3-1 Notes

* A people called the Israelites built a kingdom in Canaan along the Mediterranean Sea.
* The Israelites were monotheistic – believed in one God.
* The Israelite faith became known as Judaism.
* The Israelites spoke Hebrew. They wrote their beliefs—the Hebrew Bible is what Christians call the Old Testament (first part of the Holy Bible).
* Israelites were descendants of Abraham.
* Jacob, AKA Israel (means “one who struggles with God) was Abraham’s grandson. Jacob had 12 sons who became known as the 12 Tribes of Israel.
* Tribes – separate family groups
* Canaan suffered a drought and many Israelites left and went to Egypt.
* The Egyptian pharaoh enslaved the Israelites and ordered all of their baby boys to be thrown into the Nile.
* One Israelite mother put her baby (Moses) in a basket in the river and the pharaoh’s daughter found and raised him as an Egyptian.
* Moses believed that God told him to lead the Israelites out of Egypt into freedom.
* This escape from Egypt is known as the Exodus. Jews today celebrate a holy day called the Passover to remember these events.
* The Torah – the first part of the Hebrew Bible.
* Covenant – an agreement
* One important part of the Torah is the Ten Commandments – which helped shape the basic moral laws of many nations.
* The Ten Commandments helped develop the “rule of law” which is the idea that laws should apply to everyone equally.
* After Moses died, Joshua took over and brought the Israelites into Canaan (the Promised Land).
* Judges took over the leadership after Joshua died. One judge was a woman named Deborah, who helped an Israelite king in battle.
* The Phoenicians spread ideas and goods through trade – one of the most important was the alphabet.