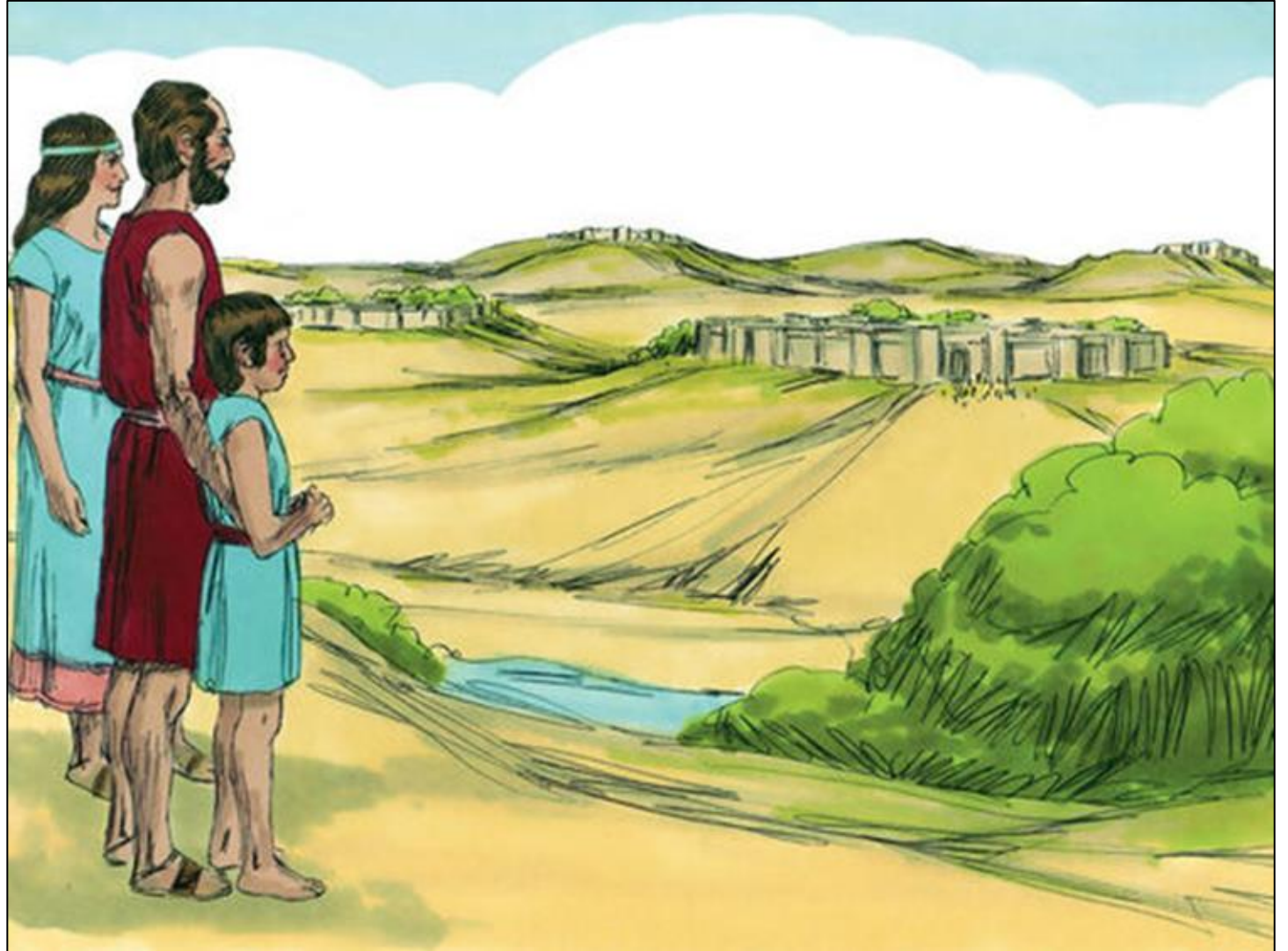


# God had kept his promise.

Joshua 21:44-45 The LORD gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the LORD's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.



## Joshua 22:1-9 **Going home at last.**

Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh and said to them, "You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded.

