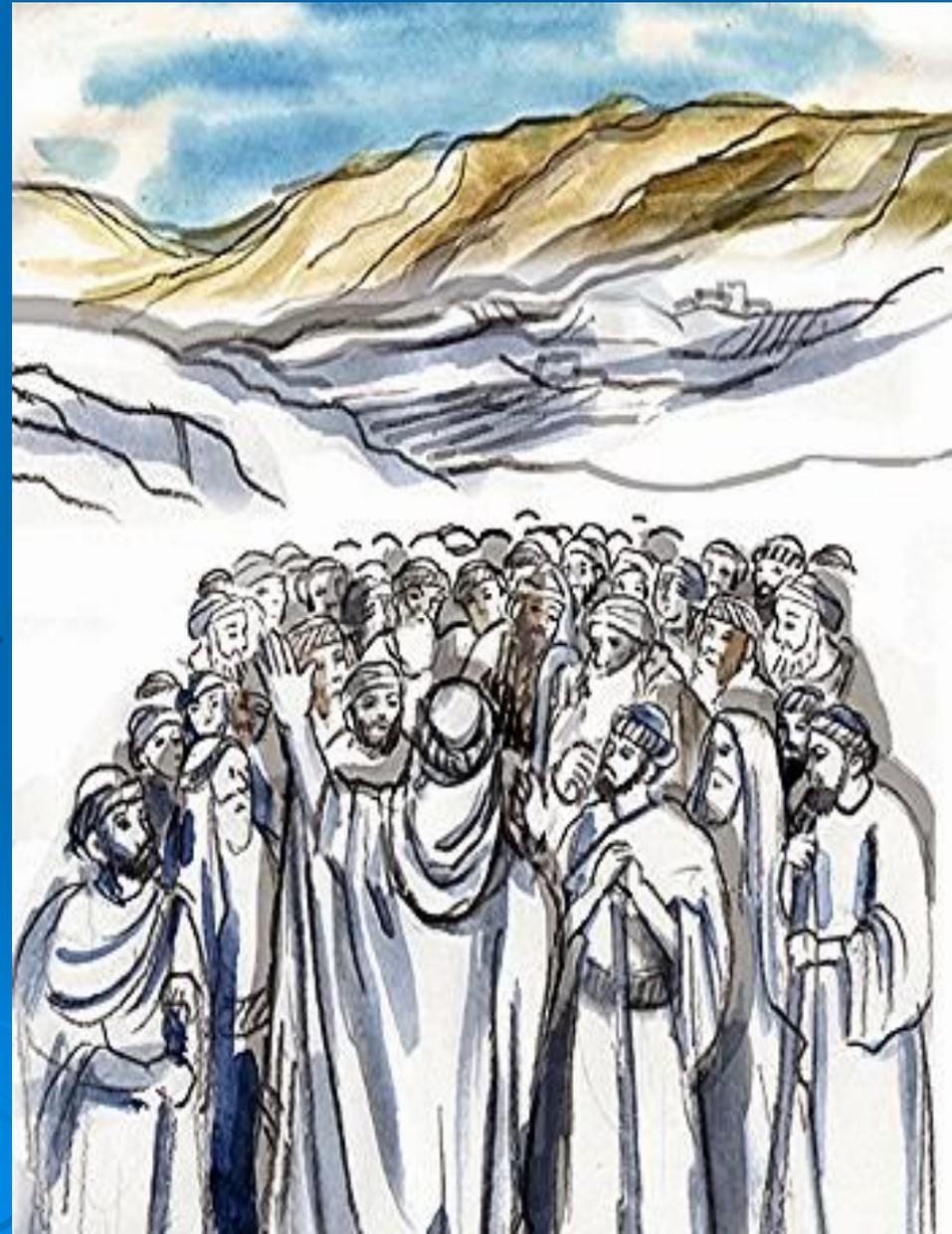


“YOU CANNOT SERVE YHWH”

