

YEHOSHUA AND YAHSHUA
PART 3

THE SUN STOOD STILL

PRESENTED BY
MICHELLE HAMILTON -COHEN



SIN IN THE CAMP

ACHAN'S SIN - YOSHUA 6:18 But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. 19 All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to YHWH and must go into his treasury." YOSHUA 7 But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So YHWH's anger burned against Israel.



2 Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai. 3 When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there."

4 So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, 5 who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of YHWH, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.

7 And Yoshua said, “Alas, Sovereign Yehowah, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! 8 Pardon your servant, Yehowah. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies?”

9 The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?” 10 YHWH said to Yoshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? 11 Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.

SIN PREVENTS US STANDING FIRM **AGAINST THE ENEMY**

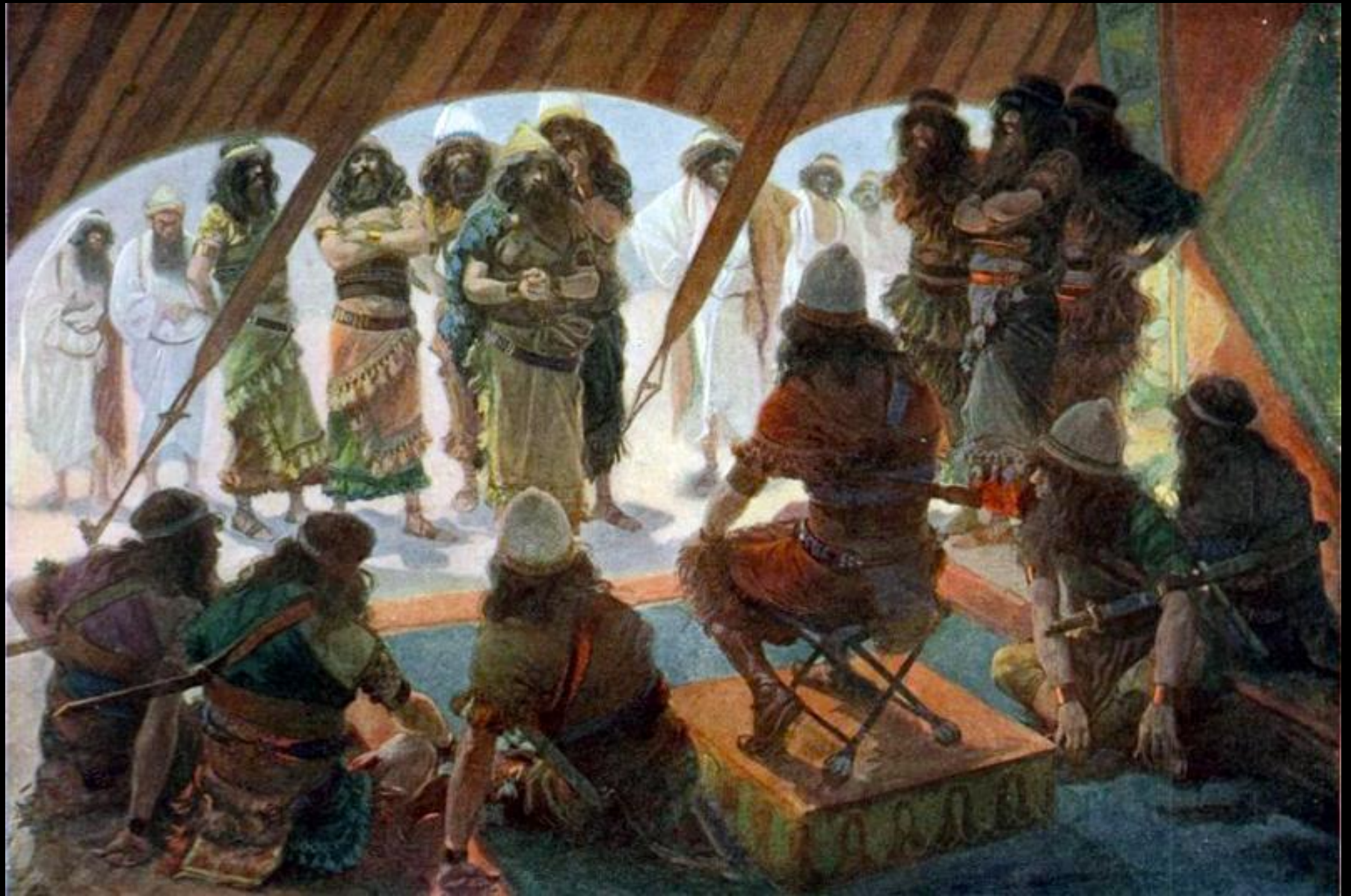
12 That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

13 “Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, ‘Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what YEHOWAH, the G-d of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.

14 “In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe YHWH chooses shall come forward clan by clan; the clan YHWH chooses shall come forward family by family; and the family YHWH chooses shall come forward man by man.

15 Whoever is caught with the devoted things shall be destroyed by fire, along with all that belongs to him. He has violated the covenant of YHWH and has done an outrageous thing in Israel!”

16 Early the next morning Yoshua had Israel come forward by tribes, and Yehudah was chosen. 17 The clans of Yehudah came forward, and the Zerahites were chosen. He had the clan of the Zerahites come forward by families, and Zimri was chosen. 18 Yoshua had his family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Yehudah, was chosen.



19 Then Yoshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to YHWH, the G-d of Israel, and honor him. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me.”

20 Achan replied, “It is true! I have sinned against YHWH, the G-d of Israel. This is what I have done: 21 When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath.”





22 So Yoshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent, and there it was, hidden in his tent, with the silver underneath.

23 They took the things from the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites and spread them out before YHWH.

24 Then Yoshua, together with all Israel, took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the robe, the gold bar, his sons and daughters, his cattle, donkeys and sheep, his tent and all that he had, to the Valley of Achor. 25 Yoshua said, "Why have you brought this trouble on us? YHWH will bring trouble on you today."





Then all Israel stoned him, and after they had stoned the rest, they burned them.

26 Over Achan they heaped up a large pile of rocks, which remains to this day. Then the Lord turned from his fierce anger. Therefore that place has been called the Valley of Achor ever since.

Achan was stoned, burned, and buried under a pile of rocks for stealing. YHWH made Achan an example to the nation.

YHWH's MERCY AND PUNISHMENTS

YHWH was teaching His people that an act of direct disobedience to Him, is worthy of death. (See Numbers 15:30-31)

The first man to break the fourth commandment by gathering sticks on the sabbath day was stoned as an example to the others. (See Numbers 15:32-36)

The first professing Christians who lied to the Holy Spirit were struck dead as a sobering example to the early Church. (See Acts 5:1-11)

Achan's punishment demonstrated the exacting nature of YHWH's forbearance and mercy toward us who deserve the same when we violate YHWH's commands. (See Lamentations 3:22)

Ai Destroyed

8 Then YHWH said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Take the whole army with you, and go up and attack Ai. For I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai, his people, his city and his land. 2 You shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king, except that you may carry off their plunder and livestock for yourselves. Set an ambush behind the city.”

3 So Joshua and the whole army moved out to attack Ai. He chose thirty thousand of his best fighting men and sent them out at night 4 with these orders: “Listen carefully. You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don’t go very far from it. All of you be on the alert. 5 I and all those with me will advance on the city, and when the men come out against us, as they did before, we will flee from them.

