

Judges Series

Lesson #11

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**Whom Will You Serve?
Judges 2:6ff; Josh 24**



JUDGES

**Moral Relativism
Destroys a Nation**

2021 Series

Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

1:1–3:6

Introduction

How Israel went from
spiritual victory
to being worse than
the Canaanites.

**Incomplete
obedience**

Compromise

Failure

Cycles of discipline

3:7–16:31

Paganization of the Leadership

Othniel (the best)

Ehud

Shamgar

Deborah

Gideon

Tola, Jair

Jephthah

Ibzan, Elon, Abdon

Samson

(the worst)

17:1–21:25

Paganization of the Priests

Chap. 17–18

**and the
People**

Chap. 19–21

What the Bible Teaches About

**God's Righteousness,
Justice, and Perfect Love**



1. God's love is always perfect.

- a. God knows everything, all possibilities, all realities, nothing escapes His full knowledge. God knows what will destroy us, and what will enable us to be great. We do not know these things.**
- b. God's desires for us are shaped by His perfect righteousness. All He desires is for our best, which conforms to His righteousness.**
- c. God's justice calls for God to act in conformity to His perfect righteousness and His love.**

2. God's perfect love, flawless righteousness, and impeccable justice work in harmony for the absolute best for the human race.

This entails the destruction of the Canaanites, not because He hates them, but because of their toxic religion.

3. God's discipline, whether directed to the perverse Canaanites or the disloyal, covenant-breaking Israelites, is always perfectly applied.

4. What God's perfectly Righteous standards reject, God's Justice must reprove, either through divine discipline on the believer, or judgment on unbelievers. God's grace extended the life of the Canaanite tribes for over 400 years.

Gen. 15:13, "Then He said to Abram: 'Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years.' "

Gen. 15:16, " 'But in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.' "

Judg. 2:6, “And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

Judg. 2:7, “So 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 works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.

Judg. 2:8, “Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

Judg. 2:9, “And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.”

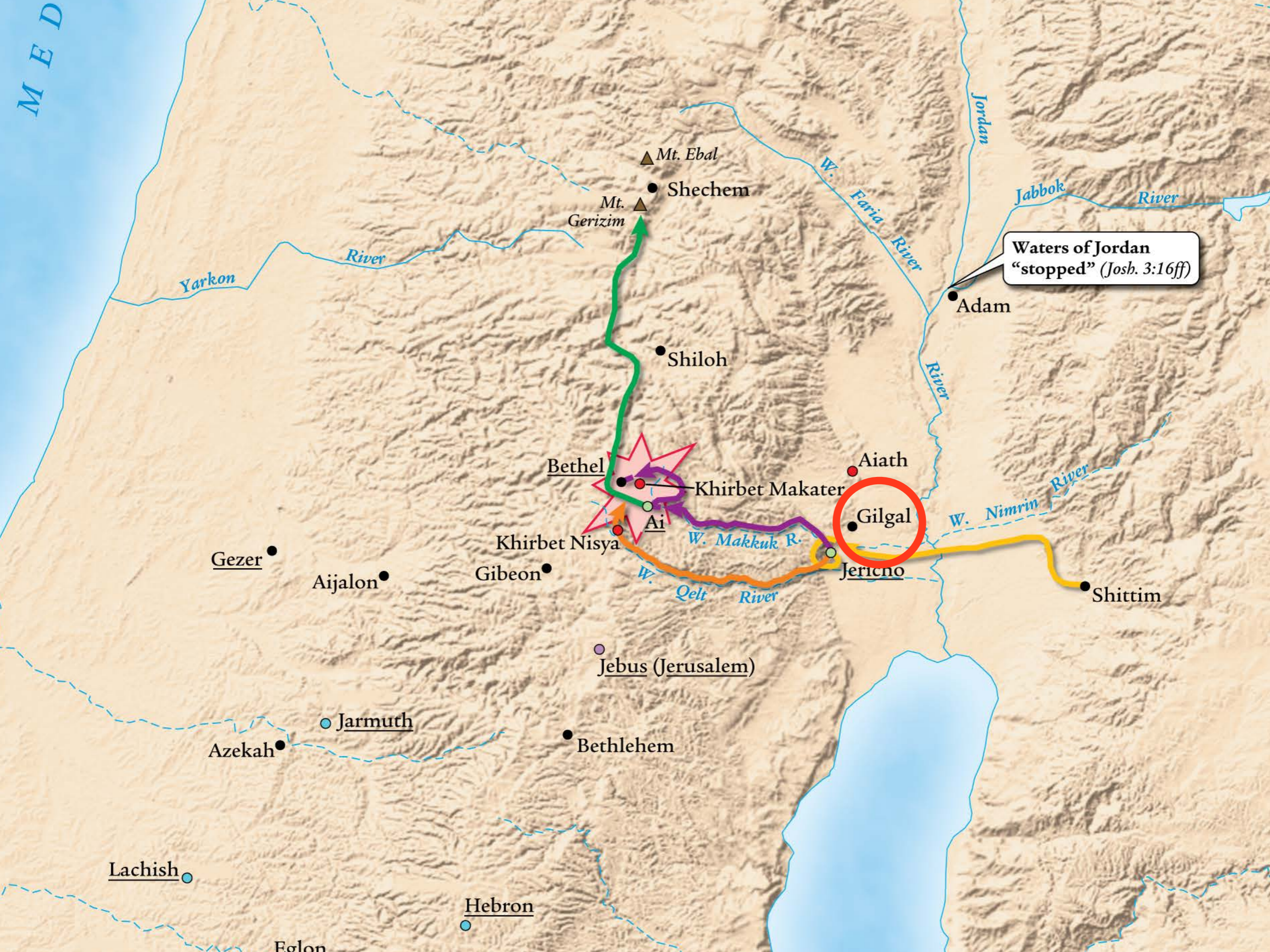
Judg. 2:1, “Then the **Angel of the LORD** came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: ‘I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, “I will never break My covenant with you.” ’ ’ ”

