



Jewish- Christian Roots of European Civilization

CEVRO INSTITUTE

Fall 2021

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Where has Israel come from?

A Biblical version



The book of Genesis: A peaceful settlement

- God called Abraham from Mesopotamia to become a father of a nation (Gn 11,31-22,19)
- Isaac
- Jacob / Israel + his 12 sons (Gen 27 – 33)
- His son Joseph: a link to Egypt
- Chapters 1-11: creation and establishment of the World

Where has Israel come from? A Biblical version



- **The books of Exodus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua: Liberation, journey ... and a conquest**
- Israelites have served as slaves in Egypt (read Exodus 1)
- God YHWH called Moses to liberate them (Exo 2 a 3)

Where has Israel come from? A Biblical version



- After a long negotiation and ten plagues Pharaoh lets the people go (Exo 11,1 – 42)
- Forty years of journey into the promised land (Exo 16-17; Num 13-14)
- At mountain of Sinai / Horeb God gave to Israel his commandments

Where has Israel come from?

The Decalogue

A Biblical version

Exo 20: 2-17 (see the paralel in Deu 5: 6-21)

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything ... You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain ... Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor ... but the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work ... Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land ... You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife ...



Where has Israel come from?

A Biblical version



2 books of Samuel

& 2 books of Kings

- After a failed attempt to have king Saul, David from the tribe of Judah becomes the founder of a dynasty (read 1Sam 8-10; 16-18; 1Kings 5 – 7,17)
- David's son Solomon, proverbial for his wisdom, built up the temple in Jerusalem (1Kings 3)
- Under Solomon's son the kingdom split: secession of 10 tribes (1Kings 11,26 – 12,33)

Where has Israel come from? A Biblical version

Old Testament Prophets

- Messengers of God's will and critics of kings
- Prototype: **Elijah** (read 1 Kings 17- 19 a 2Kr Kings)
- The oldest **Amos**, the youngest **Zecharia** (mnemo: A-Z)
- **Isaiah** and **Jeremiah**: judgement and salvation (Isa 1:10-20; Jer: 36-39)
- **Jonah**: a parody of a prophet



