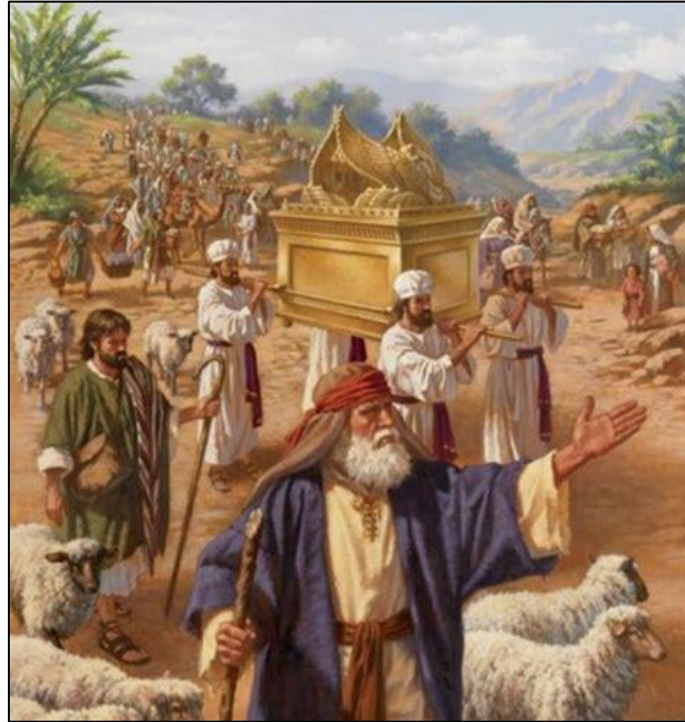


# The renewal of the Covenant with God



Joshua Chapter 8 vs 30 - 35

Nablus (Shechem), showing Mount Ebal (right) and Mount Gerizim (left).



Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses--an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the LORD burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.

There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua copied on stones the law of Moses, which he had written.

All Israel, aliens and citizens alike, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD, facing those who carried it--the priests, who were Levites.

Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel. Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law--the blessings and the curses--just as it is written in the Book of the Law. 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 aliens who lived among them.



Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites.



Attention to detail Deuteronomy 27:2-8

He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses  
-- an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used.