mala'k Yhwh

מַלְאֲכֵי יְהוָה

**Angel of the
Lord**

Why Gilgal?



M E D

Yarkon River

Mt. Gerizim

Mt. Ebal

Shechem

Shiloh

Bethel

W. Makkuk R.

Jebus (Jerusalem)

Bethlehem

Hebron

Eglon

Lachish

Azekah

Jarmuth

Aijalon

Gezer

Gibeon

Khirbet Nisya

Ai

Khirbet Makater

Gilgal

Jericho

Aiath

W. Nimrin River

Shittim

Waters of Jordan "stopped" (Josh. 3:16ff)

Adam

W. Faris River

Jabbok River

Jordan River

Josh. 5:8, “So it was, when they had finished circumcising all the people, that they stayed in their places in the camp till they were healed.

Josh. 5:9, “Then the LORD said to Joshua, ‘This day I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.’ Therefore the name of the place is called Gilgal to this day.”

Judg. 2:2, “and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars. But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done?”

**James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses!
Do you not know that friendship with the
world is enmity with God? Whoever
therefore wants to be a friend of the world
makes himself an enemy of God.”**

Judg. 2:4, “So it was, when the Angel of the LORD spoke these words to all the children of Israel, that the people lifted up their voices and wept.”

Judg. 2:6, “And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.

Judg. 2:7, “So 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 works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.

Judg. 2:8, “Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

Judg. 2:9, “And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.”

Josh. 24:1, “Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

Josh. 24:2, “And Joshua said to all the people, ‘Thus says the Lord God of Israel: “Your fathers, including Terah, the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, dwelt on the other side of the River in old times; and they served other gods.” ’ ”

Served: In English the idea is softened due to the issues of slavery. But this is an idea closer to slavery than being a hired servant.

