

Part One Overview Questions

...book pages 5-36

These questions may be used to guide your discussions about the entirety of **Part One: Origins and Exile** (chapters 1-3).

1. Early Israelites lived under different types of rule: as a group of tribes; as a unified, self-governed people; as exiles from their homeland; and as subjects in their homeland to foreign rulers. How did early Israelites adapt to these changes to maintain their Jewish identity? What were some of the challenges they faced during this time? What are some challenges faced today by North American Jews who wish to maintain their Jewish identity? How might Jews today respond to these challenges?
2. What caused intolerance and lack of understanding among the Jews of ancient Israel? Describe some of the ramifications of the tensions and conflicts among the groups. What are some conflicts today among Jews? What are some examples of different groups of Jews coming together for a common cause? How might Jews today learn to show one another greater respect and tolerance?
3. In what ways was the Land of Israel central to the Jewish people, both those living in the Land of Israel and those living in the Diaspora, from the birth of the Jewish people to the time of the destruction of the Second Temple? What are some of the ways that Israel is important today to Jews worldwide?