BIBLICAL SETTING

Shechem ■

HILL COUNTRY

Bethel ■

■ Ai?

Gibeon ■

■ Gibeah

Jerusalem ■

Jericho ■

■ Gilgal?

■ Adam

■ Abel-shittim

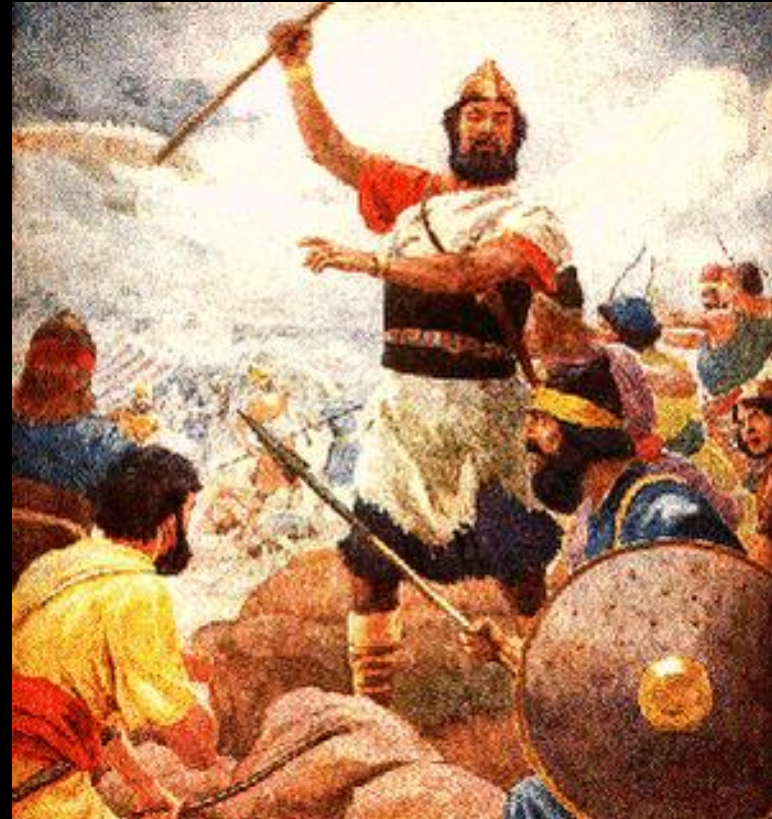
A M M O N

M O A B



6 They will pursue us until we have lured them away from the city, for they will say, 'They are running away from us as they did before.' So when we flee from them, 7 you are to rise up from ambush and take the city. Yehowah your G-d will give it into your hand. 8 When you have taken the city, set it on fire. Do what Yehowah has commanded. See to it; you have my orders."

18 Then Yehowah said to Yoshua, "Hold out toward Ai the javelin that is in your hand, for into your hand I will deliver the city." So Yoshua held out toward the city the javelin that was in his hand. 19 As soon as he did this, the men in the ambush rose quickly from their position and rushed forward. They entered the city and captured it and quickly set it on fire.



Joshua 8



20 The men of Ai looked back and saw the smoke of the city rising up into the sky, but they had no chance to escape in any direction; the Israelites who had been fleeing toward the wilderness had turned back against their pursuers.

21 For when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city and that smoke was going up from it, they turned around and attacked the men of Ai.

22 Those in the ambush also came out of the city against them, so that they were caught in the middle, with Israelites on both sides. Israel cut them down, leaving them neither survivors nor fugitives.

23 But they took the king of Ai alive and brought him to Joshua.

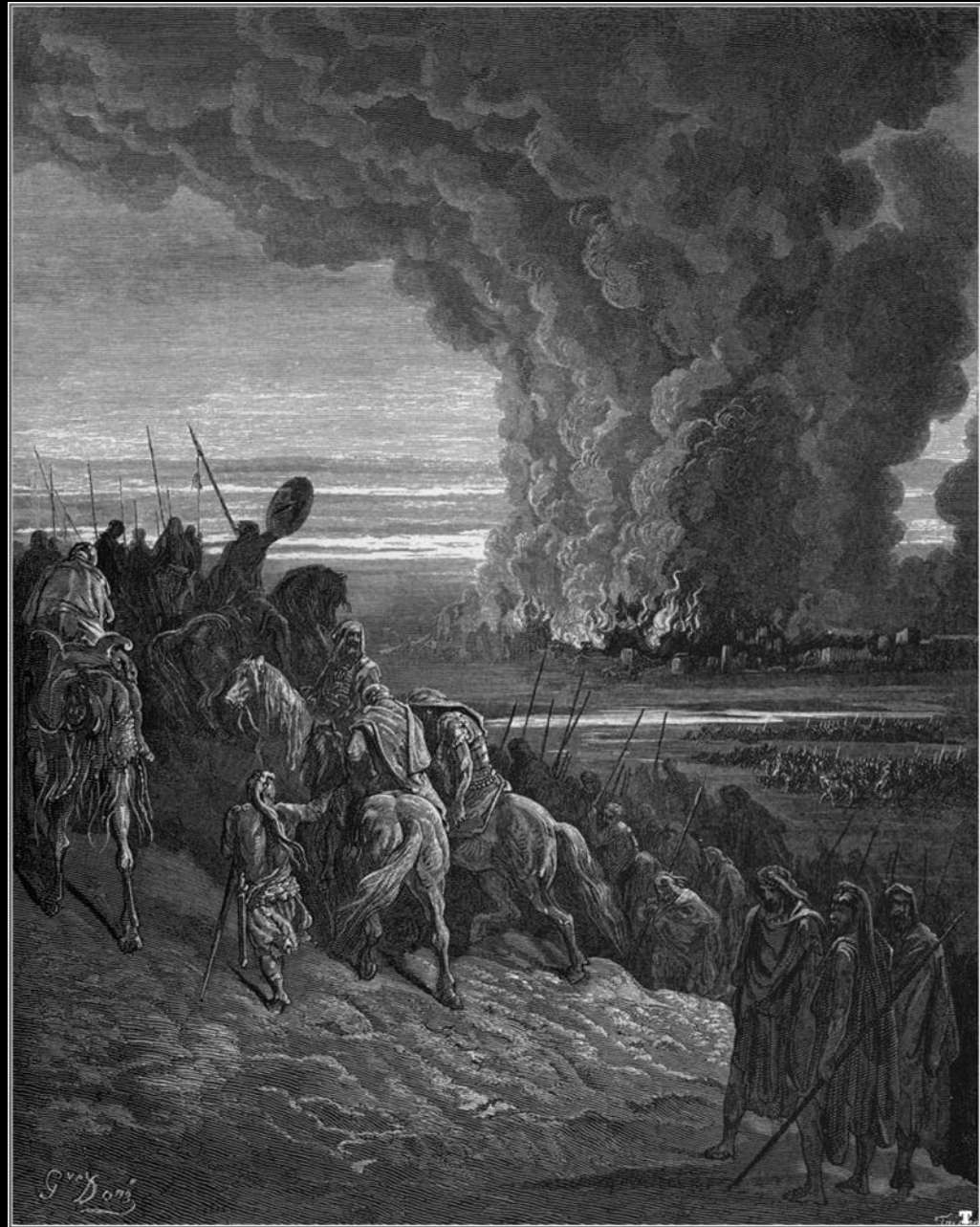
24 When Israel had finished killing all the men of Ai in the fields and in the wilderness where they had chased them, and when every one of them had been put to the sword, all the Israelites returned to Ai and killed those who were in it. 25 Twelve thousand men and women fell that day—all the people of Ai.

