

LEVITICUS 26

➤ THE 4 IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES

- 1) NO IDOL WORSHIP
- 2) Yehoveh IS ISRAEL'S LORD
- 3) SHABBATS TO BE OBSERVED
- 4) TABERNACLE TO BE MAINTAINED

➤ These principles were restated because:

- 1) Israel **WAS** worshipping idols, **WAS** worshipping other gods, **WAS NOT** observing the Shabbats, their **UNCLEANESS** would have polluted the Tabernacle
- 2) These 4 principles form a foundational core that defines Israel's relationship with God

OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSINGS



DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS CURSES



**OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S
COMMANDS ALWAYS HAVE
CONSEQUENCES!**

OBEDIENCE = POSITIVE

DISOBEDIENCE = NEGATIVE

LEV. 26 SPEAKS TO ISRAEL AS A NATION, NOT AS INDIVIDUALS



- How Yehoveh will react to Israel as a whole
- As disobedience of individuals within a nation grows, at some point the nation comes under risk of punishment
- The righteous are affected right along with the wicked in a NATIONAL judgment

THE BLESSINGS

- Rain in the proper amount at the proper time
- Security in the land
- Peace with their neighbors
- “I WILL” God is actively CAUSING blessings to occur
- “I WILL” God is ALSO actively CAUSING curses to occur
- Our salvation does NOT immunize us against the consequences of sinful behavior!

MORE BLESSINGS

- Wild animals will not torment God's people
- Armies will not cross their lands
- Israel will be strong and defeat their enemies easily
- The PEOPLE will be fertile and multiply greatly
- Yehoveh WILL DWELL AMONG ISRAEL
- A sheep/shepherd relationship is set up

YEHOVEH'S DEFINITION OF BLESSING AND PROSPERITY

- Abundant food
- Peace and security
- Safety from beasts
- Safety from enemies
- Many children
- God's presence



DISOBEDIENCE= BREAKING THE COVENANT



- Vs. 14, result is CURSES
- “I WILL” wreak havoc upon you!
- 1) Poor health
- 2) Fruits of labors will not be enjoyed
- 3) Defeated by enemies
- 4) Fear and anxiety

VS. 18: “.....and if you still do not obey me.....”