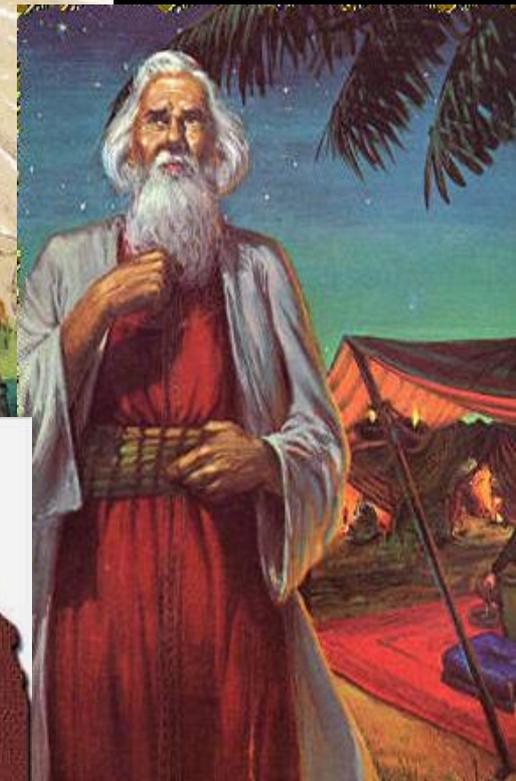
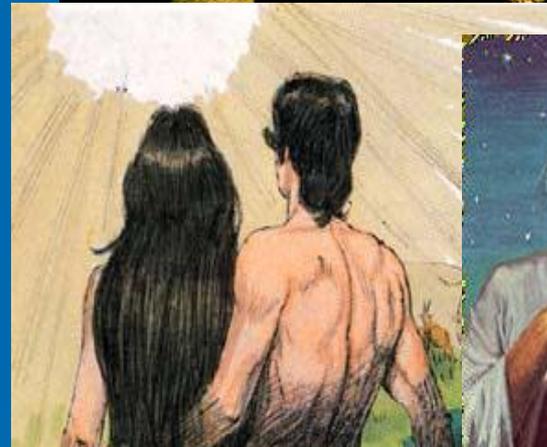
- God, through Joshua, insists on the impossible
- **THE PROBLEM:**
God insists His people serve Him in perfection. But NO MAN is capable of this.
- Since God is holy and perfect, any service less than perfect offends Him



SERVING IDOLS IS EASY



- Which idol would object to it's worshipper?
- YHWH demands much more than the false gods
- Adam, Abraham, and Moses could not serve the Lord properly
- God expects us to serve Him perfectly even though we can not!!



