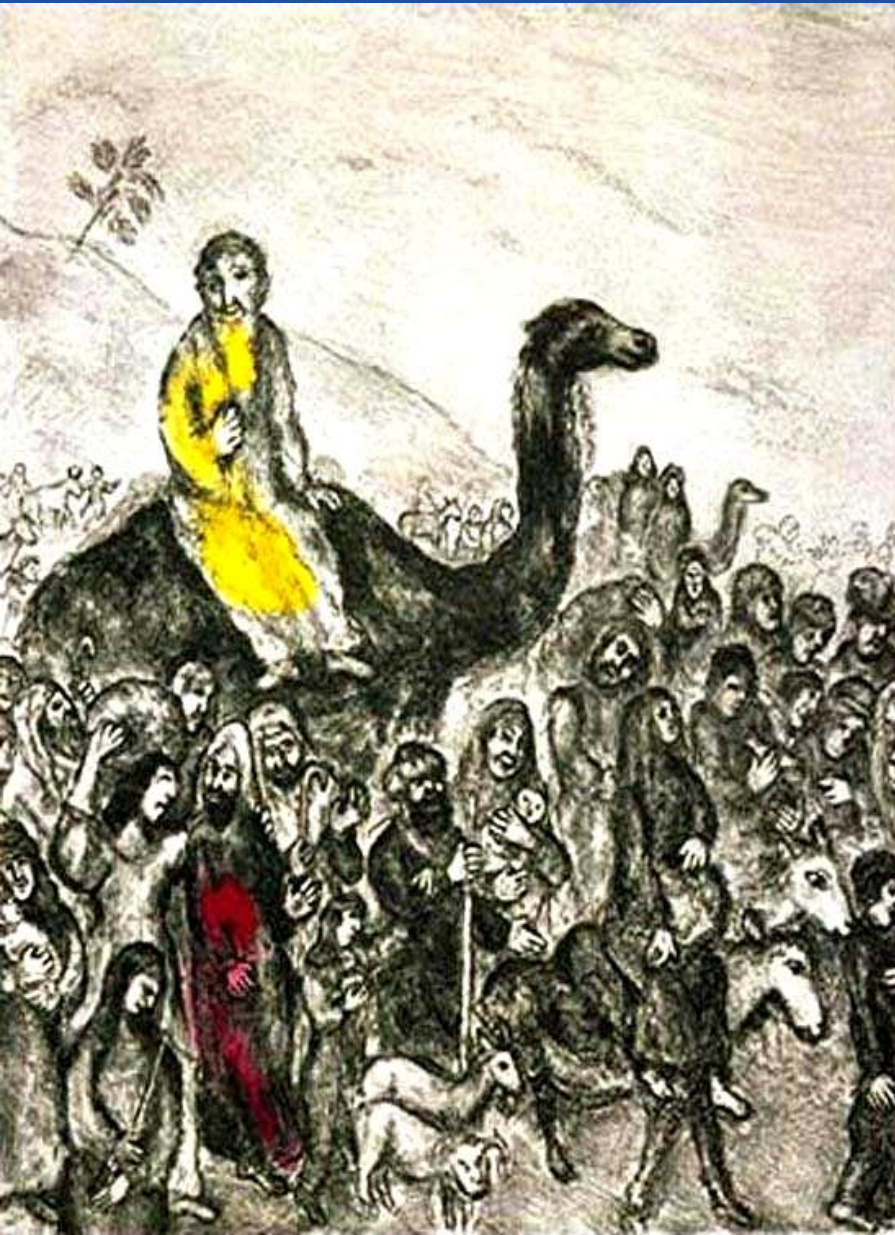


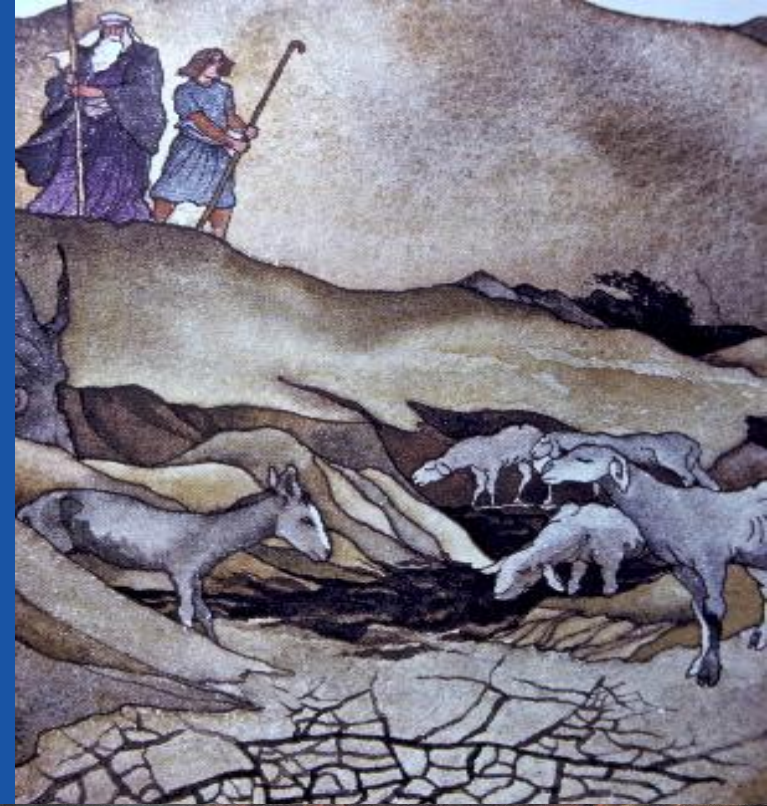
NUMBERS INTRODUCTION

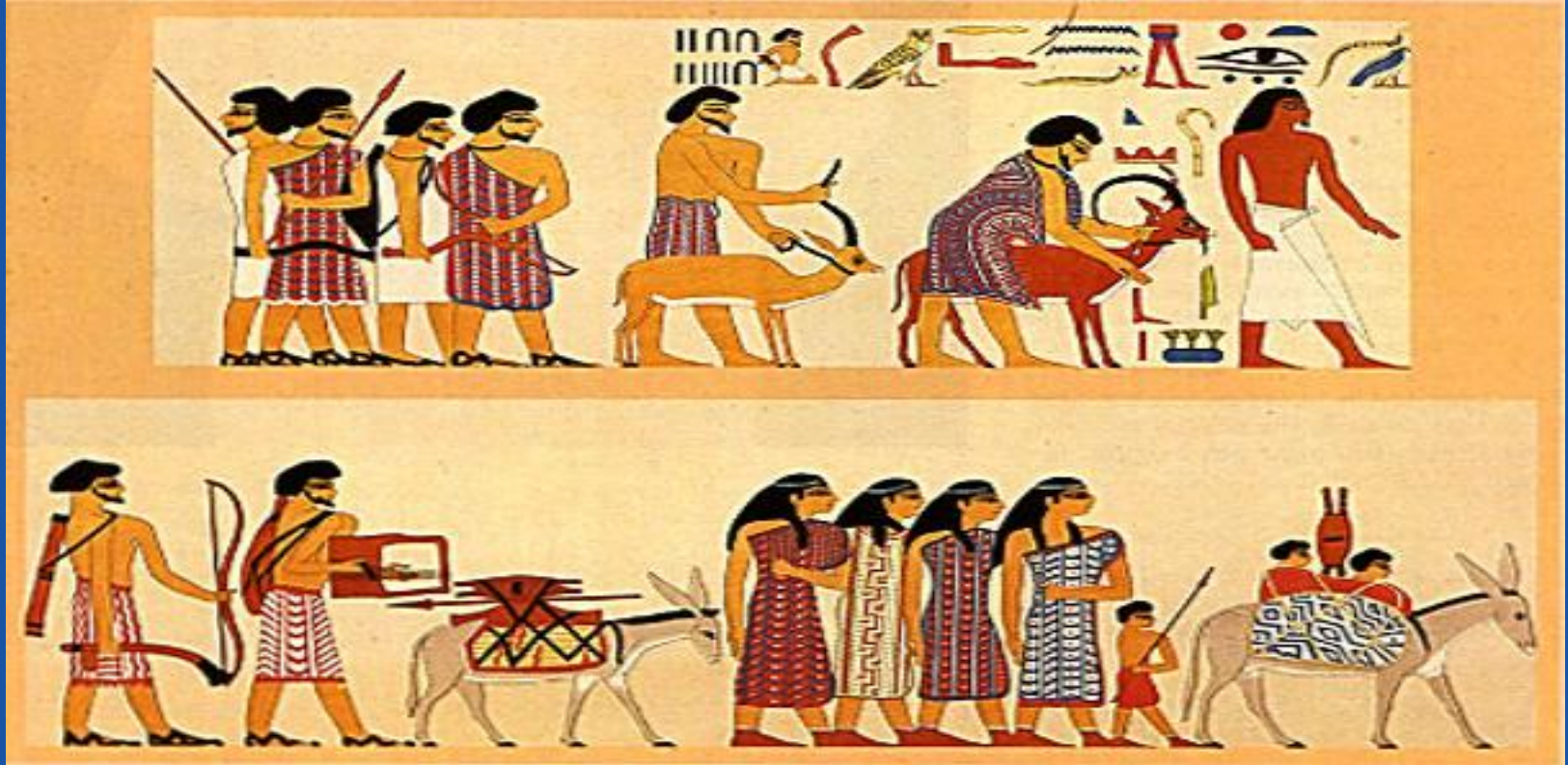


- Israel gone from Egypt for about **1 year**
- The original group of Israelites in Egypt was **75 people**
- They now numbered about **3 million**
- Israel was in Egypt for 400 years before they left
- Israel was in Egypt for nearly **TWICE** as long as America has been a nation!

IT HAD BEEN MORE THAN 20 GENERATIONS SINCE ISRAEL WENT TO EGYPT

- Joseph was there to greet and care for Jacob and his brothers' families
- Joseph was the savior of Israel AND Egypt
- By Moses' day Jacob and Joseph were only legends
- The past was murky for the Hebrews, what mattered was everyday life





- Israelites were more Egyptian in their thinking than Hebrew
- They were the slave labor force of Egypt
- The promise of their own homeland was barely a long-distant memory
- Then, Moses shows up



