

# DEUTERONOMY 13: NO MORE MULTIPLE-GOD WORSHIP!

- Chapter 12 ordered all the Canaanite mystery religion worship centers destroyed
- No compromise, no treaties with Canaan
- Chapter 13 orders that no one is to re-establish those destroyed religious sites and practices



# GOD'S MATTRESS TAG

**WARNING!!  
DO NOT REMOVE UNDER  
PENALTY OF THE LAW**

**Mt. Sinai Mattress Factory**

- Vs. 1: Do what I tell you to do
- Don't ever abolish or add to My Principles
- For Israel to worship Yehoveh as pagans worship their gods is idolatry and unfaithfulness!
- Israel usually did NOT abandon God-worship
- They typically only added pagan ways to their worship of Yehoveh



# 3 EXAMPLES OF A HEBREW ENTICING OTHERS TO IDOLATRY



- EXAMPLE # 1:
- A man says he has received “a word from the Lord” in a vision, and is able to give a sign of it’s authenticity
- Man says Yehoveh told him it was OK to add other gods to their worship
- El = the highest God of the pantheon of gods

# PROPHETS VS. DREAM INTERPRETERS



- God DID communicate to His people by Prophets and visions
- A Prophet was a professional position, usually ordained as a prophet
- A dream interpreter was usually a layperson
- Bottom line: listen to NO ONE who says “worship other gods”
- God will allow the false prophet knowledge to “TEST” His people
- That false prophet is to be executed!



