

JUDGES

ספר שופטים

Sefer Shoftim

"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes." -Judges 21:25

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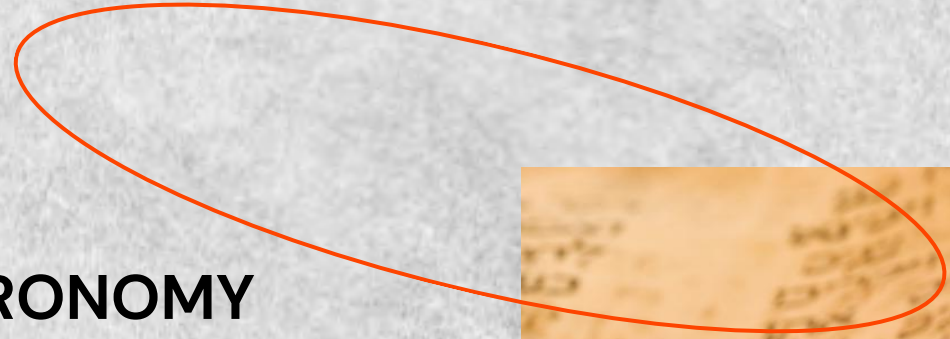


GENESIS

Creation	Abraham	Joseph
Fall	Isaac	Egypt
Flood	Jacob	

EXODUS

Slavery	Wilderness
Moses	Covenant
Exodus	Law

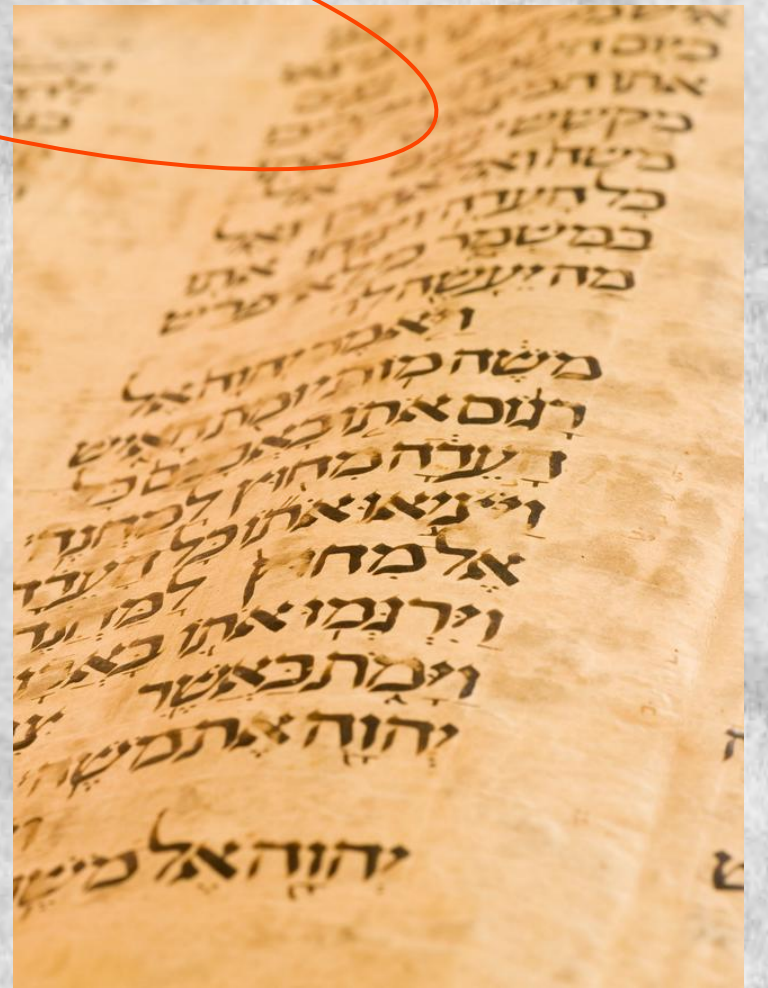


LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, DEUTERONOMY

Law
Law
Law

JOSHUA

Conquest of Canan



BACKGROUND

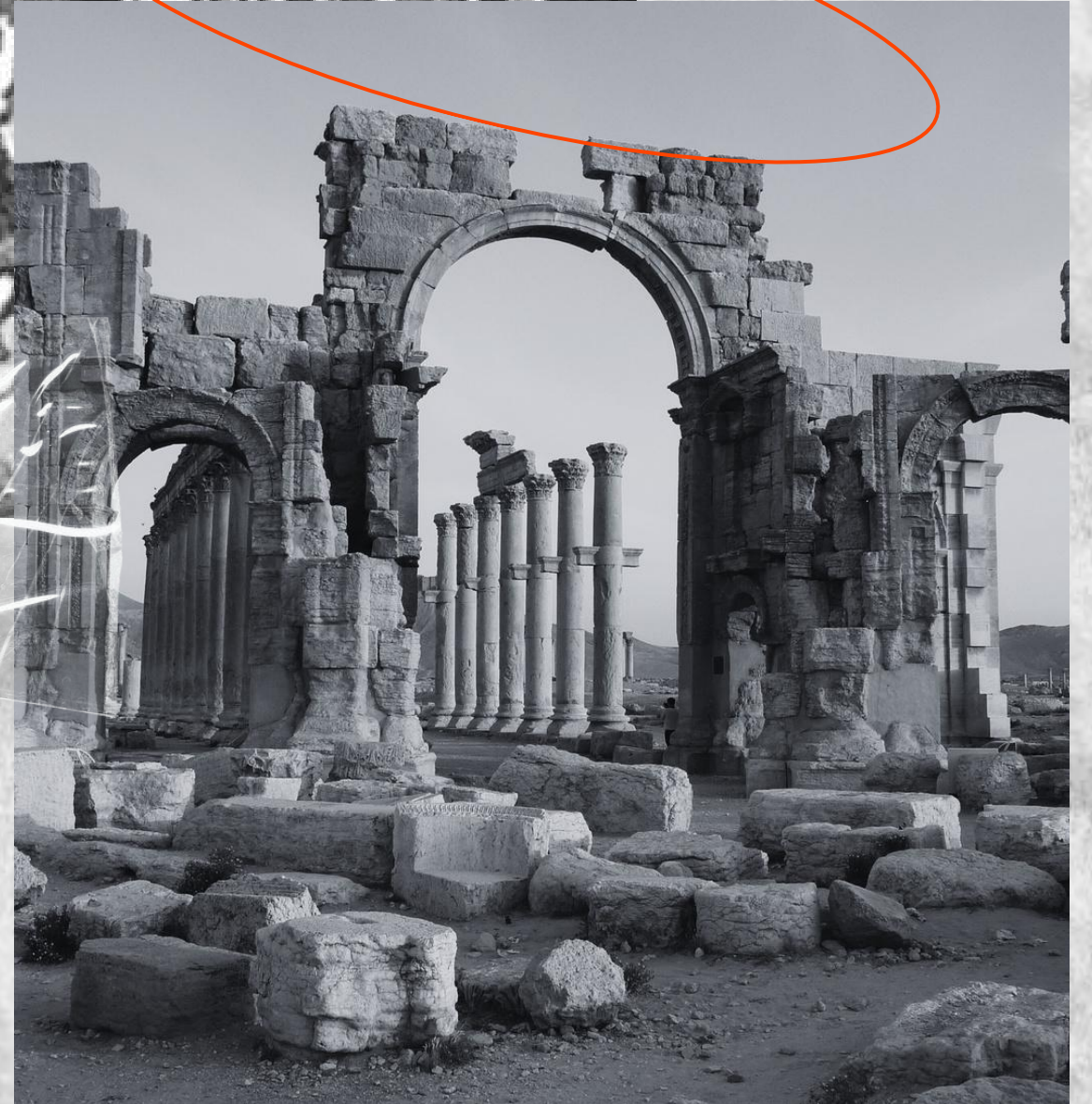
TIME PERIOD

Death of Joshua (14th or 13th Century BC) to Rise of Samuel and Saul (11th Century BC). This is a time of transition between the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

The late Bronze Age saw the rise of empires. Small city-states were overtaken by nations. However, the Canaanites and Israelites lived in hill country that was not immediately affected by the transition.

SOCIETAL COLLAPSE

The Late Bronze Age saw widespread destruction in the Mediterranean basin. There is evidence of a drastic decrease in population in large cities and the cessation of imported pottery. There was an increase in population in smaller communities. Society was held together by small communities rather than large cities.



