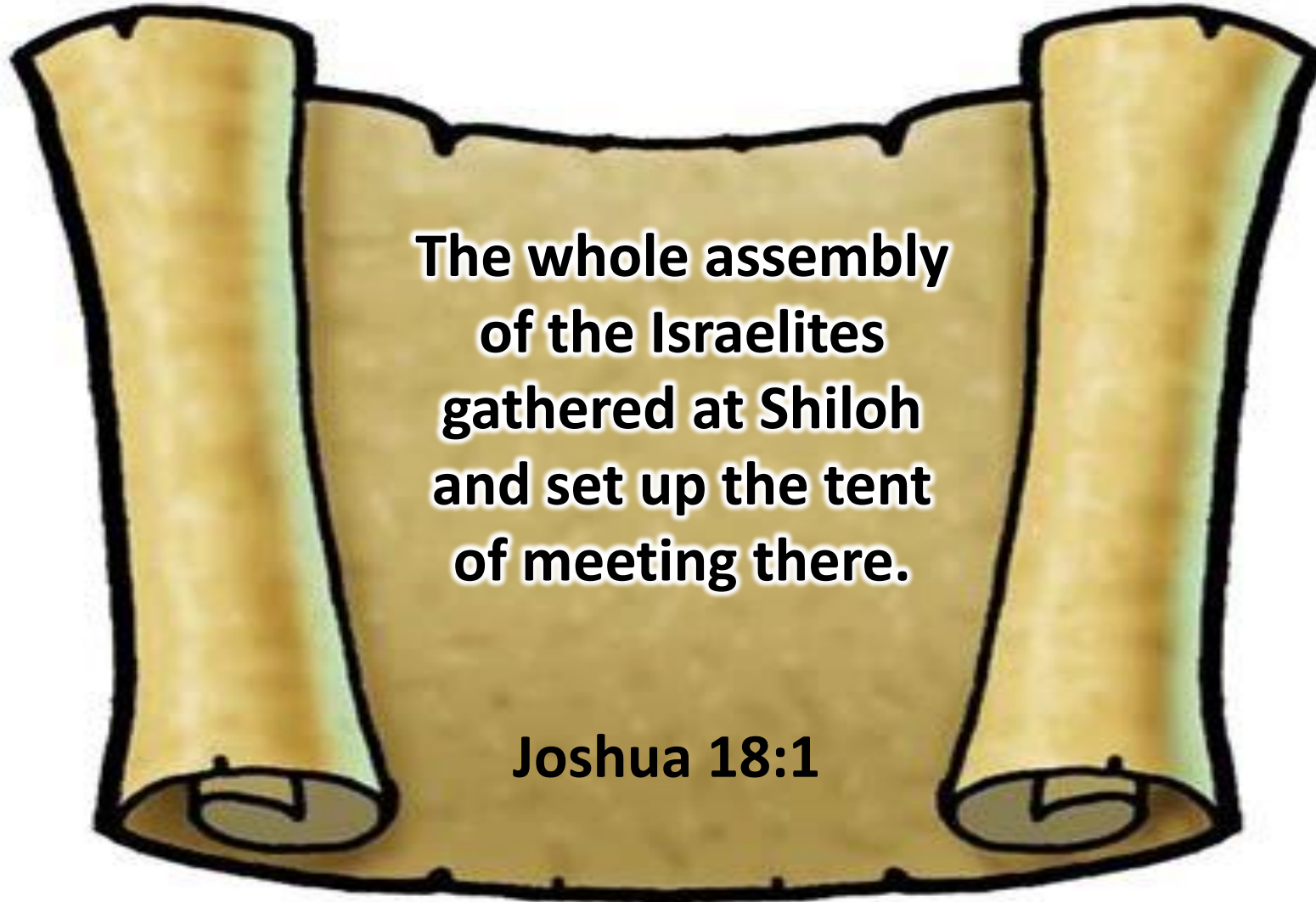


**At rest at last!**

**The whole assembly  
of the Israelites  
gathered at Shiloh  
and set up the tent  
of meeting there.**

**Joshua 18:1**



The whole assembly of the Israelites  
gathered at Shiloh  
and set up the tent of meeting there.

