

BEGIN

1 HEBREW DAY

END

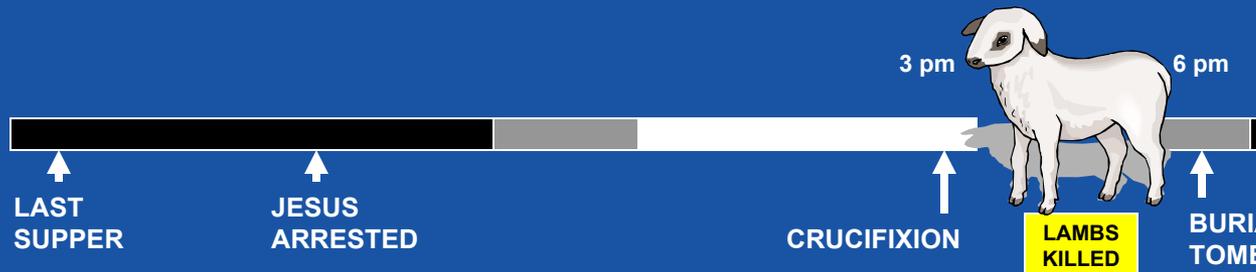
13th
WEDNESDAY



NIGHT 7 PM

14th
THURSDAY

PASSOVER



Night 1 begins

15th
FRIDAY

MATZA



NIGHT 2 begins

16th

SATURDAY

SABBATH



NIGHT 3 begins

17th

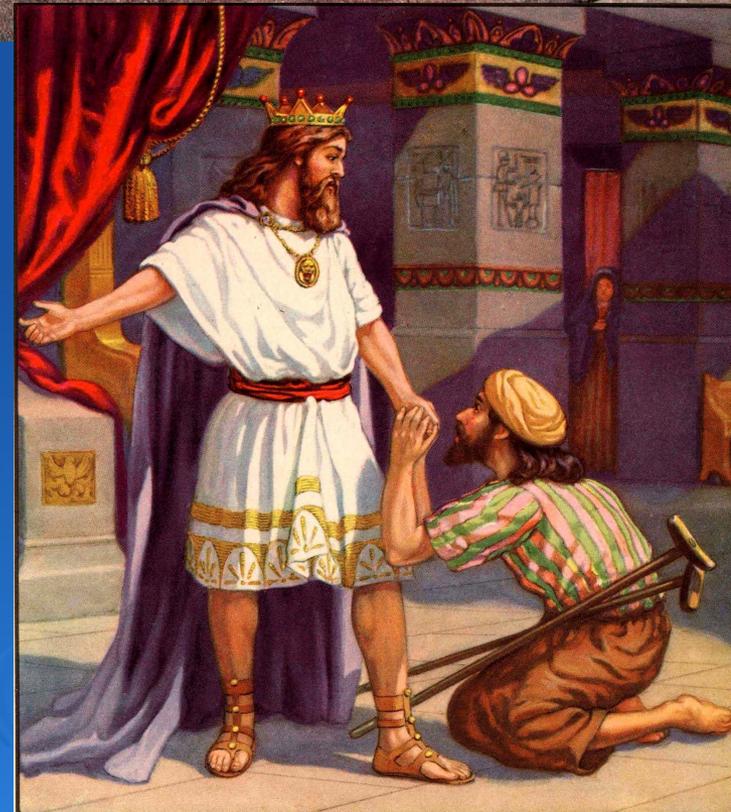
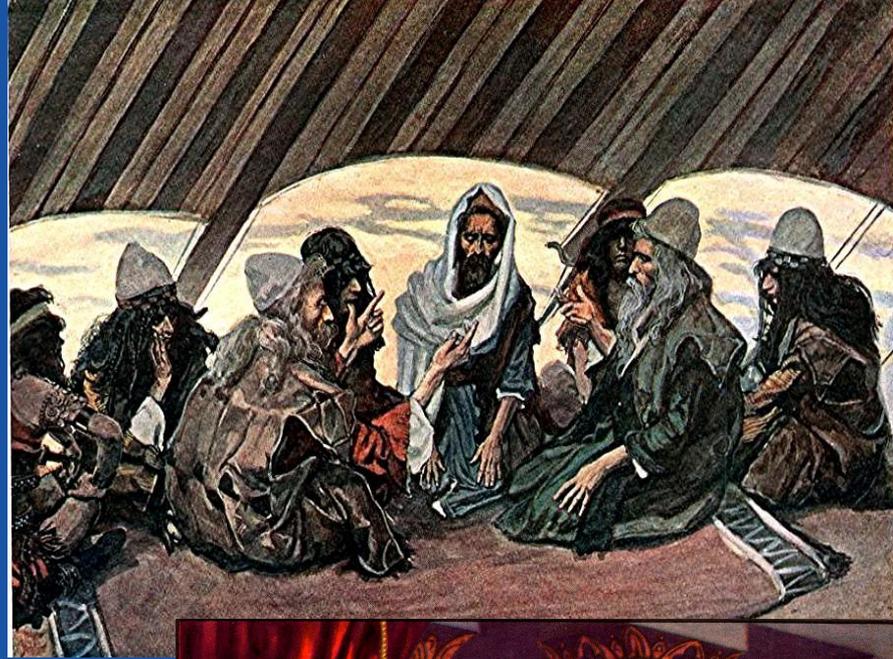
SUNDAY

