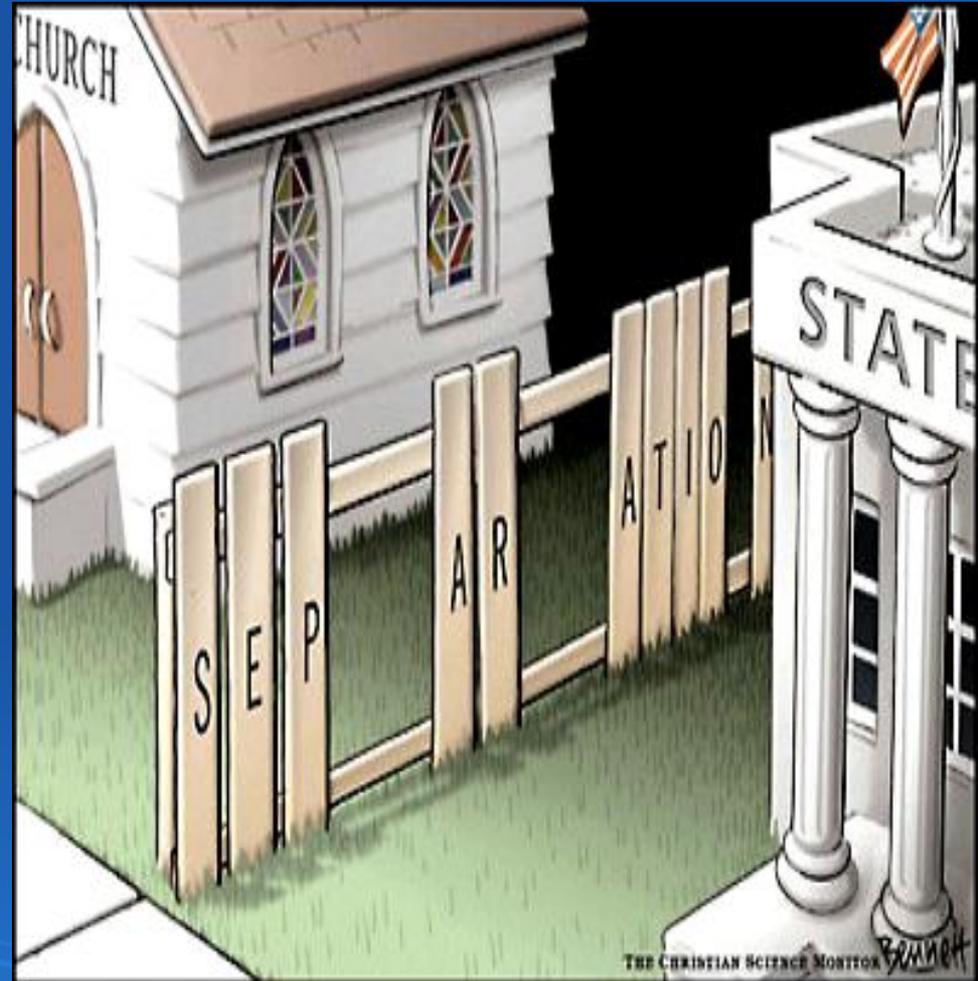


DEUTERONOMY 17: NO SEPARATION OF CHURCH/STATE

- Israel's civil/religious governments intertwined
- **Shofet** = Judges
- Usually tribal elders, formed the "Lower" courts
- Lower courts handled matters within their OWN TRIBE
- Upper Court established, using primarily Levites
- Upper Court is "federal", handling matters from all the tribes





THE KINGS

- Not for 300 years after Moses did Israel have its first King
- Having a King for Israel was a concession on God's part
- God limits the power and wealth of Israel's Kings
- Kings influenced 3 areas: military, political, economic

GOD PUTS MILITARY, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC LIMITS ON KINGS

