

CHAPTER

2

SECTION 5

Note Taking Study Guide

ROOTS OF JUDAISM

Focus Question: How did the worship of only one god shape Judaism?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the chart below to record the main idea about the roots of Judaism under each red heading. Include at least two supporting details for each main idea.

Roots of Judaism		
Red Heading:	Red Heading:	Red Heading:
Main Idea:	Main Idea:	Main Idea:
Supporting Details: 1. 2.	Supporting Details: 1. 2.	Supporting Details: 1. 2. 3.

CHAPTER

2

SECTION 5

Section Summary

ROOTS OF JUDAISM

READING CHECK

Who is considered the “father of the Israelites”?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does *undertook* mean in the underlined sentence? Read the underlined sentence aloud, but leave out the word *undertook*. What word could you use in its place? Use this strategy to help you figure out the meaning of *undertook*.

READING SKILL

Identify Supporting Details Find two details in the Summary that support the idea that Jews maintained their identity during the Diaspora.

About 4,000 years ago, the ancient Israelites developed Judaism, one of today’s major religions. Unlike neighboring peoples, Israelites were **monotheistic**, believing in only one god. They believed every event reflected God’s plan. So, they recorded events and laws in the **Torah**. It is the most sacred text of the Israelites, or Jews, and includes the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.

According to the Torah, about 2000 B.C., **Abraham**, and his family migrated to a region called Canaan. Abraham is considered the father of the Israelites. The Israelites believed that God made a **covenant**, or binding agreement, with Abraham. This covenant promised a special relationship with God and a homeland in Canaan. However, famine forced the Israelites into Egypt, where they became slaves. Much later, **Moses** led their exodus, or departure, from Egypt back to Canaan.

There, they established the kingdom of Israel around 1000 B.C. Under the second king, **David**, the feuding 12 tribes of Israel were united into one kingdom. Then, David’s son **Solomon** undertook the task of turning Jerusalem into an impressive capital city. He completed a massive temple and increased Israel’s influence in the region. However, after his death, the kingdom split and eventually fell to the Assyrians and Babylonians.

Israelite society was **patriarchal**, meaning that men held the greatest authority. Also from early times, law was central to Judaism. The Torah contains laws on such subjects as cleanliness, food preparation, and crime. Also in the Torah is a special set of laws called the Ten Commandments. These laws stress moral conduct and religious duty, such as keeping the **Sabbath**, a holy day of rest and worship. Often in Jewish history, **prophets**, or spiritual leaders, arose. They urged social justice and taught strong codes of **ethics**, or moral standards of behavior.

During a 500-year period called the **Diaspora**, the Jews left or were exiled from Israel, and they spread out around the world. Still, they maintained their identity in close-knit communities, following religious laws and traditions. This helped them to survive centuries of persecution.

Judaism has been an important religion. From that culture and faith, both Christianity and Islam emerged, creating an ethical legacy we call the Judeo-Christian tradition.

Review Questions

1. What is the Torah?

2. What was the Diaspora?
