

# MIDRASH: STORIES OF OUR ANCESTORS

**Directions:** Please read the article *Midrash: Stories of Our Ancestors* and answer the following questions as completely as possible. (5 pts. each)

1. What is midrash and what is its purpose?

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2. What do the two midrashic tales about Abraham’s dealings with his father’s idols suggest about the Jewish understanding of the role of logic and reason in Abraham’s revelation about God? What do the stories suggest about the Jewish beliefs about logic and reason in relationship to faith?

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3. How does knowledge of the various midrashim about Genesis 12:5 and the meaning of the Hebrew words “nefesh” and “asu” help to add greater depth to our understanding of the people we might otherwise think of only as Abraham’s servants?

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4. How does a knowledge of the Jewish midrashim potentially alleviate some of the sexist bias in Bible?

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5. In the midrashic literature, how does the Sarah's tent prefigure the Temple that will develop later in Judaism?

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