FIRSTFRUITS

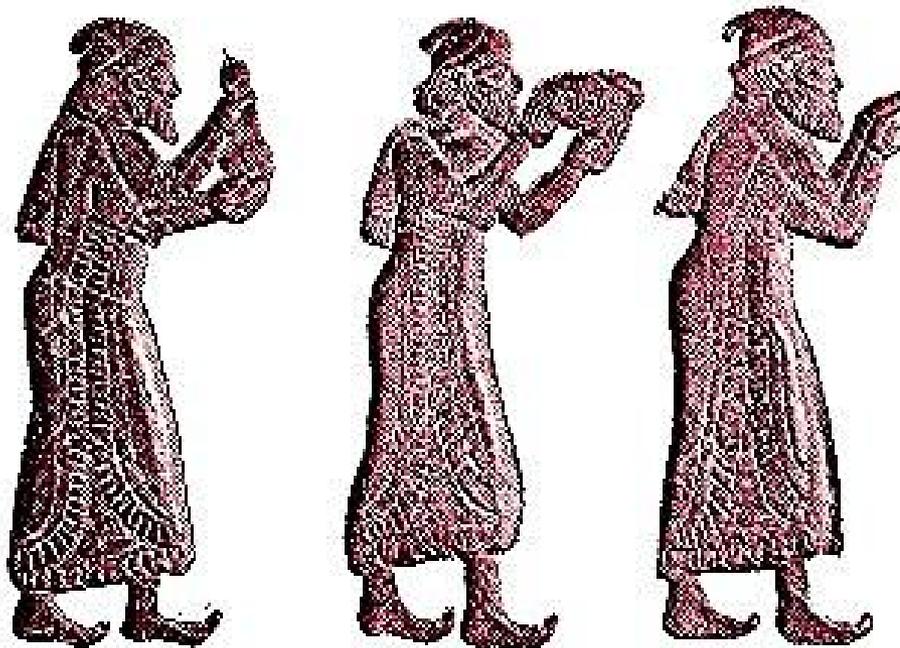


ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT

- Civil and religious government were fully intertwined
- Deut. 16 establishes 4 basic “kinds” of authority: Kings, Priests, Judges, Prophets
- These were NOT to represent an elite class
- God is setting limitations upon each of these offices



