

Year 8 Knowledge Organizer 1 – Abraham and Moses

Abraham

Abraham is thought of as the founder of Judaism and lived about 4,000 years ago. God called Abraham and made a covenant which means a promise or agreement with him.

God promises Abraham

- A rich and fertile land in which to live
- A son of his own (Isaac)
- To be the father of a great nation (“To have descendant as numerous as stars in the sky”)

Abraham promises God

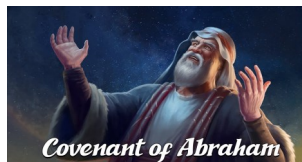
- To leave his home of UR
- To worship only one God
- To circumcise himself and all males going with him

Abraham’s faith was tested by God when he had a son called Isaac. God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. But having built the altar and was ready to sacrifice his son God told him to stop and provide a ram for him to kill, it was not the act God wanted but to see that Abraham was obedient and faithful. [Testament - The Bible In Animation - Abraham - YouTube](#)

Why is the story of Abraham important to Jewish people?

The story of Abraham is important to Jewish people for a number of reasons:

- It emphasises the family and nationhood of Jewish people. They are descended from Abraham through his son, Isaac.
- It shows that the Jewish people have rights to the Land of Canaan (Israel) because God promised it to Abraham’s descendants (the Jewish people) through Isaac.
- It describes the relationship between the Jewish people and God. They are God’s people and they owe God loyalty and obedience. In return, God has promised to protect them.
- Many believe that Judaism was the first monotheistic religion – this means a religion which says there is only one God.



Moses

Moses was born into slavery in Egypt but was saved from being thrown into the Nile by his mother and sister arranging for him to be found in a basket by the Pharaoh’s daughter. Moses was brought up by the princess but his mum taught him about being Jewish. When Moses saw a slave being beaten by an Egyptian he killed him so fled Egypt to be a shepherd. While in the field he saw a bush on fire and as he approached it he heard a voice saying “Moses take your sandals off you are on Holy ground” God told Moses to go back to Pharaoh to let the Hebrew slaves go to return to the land God gave Abraham.

Moses and the 10 plagues

God was with Moses as he asked Pharaoh to release the slaves. God sent 10 plagues and after each one Pharaoh said yes he changed his mind. In the final plague the death of the first born Pharaoh let them go. The Jewish first born were spared as Jews were told to put lambs blood on the doorposts and the Angel of Death Passed over their home, which is where the Jews get the name for the festival celebrating this, Passover or Pesach.. The Jews leave and although eventually the Pharaoh sent his army to bring them back, God parted the Red Sea to allow the Jews to escape.



Moses and the 10 Commandments

The Jews did return to Canaan the land given to Abraham by God but it took 40 years. Along the way the Hebrews became a true nation, and in order to unify them while Moses was up mount Siinai God gave Moses the Oral Torah a list of rules about how to live and identify themselves as the chosen people of God. Jews still follow these 613 rules today to shape all aspects of their life from what can and cannot be eaten to what they should wear during prayer. He was also given the 10 Commandments on 2 stone tablets. Moses is seen by Jews as the most important Prophet and the only man who has come face to face with God.



Which was more important in Judaism Moses or Abraham

Some might argue that it is Moses because Moses is the leader of a united group of people whilst Abraham had only a few people with him. Moses received the Torah containing 613 Mitzvot or rules that identified and unified them as a distinct religion. The Torah describes Moses as the greatest prophet and the only person to come face to face with God. Moses is the first historical figure in Judaism

Others might argue that Abraham was most important because Abraham was the first person called by God. Abraham received the first covenant from God. Abraham was also the first to worship one God. Abraham was told he would have descendants as numerous as stars in the sky, the Jewish people. Jewish men are still linked with the covenant of Abraham by being circumcised on the 8th day after birth. The land given Abraham by God is today the Jewish homeland of Israel.