Don't add your efforts and  
decorations in sacrificial worship

Cf. the Finished work of Jesus

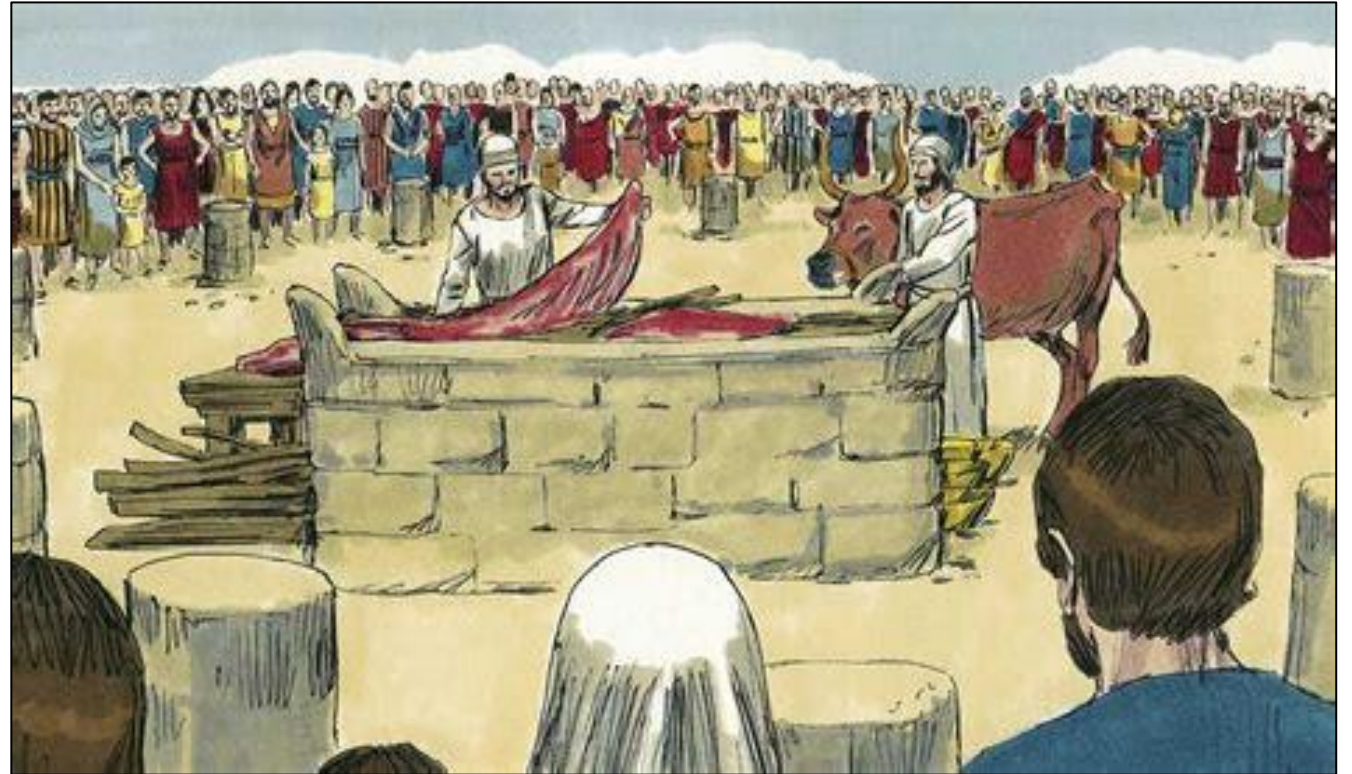


On it they offered to the LORD burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings.

Following the Levitical instructions

Burnt offerings = voluntary - surrender

Fellowship - shared meal - God's blessing



Deuteronomy 27:2-3 "And it shall be, on the day when you cross over the Jordan to the land which the Lord your God is giving you, that you shall set up for yourselves large stones, and whitewash them with lime. "You shall write on them all the words of this law, when you have crossed over, that you may enter the land which the Lord your God is giving you, 'a land flowing with milk and honey,' just as the Lord God of your fathers promised you.

## Previous instructions





There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua copied on stones the law of Moses, which he had written.

All of it ?

The 10 commandments ?

He copied from copy.

Written down by Moses but given by God

To be a permanent reminder



# THE 10 COMMANDMENTS

- 1 You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 2 You shall not make idols.
- 3 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.
- 4 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
- 5 Honour your father and your mother.
- 6 You shall not murder.
- 7 You shall not commit adultery.
- 8 You shall not steal.
- 9 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.
- 10 You shall not covet.