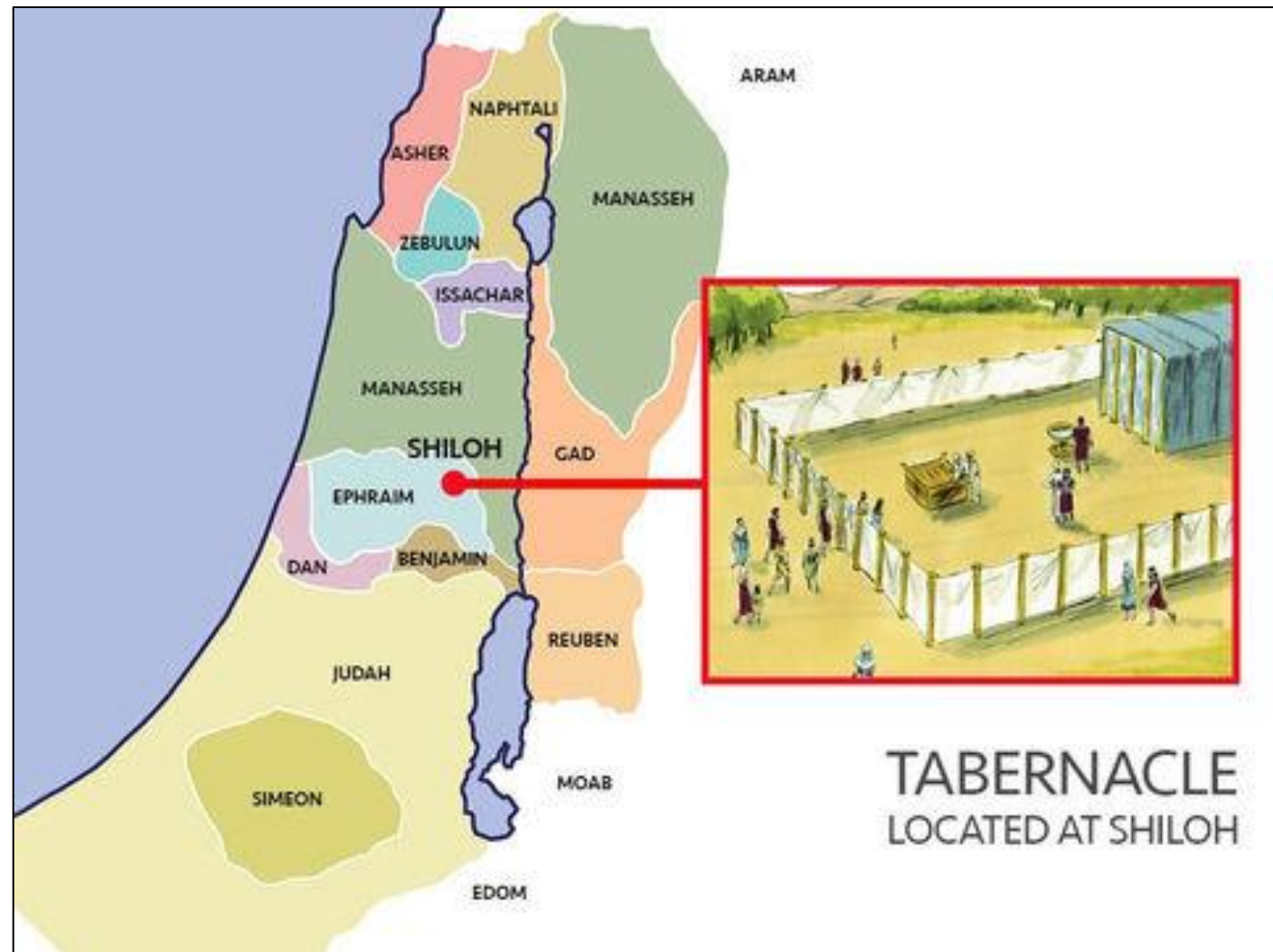
For a long time now--to this very day--you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you. Now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan. But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you.. to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

## Joshua 22:1-9 Going home at last.

Then Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their homes. (To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to the other half of the tribe Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan with their brothers.) When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them, saying, "Return to your homes with your great wealth--with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and a great quantity of clothing--and divide with your brothers the plunder from your enemies." So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the LORD through Moses.