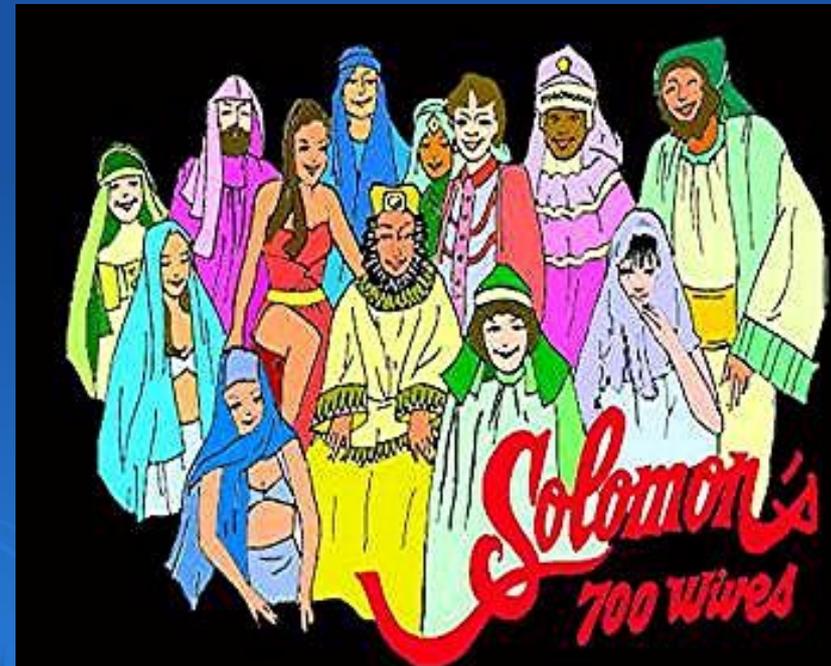


- *“Do not go back that way again...”* to Egypt
- Horses in Moses’ day were only for pulling chariots
- Chariots were primarily weapons of war
- Lord did not want kings to have so much military power as to oppress the people



HAREM

- The prohibition against a king having many wives is primarily a call against making foreign alliances
- Allies were made by families intermarrying
- Not about having many beautiful women for pleasure
- NO amassing a personal fortune



CORONATION OF YOASH

- The **FIRST** duty of every new King was to make a copy of the Law for himself
- **2Kings 11:1-16**
- Yoash 7 years old when made King of Judah
- Hebrew kings had become like their pagan neighbors
- The Kings sought power, wealth, used the army for personal security
- The act of writing something helps us to remember it better...this has proven to be a fact



