

1ST KINGS CHAPTER 3: SOLOMON SOLIDIFIES HIS REIGN

- Solomon began by creating alliances with surrounding nations
- Marriage was the usual means of alliance
- Shlomo marries Pharaoh's daughter



THE HISTORIAN'S VIEWPOINT

- Editor/writer of 1st Kings lived a long time after the events being told
- Biblical record of David and Solomon not written until 2 or 3 hundred years later
- Some of the best books on history consist of info taken from a variety of sources and thus provides a panoramic view



STRATEGY: PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH MARRIAGE ALLIANCES



- NOT against Torah Law for Shlomo to marry the Egyptian
- Exod. 34:15 – 16
- Deut. 7:1 – 3
- The foreign wife was required to give up her former gods, but it didn't happen often
- Scriptures clear that Solomon LOVED (*ahav*) Yehoveh and showed loyalty to Him

BAMAH: HIGH PLACE

- A religious site usually located on hilltop
- Ancients believed gods lived in the heights
- *Bamah* were in the countryside and in villages and cities
- Some aristocrats hired private priests





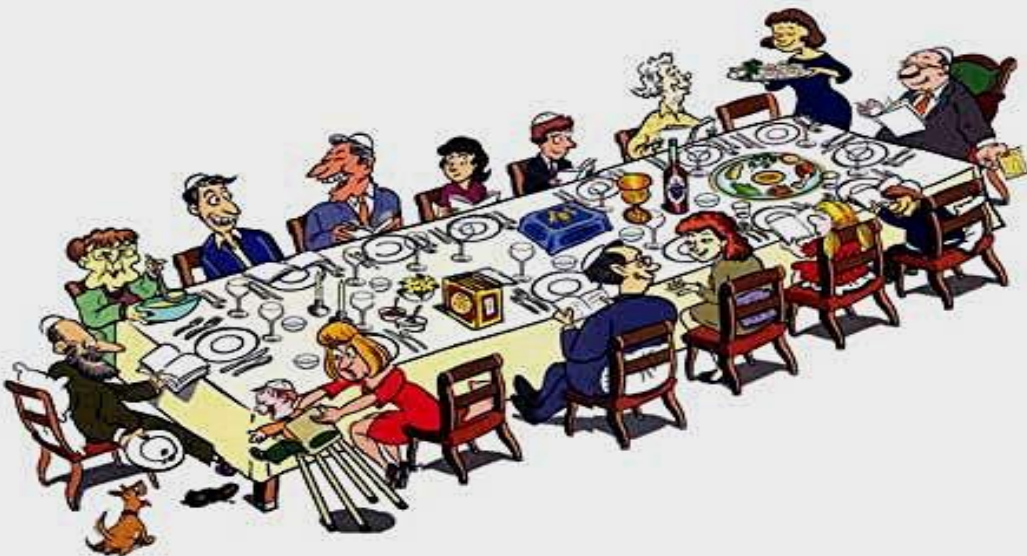
ILLICIT ALTARS

- God commanded to sacrifice at **ONLY** one place
- But people built their own home altars
- Only a Levitical Priest could officiate a sacrifice
- Judges 17
- The Israelites **FALSELY** believed that in doing it themselves they **WERE** achieving atonement

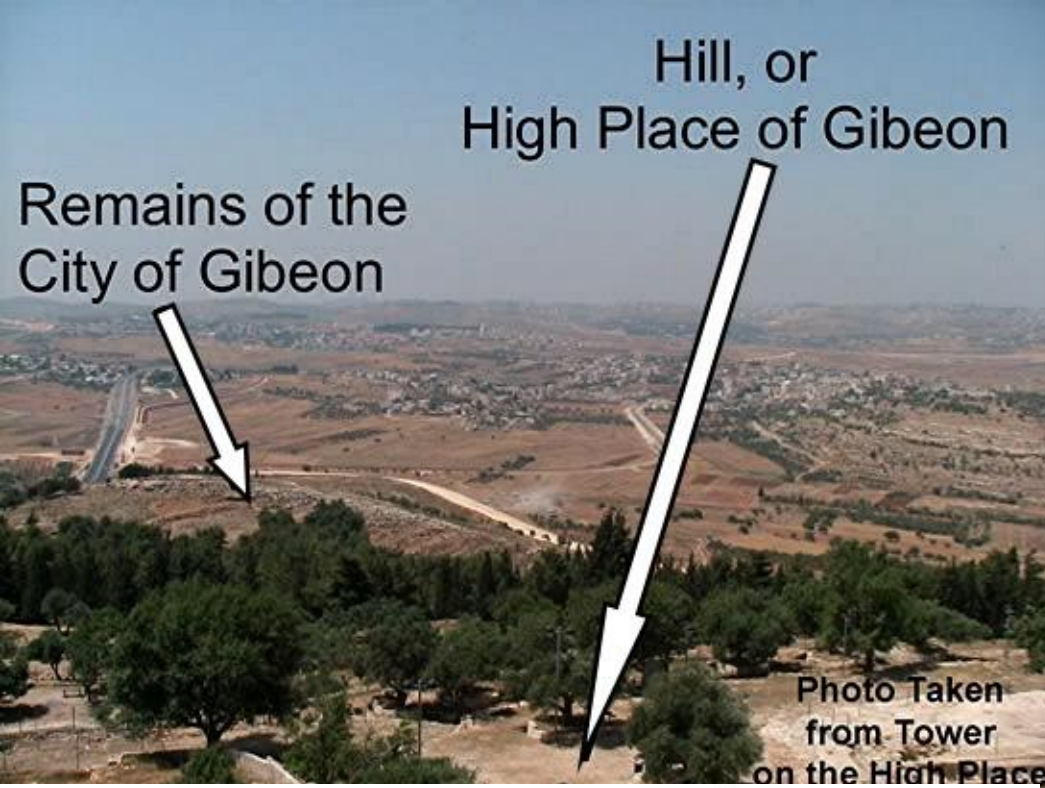
“MY WAY”

21st Century High Places

- Merely mouthing words, standing on cultural norms, attending festivals and celebrations can give a false sense of being right with God
- VERY DANGEROUS !



HIGH PLACE AT GIBEON



- *Ha'Gadol Bamah* = the great high place
- At Gibeon remnants of the Wilderness Tabernacle remained
- Ark of the Covenant was in the City of David, not in the Holy of Holies
- God does NOT demand perfection in our worship
- This is truly GRACE !

“Tell Me what I should give you”

- King *Shlomo* offered 1000 sacrifices
- *Eleph* = 1000 largest number unit in Hebrew
- The Lord comes to Solomon as he sleeps at Gibeon
- Divine dreams and visions were rare even in the Biblical days





***“...too many
dreams.....”***

- Prophets cautioned about dreams and visions
- Eccl. 5:3 – 6
- Isaiah 29:6 – 14
- Do not listen to people who say God told them something that is clearly against Scripture !
- But King Solomon had a **REAL** visitation from God in his dream



THE QUESTION THAT PENETRATES THE BELIEVER'S SOUL



- John 21:15 -17
- *“Shimon....do you love me....?”*
- Solomon understood the depth of the question that God asked him
- He answered in 3 parts:
- 1) Thanksgiving
- 2) Confession
- 3) Petition
- King Solomon asks for wisdom to administer God’s justice to God’s people