

# Chapter 20

Exodus and the 10 Commandments

# King Josiah

King Josiah: 8 years old when he becomes king; 18th year of reign = decides to rebuild King Solomon's temple

Discover a scroll hidden/lost for centuries

It is the book of the Law in the temple of the Lord

Part of Hebrew book of Deuteronomy (5th book of Hebrew Bible)

laws given to Moses by God

Josiah gives public speech in which he promises to keep God's laws

# Moses

Hero of Deuteronomy: Israelite named Moses (his story begins in the book of Exodus). Israelites fell out of favor with Pharaoh; he enslaves them

One Israelite woman manages to hide her son (Pharaoh had ordered every son killed); puts him in a basket and sets him afloat in the Nile River (similar to what story?). Moses is adopted by someone in Pharaoh's household

When he becomes a man, he stands up to Pharaoh → leads them out of Egypt

To do this, Hebrew God performs miracles including turning a river to blood, a swarm of gnats and flies, and people breaking out into sores

Pharaoh, after his son is killed begs Moses to lead the Israelites away

# Exodus

Exodus from Egypt: central event in Jewish history

Importance of freedom throughout the ages (Passover)

Moses leads Israelites from Egypt into Canaan, the “promised land”

God promises that if the Israelites obeyed his commandments, he would protect and take care of them

# 10 Commandments

- No other gods before me
  - No idol worship
  - No taking Lord's name in vain
  - Observe the Sabbath day
  - Honor mother and father
  - No murder
  - No adultery
  - No stealing
  - No lying (bearing false witness)
- 10) No Coveting (Jealousness)
- These were absolute laws**

# Aftermath

Josiah: most worried about 1st commandment

Israelites begin to worship Canaanite gods/goddesses

Josiah destroys altars and tells Israel to celebrate Passover

Book of Deuteronomy → discovery had a major impact on Israelite people

Reminded them of importance of worshipping one god

Explanation of awful things that had since happened to them

Writers of Bible: Israelites' success signaled God's approval, disasters happened when he was angry

# Overall, final thoughts

Other Biblical laws in Old Testament/Torah: many are conditional and are similar to Hammurabi's laws. Concerned with the same types of things: agriculture, marriage, property

Designed to allow people to solve problems in court instead of enacting personal revenge. Biblical laws: powerful influence on history in the regions where Judaism and Christianity are present

Hebrew Bible: began to be written around time of King Solomon in 10th century BCE. 600 + years: people collect and write accounts

Different styles = different authors.

Christians/Muslims adopt this belief