DOWNWARD SPIRAL

ISRAEL FALLS INTO IDOLATRY

The people of Israel are tempted by the prosperity and sexualized worship of Canaanite idols, so they disobey God and worship idols.

GOD JUDGES ISRAEL

God allows other nations to oppress Israel in punishment for their idolatry and sin.

THE PEOPLE CRY OUT FOR DELIVERANCE

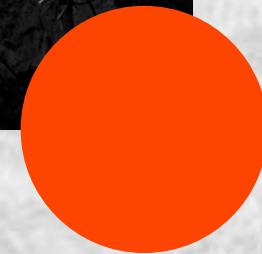
God's people cry for help but don't seem to repent fully.

GOD SENDS A JUDGE TO DELIVER ISRAEL

The judges show faith to deliver Israel (usually through military action). However, the judges do not themselves remain faithful.

(THE CYCLE REPEATS)





THEMES

ISRAEL'S APOSTASY

Israel's disobedience to God and their devotion to false gods and idolatry, including sexual sin and child sacrifice.

OPPRESSION

God allows Israel's enemies to conquer and enslave them. Note: worshipping the enemy's gods doesn't keep them from oppressing you.

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

God remains faithful despite Israel's sin. God refers to them "whoring" themselves. Yet, He takes pity on them and sends them judges.

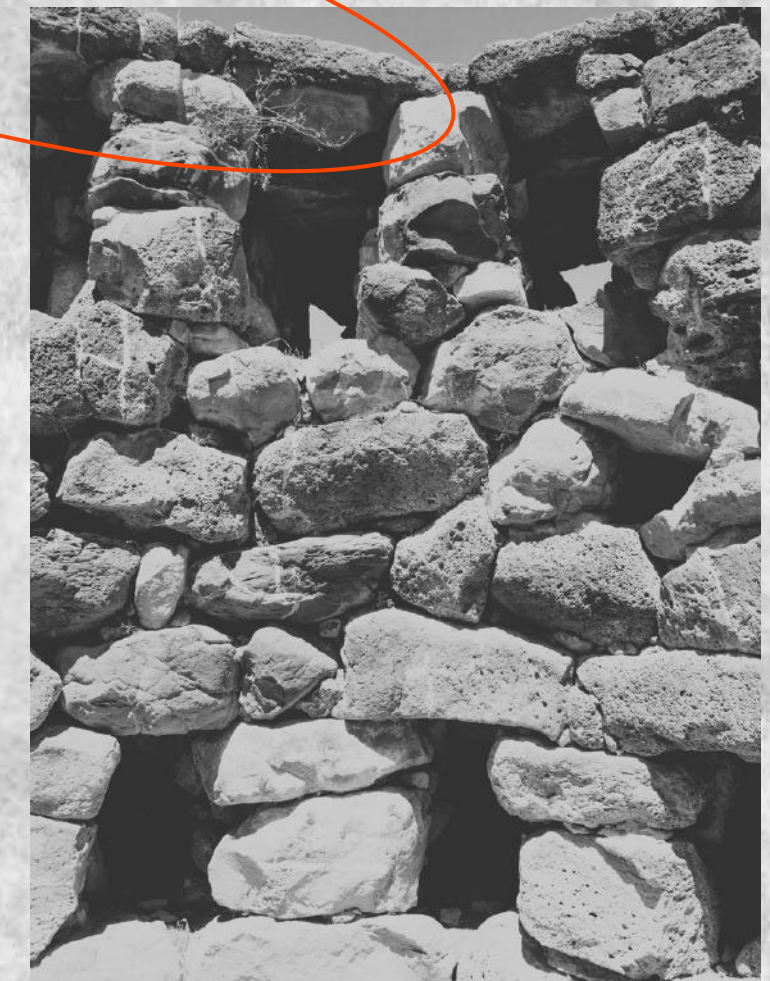
JUDGES DON'T FIX THE PROBLEM

Things turn around when a judge is raised up. However, as soon as the judge is gone, Israel goes back to idolatry.