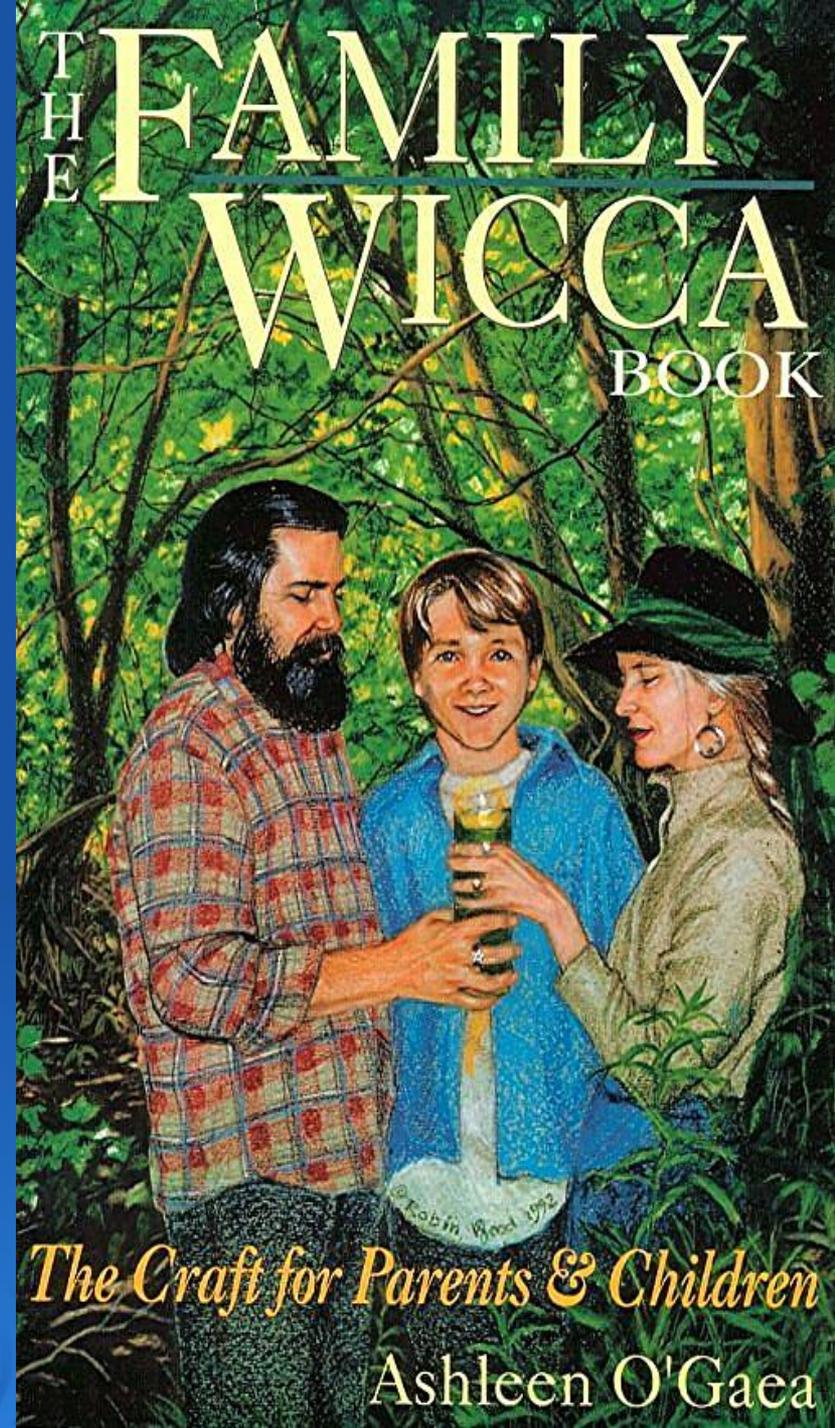
# PUTTING THE FALSE PROPHET TO THE TEST

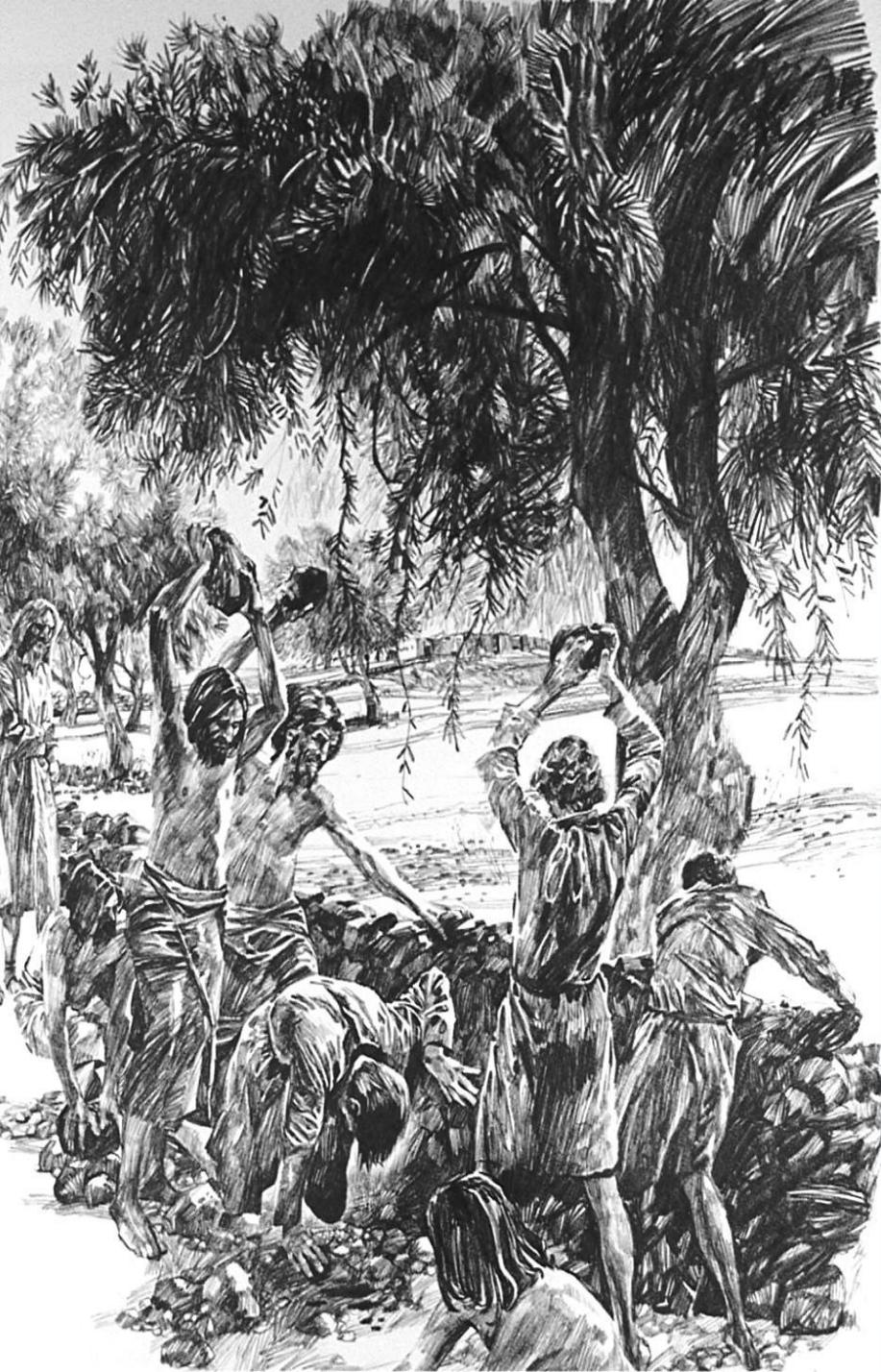
- The test is NOT whether his prophecy or sign is true or accurate or impressive
- The test is whether what the prophet says is totally in line with God's WRITTEN LAWS AND COMMANDS!
- Pharaoh's sorcerers were perfectly able to conjure up dramatic signs of their power
- The ONLY WAY a Believer can discern the truth or whether a prophet is of God is by knowing God's Word