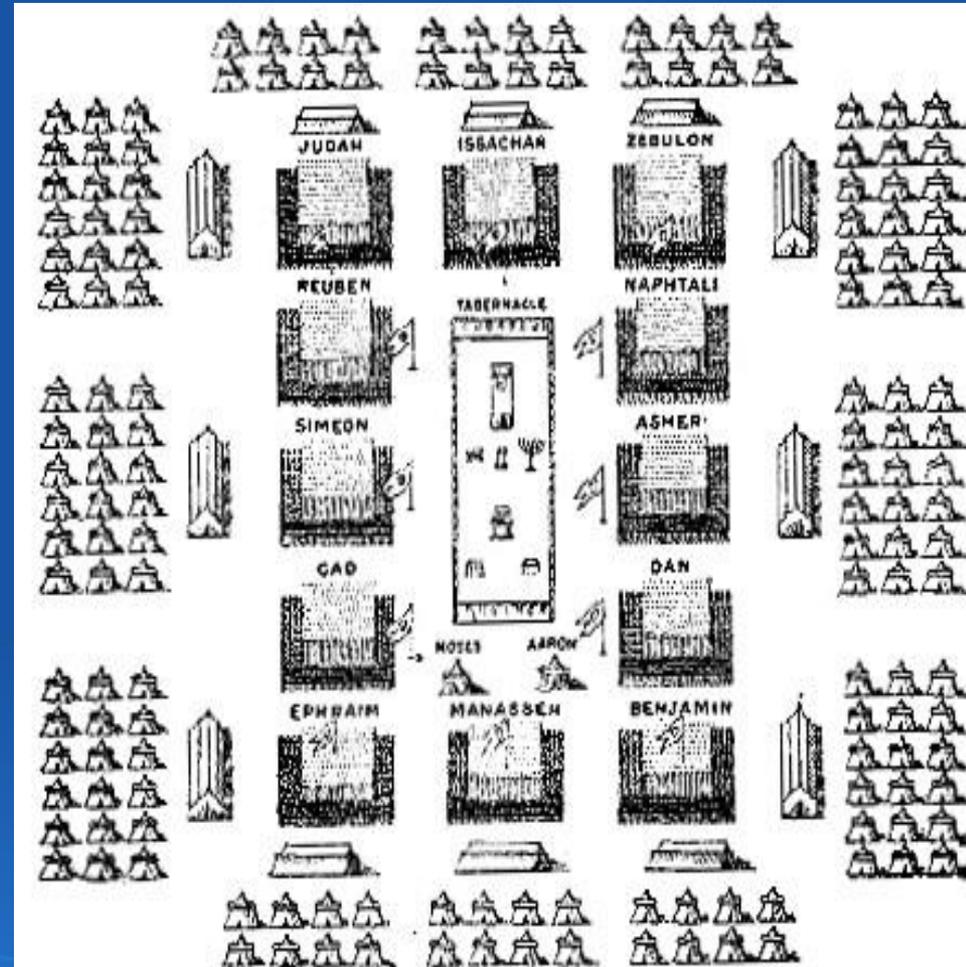
THE ELDERS IN ANCIENT ISRAEL



- Israel is NOT to mimic it's neighbors' forms of government
- Tribal systems use ELDERS as representatives of the people
- Senior elders probably were the first "judges"
- **Shofet** = judge
- A change was coming in the way Israel was governed

CHANGE TO A DE-CENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT

- In the Wilderness, government was centralized under Moses
- In Canaan, individual tribes would assume bigger role
- REASON: change from a military system to a civilian system
- Yehoveh fully expected each tribe to operate under the same set of principles: The Law



ISRAEL TO BE GOVERNED WITH RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

- *Mishpat tzedek* = righteous judgment
- Instructions to all government officials:
 - 1) Judgment must always be fair
 - 2) No favoritism
 - 3) No taking of bribes
- Vs. 20: should read.... “*Righteousness and only righteousness you should pursue...*”
- The BASIS for God’s justice system is righteousness
- Israel is NOT to form it’s justice system based on man’s changing philosophies

