

Judaism – Moses and the ten commandments

Year 4



What should I already know?

- The Megillah Esther is the sacred scroll that tells the story of Esther saving the Jews from an evil Prime Minister called Haman.
- The festival of Purim.
- Triangular pastries eaten during the festival of Purim.

Vocab.

Judaism

The religion followed by Jewish people.

Quick facts

- Who was Moses and what is the story of Moses and the exodus from Egypt?

Moses was born Jewish. His family was taken into slavery by the Egyptian Pharaohs. The Pharaoh was worried that a Jewish Boy would battle him in years to come so he ordered all sons of slaves to be killed. Moses' mother hid him in a basket in the bulrushes to save him.

As an adult, Moses hated the persecution of the Jews. He was visited by God through a burning bush on Mount Sinai. God told him to lead the Hebrew people to safety.

Many battles were fought during this time with God intervening from time to time to help Moses by sending disease and difficulties to slow the Egyptians. Moses led the Hebrew people to the Red Sea where they were attacked once more by the Pharaoh's army. God intervened again and parted the Red Sea allowing Moses and the Hebrews safe passage across. The Egyptian army were killed.

After wandering for 40 years in the Sinai wilderness, the Hebrews eventually reached the promised land of Canaan.

- What are the ten commandments?

God shared the ten commandments with Moses. These are a list of rules by which you should live your life.

- What is the festival of Pesach and the Seder meal?

Pesach is a mainly joyous festival when Jews remember how Moses led their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. Pesach is also known as Passover because when God sent disease and difficulties to hold up the Egyptians, the disease passed over the homes of the Hebrew slaves. The festival is celebrated during March or April and lasts for approximately one week. The Seder meal is the most important part of Pesach which is held over the first two days of the festival. The Seder is taken twice in case there was a mistake first time. Seder means 'order'. A book called a Haggadah is given to everyone present. This tells the story of how Moses led the Hebrew people to freedom and describes of all the rituals performed to re-enact the dramatic parts of the story.



Moses

He grew up to be a leader of men. He believed that God told him to lead the Jews out of Egypt to save them from persecution.



persecution

To be persecuted means that you are treated with hostility. The Jews were persecuted in Egypt.

Egypt Egyptians

Egypt is a country on the continent of Africa. Egyptian people live there.

exodus

A departure of lots of people.

Pharaoh

A king or supreme ruler in ancient Egyptian times

Hebrew

Hebrew is the Jewish language. This can also be used as a word to describe Jewish people in ancient times.

Festival of Pesach or Passover

A festival to remember how Moses led the Jews to freedom.

Seder meal

A meal taken on the first two days of the Pesach festival

The ten commandments

A list of rules to live by followed by Jewish and Christian faiths