

# DEUTERONOMY 27: OUT OF PLACE in the BIBLE?

- Chapters 26-30 discusses blessings and curses, prophecy, inscrutable spiritual truths, and plain admonitions
- Possibly an ancient editor combined two (or more) slightly different Traditions about these events
- Chapter 27 can be very confusing and presents some difficulties



# COVENANT RENEWAL



- Covenant at Mt. Sinai was handed down almost 40 years earlier
- This is a call to Israel to renew their affirmation
- More than 1 ceremony being described in these passages
- Moses not allowed into the Promised Land



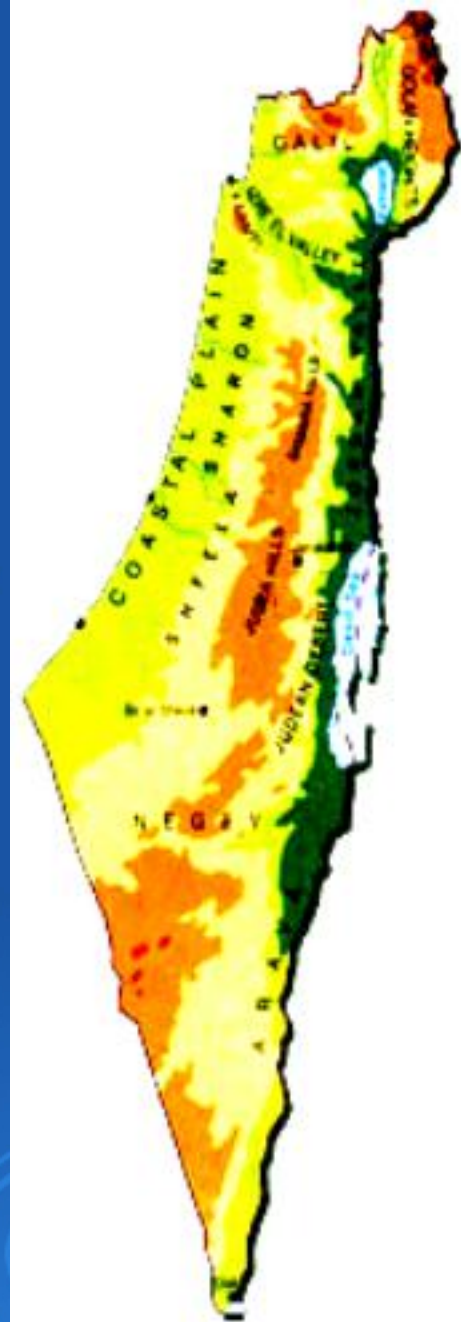
# LOCATION OF CEREMONIES

- Israel crossed into Canaan near Gilgal
- Ebal and Gerizim 30 miles north of the crossing point
- Probably 3 different ceremonies being described
- Moses is speaking on the mountains of Moab, just a few days before he died
- Change in location of different ceremonies between verses 13 and 14