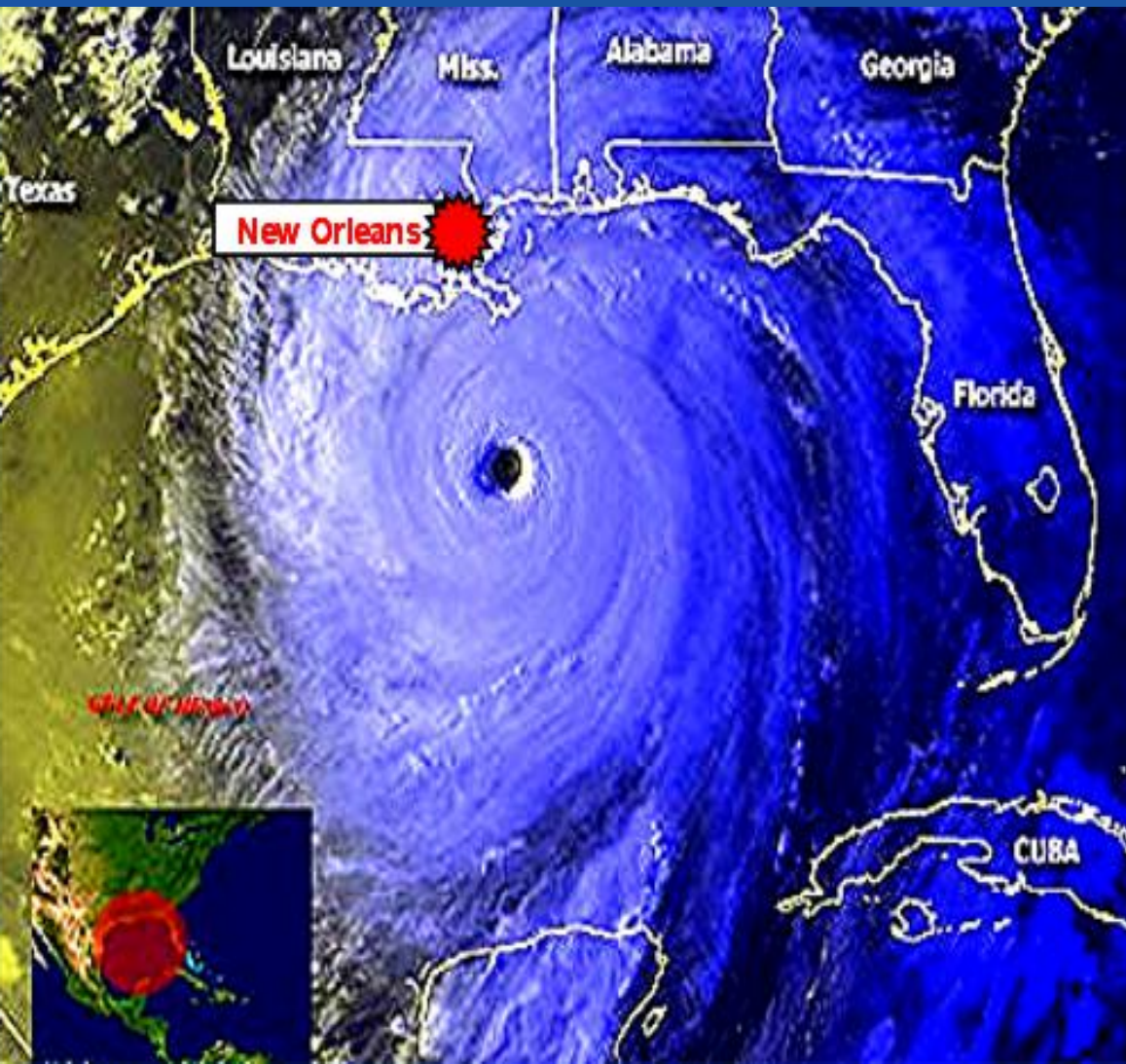


MISERY.....EXHAUSTION.....TURMOIL



➤ If Israel REALIZES they are suffering God's discipline, and returns to His ways, curses end and new BLESSINGS begin

