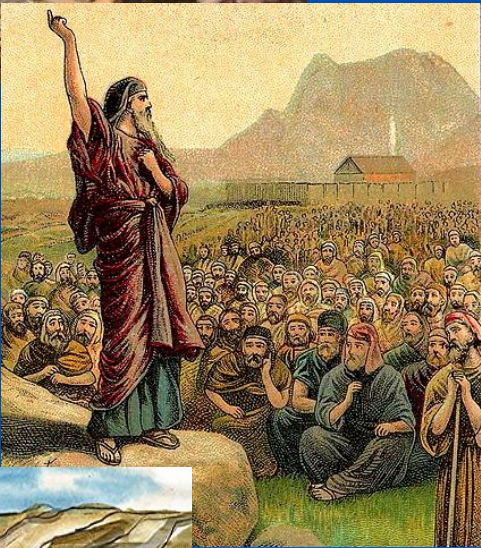
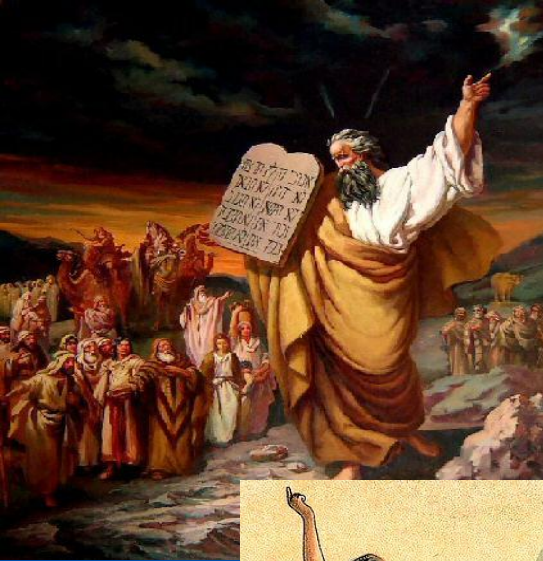


COVENANT CEREMONY REPEATS A PATTERN



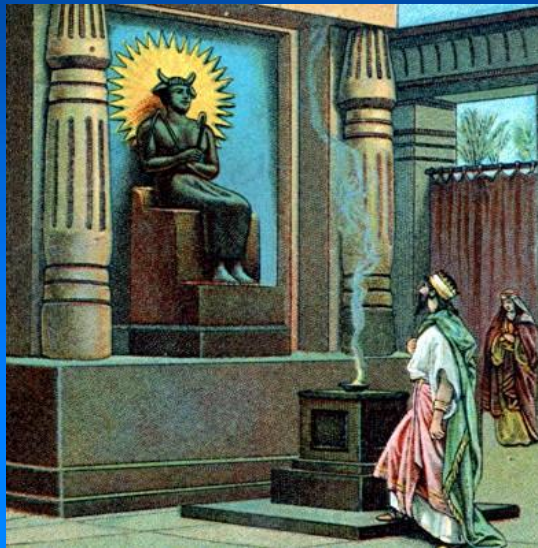
- First covenant ceremony was at Mt. Sinai
- Second on the Mountains of Moab
- Later at Gilgal, and then Mts. Ebal and Gerizim
- Each was to ratify or re-new the Covenant of Moses
- It was King Josiah's zeal that fueled the national revival movement, not the people's

SPIRITUAL DECLINE IS A SLOW PROCESS



SLOW DECLINE

- Jeremiah 2, the true inner condition of Judah
- Only 60 pages covers 300 years of history
- We have only the Cliffs Notes version of all that transpired during that time
- The changes within Israelite society were slow and almost imperceptible



TORAH ALMOST UNKNOWN TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH

- The words of the Torah were unfamiliar and uncomfortable to the Judahites who listened
- People thought they knew God, but Jeremiah says even the teachers didn't know God
- Jeremiah 2:8
- Priests came to see their position as a "profession"
- Common prophets enjoyed their celebrity, but prophesied in Baal's name
- True prophets were shunned, beaten up, and murdered for pronouncing God's warnings



