The Hebrews

Chapter 3 – Section #1

* ***The Hebrew People in Canaan:***
* God chooses Abraham to be the father of the Hebrews
* God told Abraham to leave Ur and go to Canaan, which became known as the Promised Land.
* *Canaan to Egypt and Back:*
* Famine in Canaan caused the starving of the Israelites and they moved to Egypt.
* The Egyptian pharaoh enslaves the Hebrews. Moses leads them out of Egypt in a famous escape known as the Exodus.
* The 10 commandments became the basis for their laws and provided them with religious guidance.
* *Return to the Promised Land:*
* When the Israelites returned to Canaan, they were organized into 12 tribes. Canaan was settled by others and the Israelites fought for 200 years to regain the Promised Land.
* During this time, Israelites were ruled by Judges. Judges gave advice about the law and helped settle conflicts.

**Section #2**

* *Kingdom of Israel:*
* The 12 tribes were threatened by the Philistines. In 1020 BC, Israelites were united under King Saul who was able to win some of their land back.
* The next king, David, drove the Philistines from their land.
* His son, Solomon, ruled next. His greatest achievement was the building of the Temple of Jerusalem. The temple became the center of religious life.
* *The Kingdom Divides:*
* After Solomon died, Israel split into 2 kingdoms, Israel and Judah.
* Assyrians invaded and conquered Israel in 722 BC
* In 612 BC, Babylonians conquered the Assyrian lands which included Israel.
* In 586 BC, Babylonians captured Jerusalem, destroyed the temple and took Jews to Babylon as slaves. During their captivity Israelites became known as Jews.
* *Jewish Exiles Return to Judah:*
* Jews in exile hope that God would send them their own king, a messiah, to reunite their people.
* In 539 BC, Persians conquered the Babylonians and freed the Jews. The Jews then returned to Judah and began rebuilding their temple in Jerusalem.

**Section #3**

* *The Spread of Judaism:*
* In 198 BC, Syrians took over Judah. A Syrian ruler ordered Jewish priests to make offerings to the Greek gods. This sparked a revolt led by Judah Maccabee. His knowledge of the countryside gave the Jews an advantage over the larger, better equipped Syrian army.
By 164 BC, the Maccabees gained control of Jerusalem.
* *Roman Control:*
* In 63 BC, the Romans conquered Judah and renamed it Judea.
* In 66 AD, a group of Jews called Zealots attacked Roman troops.
* In 70 AD, Romans put down the rebellion and burned the 2nd temple.
* Later, the Romans banned Jews from Jerusalem. Many were taken as slaves to Rome and many others left for other parts of the world. This scattering of the Jews became known as the Diaspora.
* *Judaism- An Ongoing Faith:*
* Although scattered, many Jews stayed faithful to their beliefs. They listened to their rabbis and read the Torah in places of worship called synagogues.