Joshua 18:1

**There are 3 interesting points in this first verse that illustrate themes that run throughout the whole of the Scriptures:-**

- 1, the term 'the assembly' - who meets with God
- 2, the place 'Shiloh' - where we meet with God
- 3, 'the Tent of Meeting' - how we meet with God

# 1, the term 'the assembly'

עֵדָה ay-dah

Assembly, crowd, testimony, witness  
(it is also used of a *swarm* of bees in Judges 14:8)

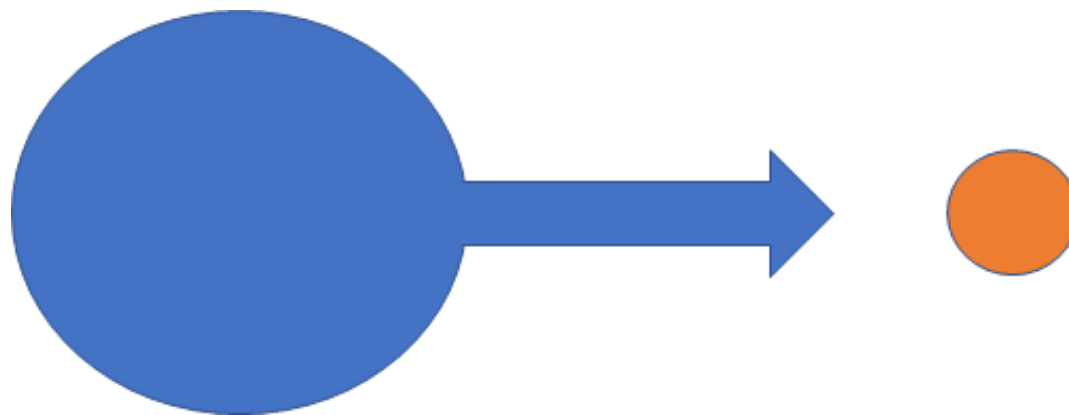
This term - 'the whole **congregation** of the children of Israel'  
is a frequently used in the Hebrew bible.

# 1, the term 'the assembly'

עֵדָה      ay-dah

It means a gathered community ( a called-out people)

“It applied to the Israelites, as being a nation called out by God from the rest of the world, to bear witness to His unity, to preserve His laws, to keep alive the hope of Redemption, and to exhibit the pattern of a people living in righteousness and true godliness.”



# 1, the term 'the assembly'

In around 300BC, the first translation of the Hebrew Bible was made from Hebrew into Greek, by Jewish scholars. It is known as the Septuagint.



This was the version commonly used during the time of Jesus and the apostles. The word 'assembly' was translated by the Greek word ἐκκλησία (ecclesia)

# 1, the term 'the assembly'

Greek word ἐκκλησία (ecclesia) which comes from 2 words 'ek' meaning 'out of' and 'kaleo' 'to call' i.e. the 'called-out' group.

This conveys the meaning of the Hebrew 'ay-dah'.



## The use of the Greek word ἐκκλησία (ecclesia) in Jesus' time:-

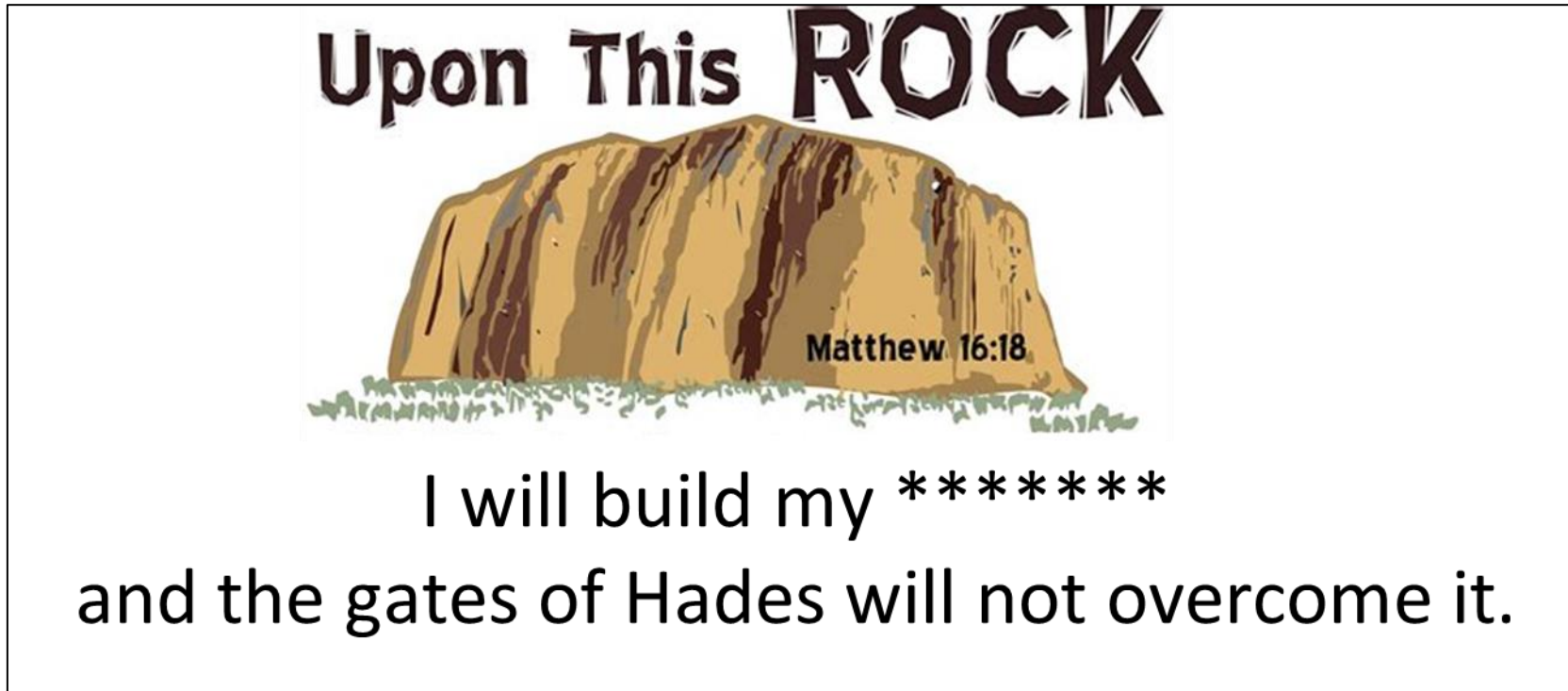
In the martyr Stephen's speech to his accusers he spoke of the people of Israel in Moses' time as the 'assembly' in the desert