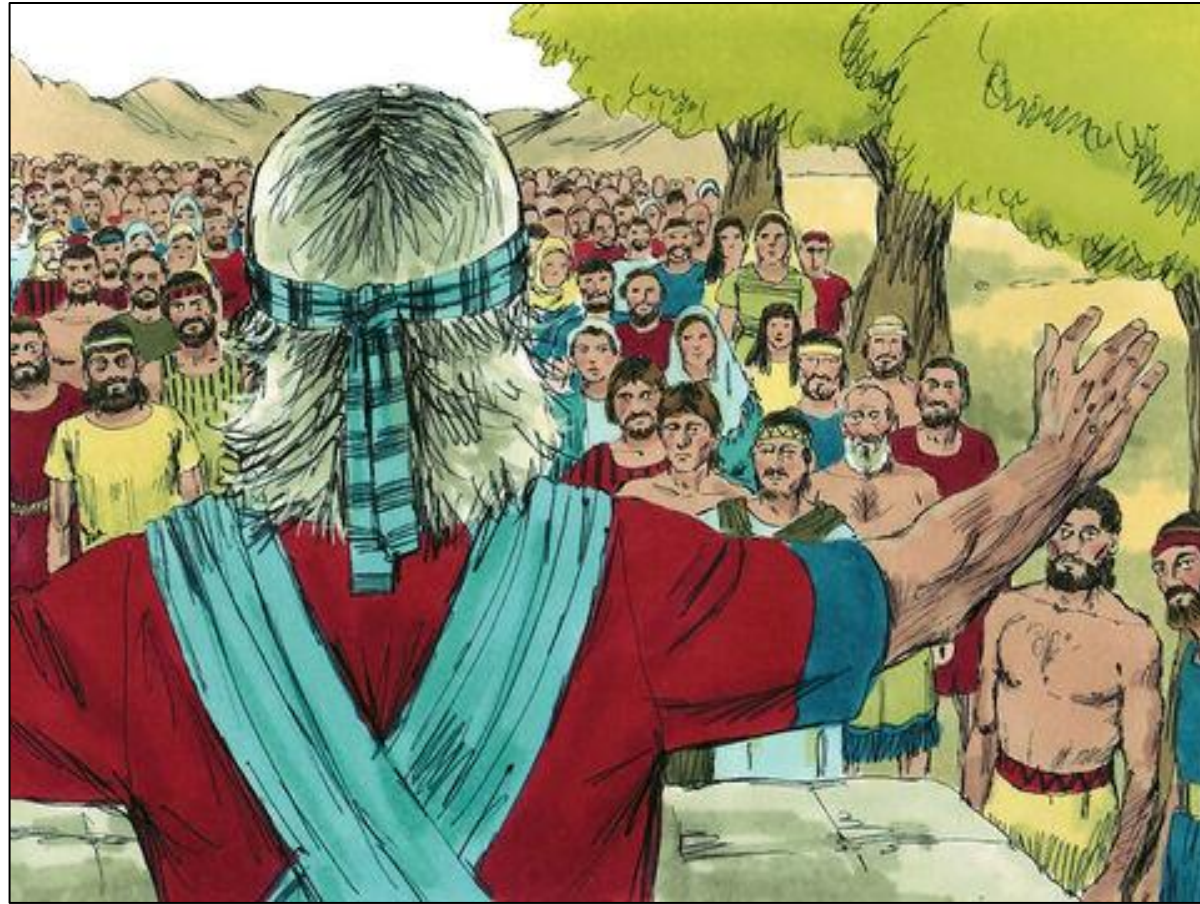
Then Joshua summoned the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh

The place where they assembled was at Shiloh (v9)





and said to them, "You have done all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded, and you have obeyed me in everything I commanded."



It's nice to be appreciated.