ISRAEL NEEDS A KING

Israel needs a special King.

2023

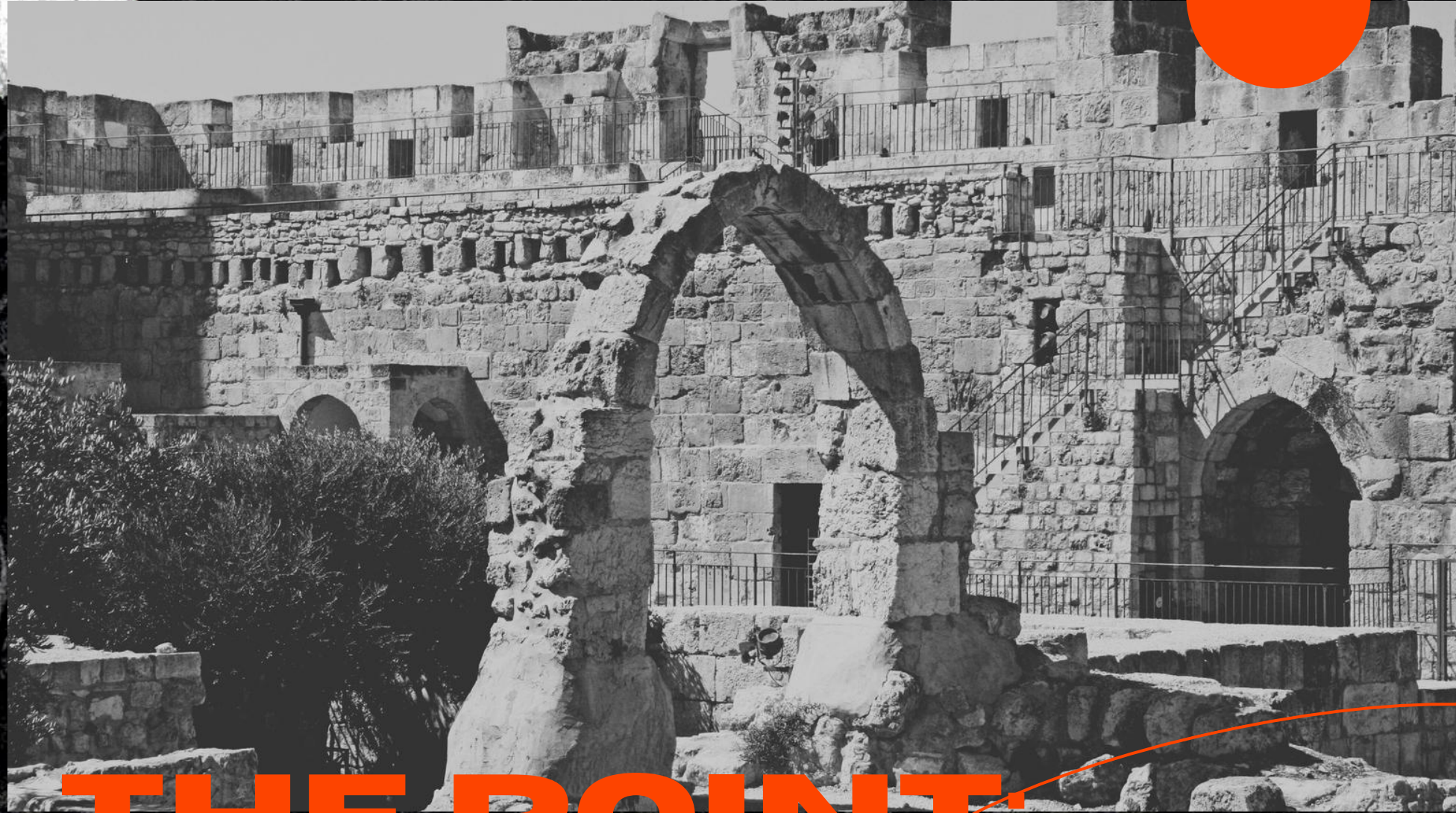




THEME VERSE

In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. -Judges 21:25





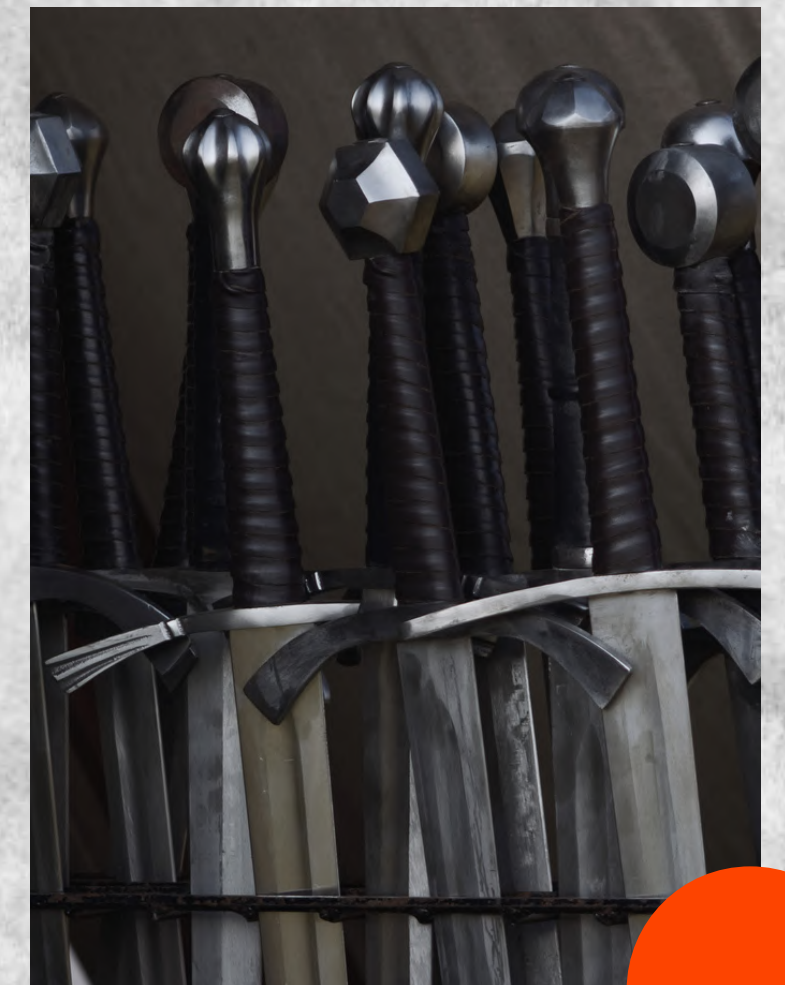
THE POINT: **ISRAEL NEEDS A RIGHTEOUS KING**