KATRINA AND GAZA = CURSES INSTEAD OF BLESSINGS



VS. 21: HOSTILITY TOWARDS GOD

➤ Greater disobedience = greater discipline

OBEDIENCE

Safe from wild animals

Family grows

Rain

Land produces

DISOBEDIENCE

Wild animals do harm

Family declines

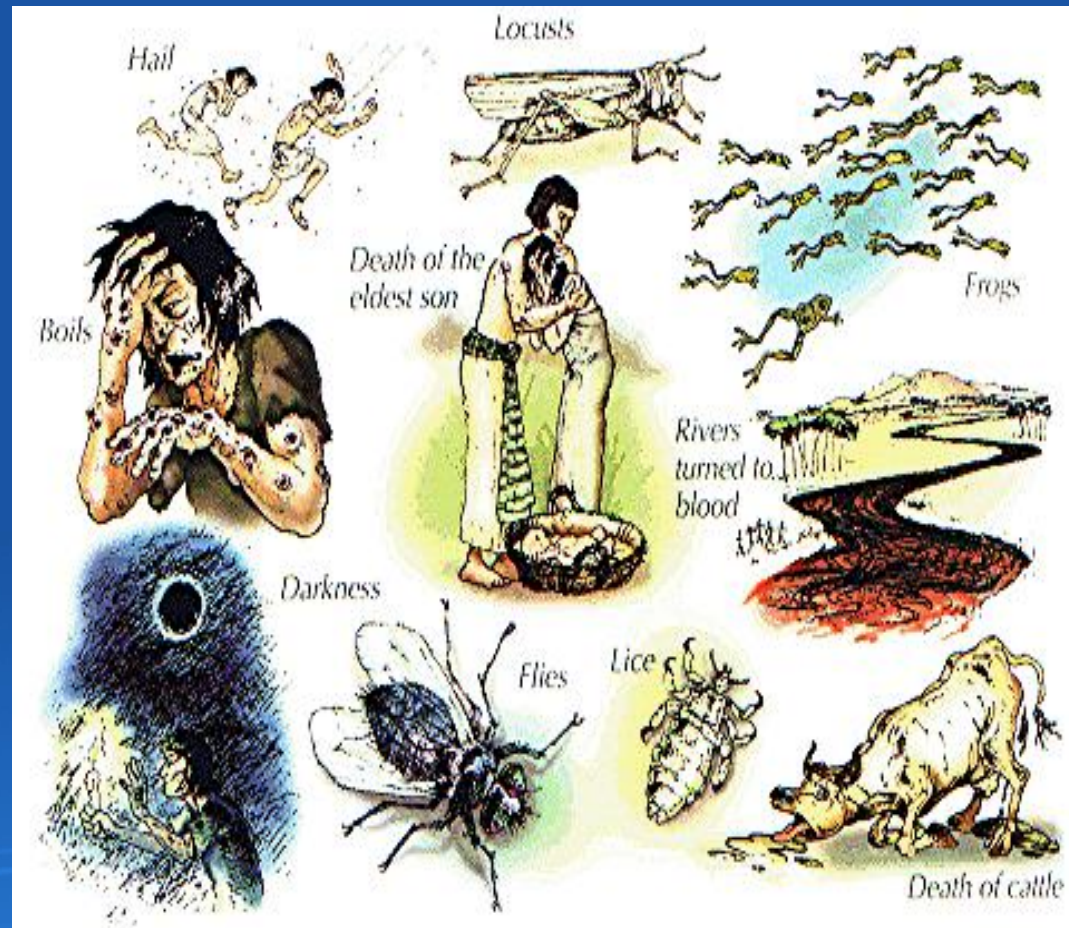
Drought

Land goes fallow

➤ *Ve-hishlachti* = cause to stampede, to drive

GOD PUNISHES USING NATURAL THINGS SUPERNATURALLY!

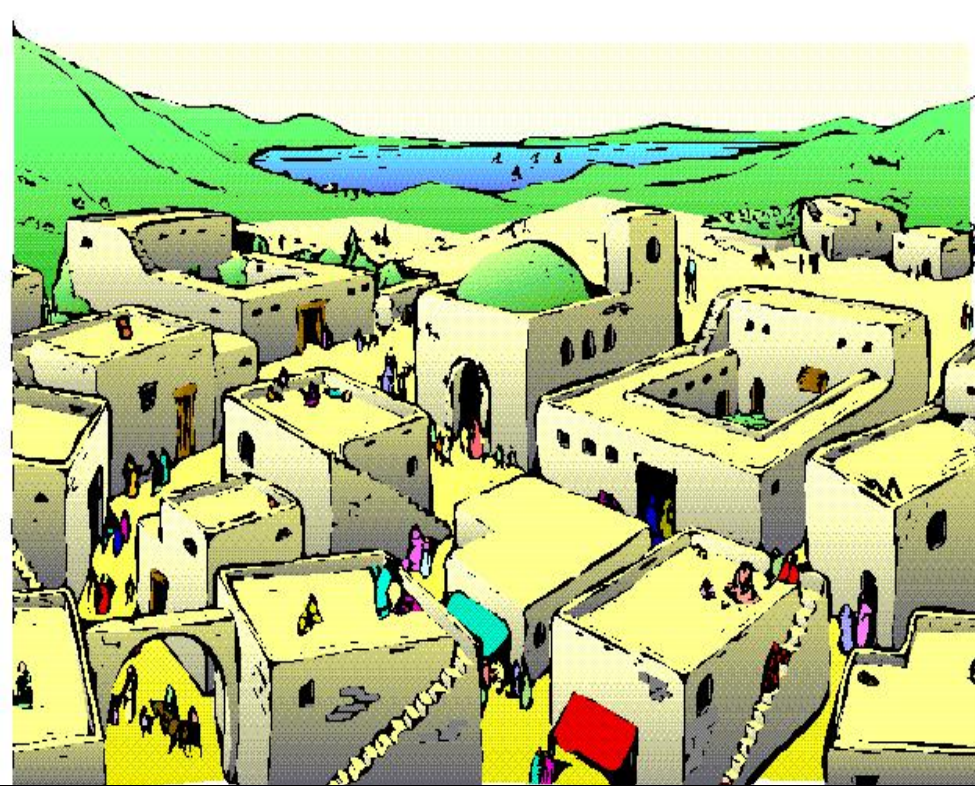
- Natural things get exaggerated
- Frogs, flies, boils, normal
- Hurricanes normal
- DEVESTATING frogs, flies, boils, and hurricanes NOT NORMAL
- Happened at Moses' command, supernatural
- Revelation: Lord using meteorites, comets, the Sun to judge the Earth



VS. 23 “...wreak vengeance for the covenant.....”