*Acts 7:38 Moses was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.*



The word he uses in Acts 7 is 'ecclesia'

When Jesus spoke to his disciple Peter in Matthew 16 he probably spoke in Hebrew/Aramaic and used the word 'ay-dah' or a word with a related meaning .

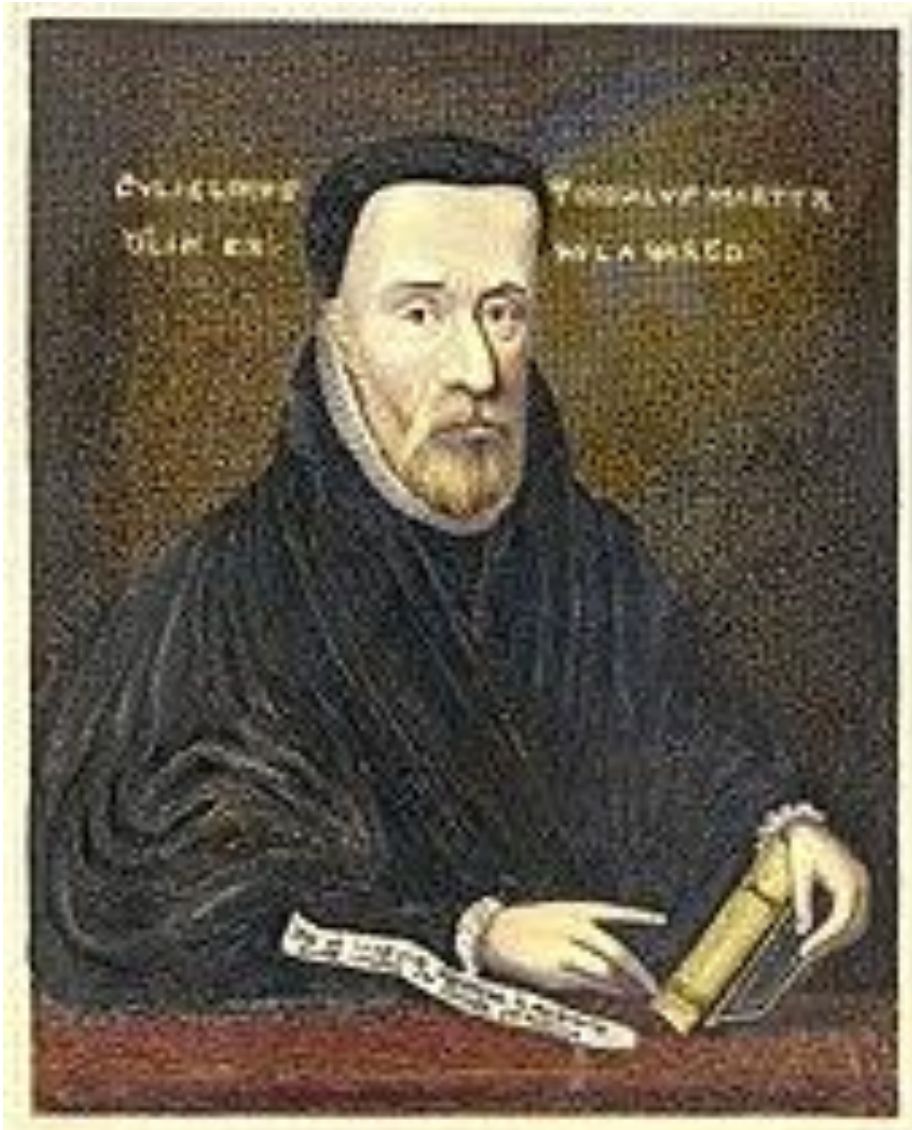


In Matthew's gospel account the word is 'ecclesia'



When William Tyndale in 1534 produced the first English translation of the Bible the word he used to translate 'ecclesia' was 'congregation'.