# TODAY YOU HAVE **BECOME GOD'S PEOPLE!**

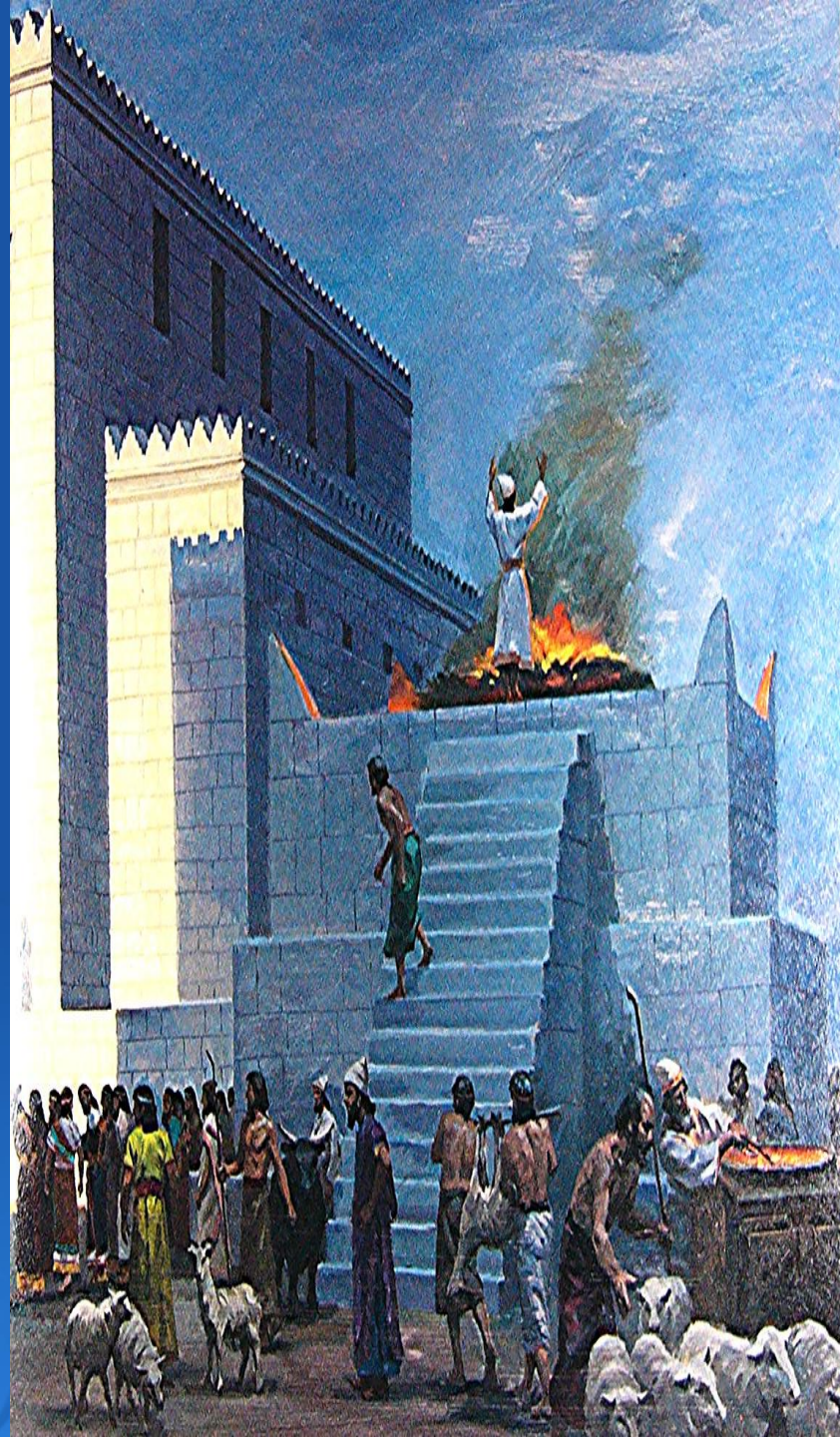
- On Mt. Sinai the promise of land was NOT yet fulfilled
- On the mountains of Moab the Lord OFFICIALLY ended Israel's wilderness journey, and handed over the Promised Land
- Israel *could not do* many of the laws of the Covenant of Moses since they were not in the Land
- WHEN THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL ARE DISCONNECTED FROM THE LAND, THEY ARE INCOMPLETE
- 1<sup>st</sup> Exodus generation had died off, so new generation was hearing Moses speak the Law and declaring their allegiance to the Torah