# EXAMPLE #2: ENTICING FAMILY

- Case of a CLOSE family member convincing other family members to serve other gods
- Order of “closeness” for that era: Full brother, son, daughter, wife, friend
- Problem: a family member might not do the right thing by exposing the instigator
- The family must kill that idolatrous family member!



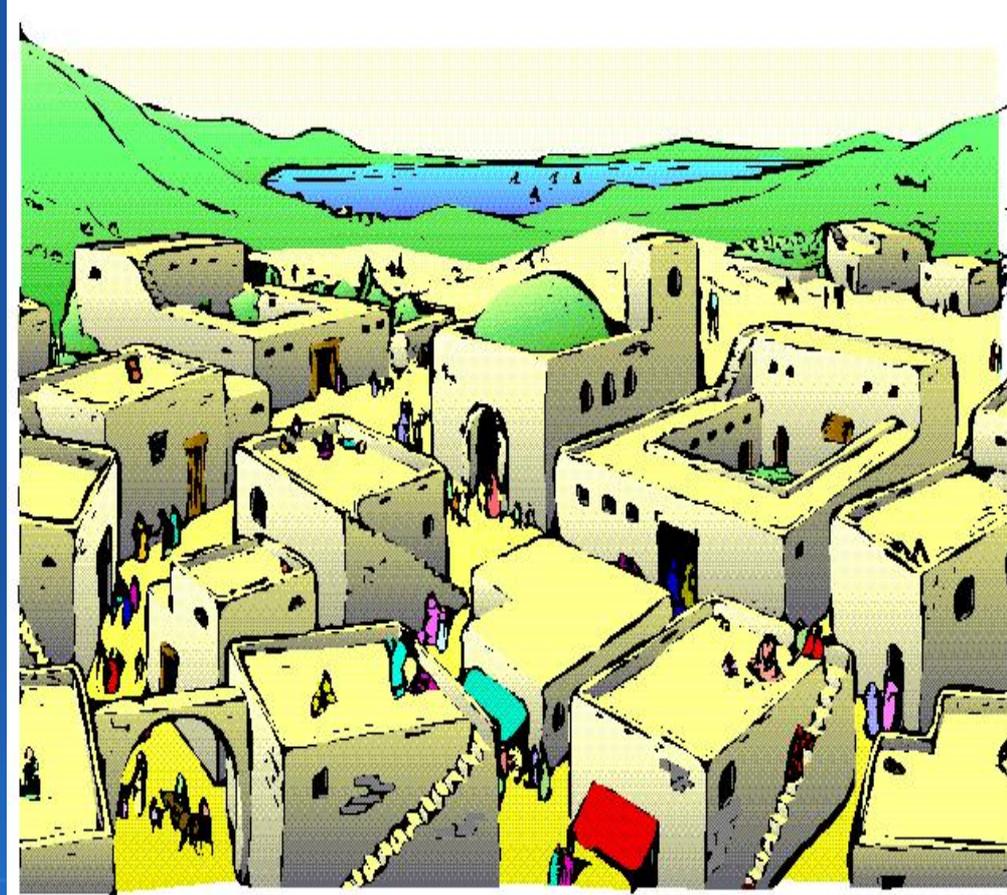


# DEATH BY STONING

- Concept is that the entire community participates
- Indicates the community's rejection of that sin
- **HOWEVER:** a trial is always first required
- It's only that the family is the witness, so **THEY** must throw the 1<sup>st</sup> stone
- Our allegiance to the Lord and His commands is above even our family
- Luke 14:26