For a long time now-

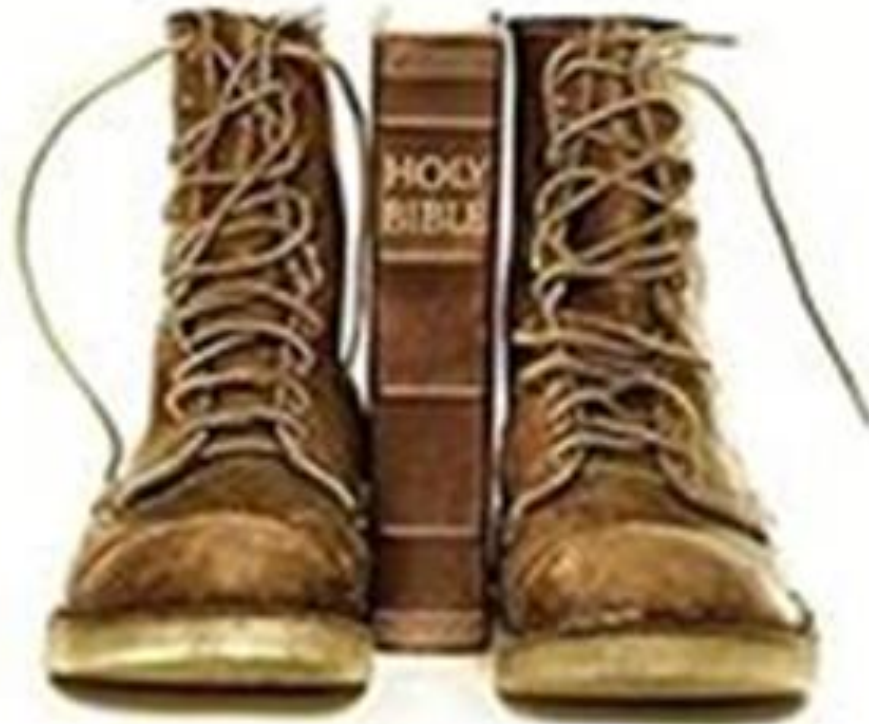


It can be estimated from Caleb's age that the conquest of Canaan took about 7 years. (Joshua 14:6-10)

From a superficial reading of the account we may think that the victory was achieved very quickly but in fact it was quite a long process requiring faith and perseverance.

For a long time now--to this very day--you have not deserted your brothers but have carried out the mission the LORD your God gave you.

# FAITHFUL SERVICE



Now that the LORD your God has given your brothers rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.





## Parting advice:- for them and for us too

But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you..



Follow God's instructions  
as given to Moses

# What is love?

**to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."**

How can he **command** them 'to love'?



# What is love?

## The romantic idea:

At seventeen he falls in love quite madly  
with eyes of tender blue  
At twenty-four he gets it rather badly  
with eyes of a different hue  
At thirty-five, you'll find him flirting sadly  
with two or three or more  
When he fancies he is past love  
It is then he meets his last love  
And he loves her as he's never loved  
before.



# What is love?

**The practical idea:**

From Fiddler on the roof. ... after all this time

**Do you love me?**





Eskimo's have 47 names for 'snow'





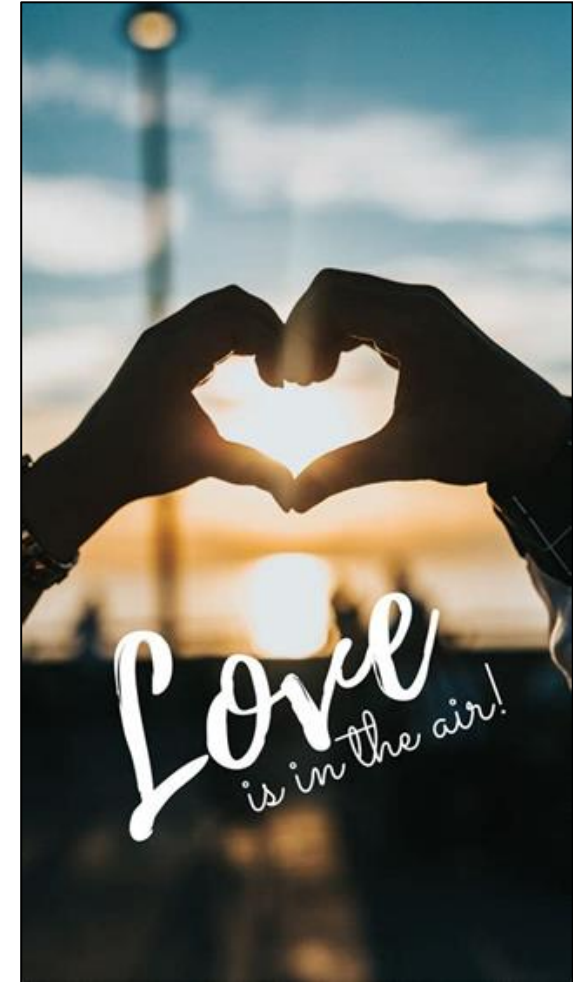
Cf. The ancient Greeks had 4 words for 'love'!

1, eros - sexual attraction - hormonal effects!