LEVITES

MUSICIANS
GUARDS
LABORERS
SINGERS
TEND FIRES
FILL WATER BASINS

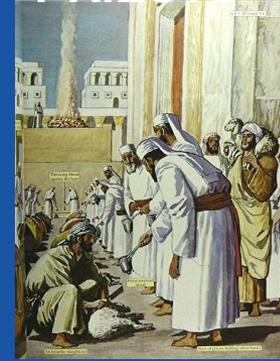
ALL OTHER LEVITES



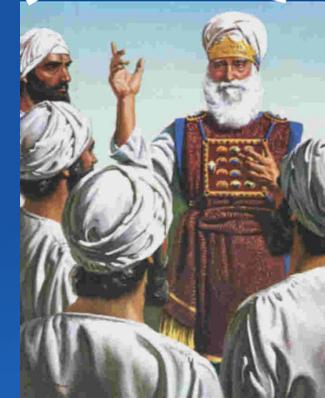
PRIESTS

HIGH PRIEST

ORDINARY
PRIESTS

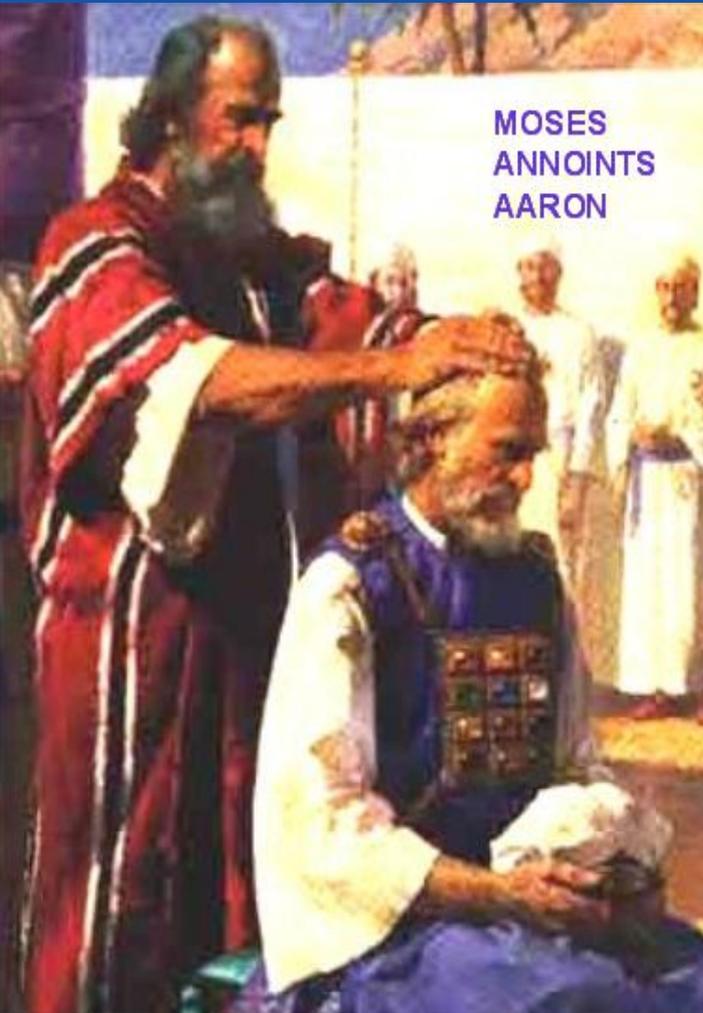


AARON



TRIBE OF LEVI

NO PRIESTHOOD BEFORE SINAI



- Before “The Law”, the firstborns of each Hebrew family behaved as family priests
- When God established a centralized priesthood around the tribe of Levi, the other tribes didn’t easily accept it
- Use of phrase “Levite Priests” is emphasized to make it clear that the clergy was **ONLY** from the tribe of Levi