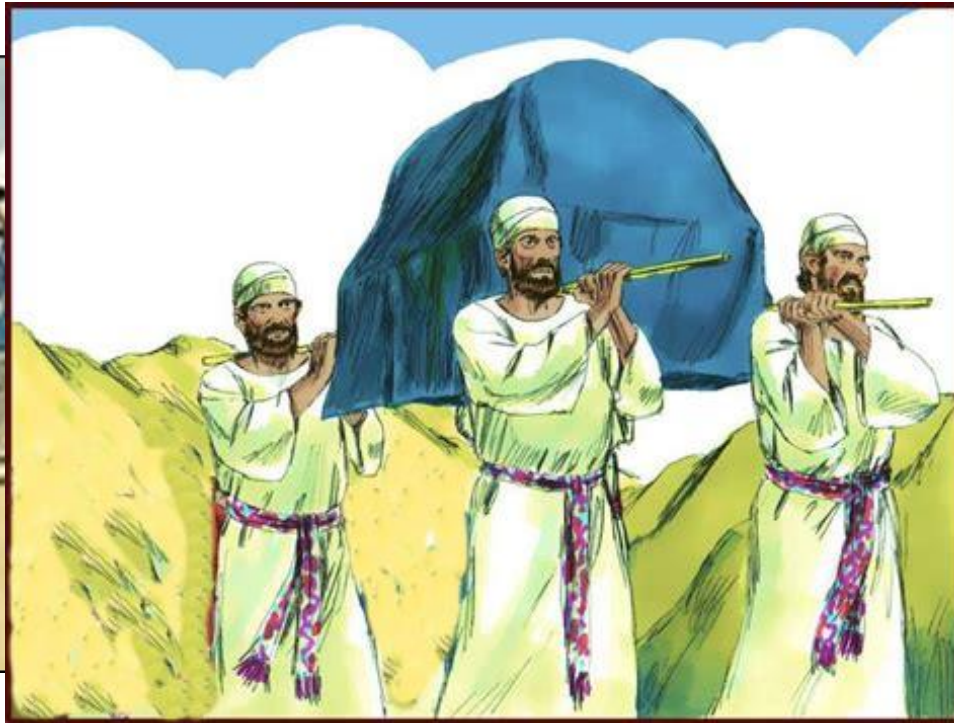
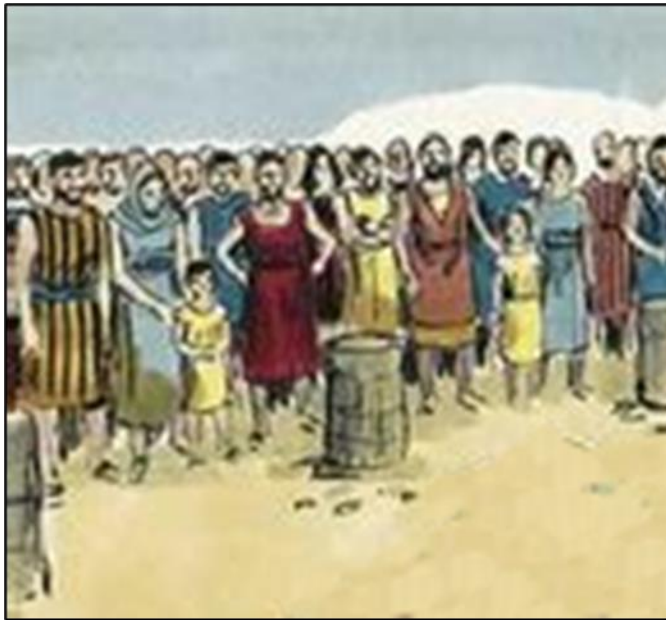
All Israel, aliens and citizens alike, with their elders, officials and judges,