- ***Nokemet nekam berit*** = indicates both positive and negative effects of carrying out the punishments
- The cause and purpose of the covenant curses is to bring about those covenant promises
- The result of the BAD things (curses) CAUSED by God is that the ultimate divine goals of the covenant will still happen!

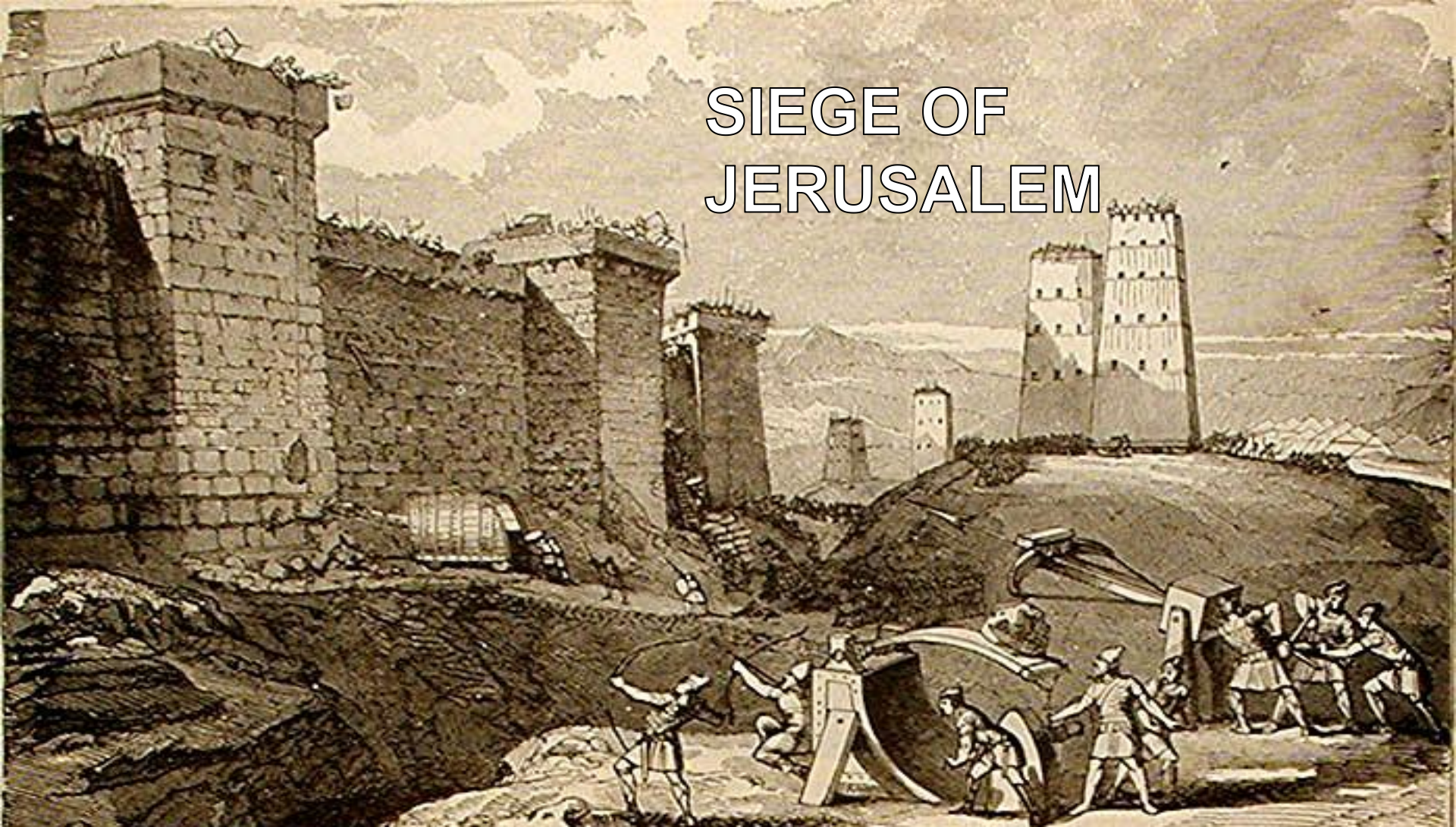
WALLED AND OPEN VILLAGES AND CITIES



- Cities will NOT offer protection for those who go against God
- Most Hebrews lived in villages
- Went inside walled city when attack was coming
- In our day a CITY is the most UNSAFE place to be