This was considered very subversive by the religious authorities!





When King James I commissioned a new translation of the Scriptures, much of it was based on Tyndale's translation. However, he insisted that the word 'ecclesia' should be translated as 'church'. By this means he imported all the mediaeval connotations of buildings and rituals associated with the word 'church'.

We have to remind ourselves that the 'church' is not a building but a 'called-out assembly' of believers.

## A called-out Remnant

During the siege in King Hezekiah's time, Isaiah gave him this word.

For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. "The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. 2 Kings 19:31

As we see in the Bible history, there were during the OT period people who were true to God while others were rebellious. Isaiah and the prophets speak of a 'remnant' who remained true to the faith of the fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob



## Paul speaks of the remnant in Romans 9.

Romans 9:6 But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

The same can be applied to congregations of churches. We are not saved by 'turning up' etc. but by a living faith in the one true God.



The 'called-out' ones are the true disciples of Jesus, the Messiah.

## 2, the place 'Shiloh'



The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh  
Joshua 18:1

They moved from their base at Gilgal.

## Location

This is accurately described in Judges 21:19

... Shiloh, which lies north of Bethel, east of the road that goes from Bethel to Shechem, and south of Lebonah."

It was a city in the lot of Ephraim, but lying close upon the lot of Benjamin



## Present-day 'Shiloh'



Identification of the ruin as ancient Shiloh has been nearly unanimous. There are storehouses and signs of destruction that have been dated to the right time period.

In 1978, modern Shiloh was established beside the ancient site.