Everyone was represented



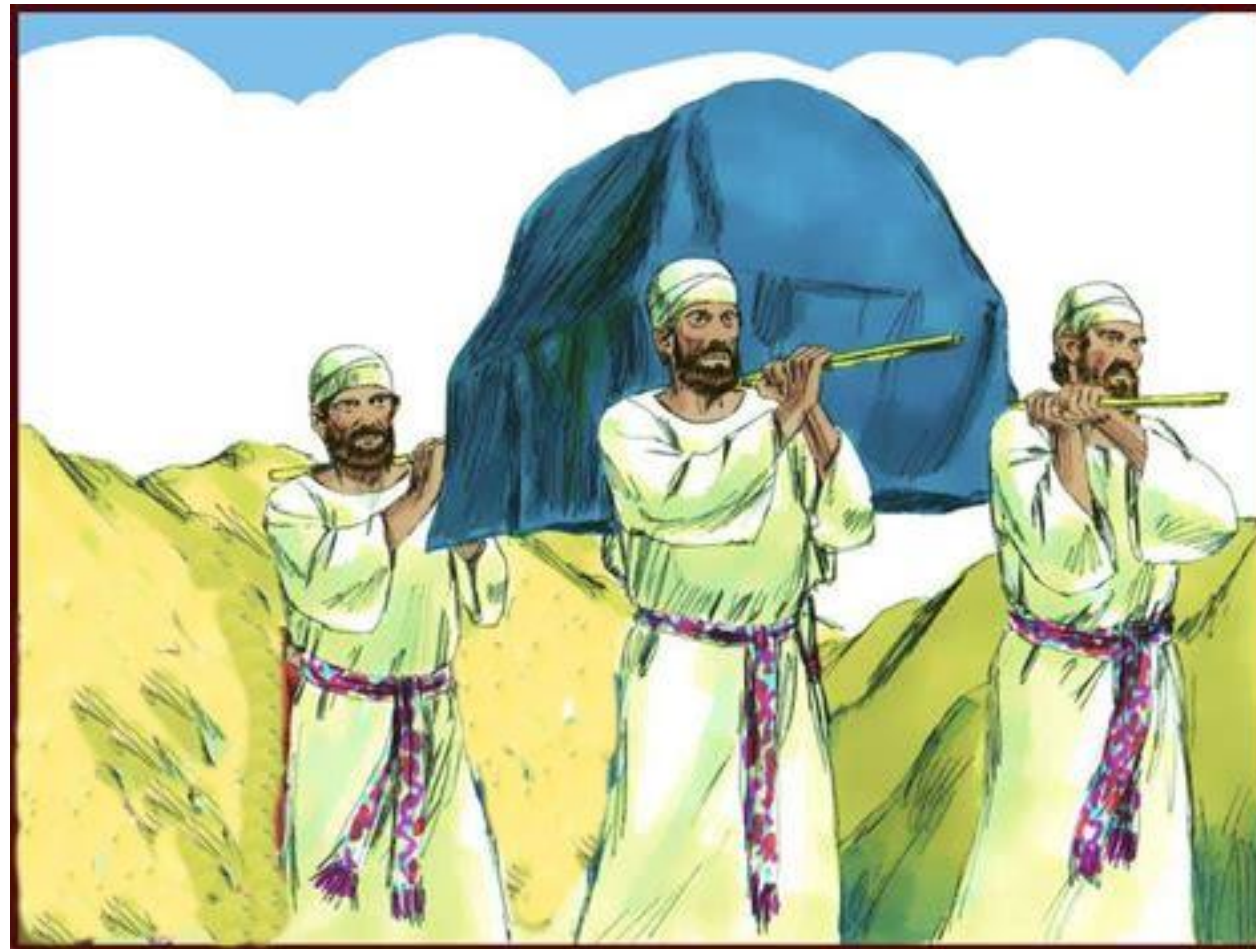
were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD,

Positions and focus -before God's presence



facing those who carried it--the priests, who were Levites.

Position priest's role



Renewal of covenant at the  
centre spot of Canaan  
That was the first place that  
Abraham built an altar and where  
Jacob came to settle.  
It was here that God promised  
Abraham the land of Canaan.

Genesis 12:7 The LORD  
appeared to Abram and said,  
"To your offspring I will give  
this land." So he built an altar  
there to the LORD, who had  
appeared to him.



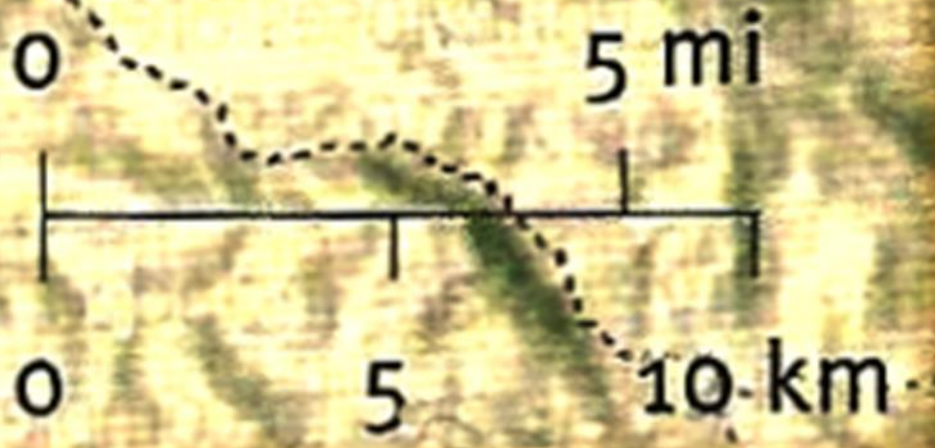
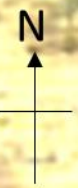


