**The Rise and Fall of the Hebrew Kingdoms**

*Directions: Read the passage below and circle the dates then underline the events that relate to that date.*

The first king of Israel was Saul. He became king in 1020 B.C. His successor, King David, expanded the kingdom. He established a dynasty that lasted for about 400 years.

The kingdom of Israel reached its peak during the reign of David’s son Solomon. He took the throne in 962 B.C. and reigned for 40 years. His greatest achievement was the construction of a great Temple in Jerusalem. After Solomon’s death, the kingdom split in two. The northern kingdom was called Israel, and the southern kingdom was called Judah.

The kingdom was not as strong after the split. In 722 B.C., Assyria took over Israel but not Judah. Then in 586 B.C., the Babylonians conquered Judah. Thousands were taken to Babylon as slaves.

The Jews remained slaves in Babylon until 538 B.C. At that time, Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered the Babylonians. He freed the Jews and allowed them to return to Palestine. After their return, the Jews rebuilt the Temple of Jerusalem. It was completed in 515 B.C.

In 198 B.C., the Seleucid Kingdom of Syria seized control of Judah. Syrians introduced Greek religion and culture. The first rulers allowed the Jewish people to continue to observe and practice their religion. In 175 B.C., a new Syrian ruler made it a crime to observe Jewish laws or study the Torah. The Jews rebelled and fought Syria. A Jews priest along with his five sons, the Maccabeus, led the revolt. By 164 B.C. the Jews had regained control of Jerusalem.

The independence of the Jews did not last. After less than a century of self-rule, another foreign power took control. In 63 B.C., the Romans conquered Judah. Rome allowed the Jews to have Jewish kings and religious leaders, but they had to be appointed by Rome. A revolt was led by a Jewish group called the Zealots in A.D. 66.

Roman troops, under the Titus, put down the rebellion in A.D. 70, burning the second Temple and taking Jerusalem. The destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Romans caused most Jews to flee. This is known as the Diaspora, or the scattering of the Jews. Jews settled throughout the Roman Empire while many Jews were sent to Rome as slaves.

Adapted from *Ancient Civilizations*, McDougal Littell, 2006. Pages 341-342**.**

## **The Hebrews and Judaism- Results of the Revolt**

*Read the following passage. In the boxed section, underline the different effects, short and long term, that the destruction of the 2nd temple had on the Hebrew culture and/or religion. Ex: thousands of Jews left Jerusalem.*

With the capture of Masada [the Jewish mountain fortress] in AD 73, the Jewish revolt was over. As punishment for the Jews’ rebellion, the Romans killed much of Jerusalem’s population. They took many of the surviving Jews to Rome as slaves. The Romans dissolved the Jewish power structure and took over the city.

Many were taken as slaves, and thousands of Jews left Jerusalem after the destruction of the Second Temple. With the Temple destroyed, they didn’t want to live in Jerusalem anymore. Many moved to Jewish communities in other parts of the Roman Empire. One common destination was Alexandria in Egypt, which had a large Jewish community. The population of these Jewish communities grew after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem.

### Second Revolt

Some Jews, however, chose not to leave Jerusalem when the Romans conquered it. Some 60 years after the capture of Masada, these Jews, unhappy with Roman rule began another revolt. Once again, however, the Roman army defeated the Jews. After this rebellion in the 130s the Romans banned all Jews from the city of Jerusalem. Roman officials declared that any Jew caught in or near the city would be killed. As a result, Jewish migration throughout the Mediterranean region increased.

### Migration and Discrimination

For those Jews not living in Jerusalem, the nature of Judaism changed. It was because the Jews no longer had a single temple at which to worship, local synagogues became more important. At the same time, leaders called rabbis or religious teachers took on a greater role in guiding Jews in their religious lives. Rabbis were responsible for interpreting the Torah and teaching.

This change was largely due to the actions of Yohanan ben Zaccai, a rabbi who founded a school at Yavneh, near Jerusalem. In this school, he taught people about Judaism and trained them to be rabbis. These schools became an important part of every community and preserved the Jewish culture and religion. Influenced by Yohanan, rabbis’ ideas shaped how Judaism was practiced for the next several centuries. Many rabbis also served as leaders of Jewish communities.

Over many centuries, Jews moved out of the Mediterranean region to other parts of the world. In many cases this movement was not voluntary. The Jews were forced to move by other religious groups who discriminated against them. This discrimination forced many Jews to leave their cities and find new places to live. As a result, some Jews settled in Asia, Russia and much later, the United States.

*World History: Ancient Civilizations*, Holt Rinehart and Winston, 2006: page 242

**Use the text passage on page ONE to create a timeline that represents the rise and fall of the Hebrew Kingdom. All rows must be complete.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Time marker** | **Events** | **Significance to Survival of Jews/ Questions** |
| About 2000 B.C. | Abraham leaves Mesopotamia | Receives Covenant-beginning of religious belief on one God |
| 1200 B.C. | Israelites leave Egypt | Hebrews settle in Canaan- remembered by/Passover celebration |
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## **Student Chart NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## **The Hebrews and Judaism- Results of the Revolt**

## **Cause & Effect Reading Strategy**

**Cause and Effect/ Impact-** fill out the chart below. On the right side of the chart, you will write the actions that the Hebrews took after the destruction of their 2nd temple that you think contributed to the survival and growth of their religion.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cause** | **Effect** | **Impact on the Hebrew Religion** |
| Jews no longer had a single temple to worship at | 1. Created/Worshipped at synagogues |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |