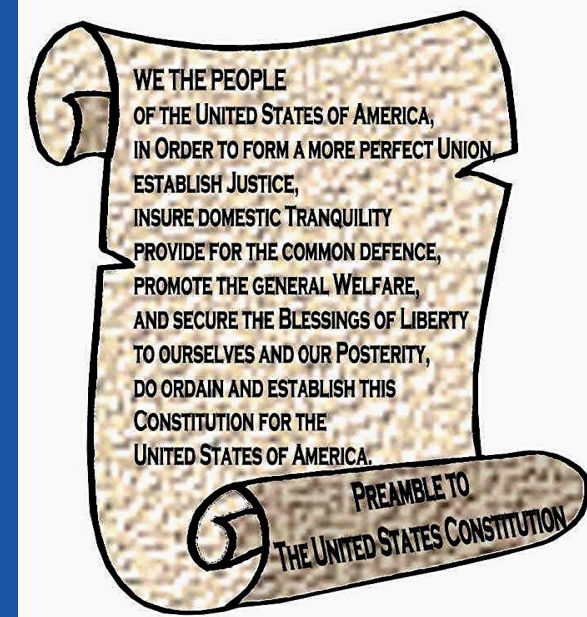


DEUTERONOMY 12: THE CODE OF DEUTERONOMY



- Overriding God-principle:
- We have *a choice* when offered a Covenant relationship with the Lord
- We can either reject that offer, or enter into a Covenant relationship with Him
- That Covenant HAS terms and obligations

THE LAW WAS A RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM THE NORM FOR ISRAEL



- Our Constitution was somewhat revolutionary, but elements of it had been tried before
- An IDEAL of self-governance
- Rome and Magna Carta
- Until Moses, it had been a king who established each society's laws
- That a god would be the one who created laws by which all would abide was new



ANCIENT POEM: “THE PRAYER TO EVERY GOD”



- People in a search for what the various gods demanded of them
- Gods ruled by whim
- **“The Prayer to Every God”** was written about 2000 BC
- Will help us to understand the mindset of the ancient world at the time of Moses

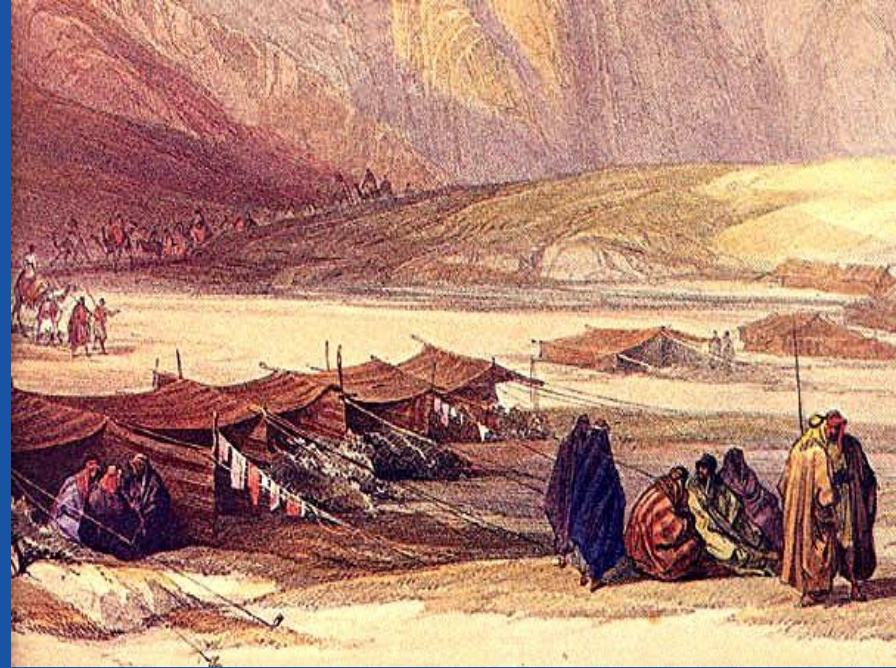
YHWH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN



- World's religious systems were pathetic
- Yehoveh explains all: who He is, His laws, His expectations, His unchanging nature
- The transition from the universal understanding of the world of the gods to the Laws and love of God were difficult and uneven for Israel
- Paul says we owe a debt to the Jewish people for their bringing God's Word and God's Messiah to us!

MAJOR SHIFT IN ISRAELI SOCIETY

- Israel about to move from being wandering herders, to a settled agrarian society
- They will settle over several thousand square miles of Canaan
- In the Wilderness they ALL encamped around the Tabernacle
- In Canaan: WHERE will they worship and sacrifice?