# EXAMPLE #3: THE WHOLE TOWN FALLS AWAY

- The entire community is enticed to worship false gods
- The entire community must be executed!
- ***Bene Belial*** = sons of worthlessness
- **NAS 2 Corinthians 6:15** *Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?*



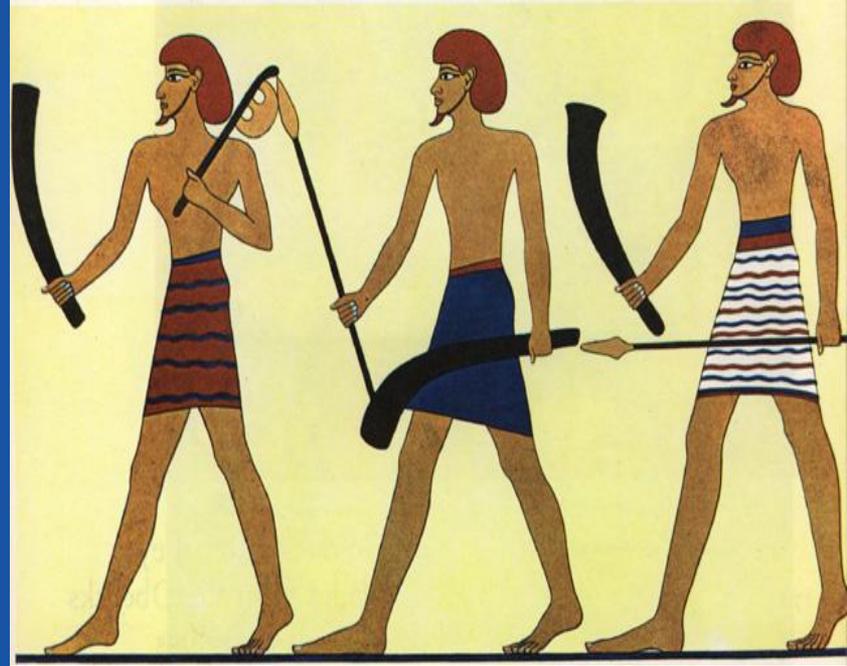
# TOWN TO BE REDUCED TO A TEL



## Tel

- Entire town to be destroyed by fire
- Ruins are never to be built upon again
- **Tel** = heap, mound
- Often 15 or 20 cities have been built one atop the other
- All the spoils of war are also to be burned up
- **Law of Herem** = spoils of a divine destruction belong to God just as an Altar sacrificial animal