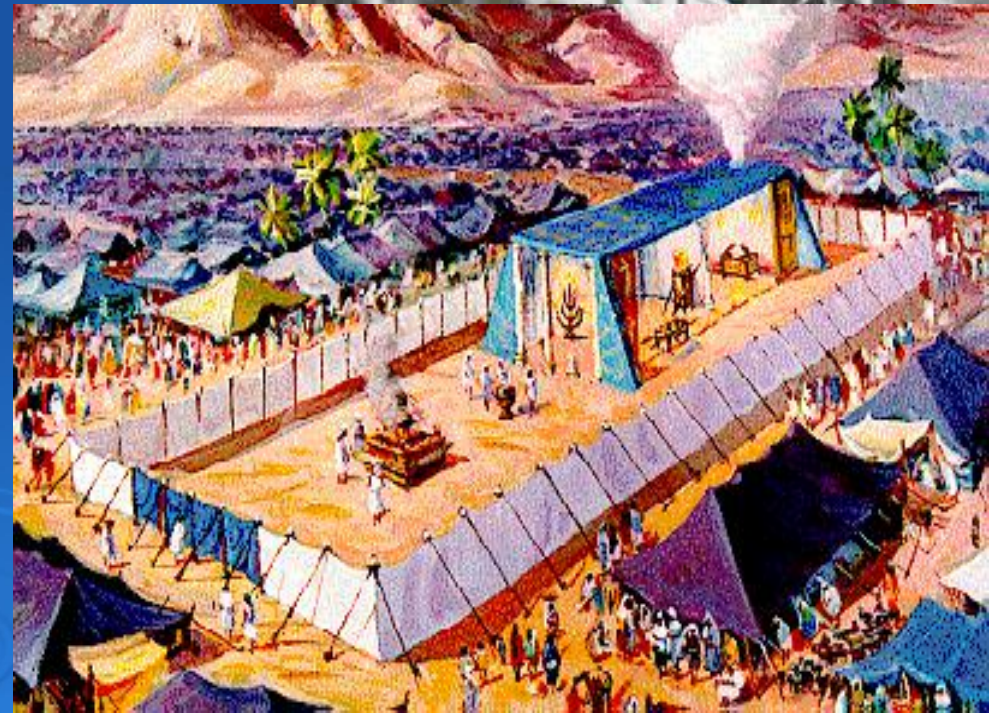
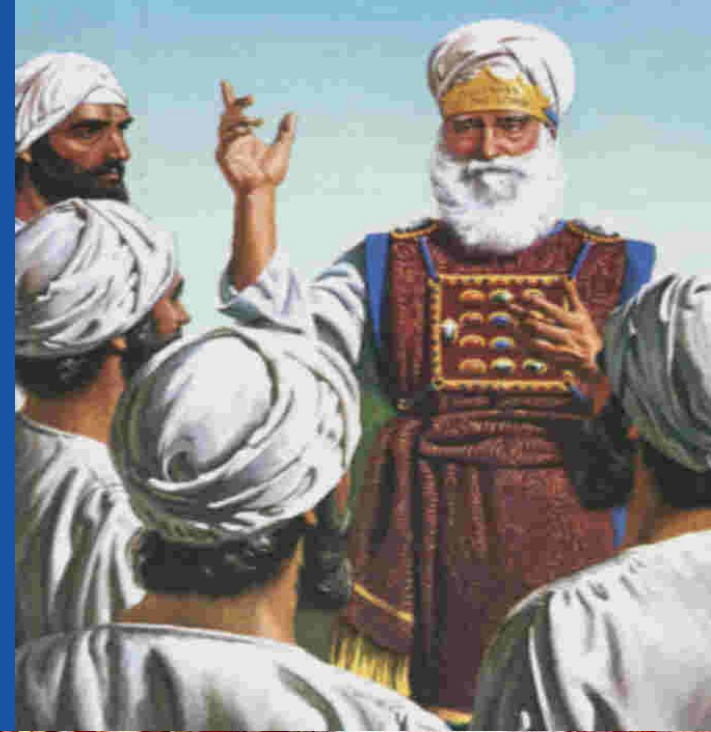
THE PROPHETIC DOMINOS FALL!

- Within 24 hours after the Great Death, Israel was leaving Egypt
- Within a few weeks, they were at Mt. Sinai and Moses was receiving the Torah



A SEPARATE PRIESTHOOD IS ESTABLISHED

- God's principles are made VISUAL by means of rituals and the Wilderness Tabernacle
- Tabernacle is an earthly physical model of God's heavenly throne room
- After 400 years sitting dormant, within ONE YEAR Israel is redeemed, saved from Egypt, established as a nation, and receives the Torah



NUMBERS

- Today, cold and impersonal
- Long ago, numbers were mystical
- Apostle Paul referred to the Book of Numbers
- Numbers, while history, is also **PROPHETIC**



BOOK OF NUMBERS IN GREEK IS ARITHMOI

- Arithmetic (numbers)
- Named due to census in the 1st chapters
- Original Hebrew name is *B'midbar*, which means “In the Wilderness”
- The first 10 Chapters of B'midbar occur in only *20 days!*

BEST TO SEE B'MIDBAR IN 3 SECTIONS

- First section: ***“In the Wilderness of Sinai: The Camp”***
Chapters 1 – 10

Order of the Camp, Nazarites, God in His Tabernacle

- Second section: ***“The Rebellious Folks: Narratives of Challenge”***
Chapters 11 – 25

First generation of Exiles, rebellions, 12 spies, Balaam

- Third section: ***“In the Plains of Moab: Prep for Conquest of Canaan”***
Chapter 26 – 36

Another census, battles, Cities of Refuge

RITUAL

- Modern Christians don't usually like ritual
- Post-Enlightenment scholars do not see any **VALUE** in ritual
- Communal responsibility now discarded for individualism
- Understanding the Torah *rituals* is **KEY** to understanding the Torah