Reuben, Gad,  
Asher, Zebulun,  
Dan, Naphtali

*Mount Ebal* ▲

*Mount Gerizim* ▲  
Simeon, Levi,  
Judah, Issachar,  
Joseph, Benjamin

Shechem



Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim

Simeon, Levi,  
Judah, Issachar,  
Joseph, Benjamin





and half of them in front of Mount Ebal,

equal importance



Reuben, Gad,  
Asher, Zebulun,  
Dan, Naphtali

as Moses the servant of the LORD had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel.

Attention to detail - blessings intended

The LORD said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, `This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them.. " ` "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.` Numbers 6:22-26



Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law--the blessings and the curses -- just as it is written in the Book of the Law.

From Deuteronomy 27-28

He read from scrolls

### The whole truth

Curses for rebellion

Blessings for faithful obedience



All the people said – “Amen” to the curses!

# How did Joshua make himself heard?



There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel,

We didn't know

**NO EXCUSES**

WOW! To all the promised blessings.

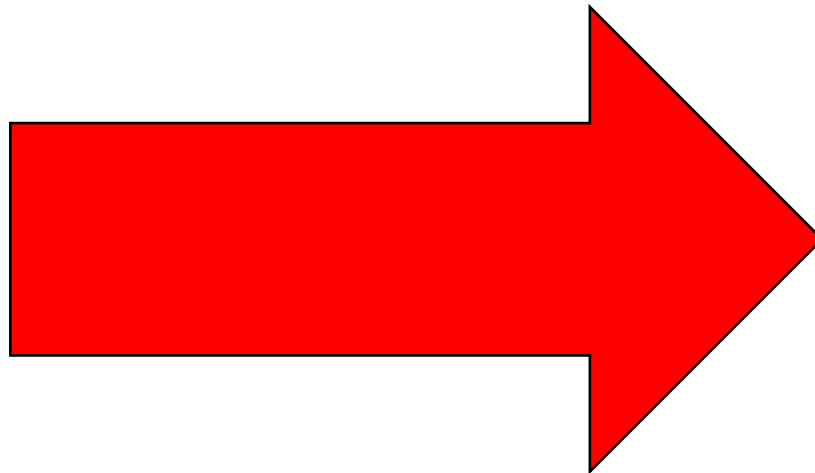
the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the aliens who lived among them.

God's word not just for select few  
All committed to God, both young and old



## How good are you at keeping your commitments?

Judges 2:7 The people served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had seen all the great things the LORD had done for Israel.



## God's commitment - a Prophecy and promise

Deuteronomy 30:1-3 When all these blessings and curses I have set before you come on you and you take them to heart wherever the LORD your God disperses you among the nations, and when you and your children return to the LORD your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.



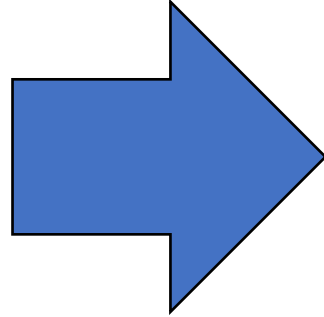


Joshua copied on stones the law of Moses.

