

The Covenant of Abraham

The founder of Judaism is called Abraham and was the result of a COVENANT, an agreement or promise between God and Abraham.

Abraham promised God

To worship ONE God

To leave Ur where he lived

Change his name from Abram to Abraham

To circumcise himself and all males leaving and all generations to come.

God promised to Abraham

Abraham would have as many descendants as there are fish in the sea.

A son of his own (Isaac)

A rich and fertile land, 'The Promised Land' Israel

Whilst many Jews today feel it is Moses' Covenant that is the more important the practise of circumcision is still strong today as well as the belief that Israel is the land given to Jews by God and remains a source of tension in that part of the world today.

THE COVENANT OF NOAH

A second covenant was between God and Noah. Mankind had broken God's laws and God wanted to punish them. God told Noah to build an ARK and fill it with 2 of every animal. God sent a flood to drown all the wicked people. At the end he sent a rainbow to promise he would never at like that again

The Covenant of Moses

The Covenant of Moses is very important for Jews. Moses is the first historical character in Judaism and remains the only man to come face to face with God. Moses was saved from death as a baby by his mother and sister and ended up being brought up in the Pharaoh's palace. After killing an Egyptian whom as abusing one of the Hebrew slaves he fled and became a shepherd. While out on a hillside he became aware of a bush on fire but on closer examination found it not to be burning and the voice of God spoke from it saying Moses must return to Egypt and ask Pharaoh to let the Jewish saves return to the land given to Abraham by God. Moses was helped by God sending 10 plagues the last of which, death of the first born, persuaded Pharaoh to let the Jews go. It took 40 years to return and along the way the Jews confirmed themselves as the chosen nation of God and Moses received the oral Torah and the 10 commandments when he went up mount Sinai and met God. These rules to identify the Jews as God's chosen people became the Covenant of Moses.



THE ORAL TORAH AND 10 COMMANDMENTS

The giving of the oral Torah and the 10 commandments could be argued was the most important event in the history of the Jews. The MITZVOT were rules that the Jews had to live by to identify themselves as a distinct nation and God's chosen people.

Whilst the 10 commandments covered duty to God and to others the other mitzvot covered all aspects of life .

THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

- 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.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
- 10 You shall not covet.

SUMMARY OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MOSES

God works miracles through Moses

Moses comes face to face with God

God chooses Moses

Moses makes a covenant with God that his chosen people will keep the mitzvot including the 10 commandments

God gave Moses the Torah

Moses was the first Rabbi

Without Moses the Jews would not have become a nation