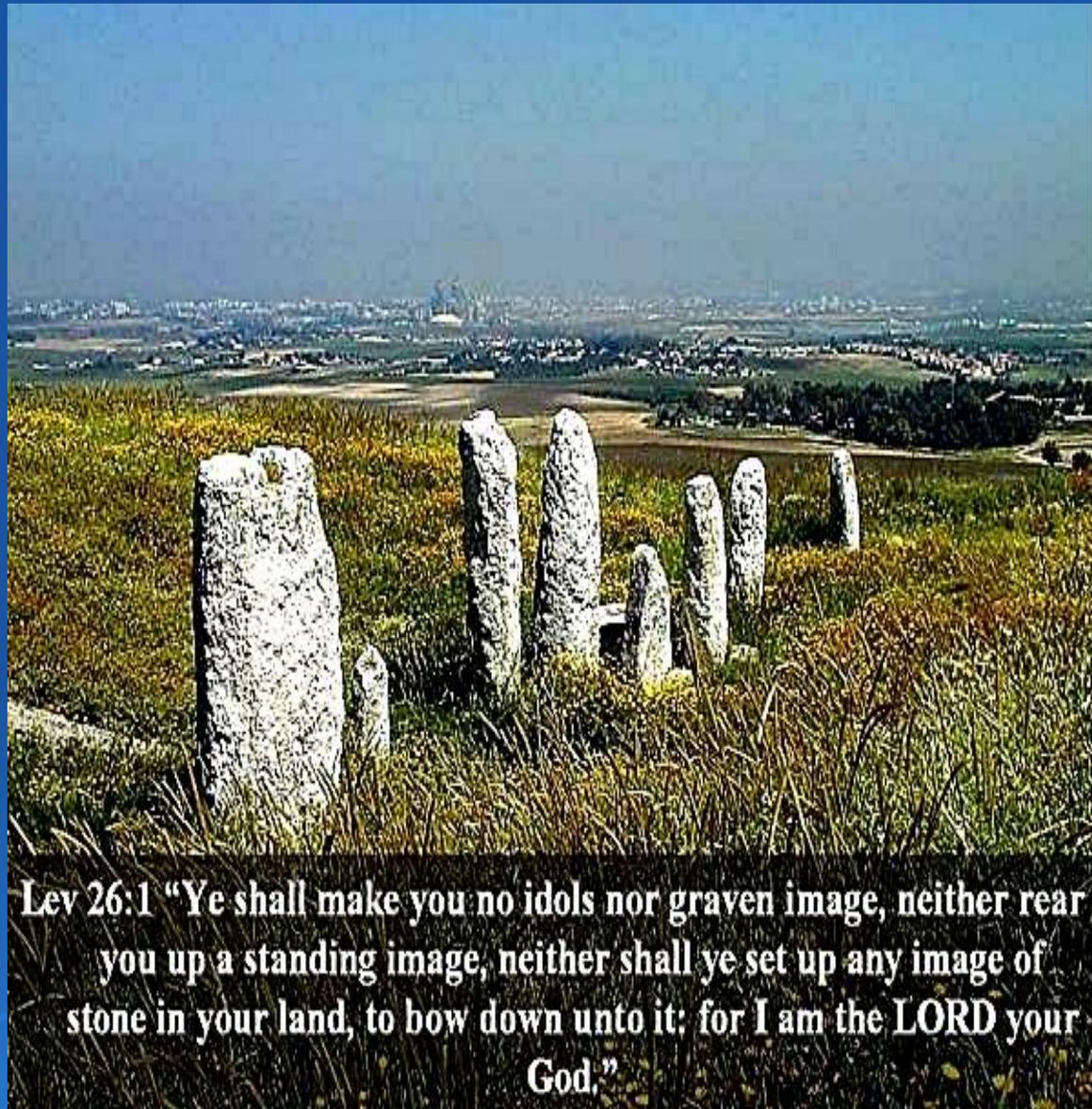
NO ASHERAH!!



- Asherah is literally a wooden pole or a tree used to celebrate a god
- The Asherah were NOT the gods, they represented the gods
- Asherah = Ashtoreth = fertility goddess
- Wife of Ba'al

NO STANDING STONES!!

- Standing stones were symbols of Ba'al
- The male god of Canaan
- **Bottom line:** no symbols used to represent the Canaanite gods are to be used by Israel



Lev 26:1 "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God."

WHY COULD THE PATRIARCHS SET-UP STANDING STONES AND POLES?