While Israel would ask for "a king like other kingdoms" God had a plan for Israel to have a righteous King (David) who would be a type of Christ pointing forward to Jesus, the King of Kings!

2023

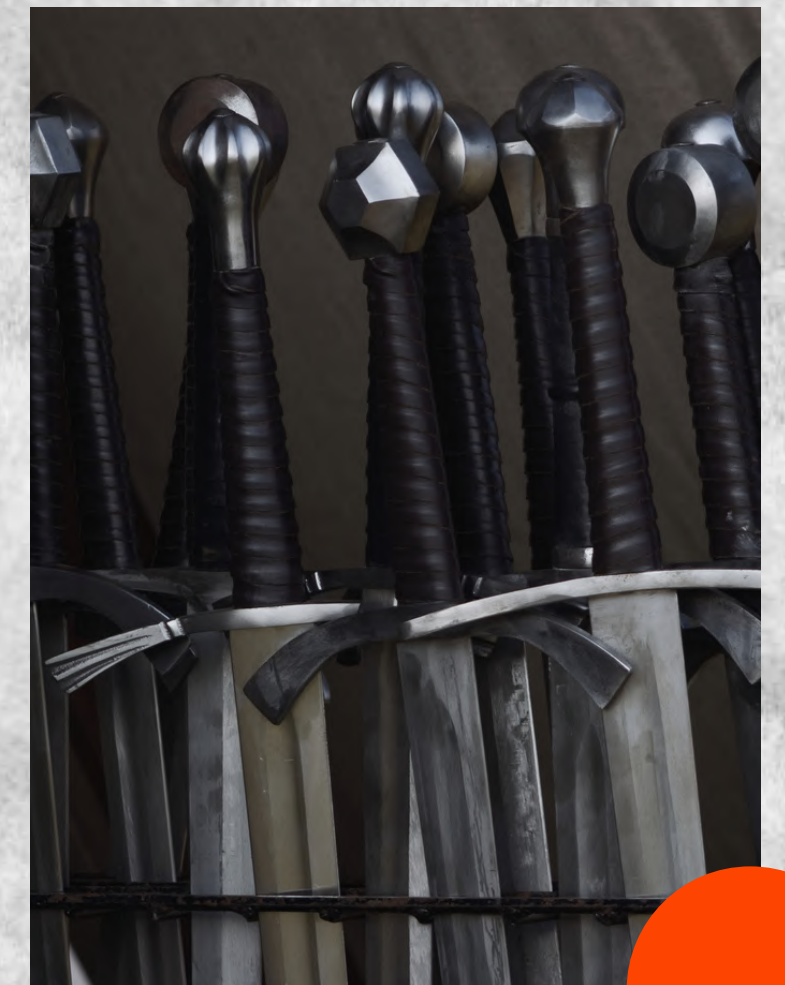
After the death of Joshua, the people of Israel inquired of the Lord, "Who shall go up first for us against the Canaanites, to fight against them?" 2 The Lord said, "Judah shall go up; behold, I have given the land into his hand." 3 And Judah said to Simeon his brother, "Come up with me into the territory allotted to me, that we may fight against the Canaanites. And I likewise will go with you into the territory allotted to you." So Simeon went with him. 4 Then Judah went up and the Lord gave the Canaanites and the Perizzites into their hand, and they defeated 10,000 of them at Bezek. 5 They found Adoni-bezek at Bezek and fought against him and defeated the Canaanites and the Perizzites. 6 Adoni-bezek fled, but they pursued him and caught him and cut off his thumbs and his big toes. 7 And Adoni-bezek said, "Seventy kings with their thumbs and their big toes cut off used to pick up scraps under my table. As I have done, so God has repaid me." And they brought him to Jerusalem, and he died there.