2, storgé – parental love - heart

3, philé - friendship – heart and mind

4, agapé - everything committed - spirit and will



## **The Bible's definition:**1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind.

It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered,  
it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes,  
always perseveres.

Love never fails.



Agape

**to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."**

How can he command them 'to love'?

Romans 5:5 God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.



to love the LORD your God, **to walk in all his ways**, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

A life lived with him in fellowship

Cf Enoch in Genesis 5:22-24

Enoch walked with God after he became the father of Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.



to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, **to obey his commands**, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

Trusting his wisdom and love...

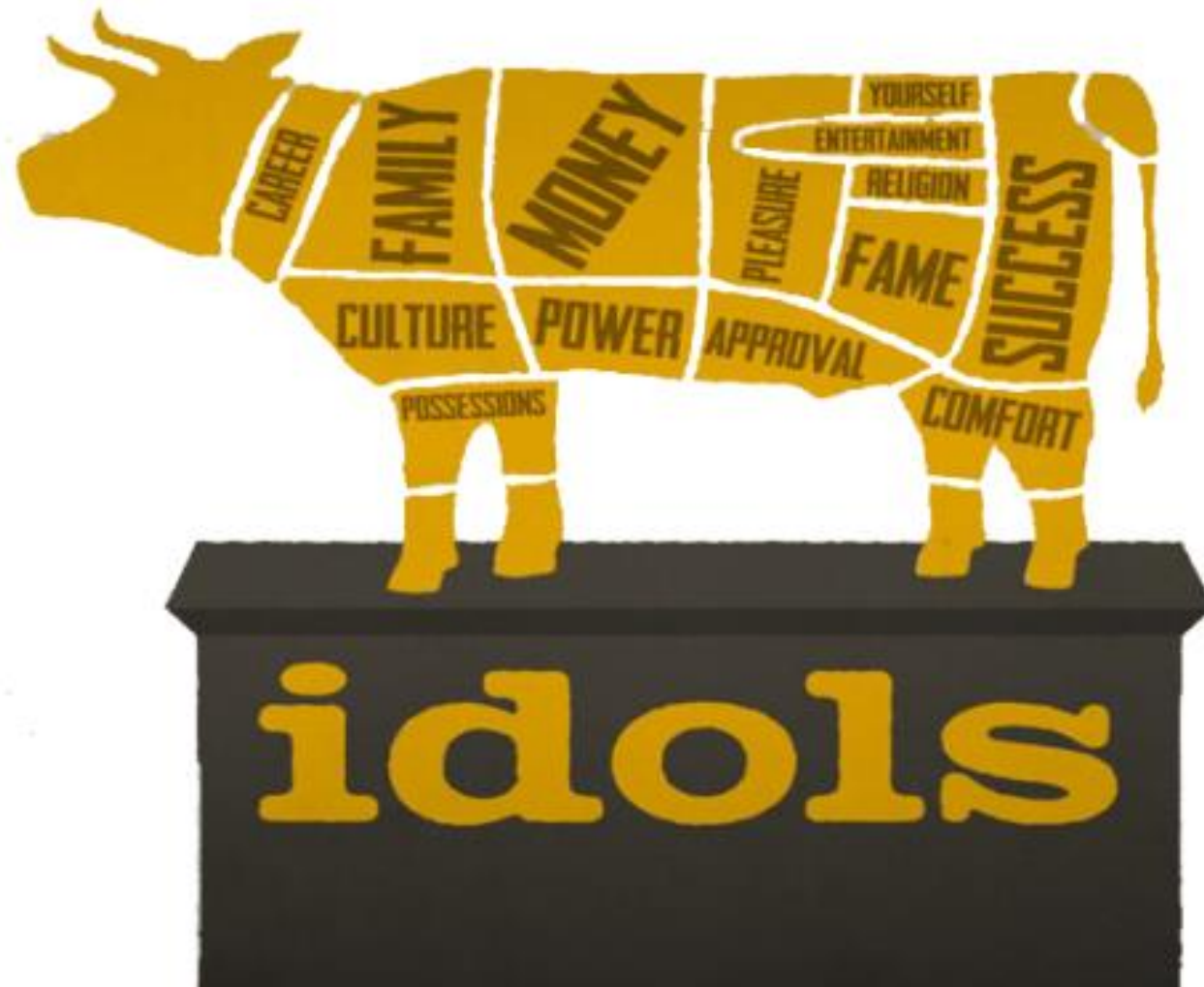
Jesus said:  
"If you love me, you will keep my  
commandments."  
John 14:15





to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands,  
**to hold fast to him** and to serve him with all your heart and all your soul."