# DEUTERONOMY 14: PROHIBITED PRACTICES



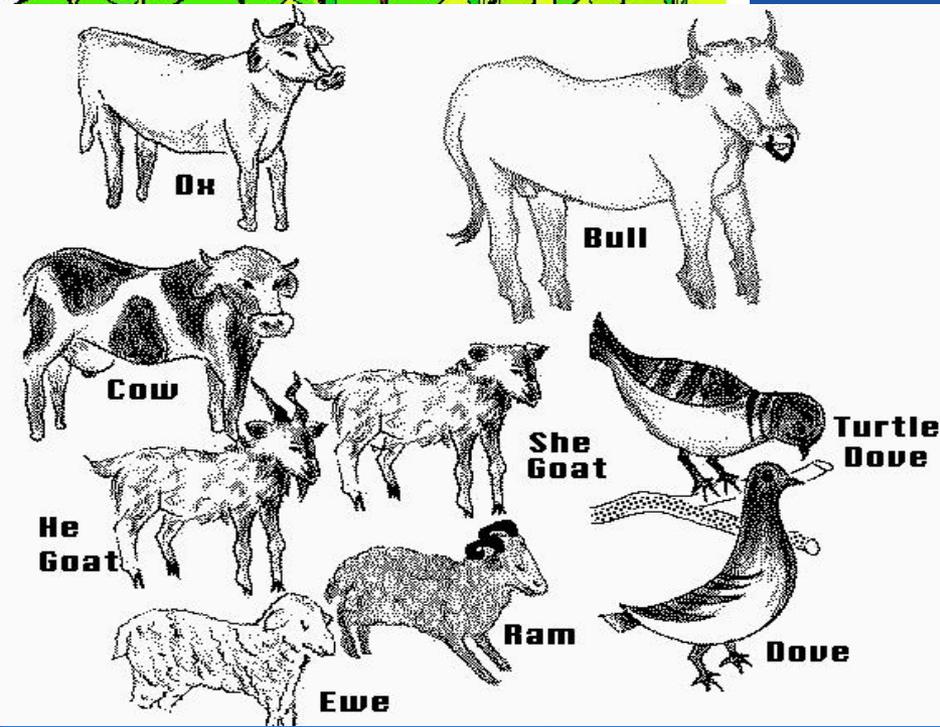
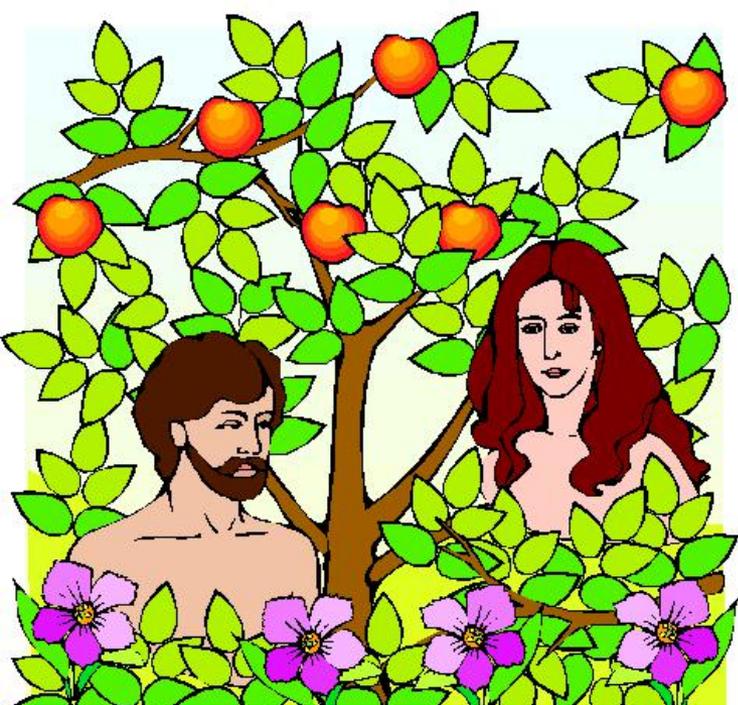
- *Bene YHWH* = sons of Yehoveh
- Many worship practices for YHWH are prohibited simply because the Canaanites do them!
- Priests can not have defects or scars
- Hebrews must not shave heads or slash themselves for mourning rites