JUDGES 1



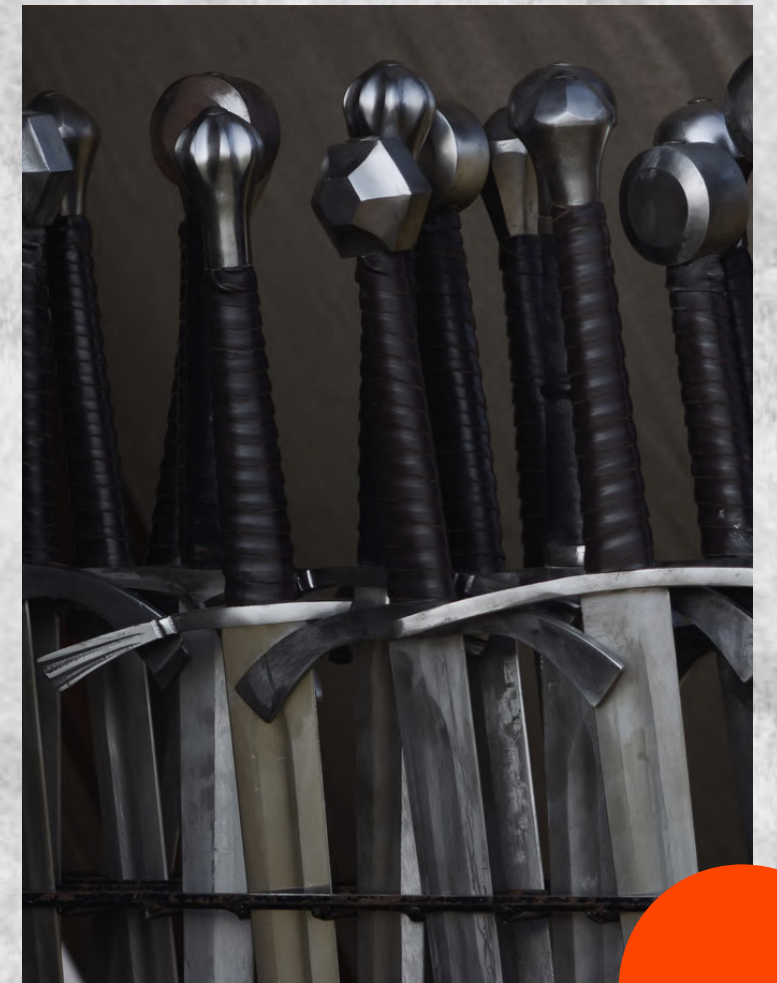
8 And the men of Judah fought against Jerusalem and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword and set the city on fire. 9 And afterward the men of Judah went down to fight against the Canaanites who lived in the hill country, in the Negeb, and in the lowland. 10 And Judah went against the Canaanites who lived in Hebron (now the name of Hebron was formerly Kiriath-arba), and they defeated Sheshai and Ahiman and Talmai.

JUDGES 1



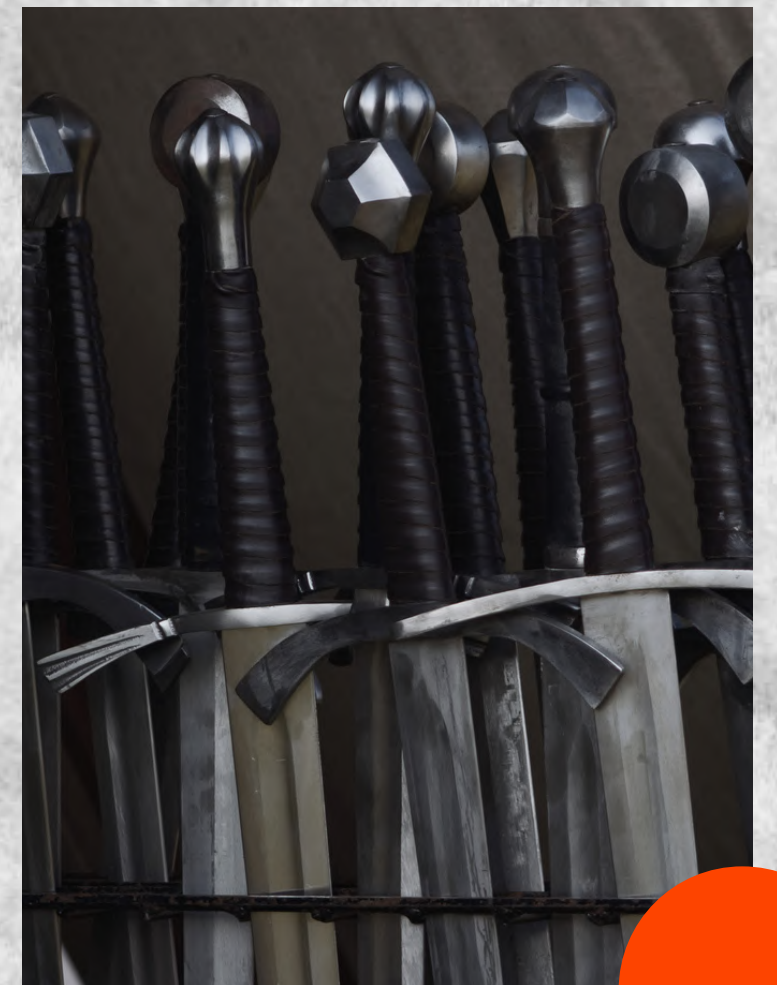
11 From there they went against the inhabitants of Debir. The name of Debir was formerly Kiriath-sepher. **12** And Caleb said, "He who attacks Kiriath-sepher and captures it, I will give him Achsah my daughter for a wife." **13** And Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, captured it. And he gave him Achsah his daughter for a wife. **14** When she came to him, she urged him to ask her father for a field. And she dismounted from her donkey, and Caleb said to her, "What do you want?" **15** She said to him, "Give me a blessing. Since you have set me in the land of the Negeb, give me also springs of water." And Caleb gave her the upper springs and the lower springs.