# The Tabernacle site at 'Shiloh'

The plateau area faces East-West

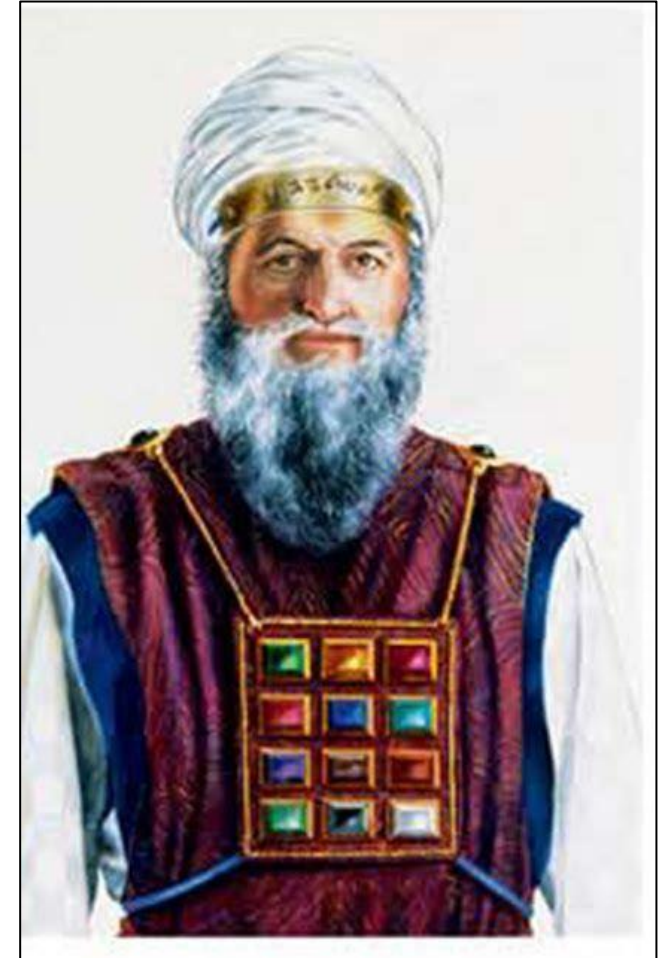




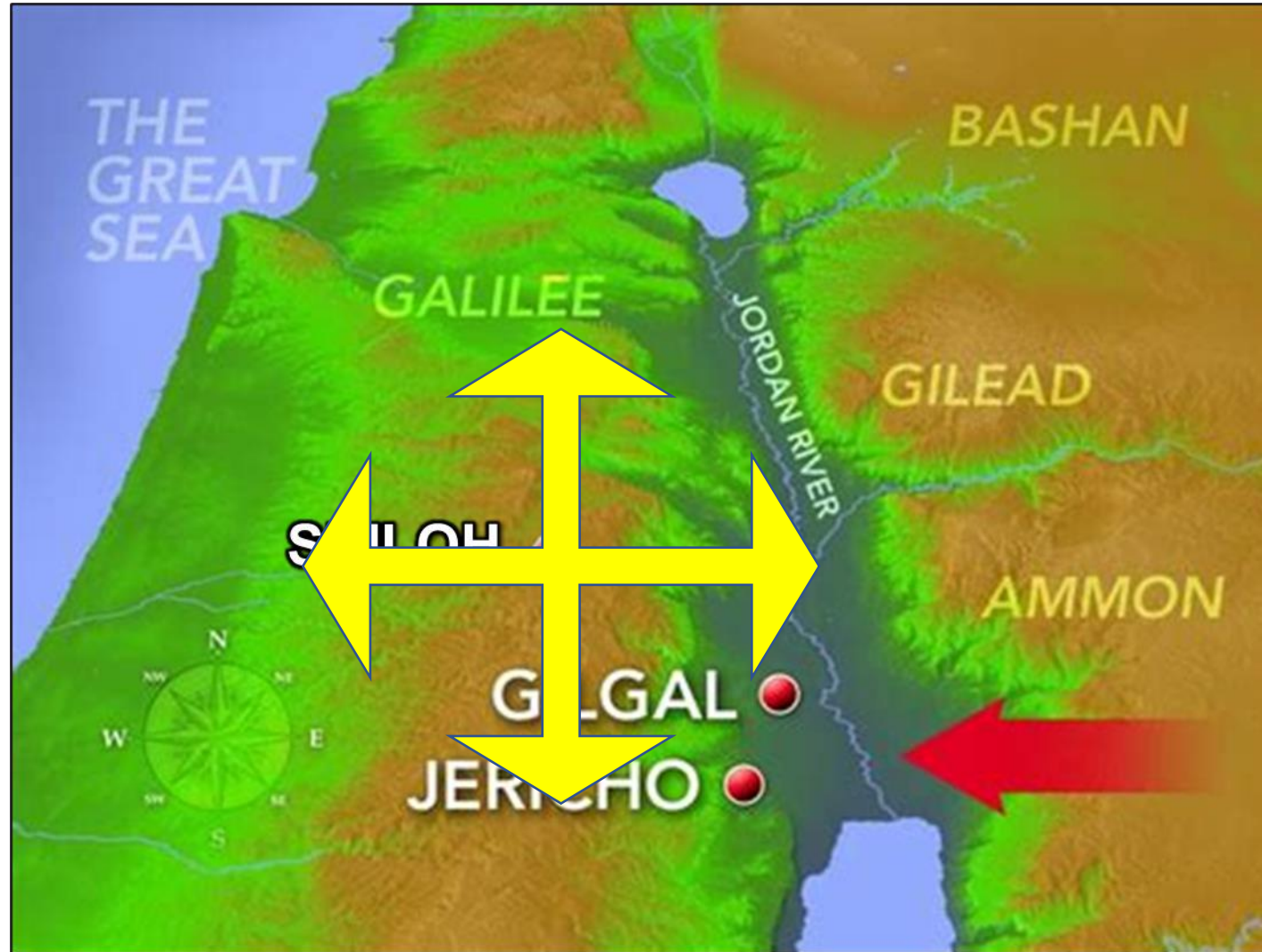
# 'Shiloh' Why there?

God himself in some way or other directed them to this place. It is possible that he showed his choice by means of revelation to the High Priest.

Deuteronomy 12:11 ... the place the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his Name-