# A HOLY DIET

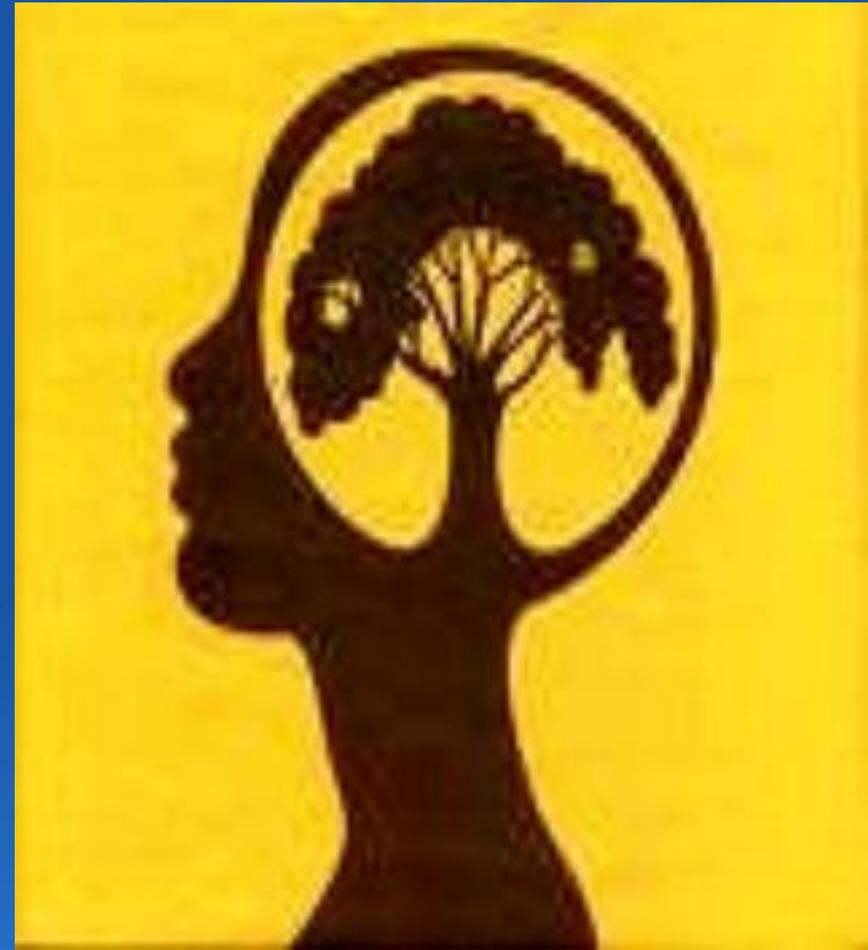
- For a Hebrew anything that cannot be eaten is NOT classified as “food”
- In Genesis 2 God put boundaries around food
- Adam and Eve told they can eat everything in the Garden EXCEPT fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

➤ THE 1<sup>ST</sup> LAW GOD EVER GAVE TO MANKIND REGARDED FOOD!



# STARTLING REALITIES ABOUT: LAW, THE WILL, AND SIN

- When Adam and Eve were first created they had NO RULES (no laws) laid down by God
- The 1<sup>st</sup> law they were eventually given was to not eat from the Tree of Knowledge
- Before that 1<sup>st</sup> law, they had NO LAWS to break, therefore sinning was an impossibility for them
- Adam and Eve had no concept of right and wrong, or good and evil.....it was irrelevant



# CHOICES

- All men born with 2 inclinations: good & evil
- Adam and Eve created with good & evil inclinations
- Human will is based on these 2 opposite inclinations
- Our will is that part of us that makes MORAL CHOICES
- **Moral** = in line with God's will
- **Obedience** = A Moral choice in line with God's will
- **Sin** = A Moral choice that is against God's will



# ADAM AND EVE CREATED WITHOUT SIN, BUT HAD ABILITY TO MAKE CHOICES



- Although they had the ability to make choices, until God gave them a law, they had no choices to make!
- It is ONLY God's laws that provide for Moral choices, so that our wills can be operative
- Moral choices versus preferences
- The will does NOT decide preferences

# 2 SEPARATE REALMS OF CHOICE FOR HUMANS

## MORAL CHOICES

### GOD DEFINED

GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY  
GOD'S LAWS AND COMMANDS

DO'S AND DON'T'S  
GOOD AND EVIL

## PREFERENCES

### MAN DEFINED

MAN MAY CHOOSE  
WITHOUT PENALTY

THINGS ABOUT WHICH THERE IS  
NO LAW

# IF THERE IS NO LAW, THERE ARE NO MORAL CHOICES!

- **Matt 5:17 – 19** *“....for truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away not the smallest letter.....shall pass from the Law”*
- **Rom 4:13** *“.....for the Law brings about wrath, but where there is no Law, there is no violation.”*
- The ONLY way violation (sin) ends is when there is no law
- Jesus says the law will not pass until heaven and earth pass away
- Upon the New Heaven and New Earth there will never again be laws and commands
- All will revert to the condition of Adam and Eve BEFORE that 1<sup>st</sup> law was given.....do not eat of the Tree of Knowledge