No other gods!



to love the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to him and **to serve him with all your heart and all your soul.**"

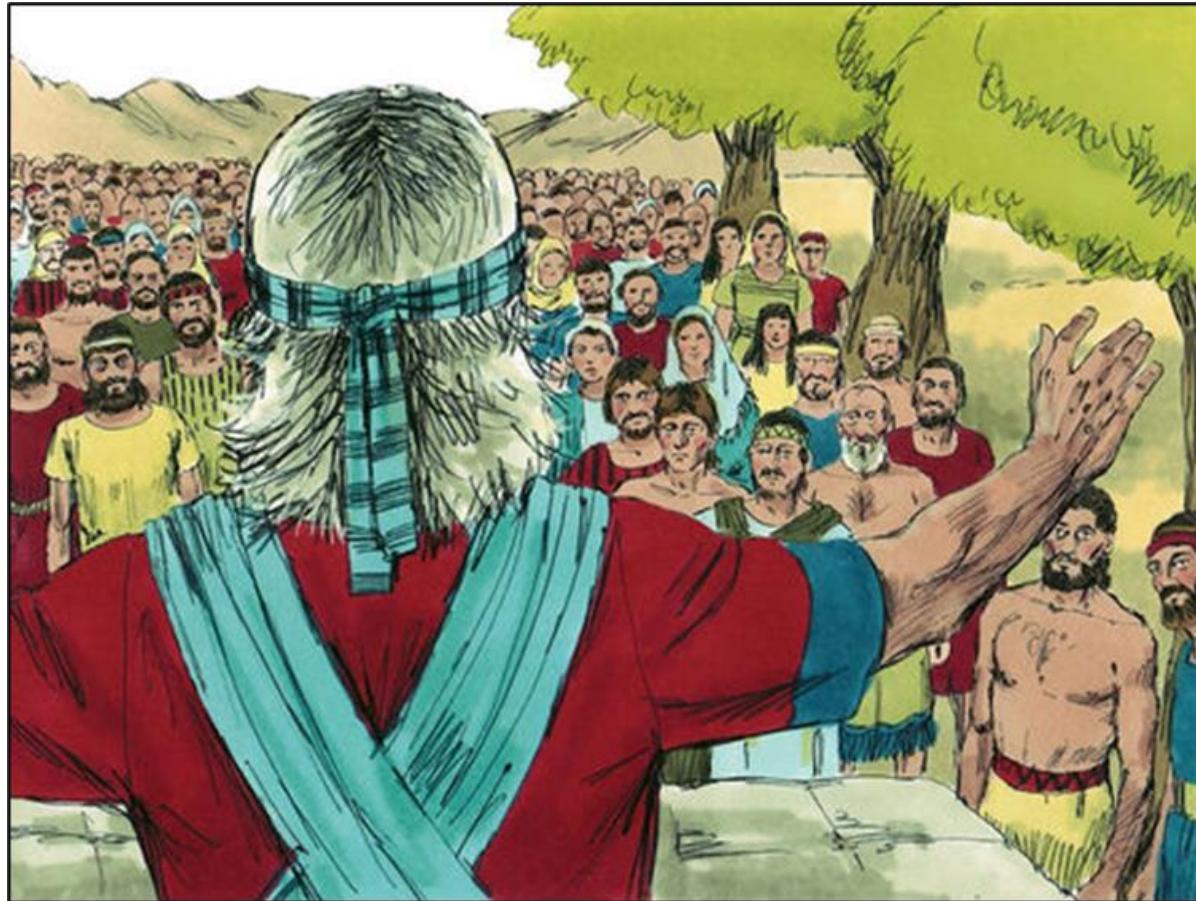
Colossians 3:23-24 Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