26 For Joshua did not draw back the hand that held out his javelin until he had destroyed all who lived in Ai.

27 But Israel did carry off for themselves the livestock and plunder of this city, as YHWH had instructed Joshua.

28 So Yoshua burned Ai and made it a permanent heap of ruins, a desolate place to this day.

29 He impaled the body of the king of Ai on a pole and left it there until evening. At sunset, Yoshua ordered them to take the body from the pole and throw it down at the entrance of the city gate. And they raised a large pile of rocks over it, which remains to this day.

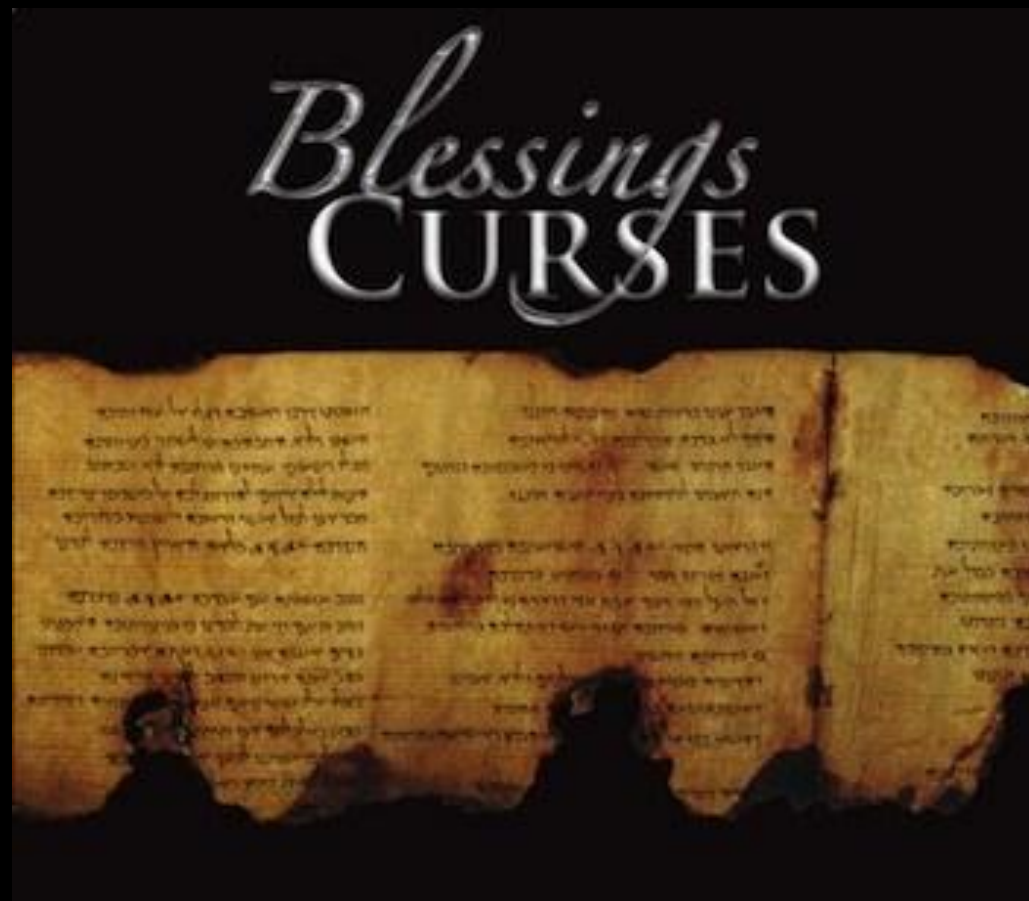


The Covenant Renewed at Mount Ebal

30 Then Yoshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to Yehowah, the G-d of Israel, as Moshe the servant of Yehowah had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moshe—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to YHWH burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. 32 There, in the presence of the Israelites, Yoshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moshe.

33 All the Israelites, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of YHWH, facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Both the foreigners living among them and the native-born were there. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moshe the servant of YHWH had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel.

34 Afterward, Yoshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law. 35 There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.

