

## KS3 Assessment Abraham and the Covenant

### Abraham the Patriarch

Abraham is considered the father of **Judaism**. He was a very rich man and lived with his wife **Sarah** in a town called Ur in present day Iraq about 4000 years ago. In the day and age of Abraham, people were **polytheists** as they worshipped many gods in the form of idols. Abraham, though, believed that there could only be one God of heaven and earth. This religious view is known as **monotheism**.

### Abrahamic Covenant

In Genesis 12 – the first chapter of the **Torah** – we are told that God, whose name is **YHVH**, called upon Abraham to abandon his home and follow Him. God promised Abraham that he would be his God, and that Abraham would have many descendants who would worship God. In turn, God would look after and set apart Abraham's descendants as the '**chosen people**' – the Hebrews. This was the beginning of the Covenant – **Abrahamic Covenant** – between God and the Jews. Abraham was told by God to deliver his people unto the **Promised Land** – **Canaan**. For this reason, Abraham and his family wandered the desert as a nomad in search of this Promised Land.

### Isaac

Abraham and his wife Sarah had no children, and as he was growing old Abraham worried that he would have no descendants and therefore not able to fulfil the Covenant. God then promised Abraham and Sarah a son to fulfil the Covenant. Their son was named **Isaac** and he is the **ancestor** of the Jews.

### God's Tests

In Genesis we are told how faithful and devoted to God Abraham was, how God tested Abraham's faithfulness and devotion, and how Abraham passed all of **God's tests**:

- i. He left his home to wander the desert to form the Covenant.
- ii. God orders Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, Abraham obeys, and then God stops the sacrifice – a test of Abraham's faith in God.

### Importance of the Covenant

The Abrahamic Covenant is important for Jews because:

- i. Tells Jews that they are God's chosen people and they owe obedience and loyalty to God and in return God will protect them.
- ii. Proves that Judaism is the first monotheistic religion.
- iii. Emphasises the family and nationhood of Jewish people.
- iv. Jews believe that the blessings of God pass through Abraham to his descendants today, and for this reason Jews as God's chosen people must continue to worship God and face all hardships in doing so.