JOSIAH'S ERA IS REPEATING ITSELF



- History is a predictably repetitive pattern
- God never changes, so His principles never change, so historical patterns never change
- Jeremiah 2:20 – 25
- Too many with their yoke of slavery broken by Messiah, say “NO” to God’s Word
- No pilgrimage, no declaration changes a heart
- Our spiritual journey begins on the inside and moves outward

SYNCRETISM

- The new “idols” had become part of Hebrew worship and they no longer saw them as inappropriate or wrong
- After a long period of adding new icons, rituals and observances a NEW NORMAL is created
- The ONLY reason the idols were removed was because the reading of the Torah revealed that their worship had become corrupted by paganism
- Otherwise, they thought everything they did was acceptable to God
- But the changes were only outward, and they reverted after Josiah’s death

God of Israel

Customs & pagan ways



A MADE-UP, MAKESHIFT FAITH



- ***Nachal*** = brook, stream
- ***Nachal Kidron*** = Kidron Valley
- Ashes of some idols taken to Beit-El (place of the Golden Calf)
- ***Kemarim*** = idolatrous priests
- ***Cohanim*** = priestly class of Levites
- ***Bamot*** = high places, usually to YHWH (but are NOT authorized)
- The Hebrew religion had become diverse, anything-goes, inclusive
- This happened because they did NOT KNOW THE TORAH !