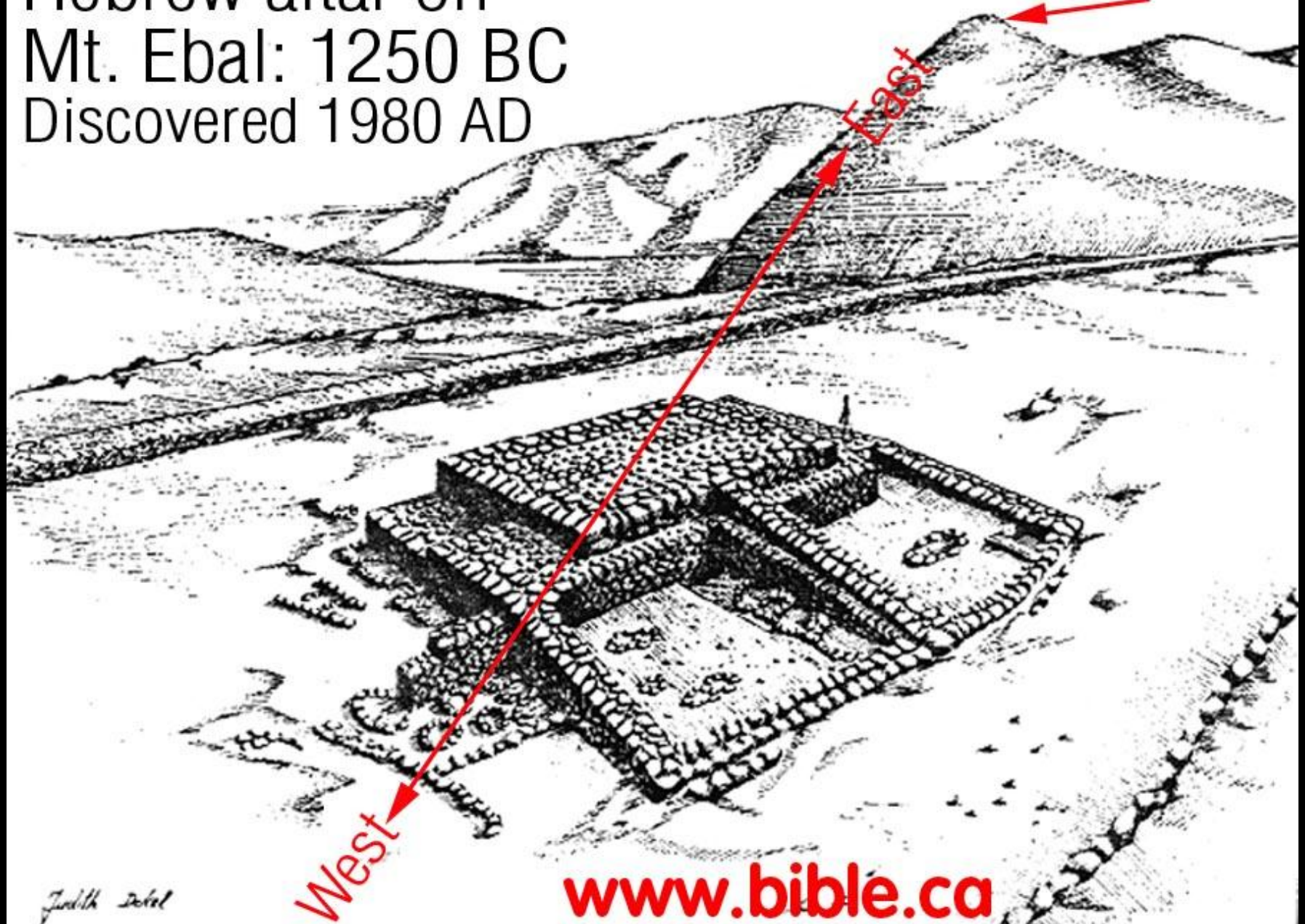


It was from Mount Ebal, where the curses of YHWH were pronounced on the disobedient. The second twin, Mount Gerizim was the place where blessings of YHWH were spoken to the obedient. Mount Ebal is north of the West Bank city of Nablus and rises above the Valley of Shechem. The mountain (Arabic el-Iclamiyeh) reaches a height of 1,402 ft. above the floor of the valley, and 3,077 ft. above the level of the Mediterranean.



Hebrew altar on
Mt. Ebal: 1250 BC
Discovered 1980 AD

Zertal's Mt. Gerizim



www.bible.ca

"'You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you.(Exodus 20:24) 'If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. 'And you shall not go up by steps to My altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.' " (Exodus 20:25-26)





Insitu pot
from Mt. Ebal
reconstructed
1250 BC

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Around the early, circular structure were signs of further cultic activity: an earthen floor paved with pottery, a large collar-rimmed jar, and other vessels. ... A rough wall, constructed of large boulders, was built to enclose a sacred area. In the center was a round structure, possibly used for sacrifice, and around it other activities took place." (Adam Zertal, 2004).

Some contained large quantities of ash and burned bones from animal sacrifices, others complete pottery vessels unearthed in situ. This discovery, like that of the altar, reveals the hitherto undisclosed world of religious ritual of the early Israelites." (Zertal 2004)

OVERVIEW OF YOSHUA'S BATTLES

A few days after the defeat of Jericho, Israel conquered Ai, which was a small city with mighty warriors. After the defeat of Ai, a group of men approached Joshua with moldy bread in their pockets wearing shabby clothing and worn shoes. They looked dirty and acted exhausted. When Joshua asked who they were they lied to him and said they were from a far off city. Then these men asked Joshua to sign a treaty promising he and his men would not kill them. Without consulting YHWH, Joshua agreed and signed the treaty. The next day, Joshua and his men rode over the top of the hill and found the city of Gibeon, where the men they had signed the peace treaty with were actually from.

Joshua could have rightfully broken his covenant with those men after he learned they had lied to him, but he was a man of his word. Everyone surrounding Joshua wanted him to break the covenant and kill the inhabitants of Gibeon.

Joshua's response to the pressure was, "No, I signed the treaty without consulting the Lord. I gave my word and I will keep my word."

The five kings now banding together against Israel have heard about the defeat of Jericho and Ai. They have heard about Gibeon's alliance with Israel. The king of Jerusalem decided to convince the other kings to join with him to defeat Israel. The names of the five kings are very significant because they represent five different ways Satan can come against us when we get our eyes off the Lord.

The king of Jerusalem was Adonizedec, which means "the lord of righteousness." Why would Satan's first agent be called the "lord of righteousness?" The reason is because the first and primary way Satan comes to us is as an angel of light. He quotes scriptures so we will drop our defenses. This is exactly what he did in the garden. He came as an angel of light and presented himself to Eve. Eve accepted his lies, ultimately leading to the fall of man. Adonizedec was Satan's counterfeit for Melchizedec. The Amorites had conquered Jerusalem. King Adonizedec had taken on a godly title.

The same thing happens today. People come claiming to be representatives of Jesus Christ. They may be New Age or with any number of organizations, but the “christ” that is in them is not the Christ that is in us. Satan’s constant objective is to make light darkness and darkness light.

The next king was Hoham. His name means, “the voice of a multitude.” Satan’s next ploy is to pressure you into following the crowd. But the Bible says to let God be true though every man be a liar. It doesn’t matter if a multitude is against you. If the scripture is on your side, you are right and they are wrong! God never checks to see what the winds of popular opinion are on any given day. Right is right and wrong is wrong and the guidelines for both are found in the Word of God.

The third king was named Piram, which means “wild ass.” A “wild ass” represents confusion and instability. All of us have faced confusion in our lives. Confusion is never a time to make a decision. Never. Satan will always try to pressure us into acting while we are in confusion. But God never pressures us into a decision. He gives us time to receive confirmation and to be led by His peace.

Japhia was the name of the fourth king. His name means “bright or dazzling.” Satan will always make the world appear to be bright, appealing, exciting, and dazzling while making Christianity appear to be dull and unexciting. Satan tries to dazzle Christians with the things of the world to draw us down the wrong path. His design is to tempt us toward his kingdom and away from God and His Word.

The last king’s name was Debir, meaning “oracle.” This refers to a satanic or false doctrine. The New Testament refers to these false teachings as “doctrines of devils.”

These five kings joined together to attack the city of Gibeon and the Gibeonites turned to their new ally, Israel, for help. Joshua kept his word and came to their aid, but as he went he prayed, “Lord, what are we going to do?” The Lord gave him a promise in response. Joshua 10:8 was that promise: “And the Lord said unto Joshua, Fear them not: for I have delivered them into your hand; there shall not be a man of them stand before you.” Bob Yandian

The Date of Joshua's Long Day

We noted that the entry into the promised land was early April of 1448 B.C. Can we ascertain the month and day of Joshua's long day with any degree of certainty? It turns out that we can come close.

When the Israelites entered the promised land, it was the tenth day of the first month (Joshua 4:19), shortly before the time of the Passover which is at the time of the full moon. Now in 1448 B.C. the new moon and the first day of spring closely coincided, the first day of spring being March 19.5 at the time;⁵⁰ so we can date the very entry into the promised land as Thursday, March 29, give or take a day.

The events which are described between the Passover and the battle at Gibeon all took time. The Passover celebration itself took a week; the fall of Jericho took seven days; the fall of Ai took at least four days; the construction of the altar on mount Ebal and the copying of the law probably took a week or more; the trickery of the Gibeonites took still more time; the communication of that trickery to the Gibeonites' neighbors and the subsequent formation of an alliance, not to mention their march to Gibeon, all took time.

It is reasonable to assume that over a month passed between the celebration of the Passover and Joshua's long day. This is entirely consistent with the geometry of sun and moon presented in Joshua 10 where the moon seems to be west of the sun and both visible in daylight. Given that the time for the event was 9:00 a.m., the moon was most likely near or after its last quarter. More specifically, then, it appears that Joshua's long day happened somewhere between May 8 to May 15 of 1448 B.C.

