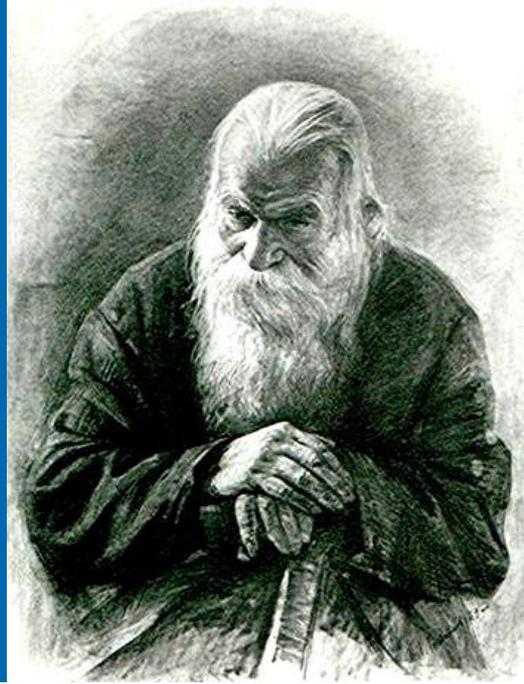
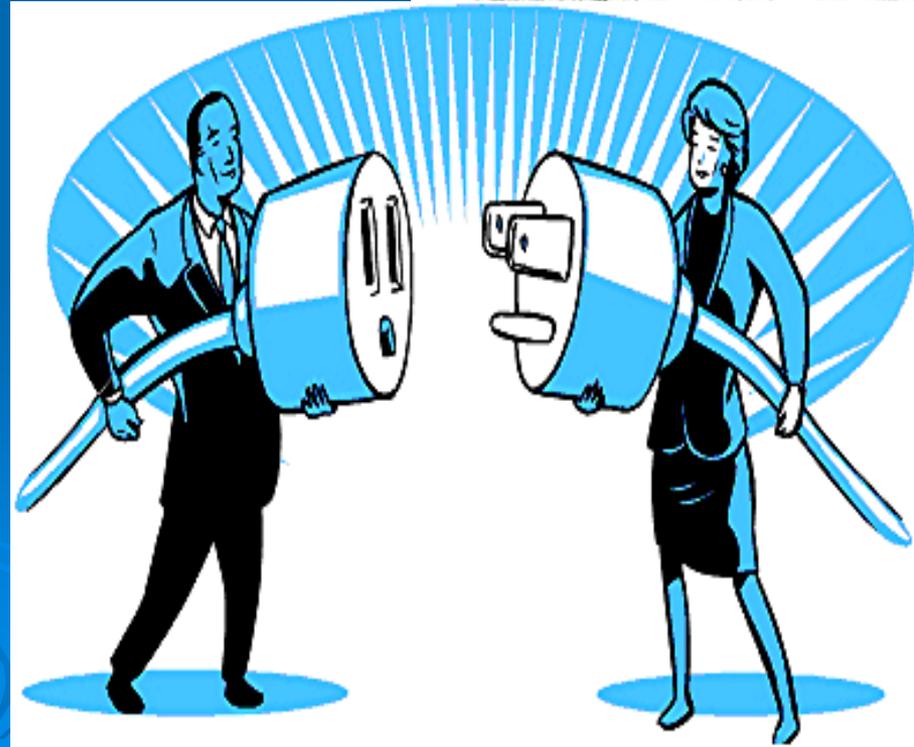


JOSHUA 24: MAKING CONNECTIONS

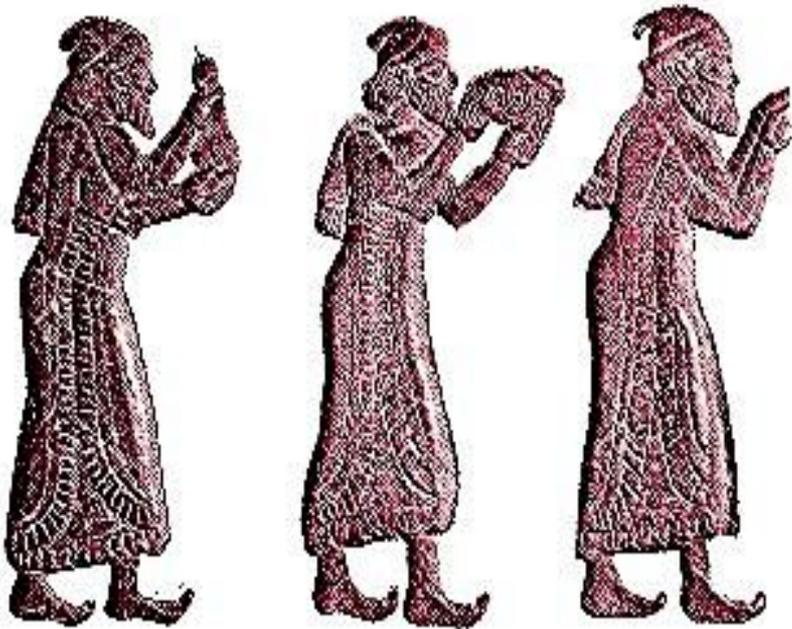


- Chapter 23, Joshua's Farewell Address
- Israel to be on guard against paganism/idolatry
- Chapter 24, takes place after Joshua's Farewell Address
- Tremendous theological significance
- Joshua took Israel from theory to practice