LEVITICAL CITIES ALLOTTED WITHIN TRIBAL AREAS, AND CITIES OF REFUGE



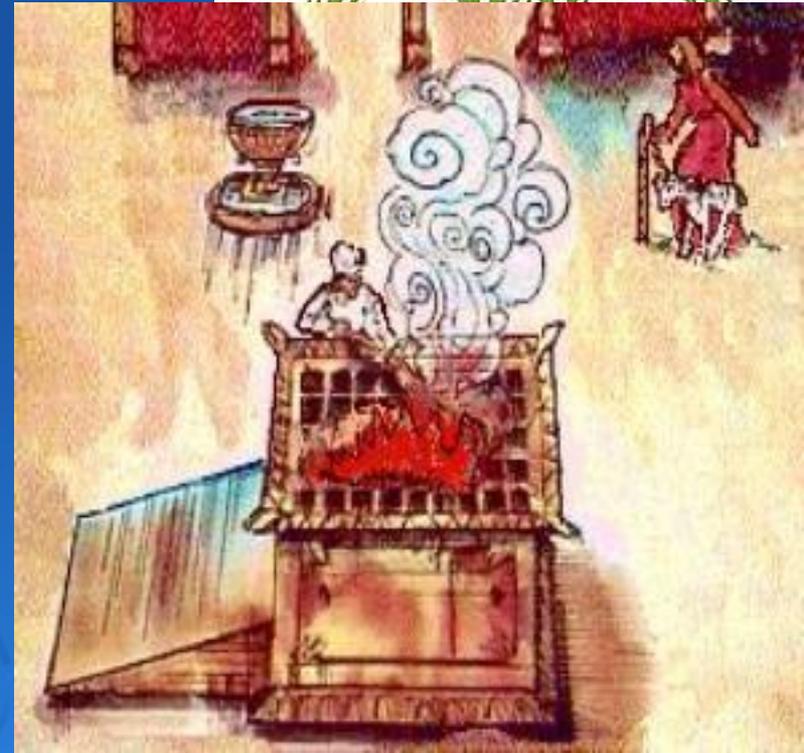
LEVI RECEIVED NO TERRITORY

- Levites instead got 48 cities within the lands of the 12 tribes
- Depended on the charity of the 12 tribes
- Levites operated the central sanctuary, courts, were the teachers of the Law

PRIESTS AND FIRSTLINGS



- Livelihood of Priests and Levites comes mainly from offerings of firstlings from the 12 tribes
- ***Ishsheh*** = fire offering
- NOT the same thing as the burnt offering, the 'Olah
- ***Ishsheh*** is a class of sacrifices whereby some is burnt up and the remainder is for food
- **Clergy to receive:** shoulder, jowls and tongue, 4th stomach
- Also field produce including grains, olive oil and wine



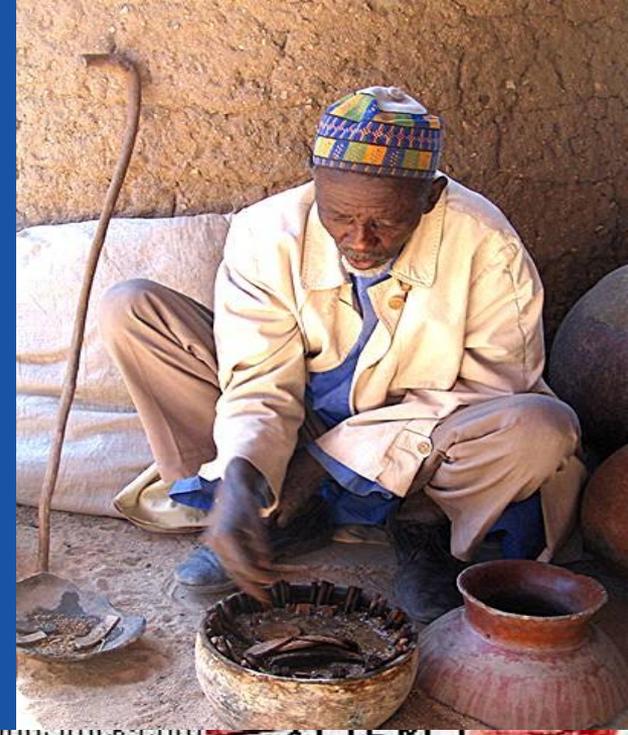
GOD'S PROPHETS



- Kings and Judges are given limitations, while Prophets are given great authority
- Prophets were an OFFICIAL office, not self-appointed
- Priests taught the existing WRITTEN WORD (the Law)
- Prophets had direct communication with God
- Prophets are God's messengers to Israel

ABHORRENT PRACTICES

- The interest is THE FUTURE!
- God authorized ONLY ONE way to know some things about the future: His Prophets
- Modern day Psychics fall into this category of “abhorrent”
- Israel is to OBEY God’s Prophets
- Punishment for a false prophet can be execution





TRUE PROPHET OR FALSE PROPHET?

- Method to discern: if what a prophet predicts doesn't happen, he is a false prophet
- If what a self-proclaimed prophet says does NOT come about, that person should NOT be listened to
- God's prophets had great troubles in their lives; jailed, beaten, killed
- They worried about whether to say what they THOUGHT they had been told by God
- All Prophets were RELUCTANT prophets
- Jonah feared retribution if Nineveh repented and God held back wrath