THE G-D OF MIRACLES

The Hebrew word for miracle, nes, means "aloft" and "elevated." The regularity and predictability of nature creates so-called "laws": this is the way it is, says the natural order, and you cannot but conform to this defined and bounded reality. The truth, however, is otherwise -- that man and his world have been imbued by their Creator with the potential to raise and elevate their existence, to go beyond what is dictated by the "way things are." A miracle, with its open display of divine power, has an uplifting effect on those who experience it, enabling them to see through the façade of nature and inspiring them to transcend the perceived limitations of their own nature and the accepted norms of their society.

The Sun Stands Still

10 Now Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had taken Ai and totally destroyed[a] it, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and that the people of Gibeon had made a treaty of peace with Israel and had become their allies. 2 He and his people were very much alarmed at this, because Gibeon was an important city, like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were good fighters. 3 So Adoni-Zedek king of Jerusalem appealed to Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish and Debir king of Eglon. 4 “Come up and help me attack Gibeon,” he said, “because it has made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.”

5 Then the five kings of the Amorites—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon—joined forces. They moved up with all their troops and took up positions against Gibeon and attacked it.

6 The Gibeonites then sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.”

7 So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. 8 YHWH said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.”



9 After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. 10 The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. 11 As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.



YHWH WILL ALWAYS FIGHT FOR HIS LAND - YISRAEL

12 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

13 So the sun stood still,
and the moon stopped,
till the nation avenged itself on[b] its enemies,
as it is written in the Book of Jashar.

The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. 14 There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a human being. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!

15 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.



Long Day Legends?

Some have argued that evidence for this long day is found in other cultures: It is interesting to note that parallel accounts in the records of other nations show that the incident of "Joshua's Long Day" is not an isolated one.

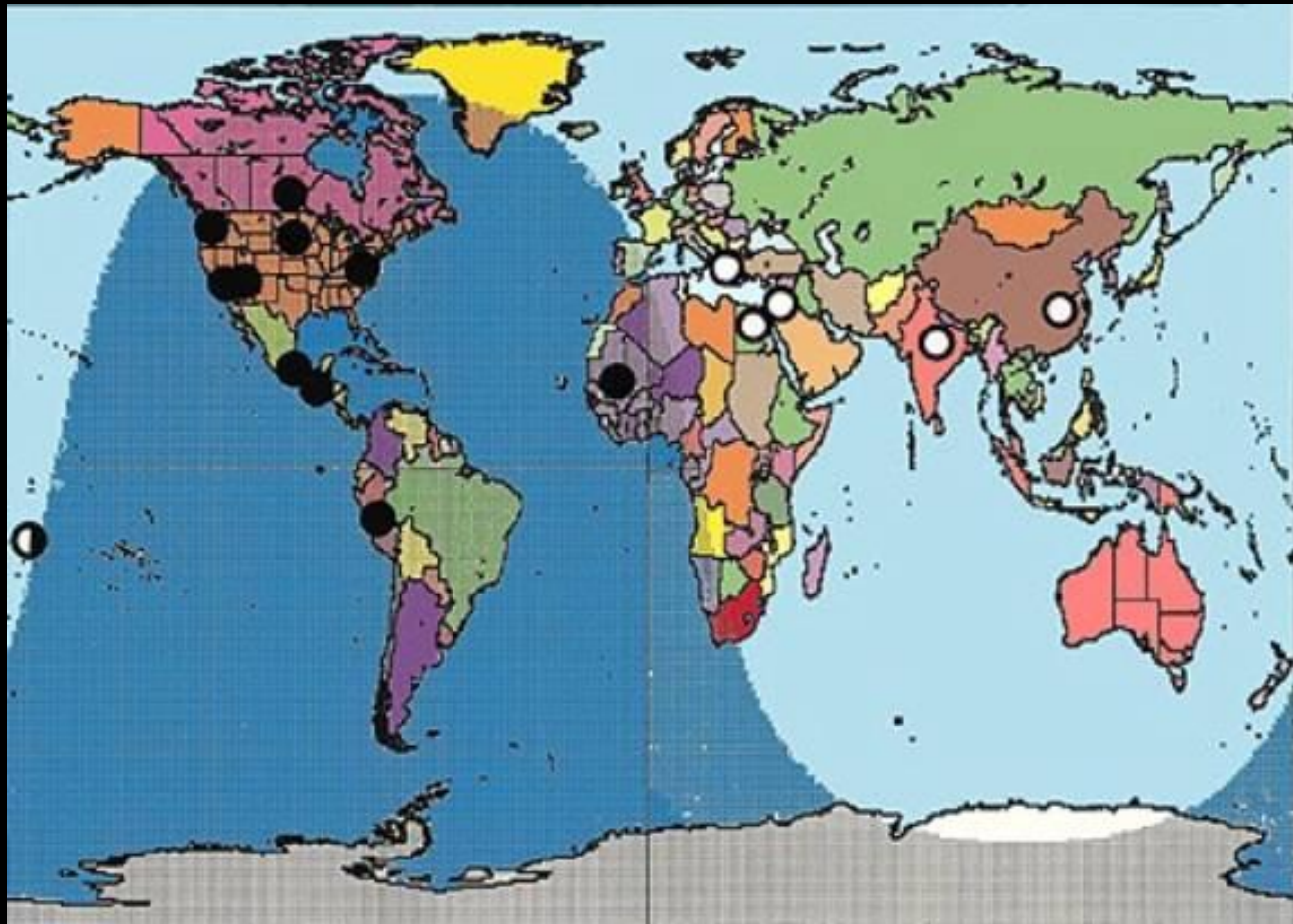
There is indisputable evidence from the modern science of ethnology that such an event occurred as Joshua records. In the ancient Chinese writings there is a legend of a long day. The Incas of Peru and the Aztecs of Mexico have a like record. There is a Babylonian and Persian legend of a day that was miraculously extended.

Point B. Egypt. The Greek historian Herodotus recorded that when he visited Egypt, the priests there showed him an ancient manuscript that told the story of a day that lasted twice as long as a normal day. As they had accurate water clocks that could record time, they could easily record that a long day had taken place.

Point C. Egypt. Fernand Crombette translated some Egyptian hieroglyphics that said - "The sun, thrown into confusion, had remained low on the horizon, and by not rising, had spread terror amongst the great doctors. Two days had been rolled into one.... They made the moon stop in a small angle at the edge of the horizon. In a small angle on the edge of the horizon, the sun itself, which had just risen at the spot where the moon was going, instead of crossing the sky, stayed where it was. Whilst the moon, following a narrow path, reduced its speed and climbed slowly, the sun stopped moving and its intensity of light was reduced to the brightness of daybreak." The rest of the account records an exceptionally high tide that washed boats into piles of wreckage, drowned fisherman, flooded much of the land, etc.

By Malcolm Bowden

Joshua's long day around the world: The solid black circles show locations with tales of a long night; open circles plot tales of a long day, and the half-white half-black circle in the Pacific shows the location of a long sunrise tale. Recently, after this figure was made, another long sunrise tale was reported in Hawaii.



There is always the possibility that stories of long nights and long days could have arisen over time in the folk stories of ancient tribes. Many have fantastic elements and such events as a very dark day could have been exaggerated to become an extension of the night, and this could give rise to the story of a very long night. It is a little more difficult to imagine how a similar story of a long day could have been prompted, but human imagination can do much on such lines.

Now if this were to be the case, then we would expect such stories to be randomly distributed around the earth. But this is not what we find when these records are examined relative to their position around the globe.