# JEWS TODAY HAVE THEIR LAND, BUT NOT THEIR TEMPLE

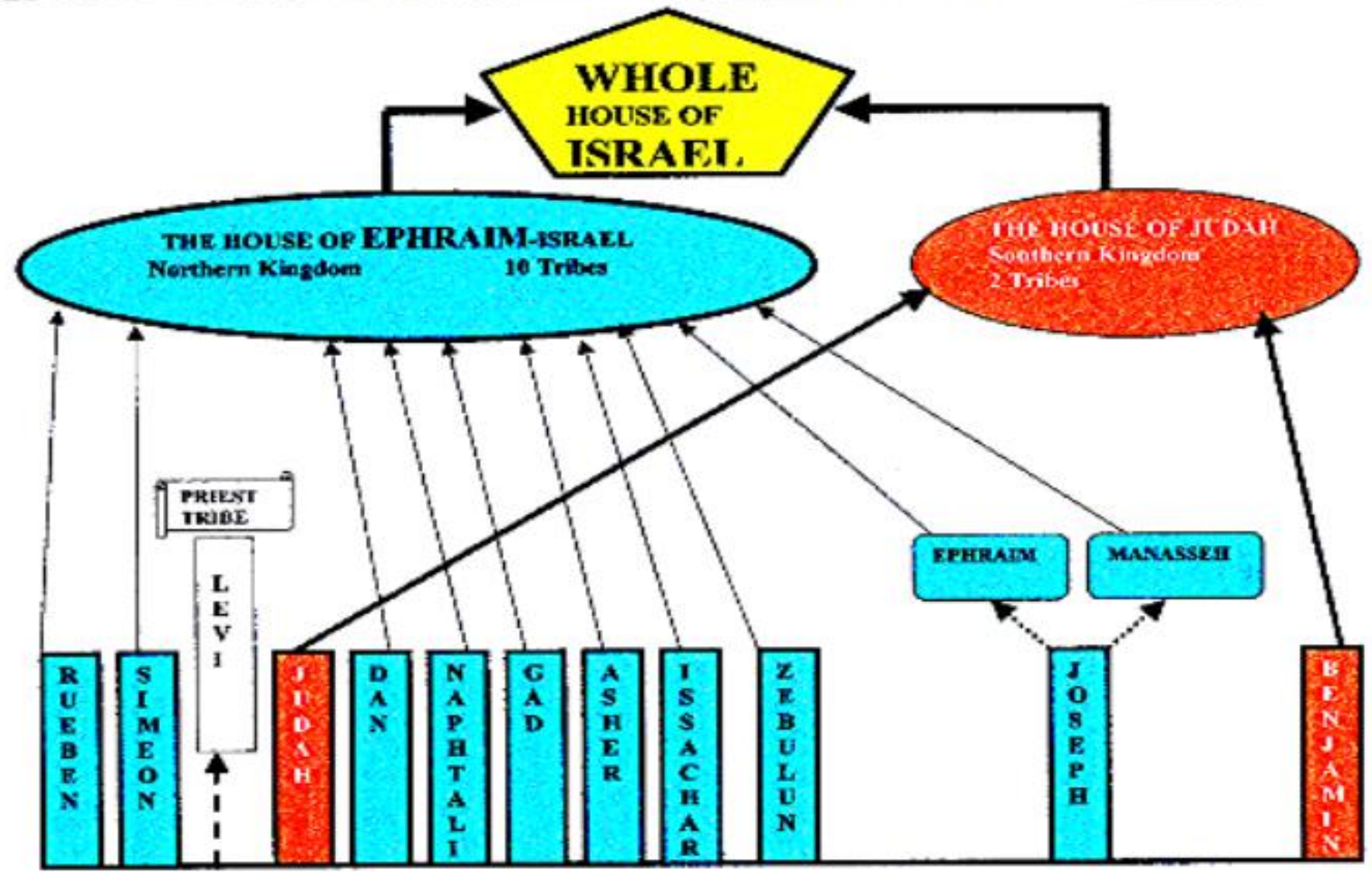
- Modern Jews can not do much of the Law because of no Temple or Altar or Priesthood
- Laws of ritual purity and atonement **DEPEND** upon the existence of the Temple
- Torah and Temple are intertwined
- Some Torah commands CAN be followed
- 3 elements necessary for proper Torah observance: The people, the Land, and the Temple





# LIST OF 2 GROUPS OF 6 TRIBES IS MADE UP OF THE ORIGINAL 12 TRIBES

## HOW THE 12 TRIBES MAKE UP THE WHOLE HOUSE OF ISRAEL





SHOULDER  
STONES



## 2 SHOULDER STONES

- Names of 6 tribes inscribed on each shoulder stone
- Appears to be symbolic of Ebal and Gerizim
- Likely the 6 tribes assigned to each hill named in Deut. 27 were taken from the shoulder stones
- **Arur** = curse, a divinely imposed misfortune





## EBAL AND GERIZIM

# CURSES RECITED ON MT. EBAL

- 11 specific sins and 1 general sin used to represent sins that could be done IN SECRET
- First 2 curses are directly related to the 10 Commandments
- NO god-images
- Means false gods AND YHWH



# MOVING BOUNDARY STONES

- These laws are very similar to the Babylonian laws
- This was more a crime against God because He owned the land of Israel
- Israelites do NOT own the land, they are tenants
- No one to cause a blind person to lose his way
- Idea is to NOT take advantage by intentionally misleading someone
- No interference with the justice system against the most vulnerable of society





# CURSES AGAINST BREAKING 4 LAWS ON SEXUAL BEHAVIOR

- V.20 A man is not to have sexual relations with his mother or stepmother
- The point is that for a man to do so is an affront against his father's honor
- V.21 A human is not to have sex with a beast
- Adam and Eve set up the Biblical pattern for relationships
- Procreative acts to occur only within the bounds of ones species
- Only acceptable sexual relationships are male with female



# AMEN!

- No relations with sister or stepsister
- Curse against assault and murder
- No bribing of a judge to set a murderer free
- 12<sup>th</sup> curse: ALL of Torah is to be obeyed
- Amen = “let it be so with me”
- An agreement with the terms of a covenant or prayer





# COVENANT RENEWAL WAS CUSTOMARY

- Israel operated much like their neighbors, because it was usual and customary for the era
- Repetition was used to create emphasis and facilitate memory
- The miracle of the Bible is that divine inspiration and truth is expressed via the imperfect customs and traditions of men from that era
- The FORM of the Mosaic Covenant was earthbound, so that it would be familiar to people of that time and culture
- It's the divine principles that matter, not it's form!