Renewal of the Covenant – new generation – a fresh commitment needed

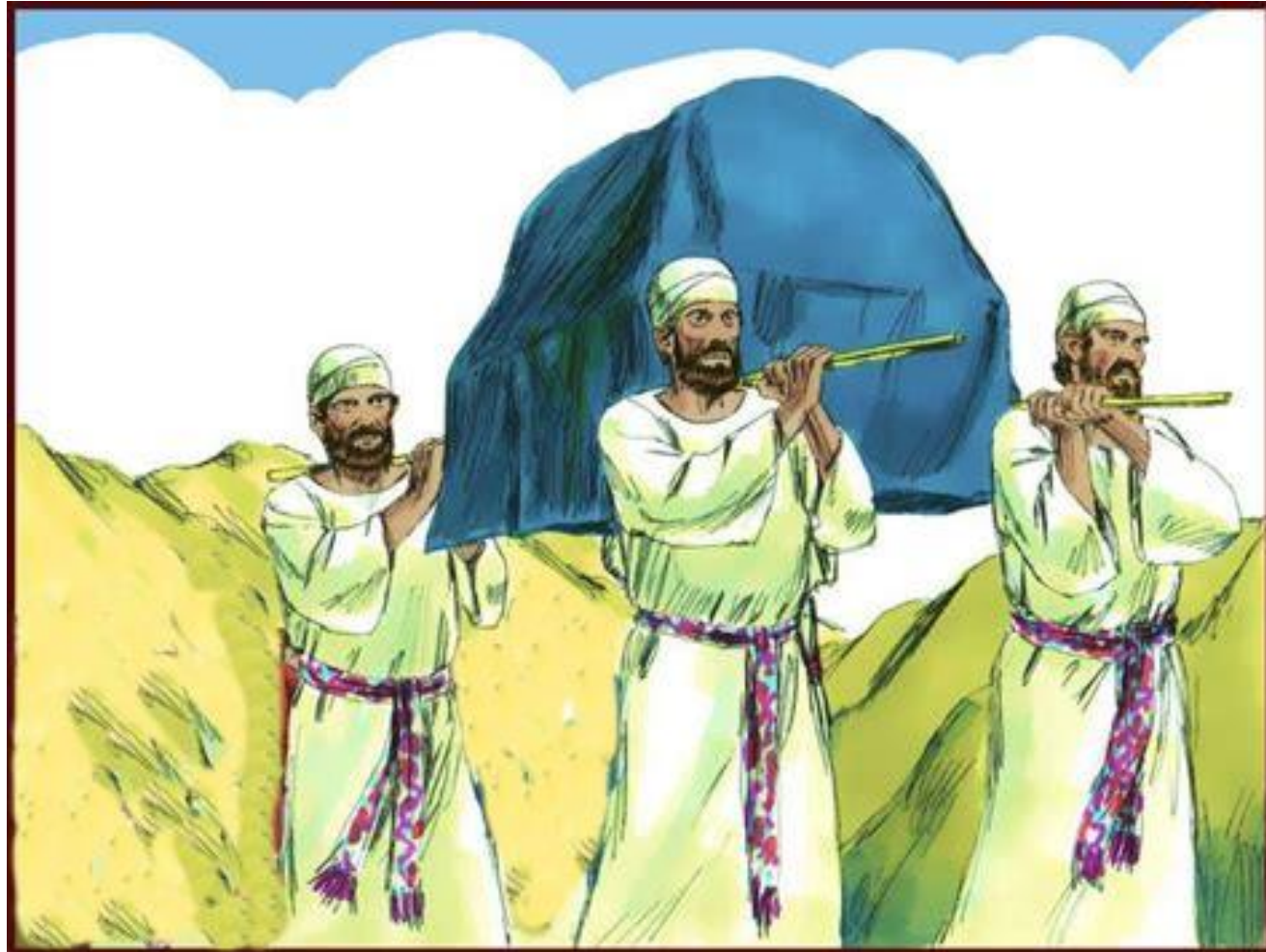


Jeremiah 31:31 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah."



Jeremiah 31:33 "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.





## Joshua Chapter 8 vs 30 - 35

This passage is about commitment to God and his ways.  
Are we?

Jesus speaks in Mark 8:34

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said:  
"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."