El Roi God Seest Me **Jehovah Rohi**
Jehovah Jireh The Lord Who Provides
El Olam The Everlasting God
Jehovah Shalom The Lord is Peace
El Shaddai
The Almighty God

The Most High God
The Lord My Shepherd
The Lord Who Provides
The Everlasting God
The Lord is Peace
The Almighty God



HIGH PLACES

- **Rule #1**: Destroy the High Places of the pagan gods
- ***Shaddai*** = mountain
- Akkadian, Ugarit
- ***El Shaddai*** = God of the Mountain
- **A High Place** is a religious worship site that is at a higher elevation than its surroundings

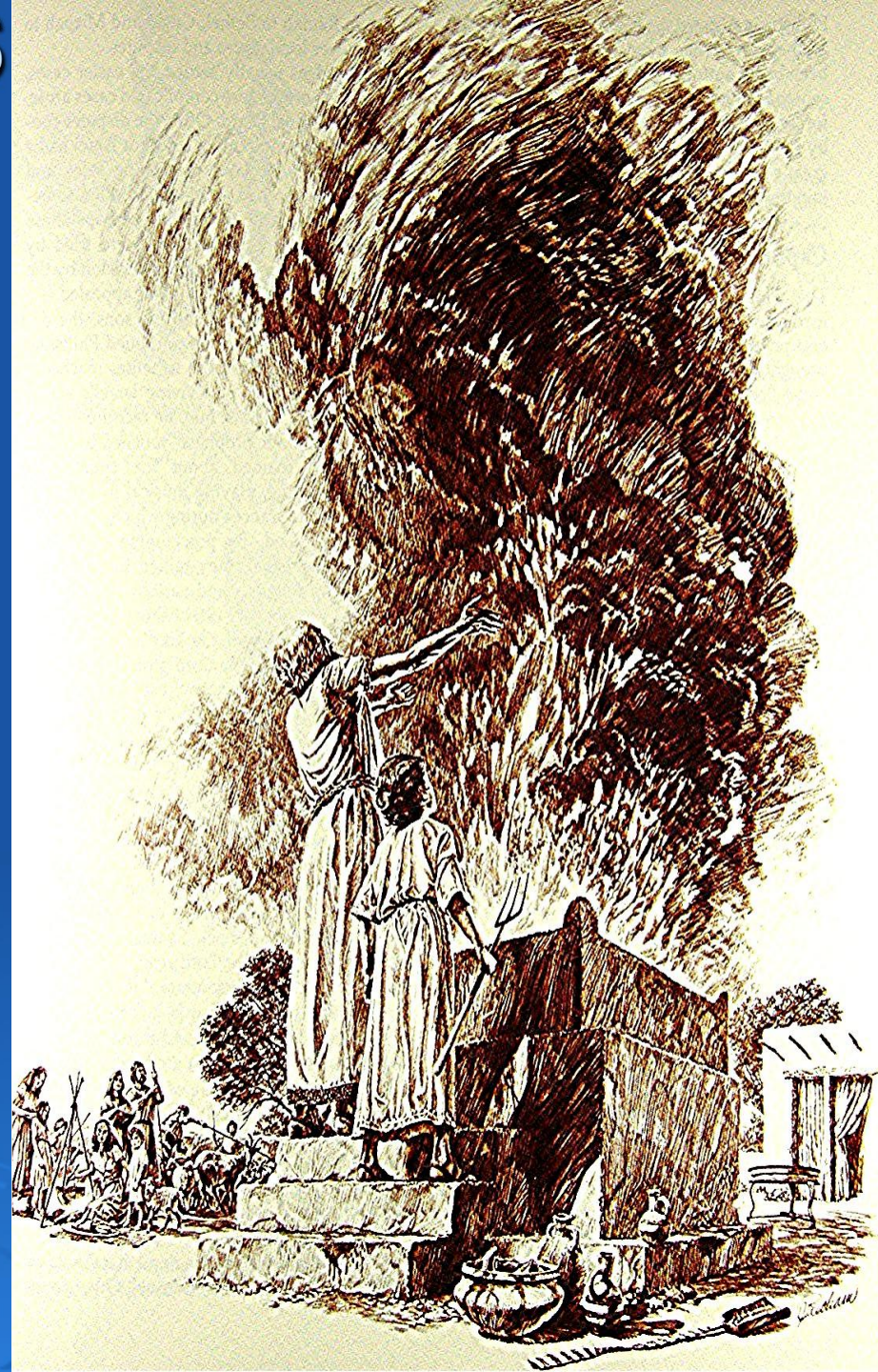
GROVES, POLES AND STANDING STONES

- *Asherah* literally means “grove”
- Common to construct an altar under Evergreen trees
- Evergreen tree standard symbol of fertility
- Can refer to “poles”, similar to Totem Poles
- Standing stones were either monuments or objects of worship



ALTARS, ALTARS EVERYWHERE!

- Among the pagans no authorization needed to build an altar to a god
- Private altars to personal gods were common
- Altars erected nearby for convenience
- God says Israel is NOT to do this!
- Israel is to have ONE place of worship and sacrifice even in Canaan!



HIGH PLACE FOR ONE GOD COULD BE BUILT NEXT TO A HIGH PLACE FOR A DIFFERENT GOD



- A High Place and Altar typically was for worship of only certain god (s)
- But, as circumstances changed a High Place might be converted to worship a different or new god
- Israel is NOT to co-locate any Canaanite High Place with a place to worship Yehoveh

HEAVENLY IDEAL VS. EARTHLY REALITY



- The central sanctuary (Tabernacle) was moved several times in Canaan
- The command to destroy ALL pagan high places was a heavenly ideal, never accomplished
- IDEAL = an expression of perfection
- Israel also never attained all land set aside by God as a heavenly ideal
- All of God's ideals WILL BE eventually attained on earth

WHY WE NEED A MESSIAH

- God's IDEALS cannot be brought about while depraved men still rule the world
- Adam was created to be an IDEAL MAN, but he FELL
- Messiah Yeshua is the NEW IDEAL MAN
- God's covenants did NOT fail!
- God's creatures (man) failed!