# 'Shiloh' Why there?

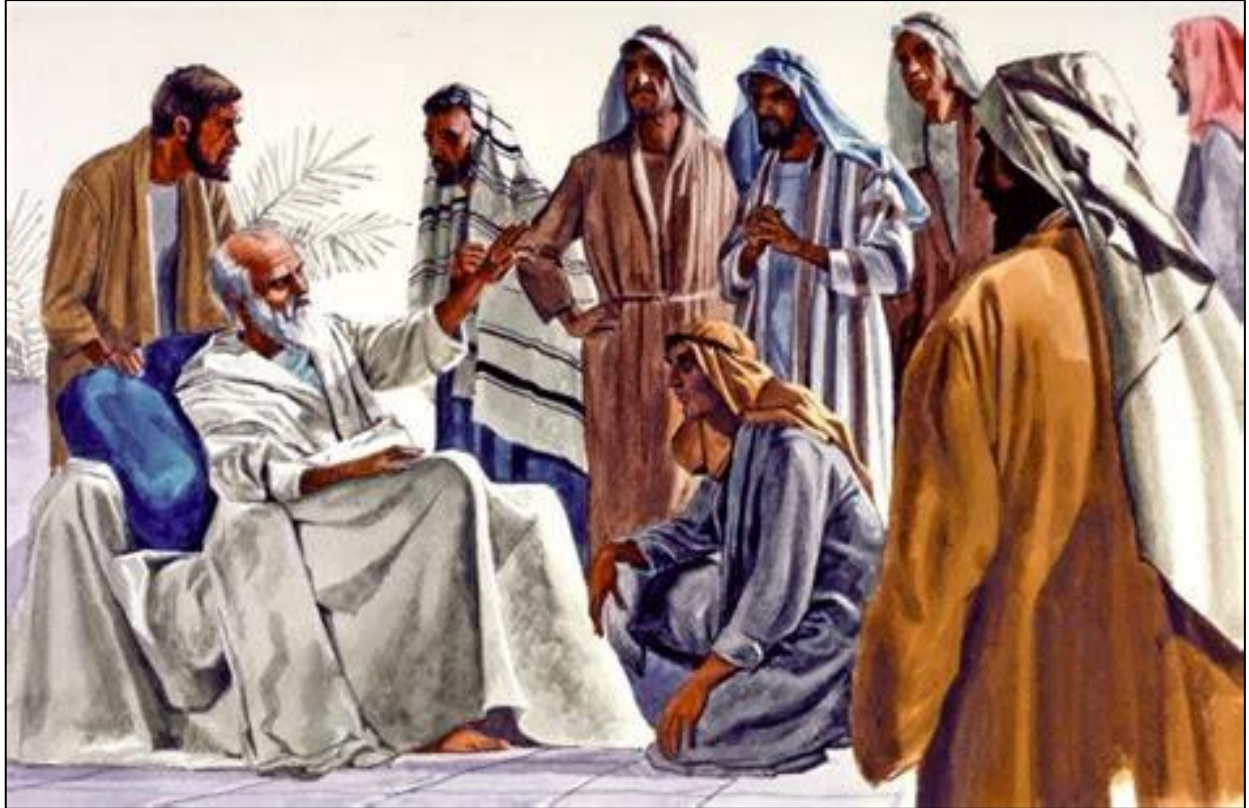


It was at a central position in the land and reasonably accessible to all.