A MEETING OF COVENANT RENEWAL

THE ELDERS IN ANCIENT ISRAEL

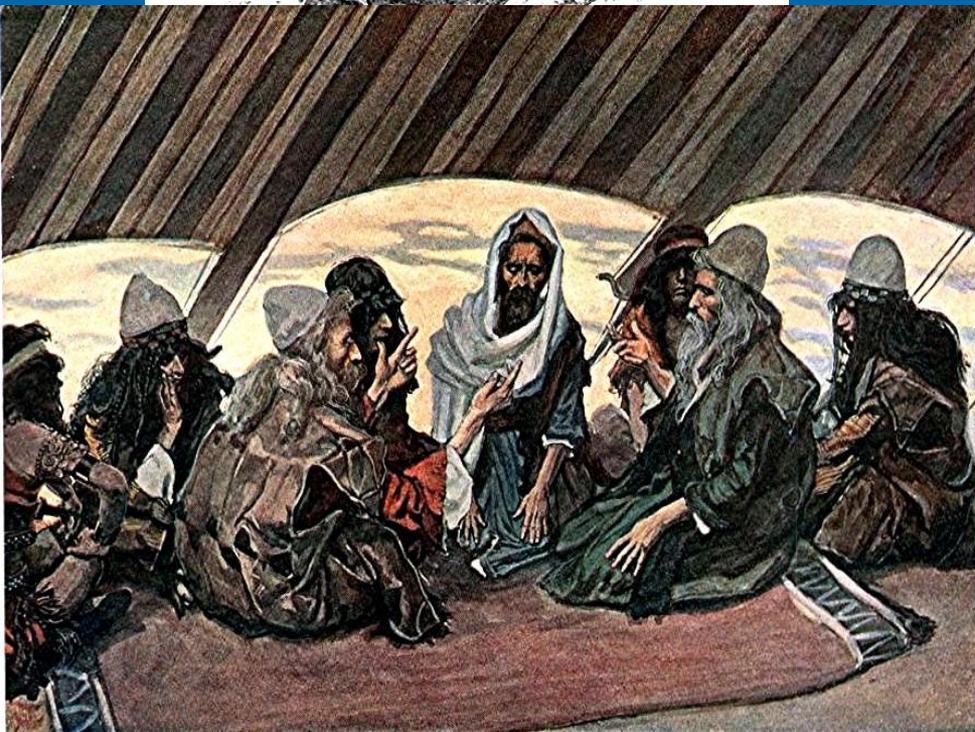


- Israel a loose confederation of 12 tribes
- Impossible for all citizens to attend, so representatives came
- Tribal Princes, Elders, Judges, Officers
- Princes were the Tribal Chiefs who inherited their position
- Elders were chosen for wisdom or leadership skills, and were the common people's representatives

OFFICERS AND JUDGES



- Officers likely meant military officers
- Men who displayed outstanding fighting skills and leadership
- No standing army
- Judge = *shofet*
- A position in transition during Joshua's time
- Heard complaints and issued rulings
- Deut. 25:1 “....**judges render a decision....**”
- NOT at all like the judges in the Book of Judges



MEETING HELD AT SHECHEM

- Shechem a place of religious and historical significance
- There Abraham was told THIS was the land God was giving Him
- The place of the beginning of the physical process of spiritual redemption that would lead to Messiah
- Ebal and Gerizim, blessings and curses of the Law pronounced
- Jacob bought land there, sons led raid of revenge
- Shiloh was current location of the Tabernacle



AN ERA IS COMING TO A CLOSE



- What began 600-700 years earlier had come full circle
- Israel now firmly entrenched in the Promised Land
- Their obedience and dedication to YHWH was at its peak



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

- Covenant of Abraham made with El Shaddai
- Covenant of Moses made with YHWH
- Patriarchs ONLY knew God as El Shaddai
- *El Shaddai* = God of the Mountain
- *El* is a Canaanite word adopted by the Hebrews