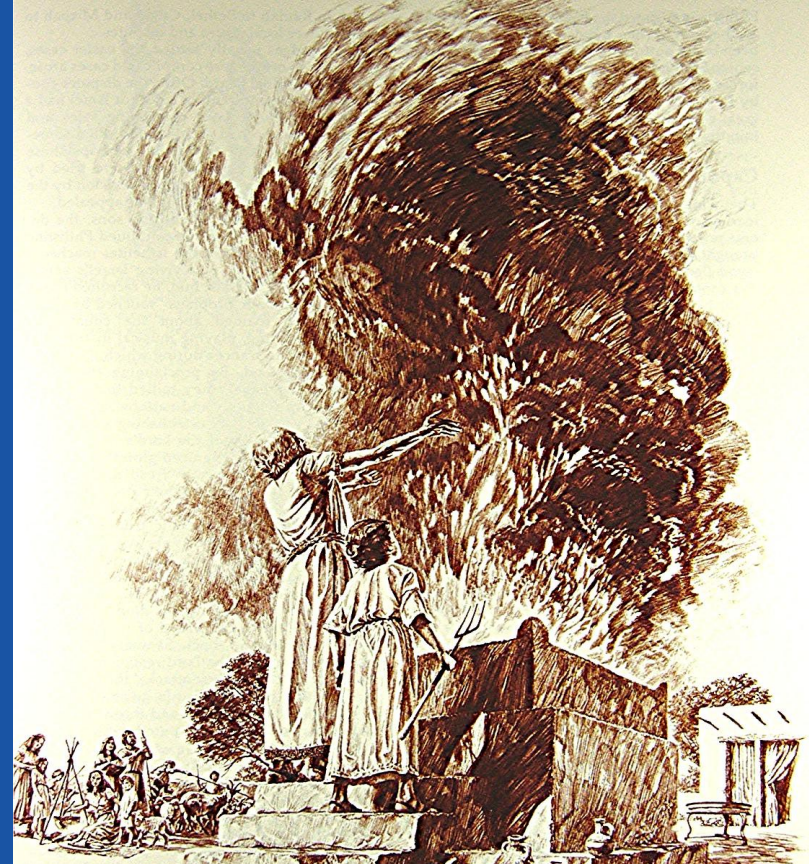
***VS. 29 “...you will eat....your
sons....and daughters...”***

**SIEGE OF
JERUSALEM**



BAMAH

- High places
- Could mean a place of PAGAN sacrificing
- ALSO could mean a place of UNAUTHORIZED sacrifice to Yahweh
- *Bamah* means “back”, like ‘back of a horse’
- *Chammanim* = an incense altar for FALSE gods



“.....your carcasses will be thrown upon your lifeless idols.....”

- ***Gillulim*** means “fetishes”
- ***Fetish*** = a magic object; anything one is abnormally devoted to; something that arouses erotic feelings, but it is NOT an erotic thing
- Means MORE than idols of wood and stone
- This statement means people will be killed and die with a DEATH GRIP on worthless things
- Things THEY have declared good, holy, and important

YEHOVEH WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT THEIR SACRIFICES



- **BECAUSE** their hearts are impure!
- The Levitical sacrificial system was **OF GOD!**
- It did exactly what it was supposed to do!
- It only became **USELESS** when the people became **FAITHLESS!**

MATT.7:23 “.....I never knew you...depart from me...”

- Perfect parallel with Lev.26
- Works, prayers, sacrifices in His name NOT acceptable if one's HEART is not right
- Lawlessness
- Greek *anomia*, means without law, contempt of law
- When Jesus spoke of “law” it ALWAYS meant only ONE thing: **The Laws of Moses**
- He was NOT speaking of common criminals who broke Roman laws



YESHUA DIED ONLY FOR THOSE WHO WILL TRUST IN HIM



- Sacrificial system was ONLY for SPIRITUAL Israelites, NOT for the whole pagan world!
- **NAS John 3:16** *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*