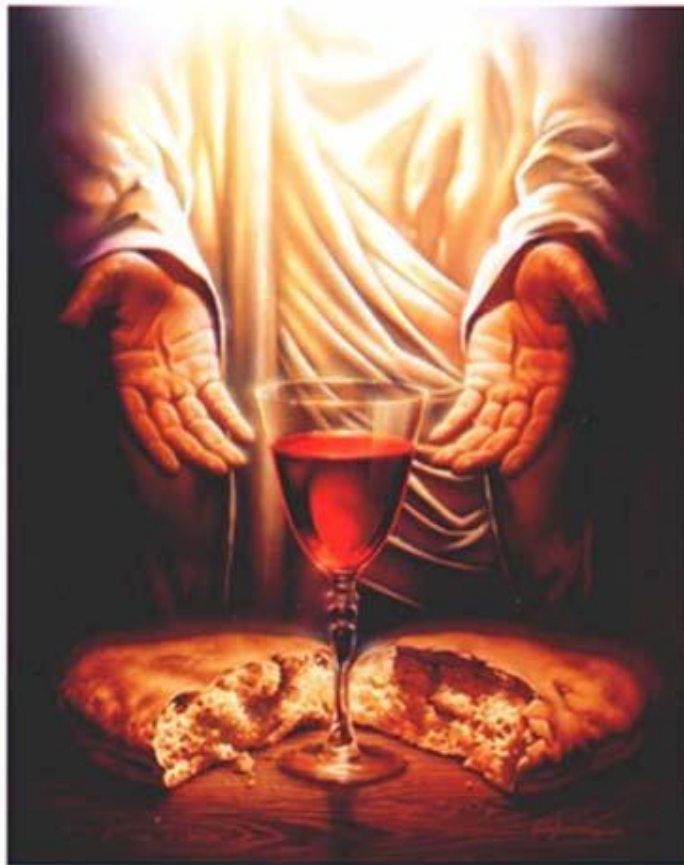
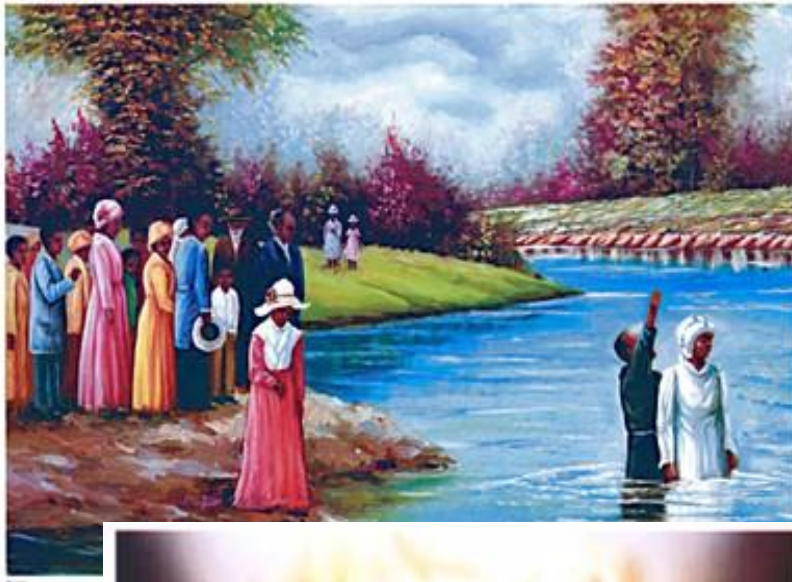


“Rituals reveal values at their deepest level...”

- ***...men express in ritual what moves them the most, and since the form of expression is conventionalized and obligatory, ritual reveals the values of the group. I see in the study of rituals the key to an understanding of the essential constitution of human societies...”***
- The **Biblical sacrificial system** is perhaps the least understood Biblical institution
- THE SACRIFICIAL SYSTEM IS AT THE VERY HEART OF BIBLICAL WORSHIP
- Biblical rituals explain the essence of our relationship with God