➤ **PRINCIPLE:** *No object or living creature is inherently unclean or evil*

➤ The Lord declares what is holy and what is evil, what is clean and what is unclean

➤ We risk mixing paganism with Yehoveh worship when we determine to find “loopholes” to use things that the Bible says is prohibited



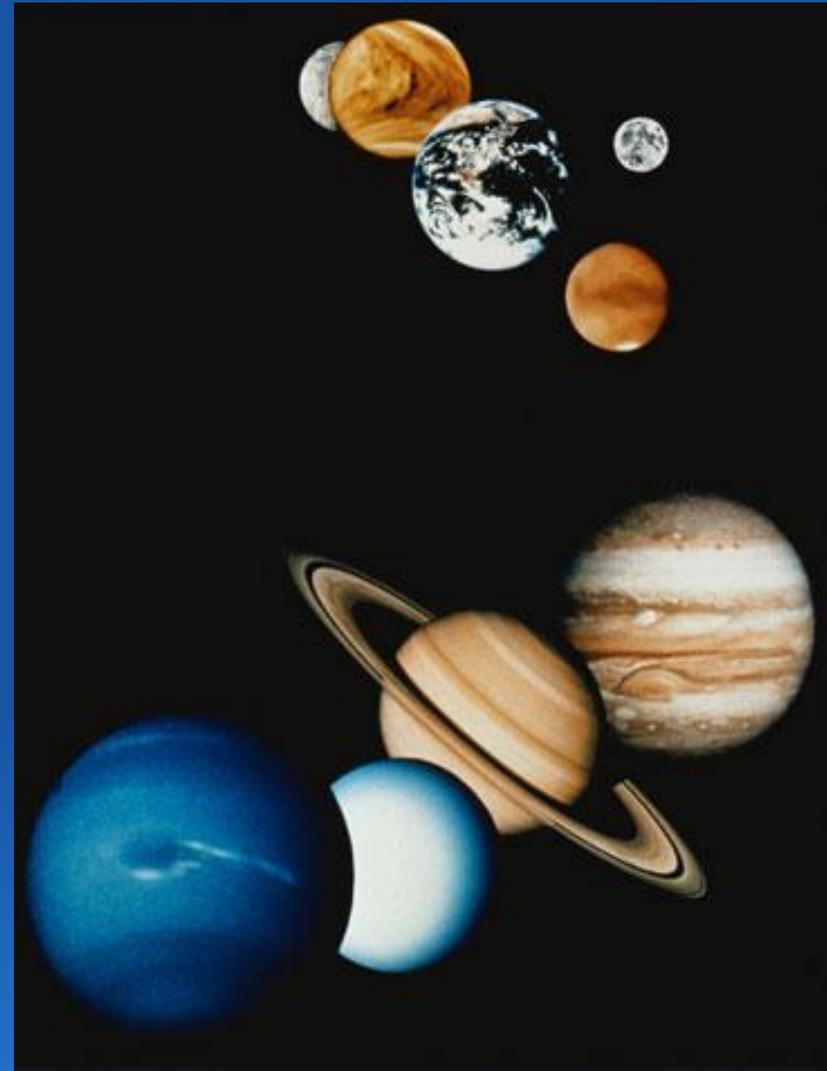
DEUTERONOMY 17: NO BLEMISHES OR DEFECTS

- To bring less than the best sacrifices to God is “abhorrent” to Him
- Acts 5, Sapphira dies for holding back her best
- No other gods
- Judges are given guidelines to know what constitutes idolatry in God’s eyes



NO OTHER GODS

- Laws apply to men & women
- Worshipping “other gods” a direct affront to YHWH
- God NEVER commanded heavenly bodies to be worshipped
- When seen as gods the stars, moon, etc. ARE GODS!
- God is aware that there actually are no other gods
- Other gods ONLY exist with the evil inclinations of humans