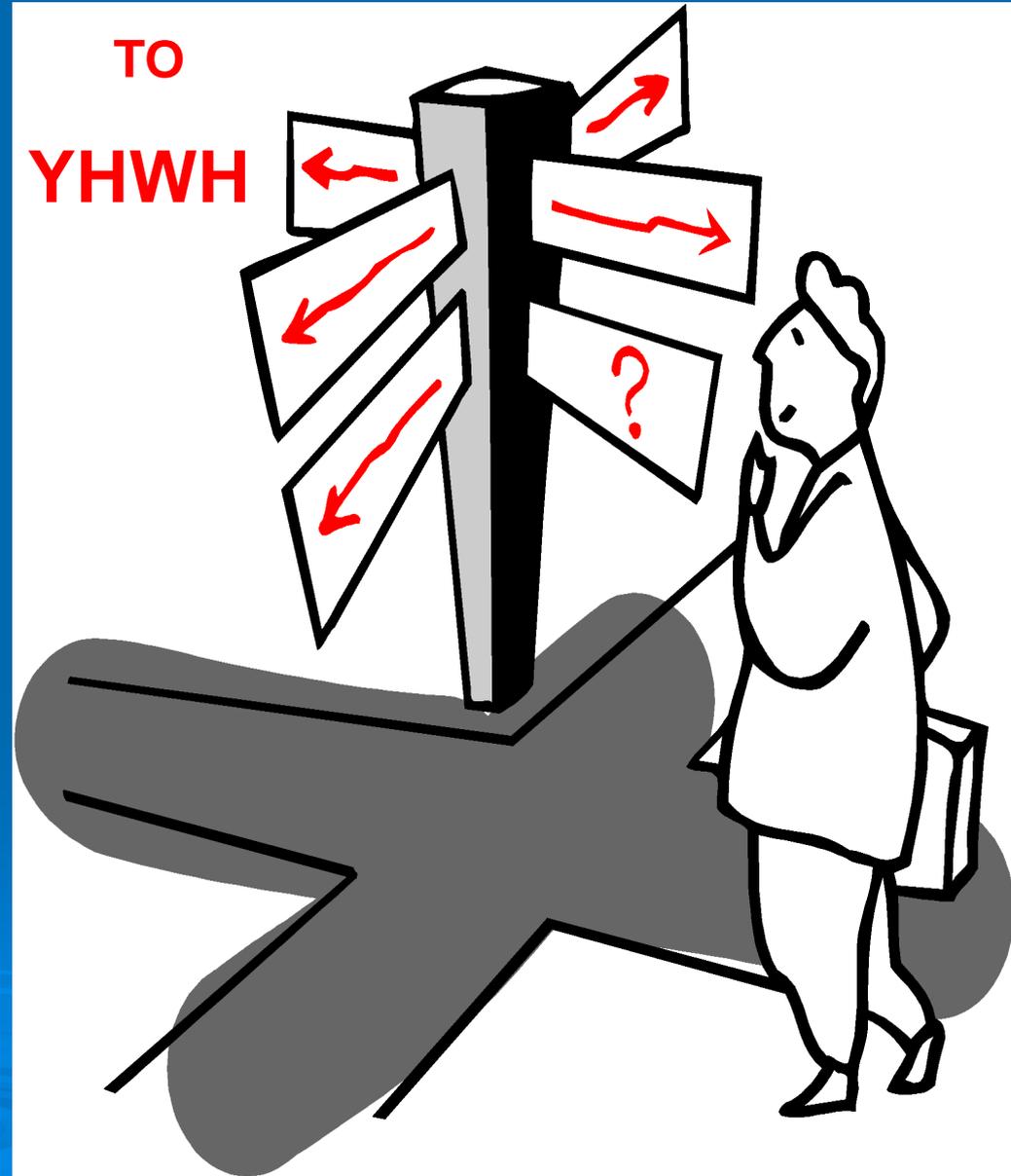
CHINESE FINGERS



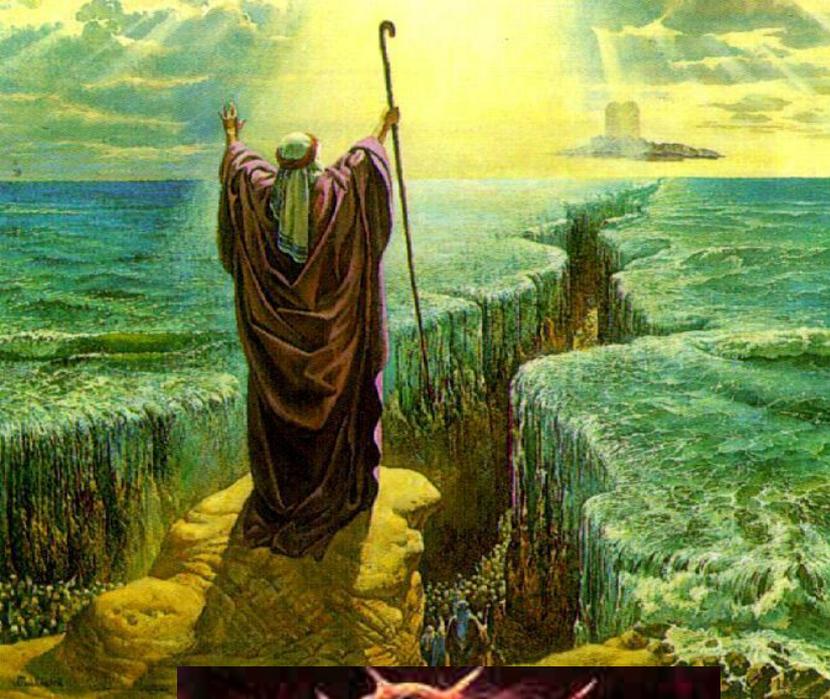
- God's elect will be scrutinized and held to a higher standard than the Pagans
- The dilemma is so great that only God Himself must come to solve it!!
- Choosing implies free will
- To choose to serve the Lord is DANGEROUS

THE CHOICE

- No matter its impossibility Believers are to strive to emulate YHWH
- Everything changes when we're confronted with The Choice
- Those who choose NOT to follow God are free to live the best life they can
- Little is expected of pagans by God because they do NOT know Him!