JUDGES 1



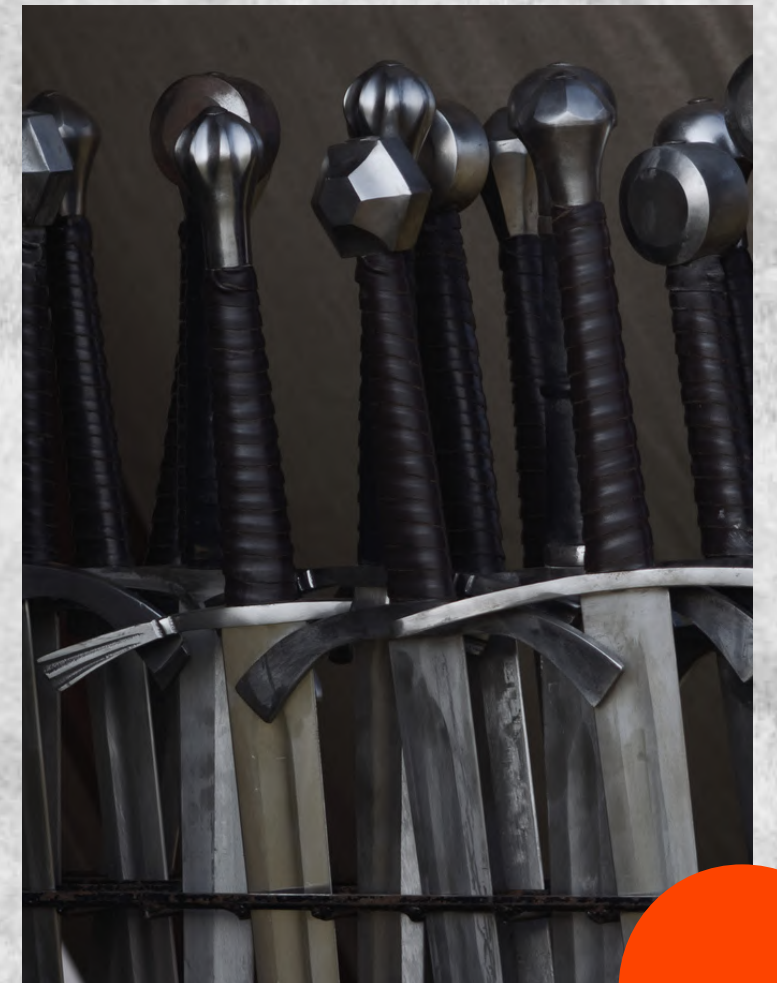
16 And the descendants of the Kenite, Moses' father-in-law, went up with the people of Judah from the city of palms into the wilderness of Judah, which lies in the Negeb near Arad, and they went and settled with the people.**17** And Judah went with Simeon his brother, and they defeated the Canaanites who inhabited Zephath and devoted it to destruction. So the name of the city was called Hormah. **18** Judah also captured Gaza with its territory, and Ashkelon with its territory, and Ekron with its territory. **19** And the Lord was with Judah, and he took possession of the hill country, but he could not drive out the inhabitants of the plain because they had chariots of iron. **20** And Hebron was given to Caleb, as Moses had said. And he drove out from it the three sons of Anak. **21** But the people of Benjamin did not drive out the Jebusites who lived in Jerusalem, so the Jebusites have lived with the people of Benjamin in Jerusalem to this day.

JUDGES 1



22 The house of Joseph also went up against Bethel, and the Lord was with them. 23 And the house of Joseph scouted out Bethel. (Now the name of the city was formerly Luz.) 24 And the spies saw a man coming out of the city, and they said to him, "Please show us the way into the city, and we will deal kindly with you." 25 And he showed them the way into the city. And they struck the city with the edge of the sword, but they let the man and all his family go. 26 And the man went to the land of the Hittites and built a city and called its name Luz. That is its name to this day.

JUDGES 1



**INITIAL
OBEDIENCE**

1-26



**ISRAEL
CONQUERS
PARTS OF
CANNAN**

**SUBSEQUENT
DISOBEDIENCE**
**ISRAEL FAILS TO
COMPLETE THE
CONQUEST**

27-36



27 Manasseh did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shean and its villages, or Taanach and its villages, or the inhabitants of Dor and its villages, or the inhabitants of Ibleam and its villages, or the inhabitants of Megiddo and its villages, for the Canaanites persisted in dwelling in that land. 28 When Israel grew strong, they put the Canaanites to forced labor, but did not drive them out completely.

29 And Ephraim did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites lived in Gezer among them.

30 Zebulun did not drive out the inhabitants of Kitron, or the inhabitants of Nahalol, so the Canaanites lived among them, but became subject to forced labor.

JUDGES 1



31 Asher did not drive out the inhabitants of Acco, or the inhabitants of Sidon or of Ahlab or of Achzib or of Helbah or of Aphik or of Rehob, 32 so the Asherites lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land, for they did not drive them out.

33 Naphtali did not drive out the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh, or the inhabitants of Beth-anath, so they lived among the Canaanites, the inhabitants of the land. Nevertheless, the inhabitants of Beth-shemesh and of Beth-anath became subject to forced labor for them.

34 The Amorites pressed the people of Dan back into the hill country, for they did not allow them to come down to the plain.

35 The Amorites persisted in dwelling in Mount Heres, in Aijalon, and in Shaalbim, but the hand of the house of Joseph rested heavily on them, and they became subject to forced labor. 36 And the border of the Amorites ran from the ascent of Akrabbim, from Sela and upward.

JUDGES 1

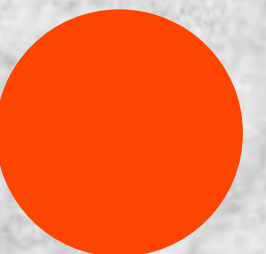


JUDGES 2

Now the angel of the Lord went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, "I brought you up from Egypt and brought you into the land that I swore to give to your fathers. I said, 'I will never break my covenant with you, 2 and you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall break down their altars.' But you have not obeyed my voice. What is this you have done? 3 So now I say, I will not drive them out before you, but they shall become thorns in your sides, and their gods shall be a snare to you." 4 As soon as the angel of the Lord spoke these words to all the people of Israel, the people lifted up their voices and wept. 5 And they called the name of that place Bochim. And they sacrificed there to the Lord.

ANGEL OF THE LORD

"THEOPHANY": WHEN GOD, PRESUMABLY
PRE-INCARNATE CHRIST, APPEARS ON
EARTH TO GIVE A MESSAGE.



