Your Journal

Review the details you have noted about the contributions of the Phoenicians and the Hebrews. Write a paragraph explaining how these contributions have affected your life.