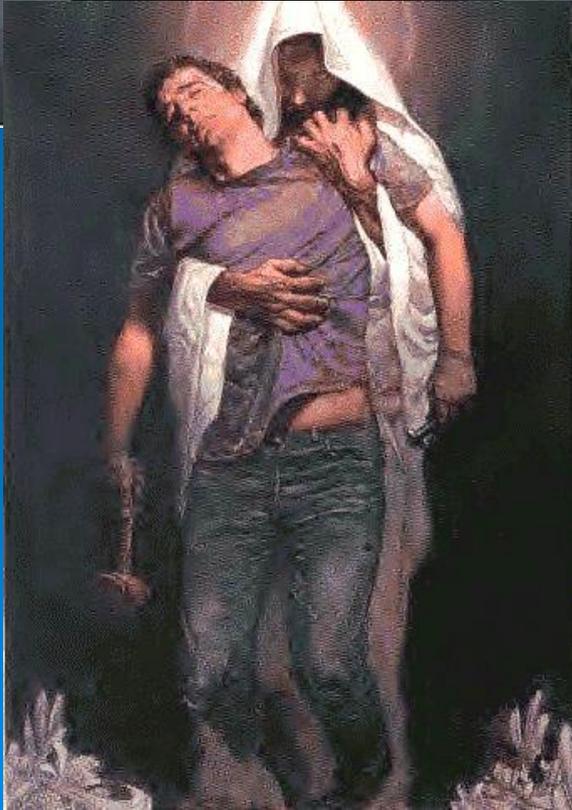
GOD'S PEOPLE ARE SET-APART TO SERVE HIM



- Those who know God, His Word, His laws, have **OBLIGATIONS** to Him
- The Torah is to show us what perfect service looked like
- The Sacrificial System was to facilitate forgiveness when Israel failed
- Yeshua was the final sacrifice needed



APŌSTASY



- What happens to those who know God but choose another master instead?
- Josh. 24:20 ***“...He will turn, doing you harm and destroying you...”***
- Our free will does not end with redemption!
- The Lord will fight for us, at our own PAIN, making us miserable if need be
- Thousands of Israelites were keeping idols

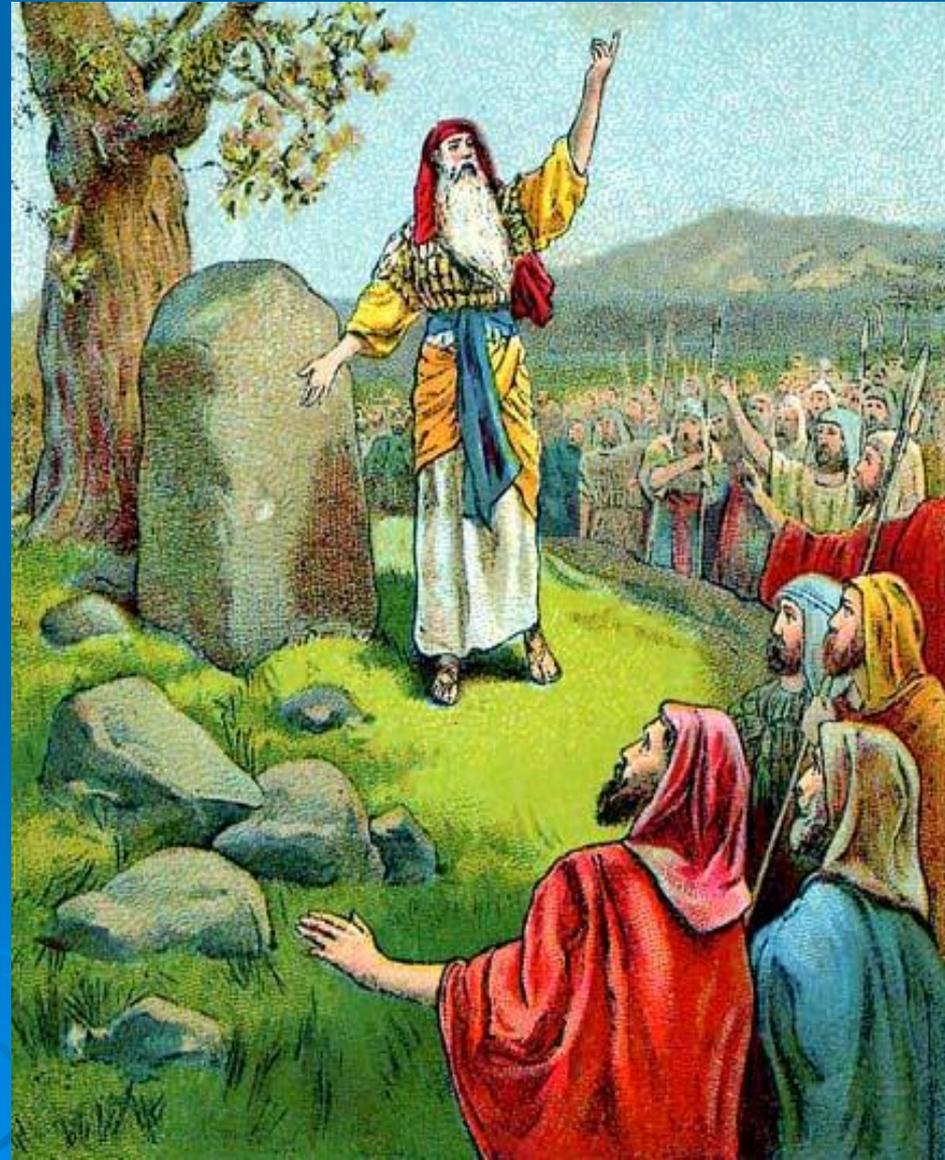
“YOU ARE WITNESSES AGAINST YOURSELVES.....”