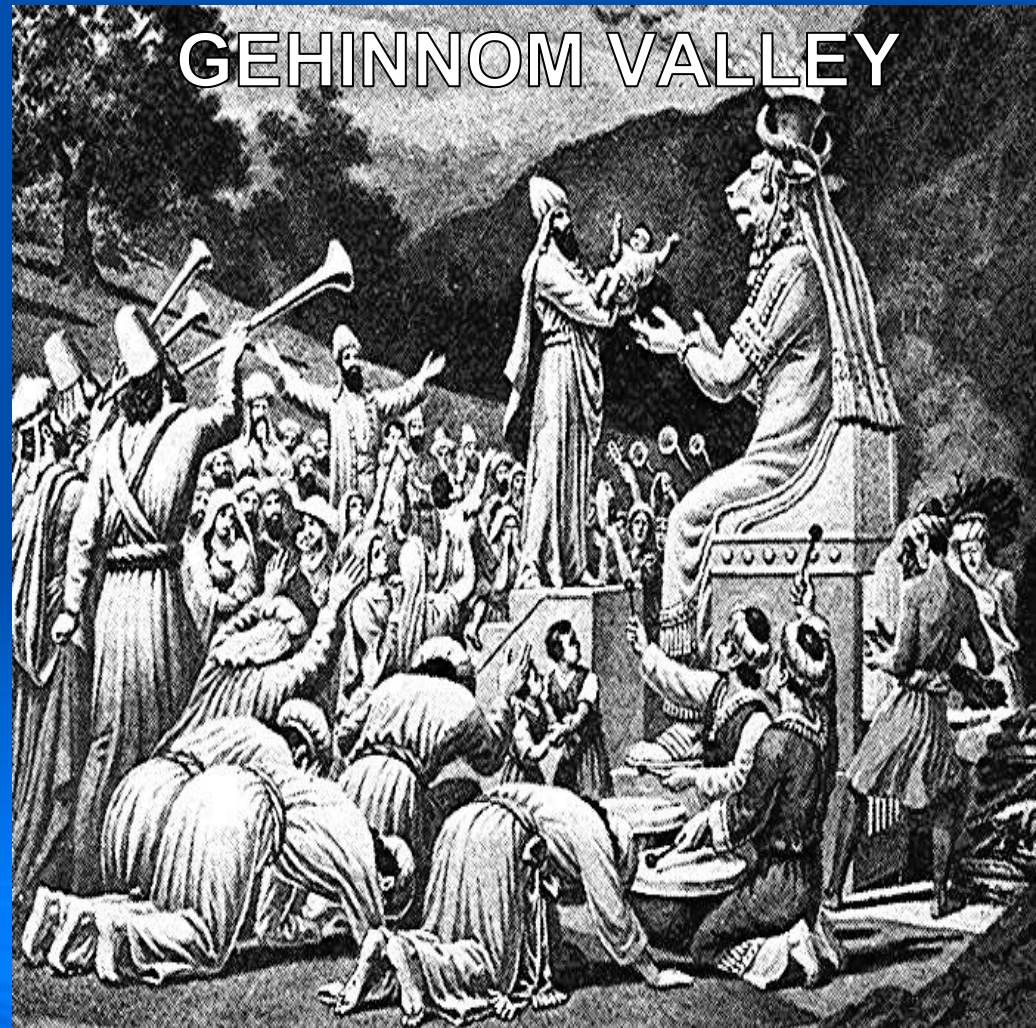


ASHERAH IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

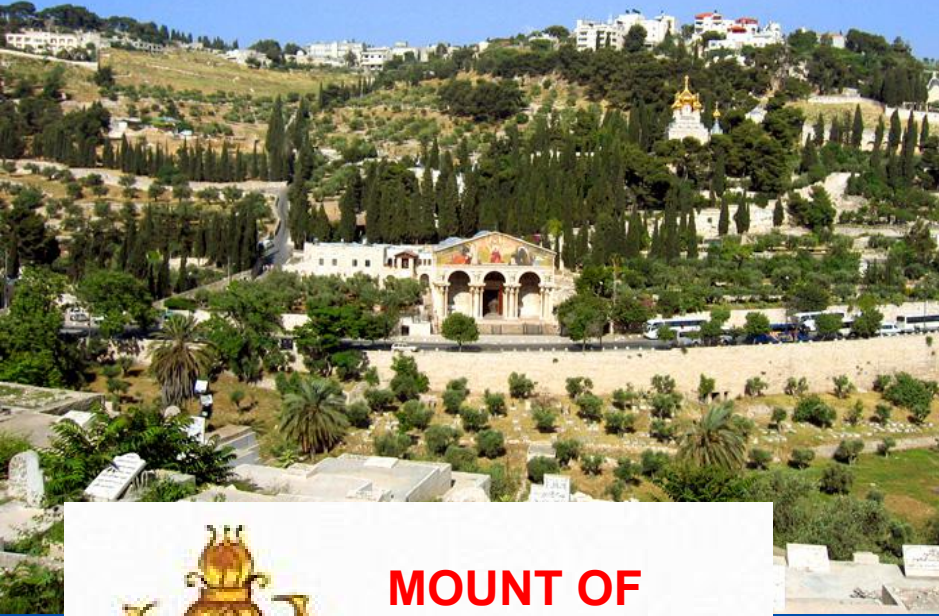
- Asherah removed, burned-up
- Cult prostitutes operated for the benefit of the Temple
- Other priests brought in from where they sacrificed at private altars
- Varying degrees of idolatry, but the degrees were determined by men
- Priests were reformed but some not allowed to eat of the “holy food” at the sanctuary due to their prior idolatry

TOPHETH

- ***Ben-Hinnom*** = Gehinnom Valley = Gehenna
- ***Topheth***, the formal name for the place of child sacrifice
- ***Topheth*** = drum
- Topheth was NOT destroyed, merely defiled
- Horses for sun god ritual were confiscated, the chariots destroyed



MOUNT OF OINTMENT



MT. OF DESTRUCTION

- More idols removed that had been installed by King Solomon for his wives
- A play on words
- *Har Hammashit* = Mt. of Ointment (Olives)
- *Har Hammisha* = Mt. of Destruction



THE TORAH IS READ TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH

- 2nd Chron.34:29 – 33
- Yerushalayim and Benjamin are present
- Benjamin fully affiliated with, and part of Judah now
- **Yoshiyahu** (Josiah) sets his sights on removing idols from the former northern kingdom of Israel
- King Josiah decided that he would become king over the remnant of the 10 tribes in the north, to re-create a united Israel like under David
- He never accomplished it