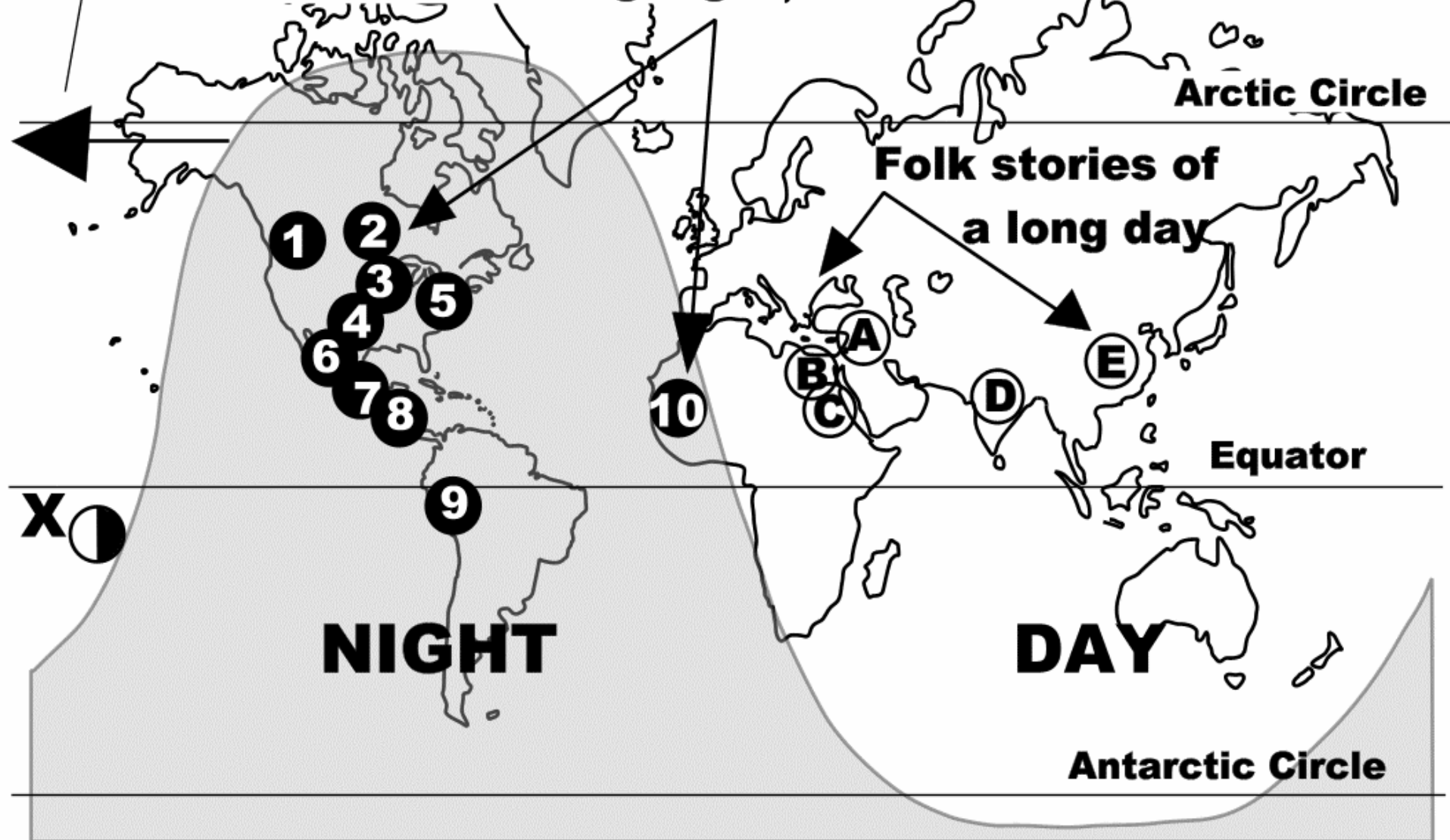
Gerardus Bouw printed out the curved shape of the night shadow that passes around the earth each day, as shown on the diagram. It can be seen that this can be moved to a position such that ALL the "long night" stories can be covered by the night shadow, and ALL the "long day" stories are in the daylight section. This proves that all these stories were correctly positioned according to the location of the nation relative to the day and night parts of the shadow. It could not be a coincidence. This is surely proof that Joshua's "Long Day" actually took place and was recorded by many nations around the whole earth when it happened, but there has been some exaggeration of its length as it was handed down.

**Movement of shadow
around the earth**

Joshua's "Long Day"

Folk stories of a long night:

**Folk stories of
a long day**



THE SCIENTIFIC THEORIES OF THE SUN STANDING STILL FOR A DAY

The basic concept is contained in the article, "Sun, Stand Thou Still; A Consideration of the Possibility". Basically, the article relies on biblical and other ancient historical records which describe an occurrence in historical times (circa 1500-1400 B.C.E.) in which the Earth's rotation was apparently halted for a period of approximately twenty hours, after which normal rotation was resumed. The purpose is to consider if such an occurrence is even physically possible, and by implication whether or not the description on the one hand of the Sun and Moon standing still, and on the other hand the Sun not rising after a lengthened night of some twenty hours constitute accurate descriptions of a real event. The combination of supporting historical records and the viability of a physical mechanism to temporarily halt the Earth's rotation strongly suggests that at one point in historical times, the Sun did, indeed, stand still.

THEORY 1 – YHWH CAUSED AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

Sun Stopped - The text does say that the sun stopped. The Hebrew uses two words daman and amad which have the idea "to stop."

The word translated stand still (Heb dom) means literally to be silent and frequently has the sense cease or leave off (cf. Ps. 35:15; La. 2:18). Similarly the word translated stayed (Heb amad), stood still in v. 13b, has the sense of cease (cf. 2 Ki. 4:6; Jon. 1:15) 2. Eclipse Of The Sun

Some feel the passage refers to an eclipse of the sun. One such person was the great Old Testament scholar, Robert Dick Wilson who translated Joshua 10:12b-14 as follows: Be eclipsed, O sun, in Gibeon, and thou moon in the valley of Aijalon! And the sun was eclipsed and the moon turned back, while the nation was avenged on its enemies.



It is written in the Book of Jasher? And the sun stayed in the half of the heaven, and set not hastily as when a day is done. And there was never a day like that day before or since, in respect to Jehovahs hearing the voice of a man. (Robert Dick Wilson, "What Does The Sun Stood Still Mean? " Moody Monthly, October 1920).

According to this view, God granted Joshuas request for a favorable sign by causing an eclipse of the sun.

The traditional view must be maintained, however, for these alternate explanations do not do justice to the language of the text. Though it is true the verb *dum* (translated stand still in Joshua's call) means basically "be silent" and so could refer to being silent in other ways than retardation of movement, still the verb *amadh* is also used (twice in v. 13) and it definitely indicates a change in pattern of movement. Further, verse 13 closes with the expression "and hastened not to go down," where the word "hastened" (*uz*) again speaks of motion, and the phrase "to go down" (*labho*) is normally in reference to the sun setting.

Still further, verse 14 states that this day was unique in history which suggests a major miracle occurred such as to the prolongation of a natural day. The extent of the prolongation can also be estimated. Since the hour was noon when Joshua voiced the call, and it was stated that the sun did not go down for "about a whole day" (*keyom tamin*), it is likely that the afternoon hours until sunset were prolonged twice their normal length. In other words, the total daylight hours of the day were one and one-half times normal (Leon Wood, *A Survey of Israel's History*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1970, p. 181).