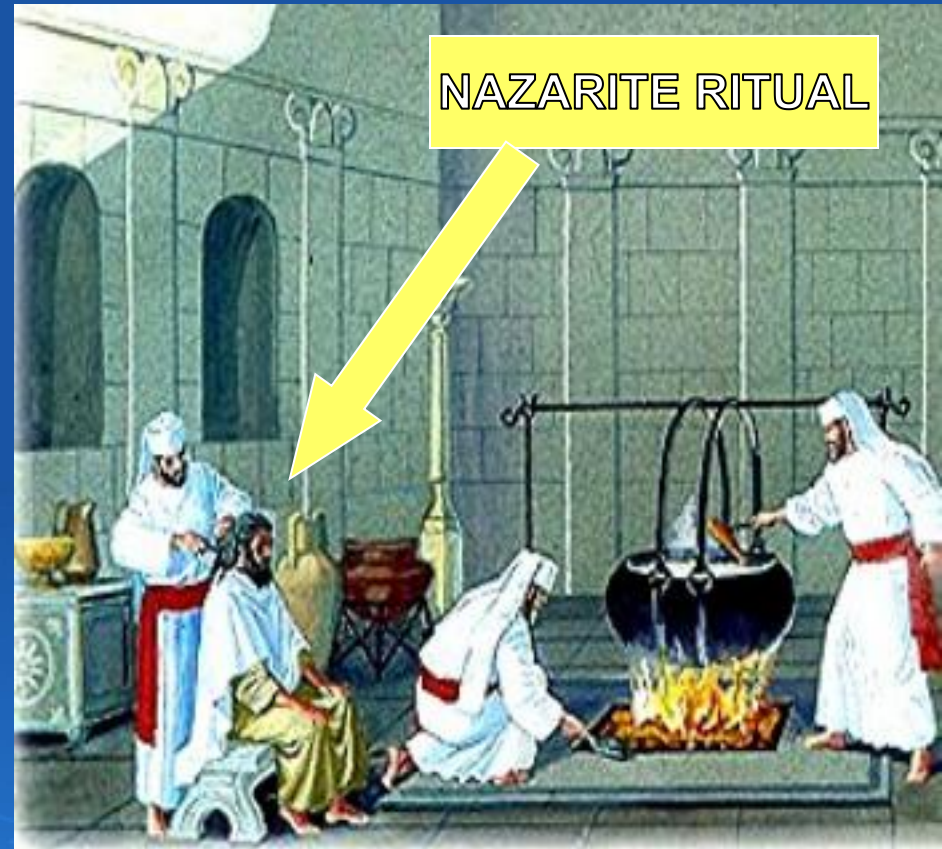
RITUAL HAS BECOME ONE-SIDED

- Very little worship, today, involves participation
- Somebody performs, we watch
- NOT the essence of Biblical ritual...Old or New Testament
- Easy to sing ***“Just as I am...blood shed for me...”***
- It was not so easy for an Israelite worshipper to kill a Bull and shed it's blood



IN B'MIDBAR, WE SEE RITUAL GO FROM THEORY TO PRACTICE

- Watch for more emerging patterns
- The *Nazarite* is not the same as a Nazarene or Nazareth
- A Nazarite is a NON-Levite
- **Not** a member of the priestly tribe of Leviticus
- Can be set apart for service to God, with a holy status equal to a priest
- Ritual almost identical with those of a Priest



THE NAZARITE IS A MODEL OF HOW A GENTILE CAN BE BROUGHT UNDER THE COVENANTS OF ISRAEL

- A Priest has a BIRTHRIGHT to be a Priest
- A Priest is BORN into the right tribe to be a Priest
- A Nazarite has NO birthright to be a Priest
- A Jew has a BIRTHRIGHT to be under the covenants of Israel
- A GENTILE has NO birthright to be under the covenants of Israel
- By faith and trust in God, AND by HIS DECLARATION a Nazarite can be brought into service to God
- By faith and trust in God, AND by HIS DECLARATION a gentile can be brought under the covenants of Israel

PAUL SAYS THAT YESHUA FULFILLED THE PATTERNS OF TORAH RITUAL

➤ Paul also makes the point that if REDEEMED Israel was punished for rebellion, why wouldn't REDEEMED Believers also be punished for OUR rebellion?

➤ Gordon Wenham:

“...the sacrificial offerings of animals, flour, oil, and wine...are no longer valid expressions of Christian worship...”

...if much of the Biblical legislations cannot be applied today, its thoroughness and attention to detail should challenge the modern church to ask whether our more casual attitudes may not be a cloak for indifference.”