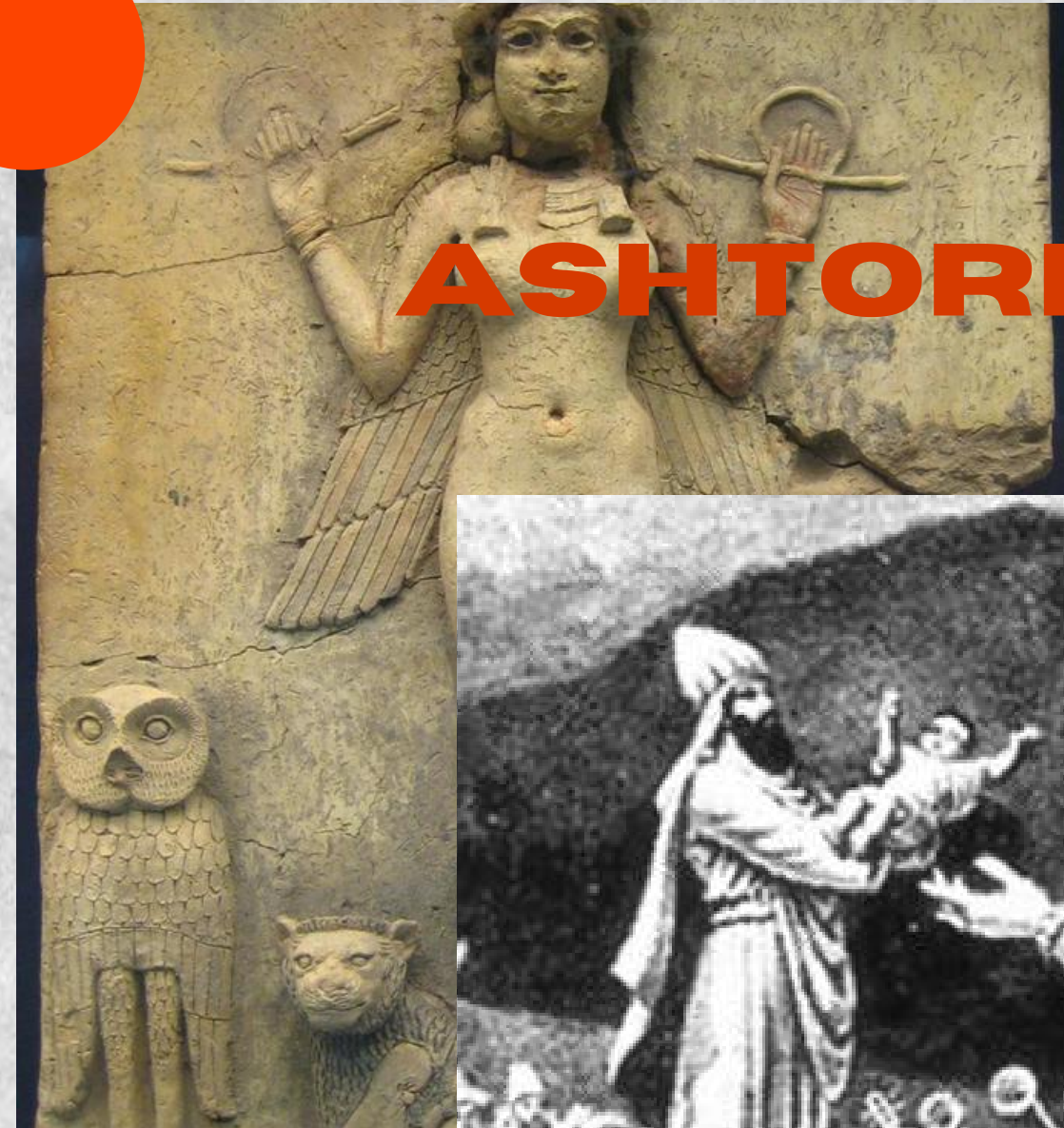
DISOBEDIENCE BRINGS MORE TEMPTATION

COMMAND: CONQUER AND DESTROY ALTARS

God commanded the children of Israel to take the land in its entirety and to destroy all of the altars of the Canaanites.

DISOBEDIENCE: COVENANTS AND PERMISSION

Instead, the Israelites allowed the Canaanites to dwell in the land, making agreements with them and allowing them to worship their false gods.