THEORY 2: THE EARTH'S ROTATION TOOK 48 HRS INSTEAD OF 24

The best explanation seems to be the view that in answer to Joshua's prayer God caused the rotation of the earth to slow down so that it made one full rotation in 48 hours rather than in 24. It seems apparent that this view is supported by both the poem in verses 12b-13a and the prose in verse 13b (Donald K. Campbell, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, John Walvoord and Roy Zuck. eds., Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1985, p. 351).

God caused the rotation of the earth to slow down. The earth, therefore, made one full rotation around the sun in a longer period of time. This fits with verse 13 which says, "The sun . . . delayed going down about a full day." Thus the sun was abnormally slow in getting to sunset, giving Joshua and his soldiers sufficient time to complete their victorious battle.



THEORY 3: Miracle Of Refraction

There are some who see this as a miracle of refraction. This theory contends the earth continued to rotate at its normal speed while God supernaturally gave a mirage that made it appear that the sun and the moon were out of their regular place. Thus, God supernaturally provided more daylight so that Joshua could win the battle. This provides Joshua with the necessary light to fight the battle, yet to do so does not force us to accept any change in the rotation of the earth.

ONE MISSING DAY IN HISTORY

Another indication of the trustworthiness of Joshua 10:13 can be found in astronomical data. It appears that one full day is missing in our astronomical calculations. On different occasions, Sir Edwin Ball, the great British astronomer, and Professors Pickering of the Harvard Observatory, Maunder of Greenwich, and Totten of Yale have traced this back to the time of Joshua.

If we disregard calendar changes and deal only with a chronology based upon solar motion, and go back to the earliest available records, and trace the calendar through to the time of Joshua, the day of Joshua's battle was on a Tuesday, whereas if we compute backwards to the time of Joshua from the present day, the day of the battle would have been on a Wednesday. The day of the month is the same, but it is a different day of the week.

In other words, if we reckon from the first recorded solstice in the ancient Egyptian records, the day is Tuesday, but if we reckon back from the most recent solstice, the day is Wednesday.



NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH YHWH

The upshot is that there appears to be solid evidence from the Bible and from folklore around the world that there was one day which, depending upon geographical location, presented the inhabitants of the earth with an unusually long span of daylight or night.

WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT IT WAS YHWH WHO CREATED THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE AND SOLAR SYSTEM, SO IF HE WANTED THE SUN TO STAND STILL FOR A DAY....WHY IS THAT SO DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE?

“For those who believe, no explanation is necessary. For those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.”

OUR GREAT AND ALMIGHTY CREATOR SPEAKS TO JOB

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

5 Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

6 On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—

7 while the morning stars sang together and all the angels[a] shouted for joy?

8 “Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb,

9 when I made the clouds its garment and wrapped it in thick darkness,

10 when I fixed limits for it and set its doors and bars in place,

11 when I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther;

here is where your proud waves halt’?

- “Have you ever given orders to the morning,
- or shown the dawn its place,
- 13 that it might take the earth by the edges
- and shake the wicked out of it?
- 14 The earth takes shape like clay under a seal;
- its features stand out like those of a garment.
- 15 The wicked are denied their light,
- and their upraised arm is broken.
- “Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea
- or walked in the recesses of the deep?
- 17 Have the gates of death been shown to you?
- Have you seen the gates of the deepest darkness?
- 18 Have you comprehended the vast expanses of the earth?
- Tell me, if you know all this. “What is the way to the abode of light?
- And where does darkness reside?
- 20 Can you take them to their places?
- Do you know the paths to their dwellings?
- 21 Surely you know, for you were already born!
- You have lived so many years!

“Have you entered the storehouses of the snow
or seen the storehouses of the hail,

23 which I reserve for times of trouble,
for days of war and battle?

24 What is the way to the place where the lightning is dispersed,
or the place where the east winds are scattered over the earth?

25 Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain,
and a path for the thunderstorm,

26 to water a land where no one lives, an uninhabited desert,

27 to satisfy a desolate wasteland and make it sprout with grass?

28 Does the rain have a father? Who fathers the drops of dew?

29 From whose womb comes the ice?

Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens

30 when the waters become hard as stone,

when the surface of the deep is frozen?

“Can you bind the chains[b] of the Pleiades?

Can you loosen Orion’s belt?

32 Can you bring forth the constellations in their seasons[c]
or lead out the Bear[d] with its cubs?

33 Do you know the laws of the heavens?

Can you set up God’s[e] dominion over the earth?

34 “Can you raise your voice to the clouds
and cover yourself with a flood of water?

35 Do you send the lightning bolts on their way?
Do they report to you, ‘Here we are’?

36 Who gives the ibis wisdom[f]
or gives the rooster understanding?[g]

37 Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?

Who can tip over the water jars of the heavens

38 when the dust becomes hard
and the clods of earth stick together?

YOSHUA 10:21 At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. 22 No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive.

23 So Joshua took the entire land, just as the Lord had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

40 So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded. 41 Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. 42 All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the Lord, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.

43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

Five Amorite Kings Killed

16 Now the five kings had fled and hidden in the cave at Makkedah. 17 When Joshua was told that the five kings had been found hiding in the cave at Makkedah, 18 he said, “Roll large rocks up to the mouth of the cave, and post some men there to guard it. 19 But don’t stop; pursue your enemies! Attack them from the rear and don’t let them reach their cities, for the Lord your God has given them into your hand.”

20 So Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely, but a few survivors managed to reach their fortified cities. 21 The whole army then returned safely to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah, and no one uttered a word against the Israelites.

22 Joshua said, “Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me.” 23 So they brought the five kings out of the cave—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish and Eglon.

24 When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks.

25 Joshua said to them, “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.” 26 Then Joshua put the kings to death and exposed their bodies on five poles, and they were left hanging on the poles until evening.

27 At sunset Joshua gave the order and they took them down from the poles and threw them into the cave where they had been hiding. At the mouth of the cave they placed large rocks, which are there to this day.

40 So Joshua subdued the whole region, including the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills and the mountain slopes, together with all their kings. He left no survivors. He totally destroyed all who breathed, just as YEHOWAH, the G-d of Israel, had commanded.

YISRAE'L IS WHERE YHWH'S HEARTH AND SPIRIT DWELL

41 Joshua subdued them from Kadesh Barnea to Gaza and from the whole region of Goshen to Gibeon. 42 All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because YHWH, the G-d of Yisrael, fought for Yisrael.

43 Then Joshua returned with all Israel to the camp at Gilgal.

The Covenant Renewed at Shechem

Yoshua 24: 1 Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

2 Joshua said to all the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. 3 But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, 4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his family went down to Egypt.

AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL SERVE YAHWEH

11 “Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands. 12 I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you—also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow. 13 So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.’

14 “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15 But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve YHWH.”**

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! 17 It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. 18 And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God."

19 Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. 20 If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you."

21 But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.”

22 Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

23 “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

24 And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”



25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. 26 And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the Lord.

27 "See!" he said to all the people. "This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the Lord has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God."

28 Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.

CARRYING YOSEPHS BONES



Buried in the Promised Land

29 After these things, Yoshua son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of a hundred and ten. 30 And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah[c] in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.