## ‘Shiloh’ links to the Messiah

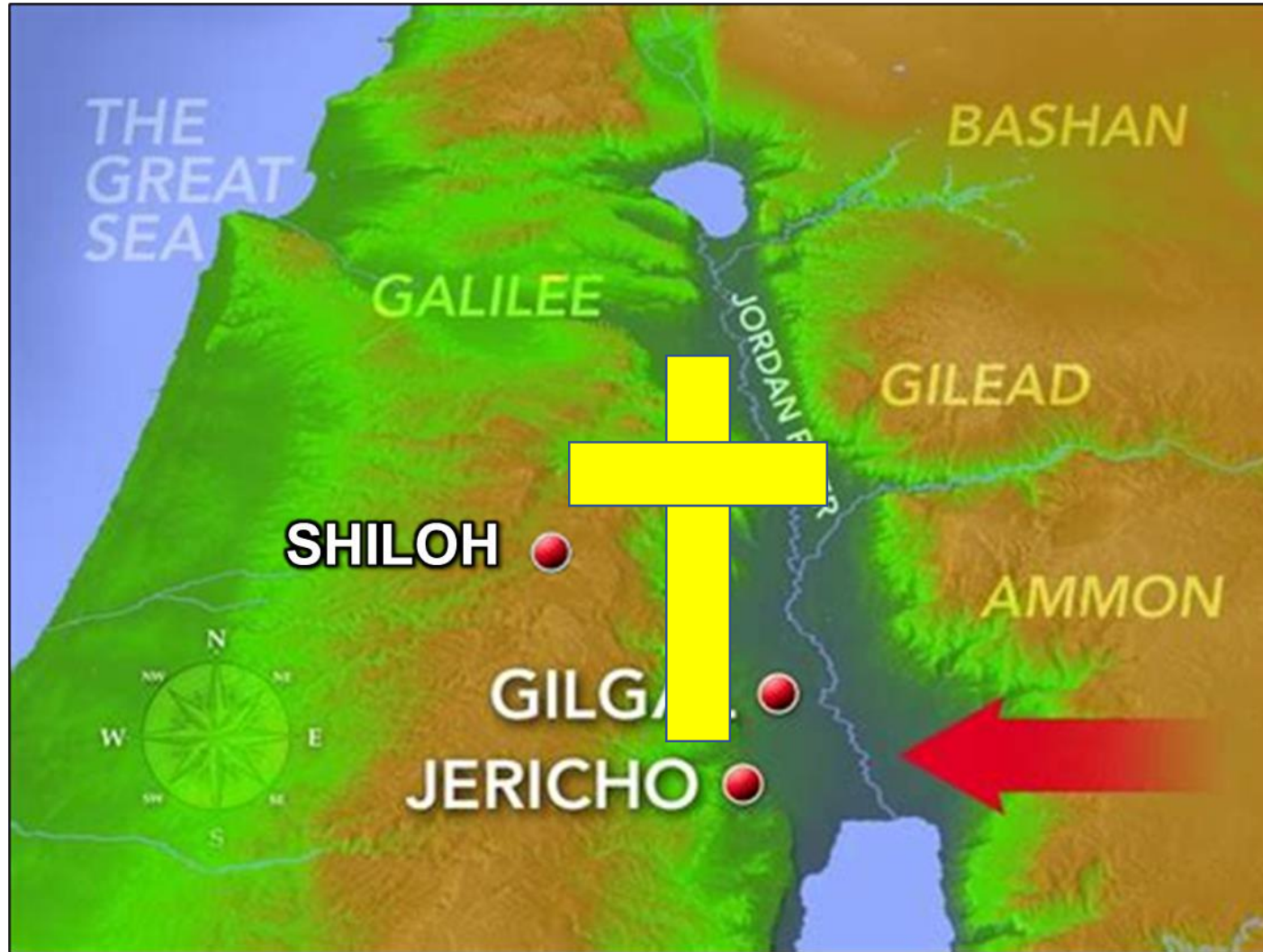
When Jacob calls his sons together to bless them (Genesis 49:10), he says of Judah,