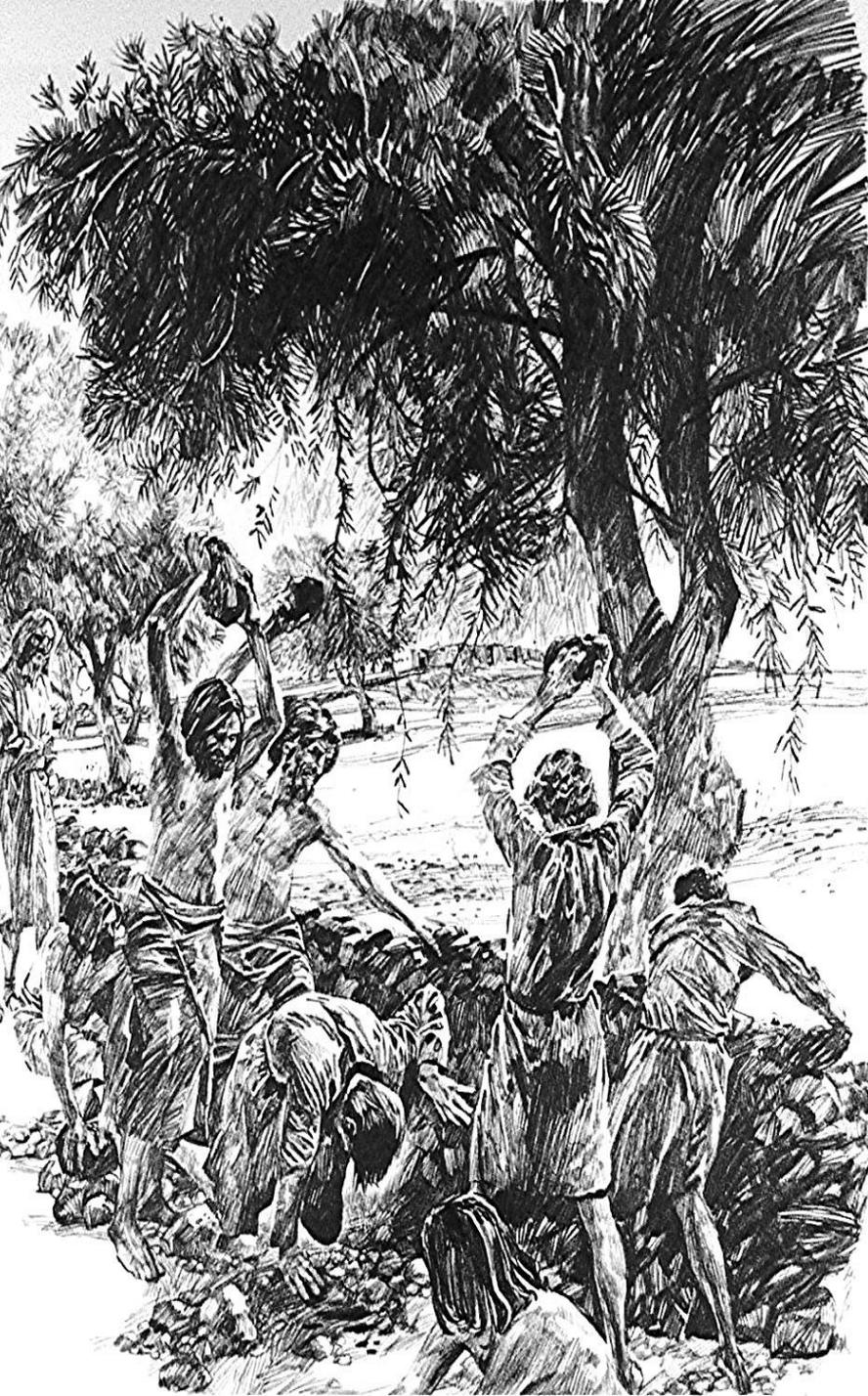


IT IS THE DUTY OF OFFICIALS TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE IDOLATRY



- If a person is found guilty of idolatry, penalty is execution by stoning
- Must investigate whether informed directly or a rumor is circulating
- In Bible era, the witnesses were also the accusers
- Bible Times witnesses were generally “eye-witnesses”