31 Israel served the Lord throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the Lord had done for Israel.

32 And Joseph's bones, which the Israelites had brought up from Egypt, were buried at Shechem in the tract of land that Jacob bought for a hundred pieces of silver[d] from the sons of Hamor, the father of Shechem. This became the inheritance of Joseph's descendants.

33 And Eleazar son of Aaron died and was buried at Gibeah, which had been allotted to his son Phinehas in the hill country of Ephraim.

Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem

Picture courtesy of Bibleplaces.com



IRREFUTABLE PROOF THAT THE LAND BELONGS TO THE HEBREWS

Joseph's bones, still in Shechem after so many centuries, stand as an irrefutable witness to YHWH's irrevocable covenant with Abraham. When the Hebrews came into the land with Yoshua, the bones were carried there. Now that the Jews have once again returned to the land, those bones are under assault. Why? Because they stand as a sure, staunch verification that the land still belongs to the descendants of Abraham.

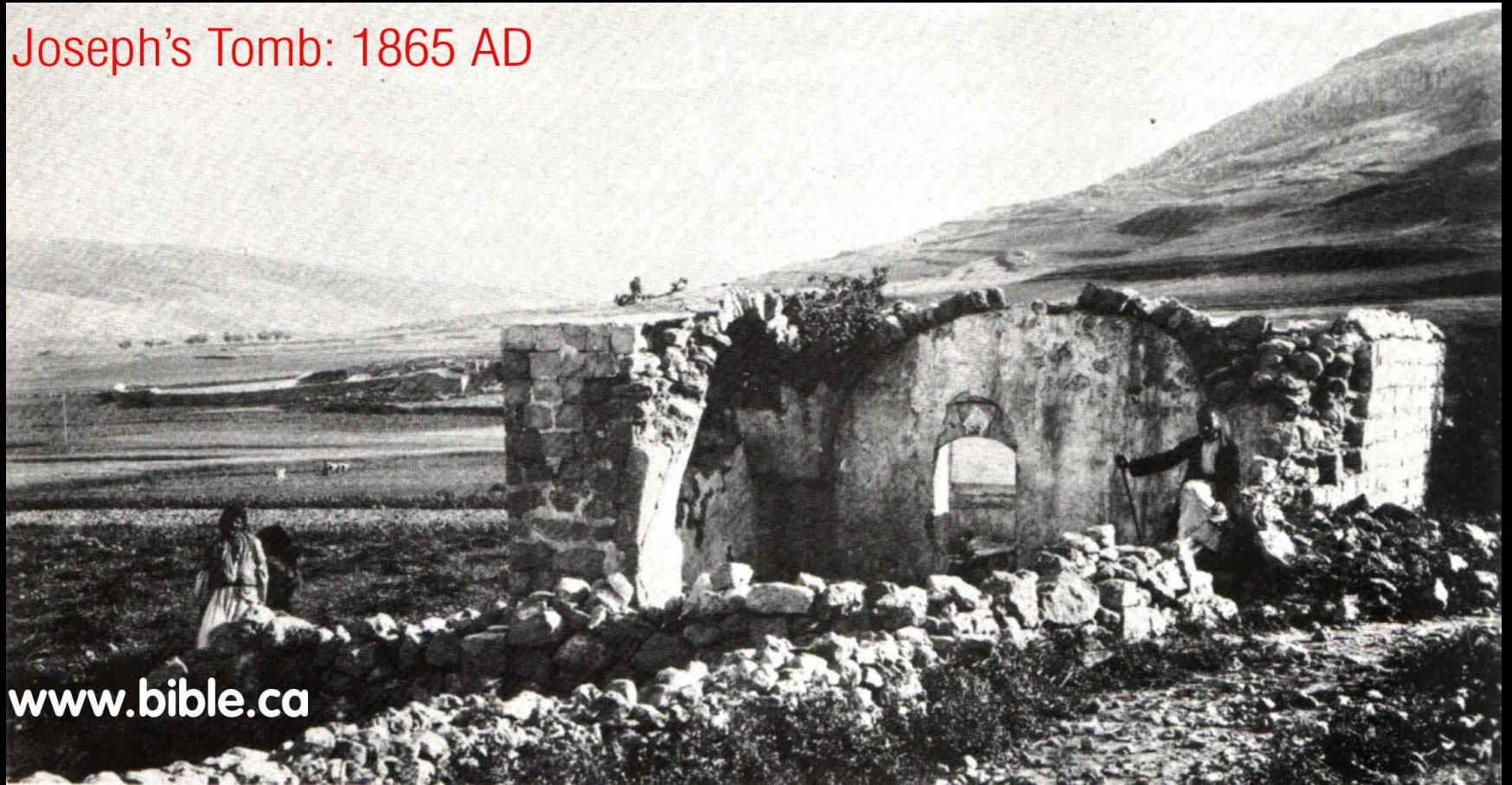
The tract of land on which Joseph's tomb lies was legally purchased by Jacob. But that purchase, and those bones, are emblematic of something far greater. Understand this: the presence of Joseph's bones is nothing less than the very signature of YHWH on the title deed of the entire land grant to Israel.

By faith Yoseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions about his bones. (Hebrews 11:22 NIV)

Why, among all the other meritorious feats of Yoseph's life, are the "instructions about his bones" singled out as his ideal act of faith? Why is this so important?

It is so important because it signifies Yoseph believed YHWH's promise about the land inheritance. His instructions, to carry his bones to what is today Israel, are distinguished by YHWH as the greatest indication of Joseph's faith. And that tomb today, where those bones still rest as a silent reminder of God's abiding promise to Israel, is now being attacked by the haters of that promise.

Joseph's Tomb: 1865 AD



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On 7 October 2000, Joseph's Tomb, the third most holy place in Judaism, was destroyed by Muslims. It is located east of modern Nabulus between Shechem (Tel Balata) and Sychar at the foot of Mt. Ebal. It had come under attack and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) withdrew after gaining reassurances from the Palestinian Authority (PA) that they would protect the site in accordance with their obligations under the Oslo Accords to protect holy sites. Two hours after the withdrawal Muslims began destroying the site. It was burned and torn down stone by stone, then bulldozed. It was immediately declared a Muslim holy site.

THE LAND BELONGS TO YEHOWAH

HIS DESCENDANTS

The Land of Israel is the only place on earth which YHWH says He owns in terms of property ownership that can be transferred. (Of course, we know the whole world is His, yet this one parcel of land on the earth has a unique relationship to Him.) About Israel, He says, "The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, for the land is Mine: for you are but aliens and sojourners with Me" (Leviticus 25:23).

The prophet Zechariah makes it quite clear that at the end of days, YHWH Himself will make Jerusalem a stumbling block for the nations and will judge them by whether or not they understand and support YHWH's plans for Jerusalem and Israel. If they do, they will be blessed; if they don't, they will be destroyed: "I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that sends all the surrounding peoples reeling. Judah will be besieged as well as Jerusalem. On that day, when all the nations of the earth are gathered against her, I will make Jerusalem an immovable rock for all the nations. All who try to move it will injure themselves. On that day, I will set out to destroy all the nations that attack Jerusalem" (Zechariah 12:1-2,9).

An ultra-Orthodox Jewish person praying on Mount Gerizim overlooking Joseph's Tomb in Nablus/SHECHEM in Israel.

