



Overview

- Moses was a religious leader, lawgiver and prophet, who is considered to be the most important prophet in Judaism.
- Those who follow Christianity and Islam also see him as an important prophet.
- Moses is believed to have led the Exodus of Hebrews from Egypt, saving his people.
- After this, it is believed that Moses was given the Ten Commandments by God.
- Jews believe that Moses lived until age 120, but died before reaching the Land of Israel.



Moses Receives the Ten Commandments

Receiving the Commandments

- After leaving Egypt, Moses and the Hebrews went to the desert in Sinai.
- They set up camp at the foot of Mount Sinai.
- On the third day, they heard thunder and lightning, a thick cloud appeared above the mountain, and a trumpet sounded.
- Moses led the people out of the camp and to the foot of the mountain.
- The whole of the mountain was soon covered in smoke.
- The people trembled in fear, but Moses spoke to God.
- God answered in thunder, and called Moses to the top of the mountain.

The Commandments

"I am the Lord your God who brought you out of Egypt where you were slaves.

1. Worship no god but me.
2. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.
3. Do not use my name for evil purposes.
4. Observe the Sabbath and keep it holy.
5. Respect your father and your mother.
6. Do not commit murder.
7. Do not commit adultery.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not accuse anyone falsely.
10. Do not desire anything that another owns."

Recording the Commandments

-The ten commandments were written on two stone tablets, which Moses brought down from Mount Sinai.

-They were placed in a special wooden chest called the Ark of Covenant.

-About 300 years later, King David brought the Ark to Jerusalem.

Key Vocabulary

- Moses
- Judaism
- Jews
- Hebrew
- Prophet
- Plagues
- Egypt
- Exodus
- Ten Commandments
- Pesach
- Passover
- Seder Meal
- Unleavened

The Exodus from Egypt

Context

- The ancestors of the Jews were called the Hebrews.
- There was famine where the Hebrews lived, so they moved to Egypt.
- As the Hebrew population grew, the Egyptians felt threatened.
- The Pharaoh persecuted the Hebrews, and made them work as slaves.
- He then ordered that baby boys born to the slaves were to be drowned in the River Nile.

- One Hebrew mother hid her son in a basket in the bulrushes at the edge of the Nile.
- The baby was found by the Pharaoh's daughter, who took pity on him.
- She adopted the boy, and gave him a Hebrew name – Moses.

The Exodus

- As a young man, Moses killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave, and ran away into the desert. He married Zipporah and they had a son.
- One day, near Mount Sinai, God spoke to him from a burning bush.
- God told Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt. He told him that he would help him.
- Moses asked the Pharaoh to let his people go, but he refused.
- So, God sent ten plagues to the Egyptians (see the information on the right).
- The Hebrews protected themselves by smearing lamb/goat blood on their doorposts.
- After the Pharaoh's son was killed, he let the Hebrews go, and Moses led them away.
- The Pharaoh's grief turned to anger, and he ordered his men to chase the Hebrews.
- The Hebrews were helped by God parting the Red Sea to allow them to cross.



The Plagues

Here are the ten plagues that God sent to the Egyptians:

1. The River Nile turned to blood.
- 2, 3, 4. Plagues of frogs, gnats and flies.
5. Animals became diseased.
6. Humans and animals were covered in boils.
7. There was a terrible hailstorm.
8. There was a plague of locusts.
9. Darkness came over the land.
10. The angel of death killed first-borns.

The Festival of Pesach

-Pesach celebrates the Exodus from Egypt.

-It is also called Passover, as the Angel of Death 'passed over' the Hebrew houses.

-For Pesach, houses are thoroughly cleaned and only unleavened bread can be eaten.

-The most important feature of the festival is the Seder meal. It consists of a roasted shankbone of lamb (remembering the sacrificed lambs), a roasted egg (symbol of freedom), parsley, lettuce, bitter herbs (reminder of bitterness of slavery) and haroset (a sweet, sticky paste – reminder of freedom).

Personal Spirituality – Key Questions

Who are important people in your life?

What makes them important?

What does it mean to feel uprooted or displaced?

Have you ever felt uprooted or displaced?

What celebratory meals do you eat in your own life?

What makes these meals special?

Why are rules important in society?

What would life be like without any rules?

How do you feel about rules?