עבד *ʿavad* qal wawConsec 3 masc plur to work, serve

עֶבֶד (*ʿebed*) slave, servant

עֲבוּדָה (*ʿăbôdâ*) labor, service

**עֲבֻדָּה (*ʿăbūddâ*) service (household servants)
(Gen. 26:14; Job 1:3)**

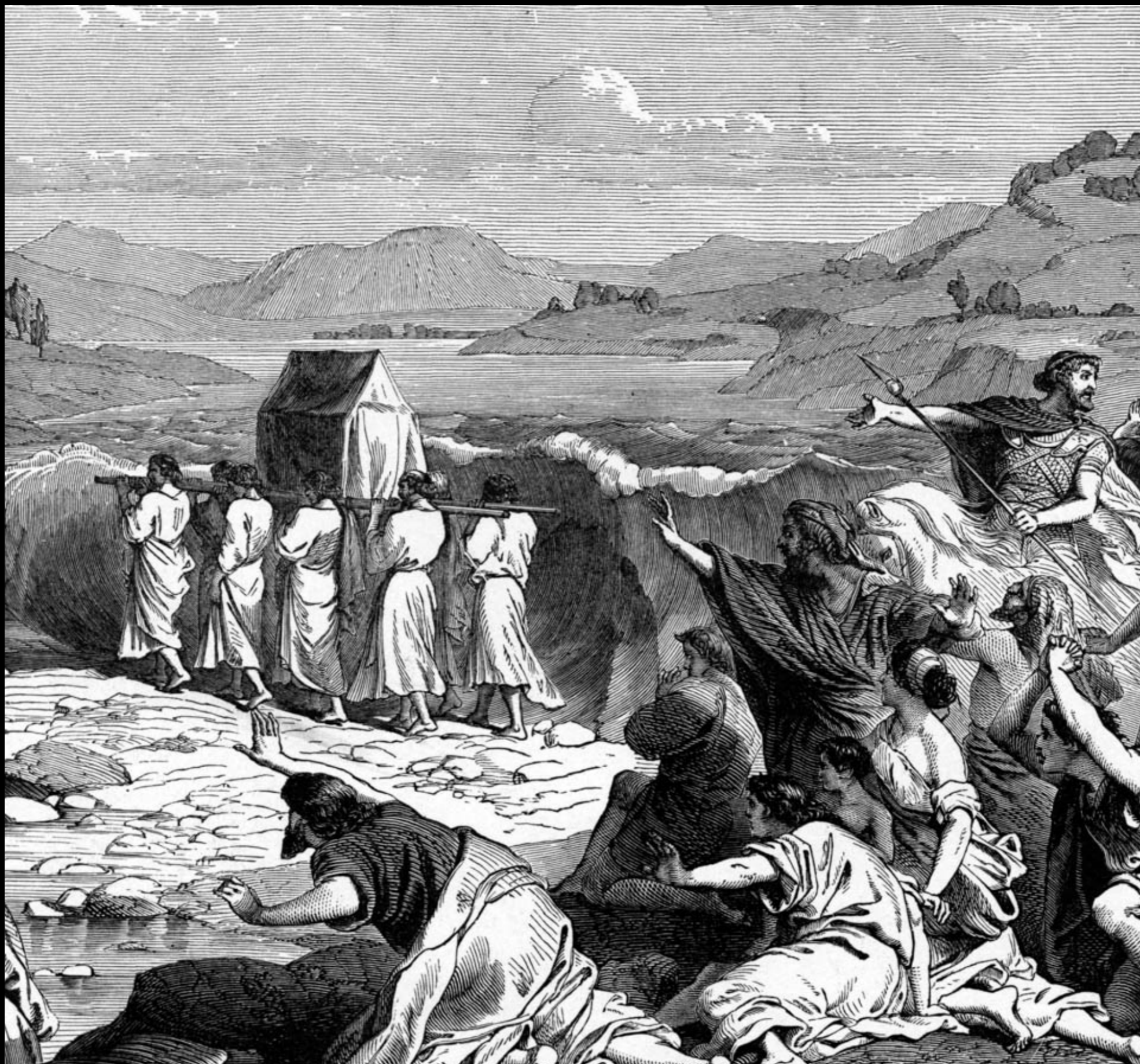
עֲבָדוֹת (*ʿabdût*) servitude, bondage

Josh. 24:1, “Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and called for the elders of Israel, for their heads, for their judges, and for their officers; and they presented themselves before God.”