- If Israel breaks faith by serving foreign gods their SALVATION HISTORY will be reversed!
- Israel did NOT say they would forsake other gods
- In the Bible witnesses accused AND began the execution by throwing the first stone
- Joshua is saying Israel is committing national suicide if they commit idolatry!

STANDING STONES

- To memorialize the covenant renewal at Shechem, a Standing Stone is erected
- *Eben gadol* = great stone
- *Masseboth* = stone, pillar
- Always used in religious context to commemorate a deity
- This was a standard practice of Middle Eastern cultures
- Israel adopted the practice



THE ASHERAH

- Using the tree had meaning that Israel fully understood
- Trees symbolized Asherah
- **Asherah** = the goddess AND the grove of trees
- Lev. 26:1 “...do not...erect a standing-stone, or a carved stone.....”
- Israel constantly used standing stones and trees to try and please God
- IT WAS WRONG!!

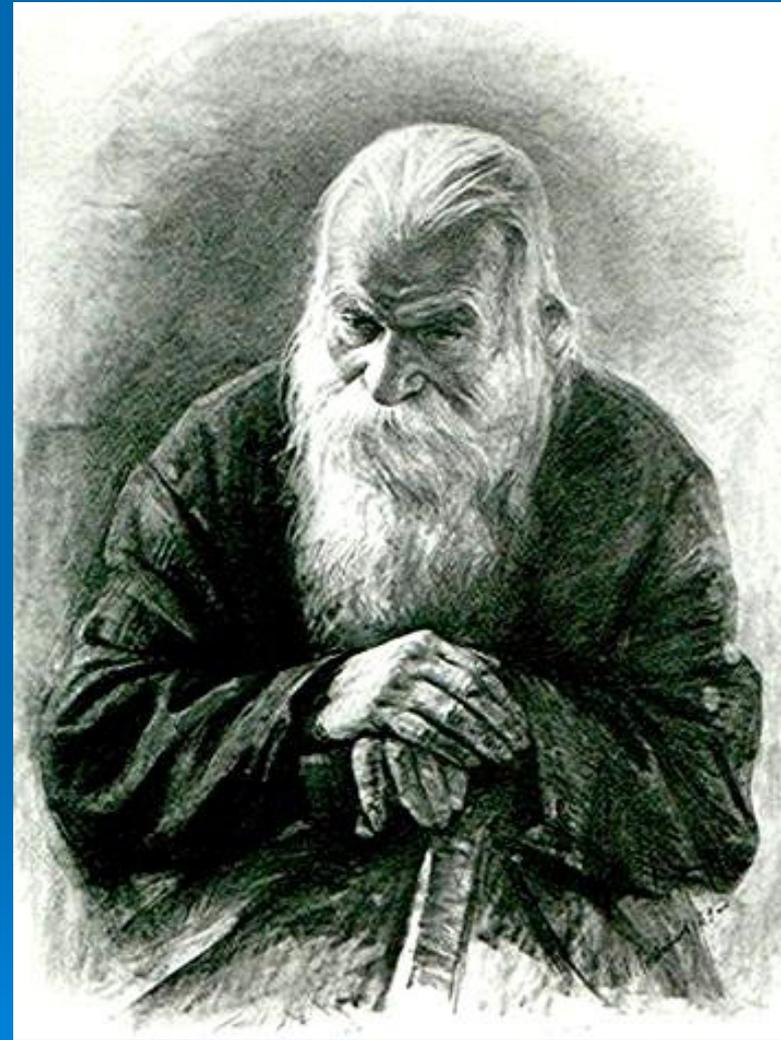


SANCTUARY OF YEHOVEH

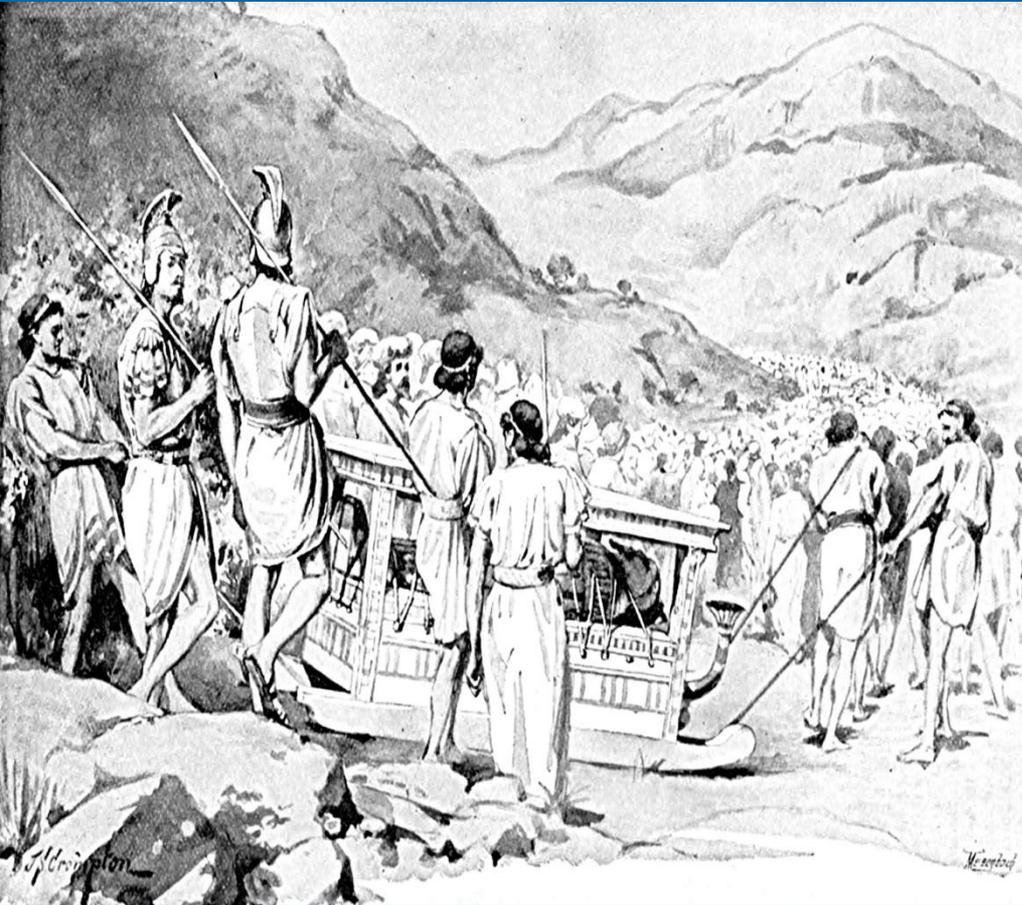
- Did the Tabernacle get moved to Shechem?
- Was the Ark taken to Shechem for this ceremony?
- Sanctuary of Baal Berith was at Shechem
- Possibly re-dedicated to YHWH by the Israelites
- Rededication of temples and sanctuaries common practice **STILL!**

JOSHUA DIES

- 110 years old at death
- Moses lived to be 120
- 110 was the EGYPTIAN ideal lifespan
- 120 was the TORAH ideal lifespan
- Joshua was always called The Servant of Moses
- Moses called The Servant of YHWH
- Only at his death was Joshua give the title of Servant of YHWH



THE END OF AN ERA



- Joshua had prepared the leaders who followed him well
- King Solomon was the anti-Joshua
- Joseph's body brought from Egypt, but had been buried shortly after the arrival into Canaan
- With the death of Eleazar, the secular and religious leaders of the conquest era were gone