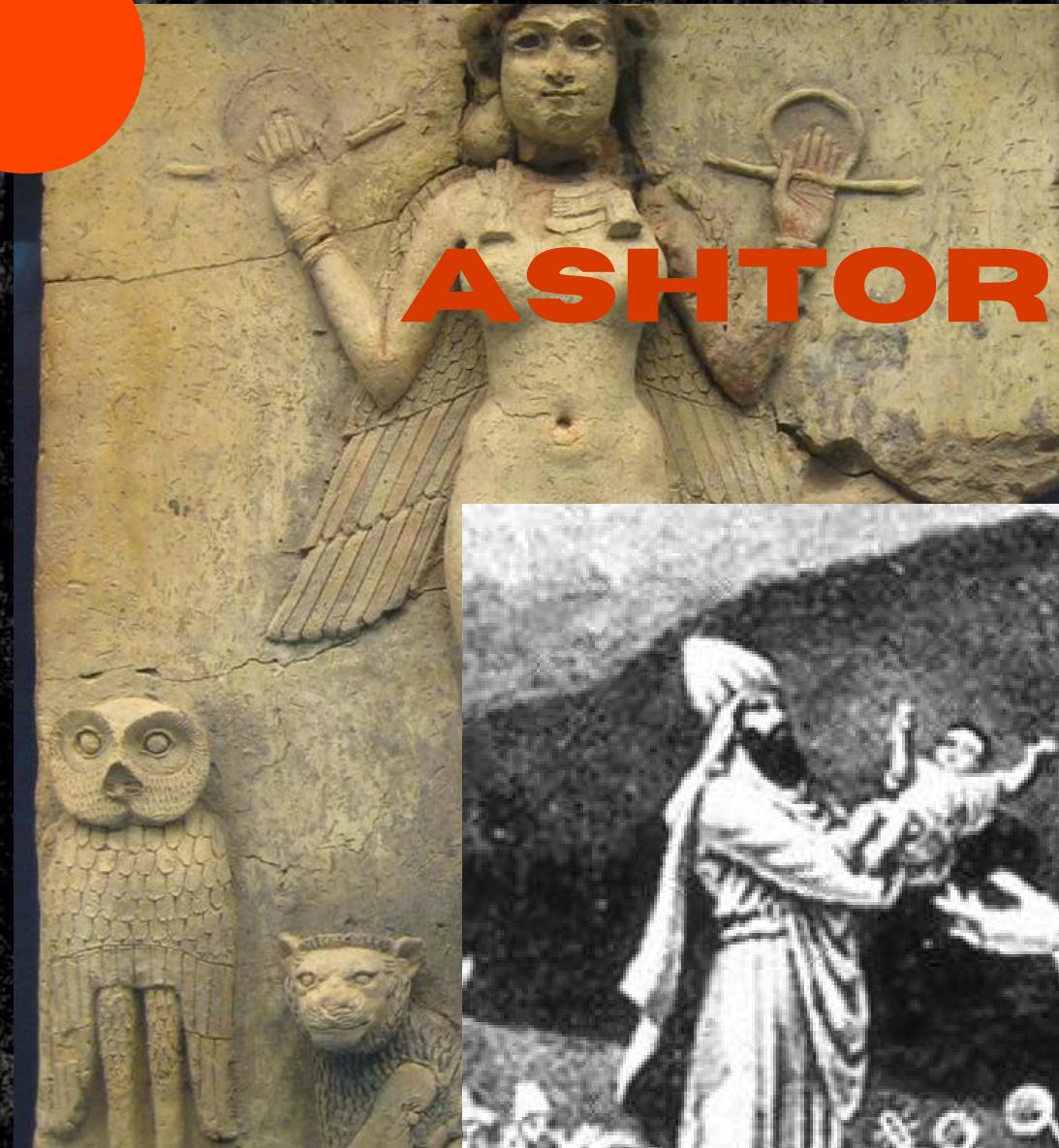
ASHTORETH

BA'AL

CANANITE IDOLATRY

Asherah/Ashtoreth/Astarte/Ishtar was considered the goddess of the moon (sister to Baal, the god of the sun). Worship involved sensuality and temple prostitution as she was considered the goddess of love. Divination and fortune-telling were also part of Ashtoreth worship. Her name was associated with the forest and her idol was an "Ashtoreth pole," a tree trunk with no limbs that bore her image of a symbol of her. Wickedly, King Manasseh put an Ashtoreth pole in the temple ([2 Kings 21:7](#)). Pagan worship continued to plague Israel due to their failure in Judges 1-2 ([Judges 3:7](#), [6:28](#), [10:6](#); [1 Samuel 7:4](#), [12:10](#)).

Baal means "lord" (plural *Baalim*) and was considered the most powerful Canaanite god. He was associated with the sun and storms and functioned as a fertility god. Temple prostitution was believed to arouse him leading him to provide crops, children, and victory in war. Worship involved sensuality/prostitution, ecstatic loss of control in worship, self-harm, and child sacrifice ([Jer. 19:5](#), [1 Kings 18:28](#)). Jesus calls Satan "Beelzebub," (Baal-zebub), indicating that idolatry is demon worship ([Matthew 12:27](#))



ASHTORETH



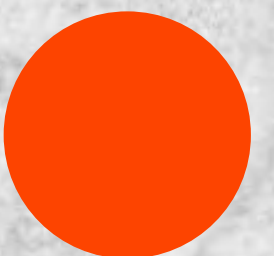
BA'AL

JUDGES 2

6 When Joshua dismissed the people, the people of Israel went each to his inheritance to take possession of the land. 7 And the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great work that the Lord had done for Israel. 8 And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died at the age of 110 years. 9 And they buried him within the boundaries of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of the mountain of Gaash. 10 And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. **And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.**

**TEACH THEM
DILLIGENTLY....**

**DEUT.6 COMMANDS PARENTS TO TEACH
THEIR CHILDREN COMMANDS AND
PRACTICES, TELLING THEM OF THE
GREAT WORKS OF GOD. THIS IS WHY.**

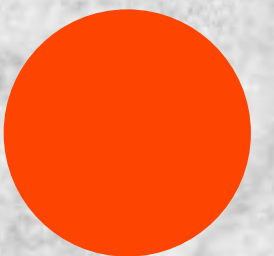


JUDGES 2

11 And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. 12 And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. 13 They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroath. 14 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. 15 Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.

YOU CAN'T SERVE GOD AND IDOLS.

IDOLATRY IS A REJECTION OF GOD. GOD IS RIGHTEOUSLY ANGRY AGAINST IDOLATRY, AND BRINGS DISTRESS UPON THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL.



JUDGES 2

16 Then the Lord raised up judges, who saved them out of the hand of those who plundered them. 17 Yet they did not listen to their judges, for they whored after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their fathers had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the Lord, and they did not do so. 18 Whenever the Lord raised up judges for them, the Lord was with the judge, and he saved them from the hand of their enemies all the days of the judge. For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who afflicted and oppressed them. 19 But whenever the judge died, they turned back and were more corrupt than their fathers, going after other gods, serving them and bowing down to them. They did not drop any of their practices or their stubborn ways. 20 So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he said, "Because this people have transgressed my covenant that I commanded their fathers and have not obeyed my voice, 21 I will no longer drive out before them any of the nations that Joshua left when he died, 22 in order to test Israel by them, whether they will take care to walk in the way of the Lord as their fathers did, or not." 23 So the Lord left those nations, not driving them out quickly, and he did not give them into the hand of Joshua.

DOWNWARD SPIRAL

ISRAEL FALLS INTO IDOLATRY

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GOD JUDGES ISRAEL

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THE PEOPLE CRY OUT FOR DELIVERANCE

God's people cry for help but don't seem to repent fully.

GOD SENDS A JUDGE TO DELIVER ISRAEL

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(THE CYCLE REPEATS)



KING



CONCLUSION: ISRAEL NEEDS A KING

Judges are a temporary fix for Israel's idolatry. They need a King to redeem them. But, as 1 Samuel shows us, it can't be just any King. Saul becomes a "King like other Kingdoms" and leads them to error. David is a man after God's own heart, a type of Him who was to come. But, even though David is a great King, he points forward to the King of Kings who will once and for all rescue and redeem God's people. Jesus promises to give us a new heart (Exodus 36:26–27) and put His spirit in us (Jeremiah 31).