Genesis 49:10 The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to **whom it belongs (Shiloh)** shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.



What is this “Shiloh”? The famous Jewish commentator Rashi declared that Shiloh refers to the Messiah himself.

# Where do we meet with God? At 'Shiloh'

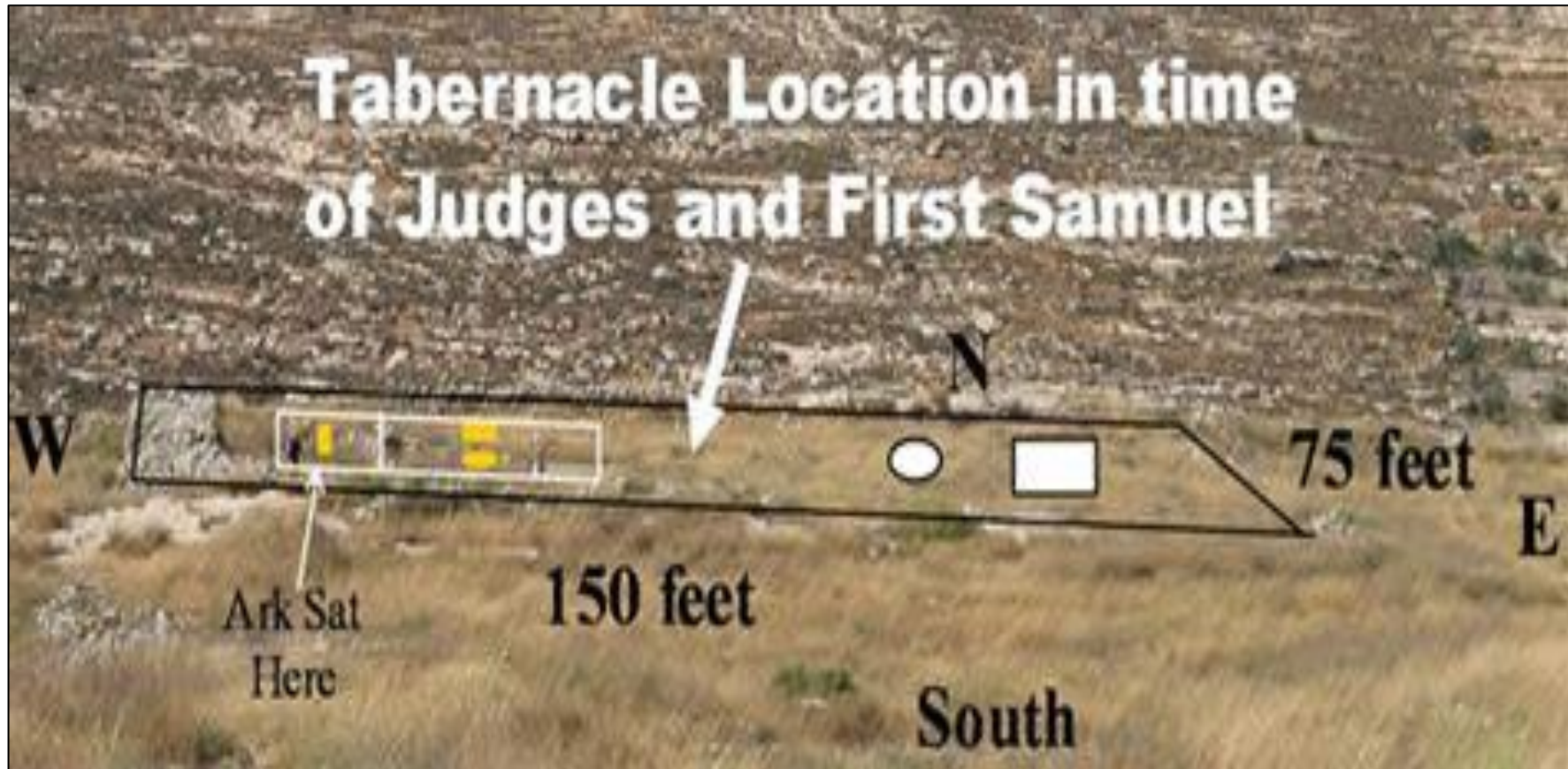


Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

The Father's appointed meeting place.

### 3, the Tent of Meeting

The whole assembly of the Israelites gathered at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. Joshua 18:1



### 3, the Tent of Meeting

Exodus 29:42-45 It shall be a regular burnt offering throughout your generations at the entrance of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there. There I will meet with the people of Israel, and it shall be sanctified by my glory. I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar. Aaron also and his sons I will consecrate to serve me as priests. I will dwell among the people of Israel and will be their God.



# the Tent of Meeting



The Tabernacle was not impressive outwardly.  
It was not erected as a monument

## Contrast - The Second (Herod's) temple



Mark 13:1 As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!"



# The glory of the Tent of Meeting

## A lesson throughout the Bible

**It's not for show!**

1 Peter 3:3-4 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewellery or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

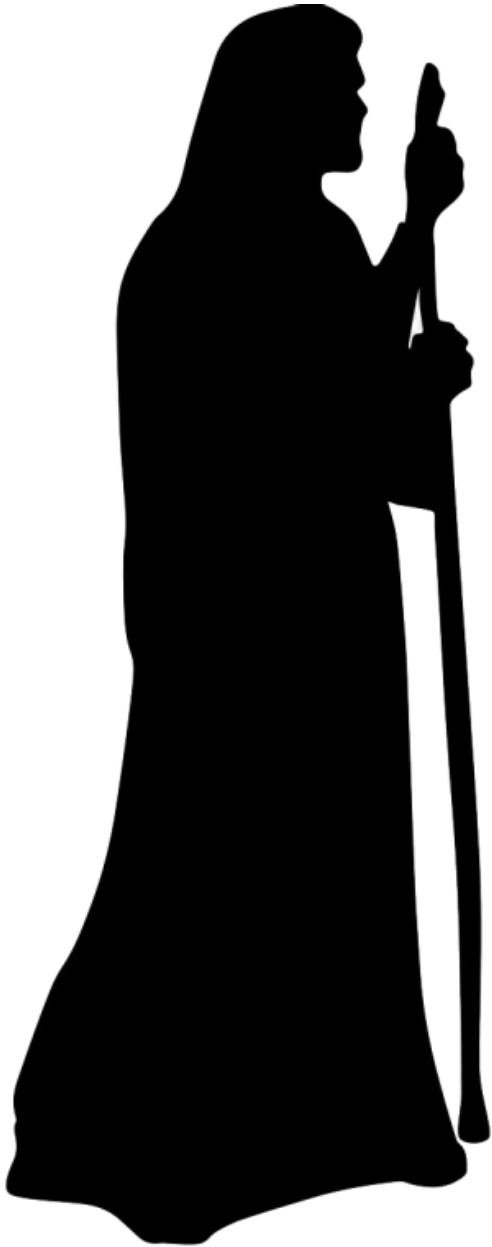


# It's not for show!

1 Corinthians 2:3-5 I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.



## The glory veiled



Isaiah 53:1-3 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

## The glory veiled



Philippians 2:6-11 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**The name tells us the function was the important point**

## **The Tent of Meeting**

A place to meet with God.

Matthew 6:5-6 "And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.



## How we meet with God.

Hebrews 10:19-23 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a High Priest over the house of God, **let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.** Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