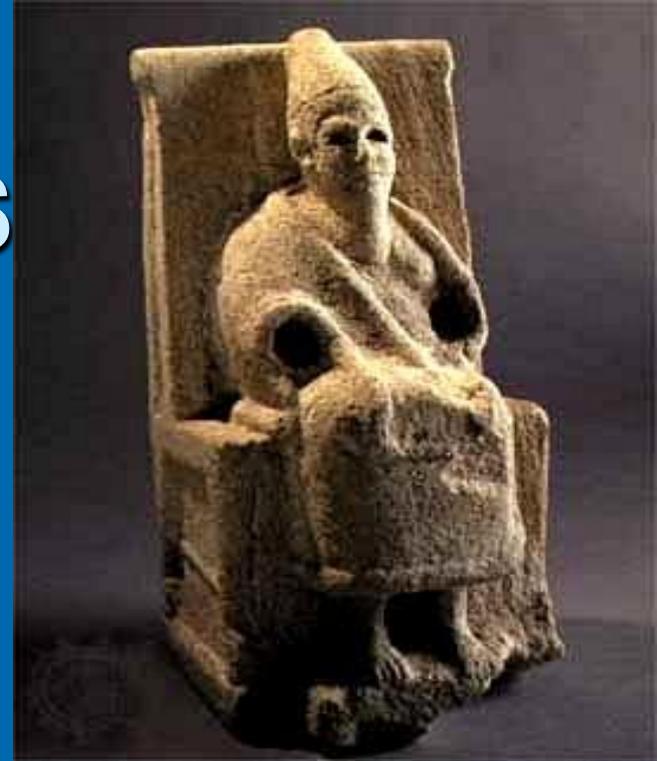


Yehoveh

יהוה HVHY

heh vav heh yud

EL WAS THE FATHER OF GODS AND HUMANS



- El was NOT the most powerful god
- Asherah was El's wife
- Asherah mother of gods and humans
- Ba'al the most powerful god
- Ba'al god of storms and fertility
- Astarte (Ashtoreth) goddess of fertility, love and war
- Easter is Anglo for Astarte

MYSTERY BABYLON GODS

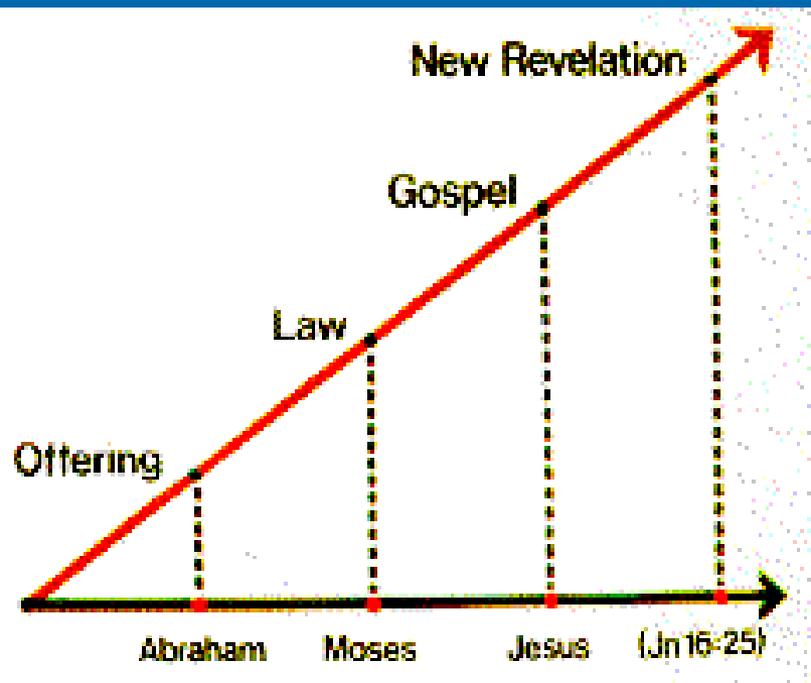
- Canaanite god El was how early Hebrews pictured God
- Patriarchs more associated with Mesopotamia than Canaan
- Abraham raised in the pantheon of El, Asherah, Ba'al, Astarte
- Abraham began as a pagan



PROGRESSIVE REVELATION



- The Lord took the first step to de-paganize Abraham by removing him from his homeland
- Abraham KNEW that gods were territorial and he could not have comprehended the Lord God any other way
- **Progressive Revelation**: man's journey as directed by God that has a definite path with explicit milestones when new information is given
- God uses existing customs and traditions and gives them new meaning



THE GOD, HIS NAME & HIS TERRITORY WERE ALL CONNECTED



- When Patriarchs were in Canaan, it made sense that God was “El”
- When in Egypt, the Hebrews KNEW “El” wasn’t with them there
- When Israel left Egypt and encountered God at Mt. Sinai, they expected Him to be a different god with a different name (YHWH)

ISRAEL'S HISTORY IN 4 PARTS

- Patriarchs knew God as “El”
- Joshua and Moses knew God as “YHWH”
- YHWH warns and threatens Israel NOT to bow down to El or the other Canaanite gods
- ***Shem*** = name = reputation, attributes
- **4 Eras of Israelite History:**
 - 1) Patriarchs knew God as “El”
 - 2) In Egypt served Egypt's gods
 - 3) Conquering of the Trans-Jordan
 - 4) Conquering of the Promised Land

When in Rome...

- Hebrews believed they HAD no god with them in Egypt, so they served the Egyptian gods
- They wanted desperately to go back to Canaan WHERE their god lived!
- In Egypt, Israel still knew the name of God as El Shaddai
- God could HEAR His people in Egypt but His POWER ended at the borders of Canaan
- A new milestone in understanding was about to be reached upon Israel's exodus