And all the days of those who outlived Joshua, who had seen all of the great works of Yahweh



Depiction of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River

And all the days of those who outlived Joshua, who had seen all of the great works of Yahweh



Jericho, modern Tell es-Sultan (aerial view from the east)

And all the days of those who outlived Joshua, who had seen all of the great works of Yahweh



Et-Tell, possible location of Ai (aerial view from the east)

And all the days of those who outlived Joshua, who had seen all of the great works of Yahweh



Gibeon (aerial view from the southwest)

And all the days of those who outlived Joshua, who had seen all of the great works of Yahweh



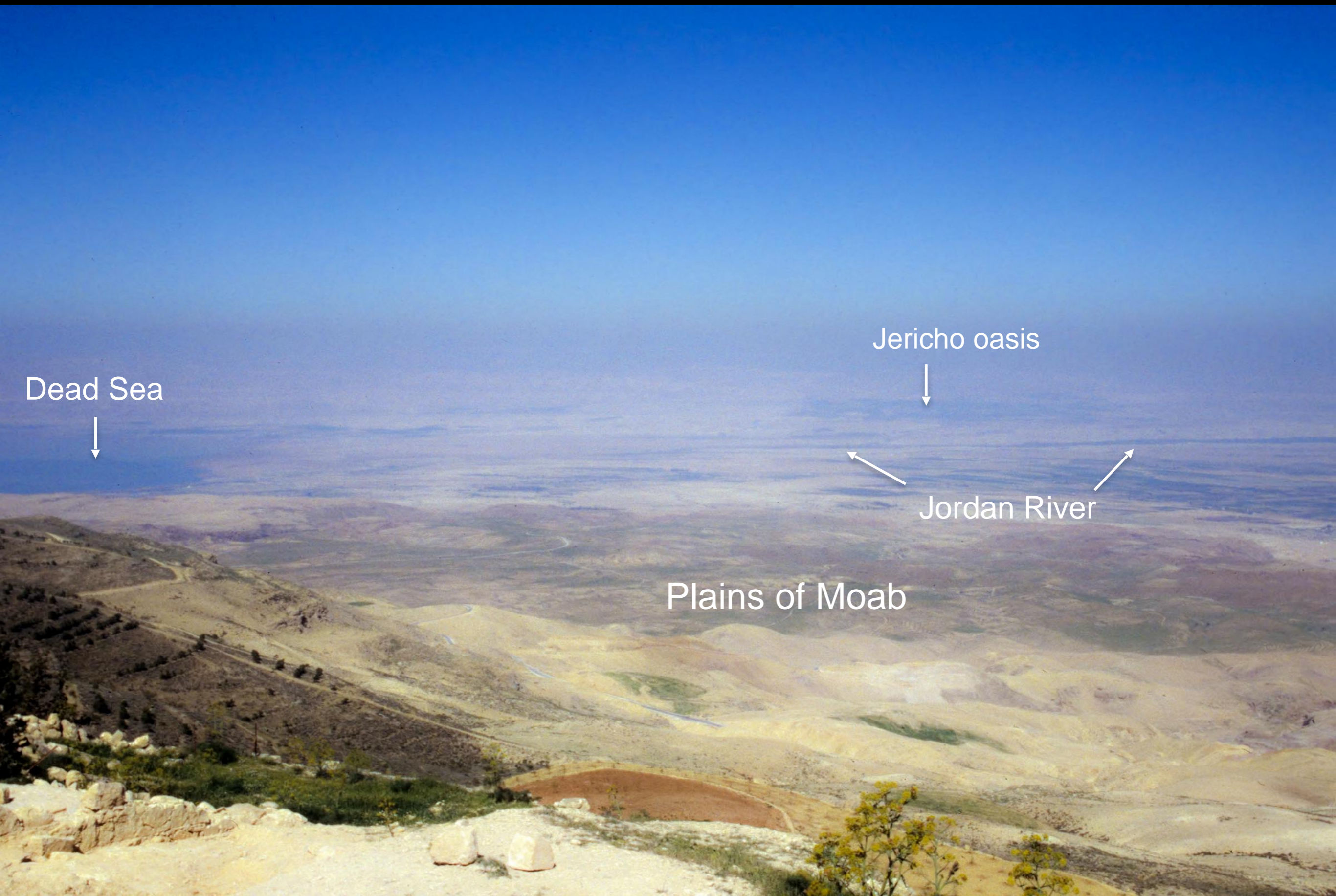
Hazor (aerial view from the south)