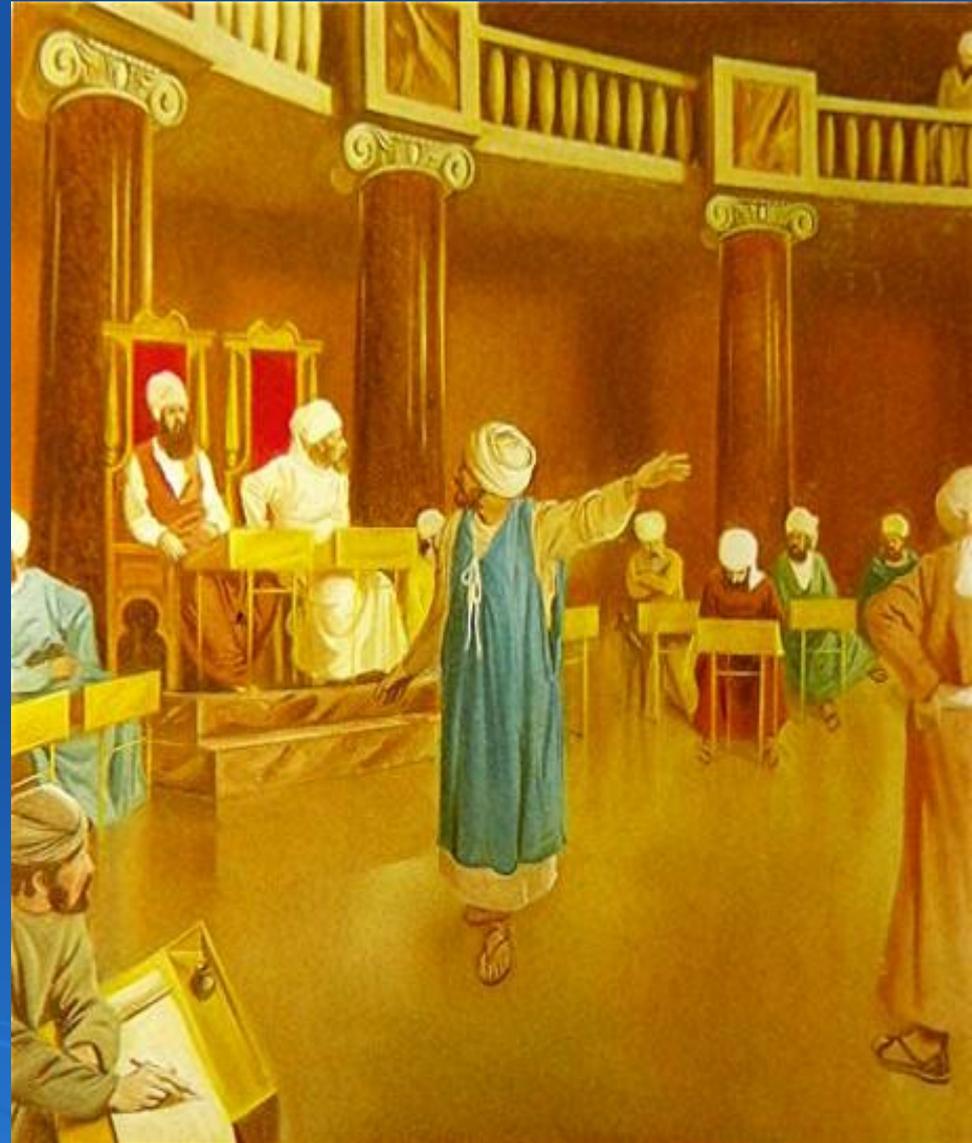
WITNESSES THROW 1ST STONE



- A witness was also an executioner
- If a witness gives wrong or false statements in a capital case, and the accused dies, the witness is guilty of “blood”
- After witnesses throw 1st stones, the whole community **MUST** participate in execution
- Executions public, bloody, and no one escapes participation
- The entire community is affirming God’s justice system

LOWER AND HIGHER COURTS

- Higher court is for matters “too difficult” for lower court
- Higher court is NOT an appeals court
- The Law HAS no system of appeals
- Lower courts stayed within the bounds of each tribe
- Higher courts were central courts over ALL 12 tribes



**LEVITICAL CITIES ALLOTTED WITHIN TRIBAL AREAS,
AND CITIES OF REFUGE**



**“...the place
where the Lord
chooses”**

- NOT the location of the Tabernacle
- Can be any of the 48 Levite cities scattered throughout the 12 tribes' territories
- Levite Priests were the judges of the higher courts
- Their decisions stood above all the tribes

THE KINGS

- Although there is a generally negative attitude towards kings for Israel, Yehoveh concedes to Israel's want of a king
- This is a prophetic statement, because YHWH knows Israel will want a king like their neighbors have
- King **MUST** be chosen by God
- King **MUST** be an Israelite and never a foreigner