GIVE YOUR BEST



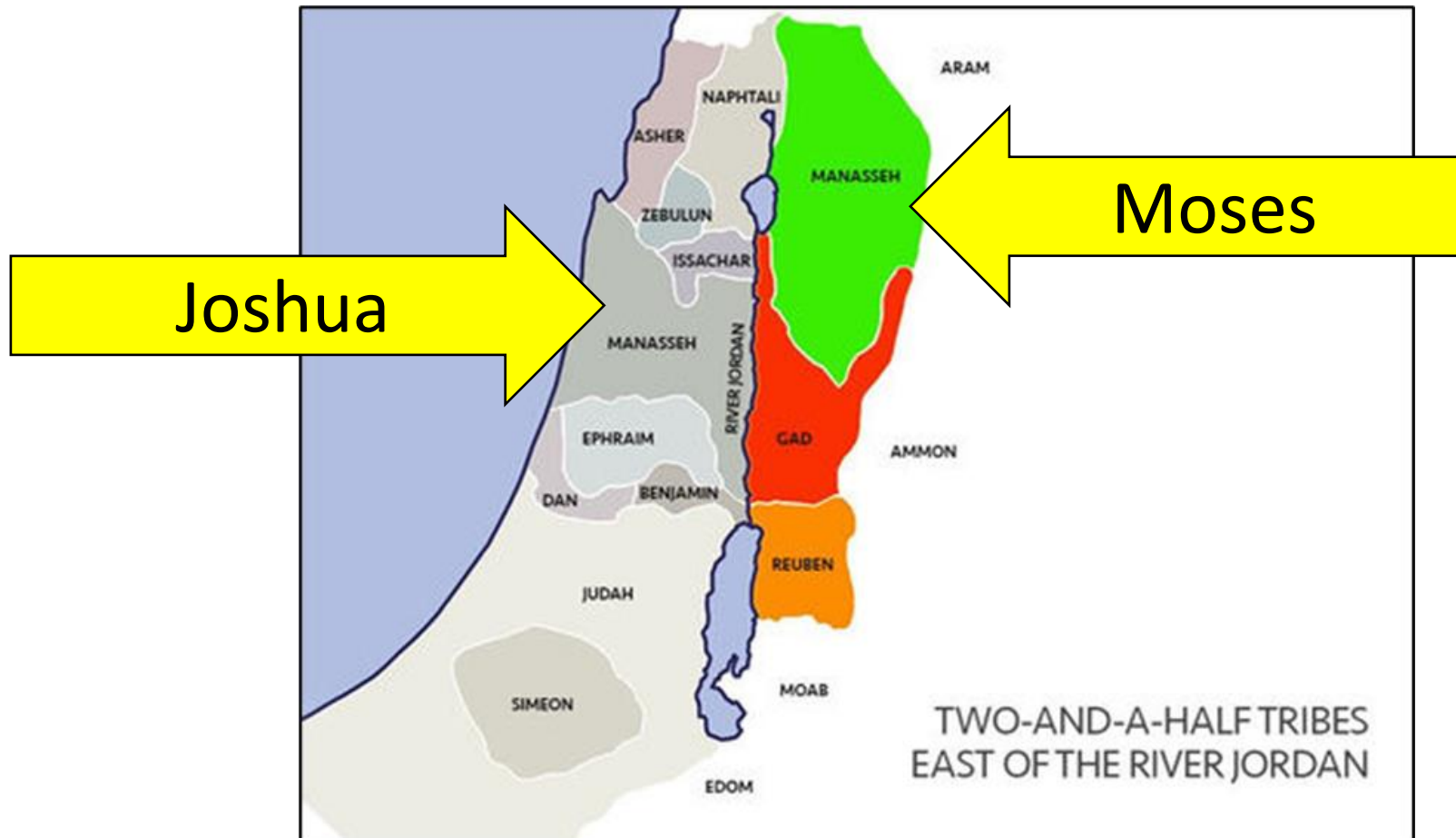
The word 'serve' is also used as a term for 'worship'.

Then Joshua blessed them and sent them away,  
and they went to their homes (tents).



How did Joshua bless them? How can we be a blessing to others?

(To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to the other half of the tribe Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan with their brothers.)





When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them, saying,  
"Return to your homes with your great wealth-- "



How do people measure wealth?



with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron,  
and a great quantity of clothing--



and divide with your brothers the plunder from your enemies."



An important principle – that David later observed with his men.

1 Samuel 30:23-24 But David said, “You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us. ... They shall share alike.”

So the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh left the Israelites at Shiloh in Canaan to return to Gilead, their own land, which they had acquired in accordance with the command of the LORD through Moses.



Mixed feelings?  
What things will they take with them?



Mark 12:28-34 And one of the scribes came up ... and asked Jesus, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered,

"The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices."

And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him,

**"You are not far from the kingdom of God."**