And I have brought you to the land which I swore to your fathers



Plains of Moab and the Dead Sea from Mount Nebo (from the east)

And I have brought you to the land which I swore to your fathers



Dead Sea

Jericho oasis

Jordan River

Plains of Moab

Plains of Moab and the Dead Sea from Mount Nebo (from the east)

And I have brought you to the land which I swore to your fathers



View from Mount Nebo (from the east)

Josh. 24:14, “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

Josh. 24:15, “And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

**Deut. 32:15, “But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked;
You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese!
Then he forsook God who made him, And
scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.**

**Deut. 32:16, “They provoked Him to jealousy
with foreign gods; With abominations they
provoked Him to anger.**

**Deut. 32:17, “They sacrificed to demons, not to
God, to gods they did not know, to new gods,
new arrivals that your fathers did not fear.**

**Deut. 32:18, “Of the Rock who begot you, you
are unmindful, and have forgotten the God who
fathered you.”**

Josh. 24:14, “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!

Josh. 24:15, “And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Josh. 24:16, “And the people answered and said, ‘Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods;’ ”

עזב-1 *azav-1*

qal

infinitiveConst

to forsake,

leave,

abandon

Josh. 24:17, “for the LORD our God is He who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage, who did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way that we went and among all the people through whom we passed.

Josh. 24:18, “And the LORD drove out from before us all the people, including the Amorites who dwelt in the land. We also will serve the LORD, for He is our God.”

Josh. 24:19, “But Joshua said to the people, ‘You cannot serve the LORD, for He is a holy God. He is a jealous God; He will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.’ ”

קָנָא *qanno*’ masc sing abs

zealous for something.

God is zealous for our complete devotion and service to Him. In sin, we see this used when our sin nature causes us to be zealous for something that belongs to someone else, so it becomes the negative idea of jealousy.

Josh. 24:20, “If you abandon the LORD and serve foreign gods, then He will turn and do you harm and consume you, after He has done you good.”

**Josh. 24:21, “And the people said to Joshua,
‘No, but we will serve the LORD!’**

**Josh. 24:22, “So Joshua said to the people,
‘You are witnesses against yourselves that you
have chosen the LORD for yourselves, to serve
Him.’ And they said, ‘We are witnesses!’ ”**

Josh. 24:23, “ ‘Now therefore,’ he said, ‘put away the foreign gods which are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD God of Israel.’ ”

Josh. 24:24, “And the people said to Joshua, ‘The LORD our God we will serve, and His voice we will obey!’ ”

Josh. 24:28, “So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.”

Note, verse 28 is similar to

Judg. 2:6, “And when Joshua had dismissed the people, the children of Israel went each to his own inheritance to possess the land.”

Rom. 1:1, “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.” Cf., Gal. 1:10

δοῦλος (*doulos*), slave;

δοῦλος, η, ον (s. next entry; Soph. et al.; PGiss 3, 5 ὧ πάντα δοῦλα; Ps. 118:91; Wsd 15:7; Philo; Jos., Ant. 16, 156; Ar. [Milne, 76, 49]; SibOr 3, 567)

pert. to being under someone’s total control, slavish, servile, ① male slave as an entity in a socioeconomic context, slave

② one who is solely committed to another, slave, subject [BDAG]

Rom. 6:16, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

Rom. 6:17, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”

Josh. 24:28, “So Joshua let the people depart, each to his own inheritance.

Josh. 24:29, “Now it came to pass after these things that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died, being one hundred and ten years old.”

Judg. 2:8, “Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.”

Josh. 24:30, “And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Serah, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.”

Judg. 2:9, “And they buried him in the territory of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.”