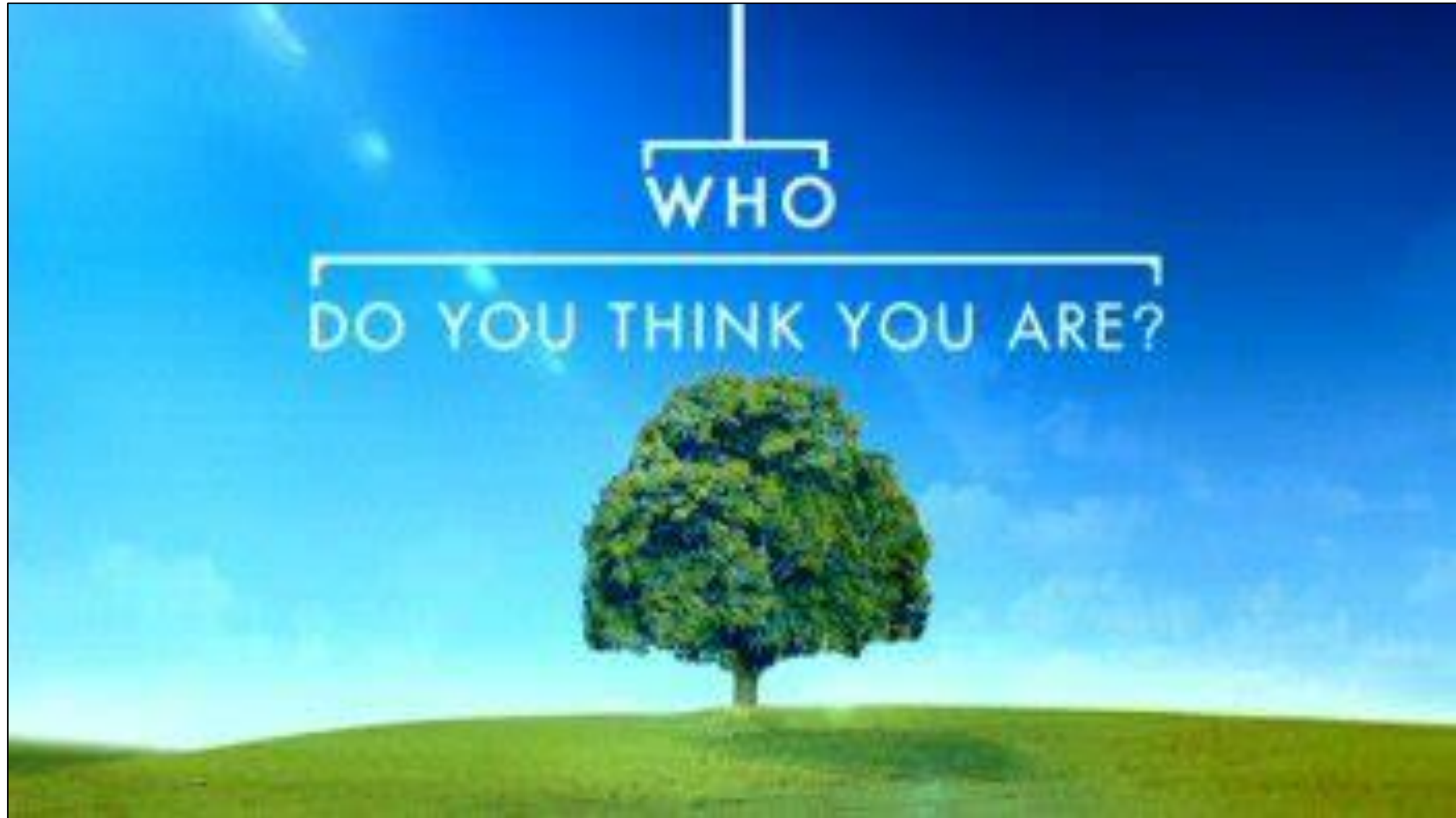


Personal lessons from history



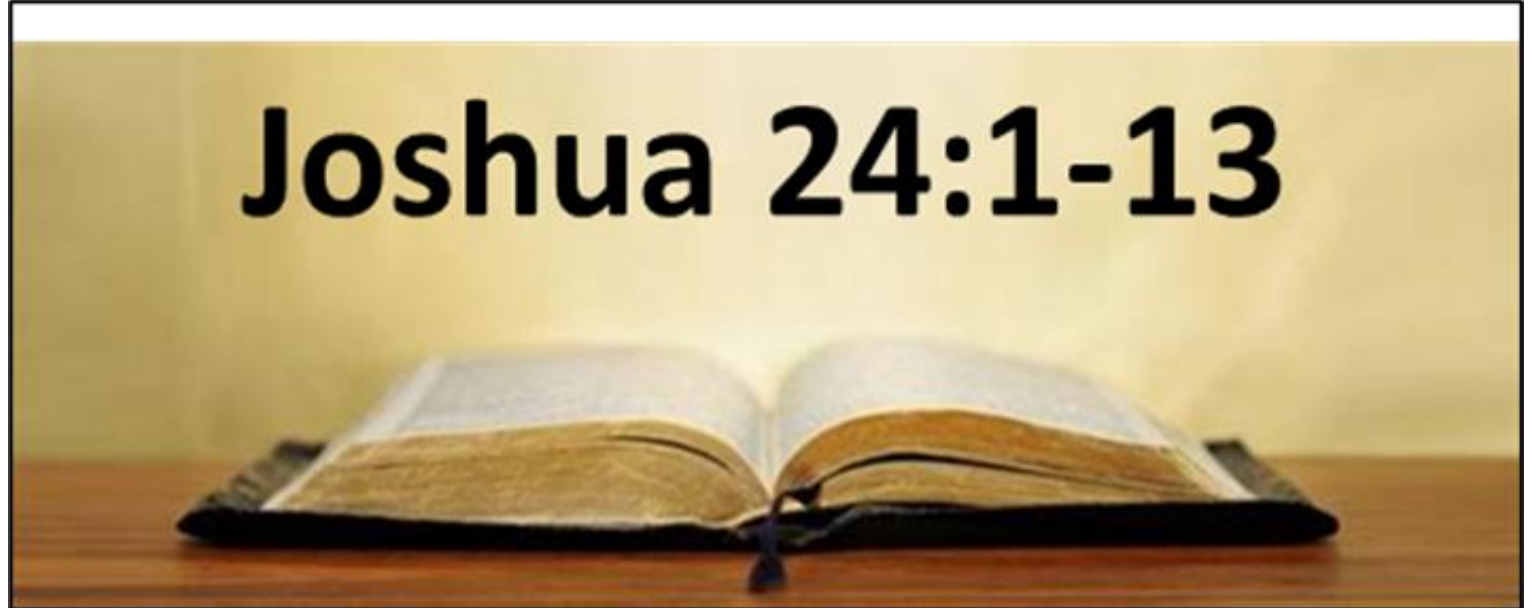
A Special Place

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem.



See what God has done with the
hindsight of faith

Joshua 24:1-13



Shechem

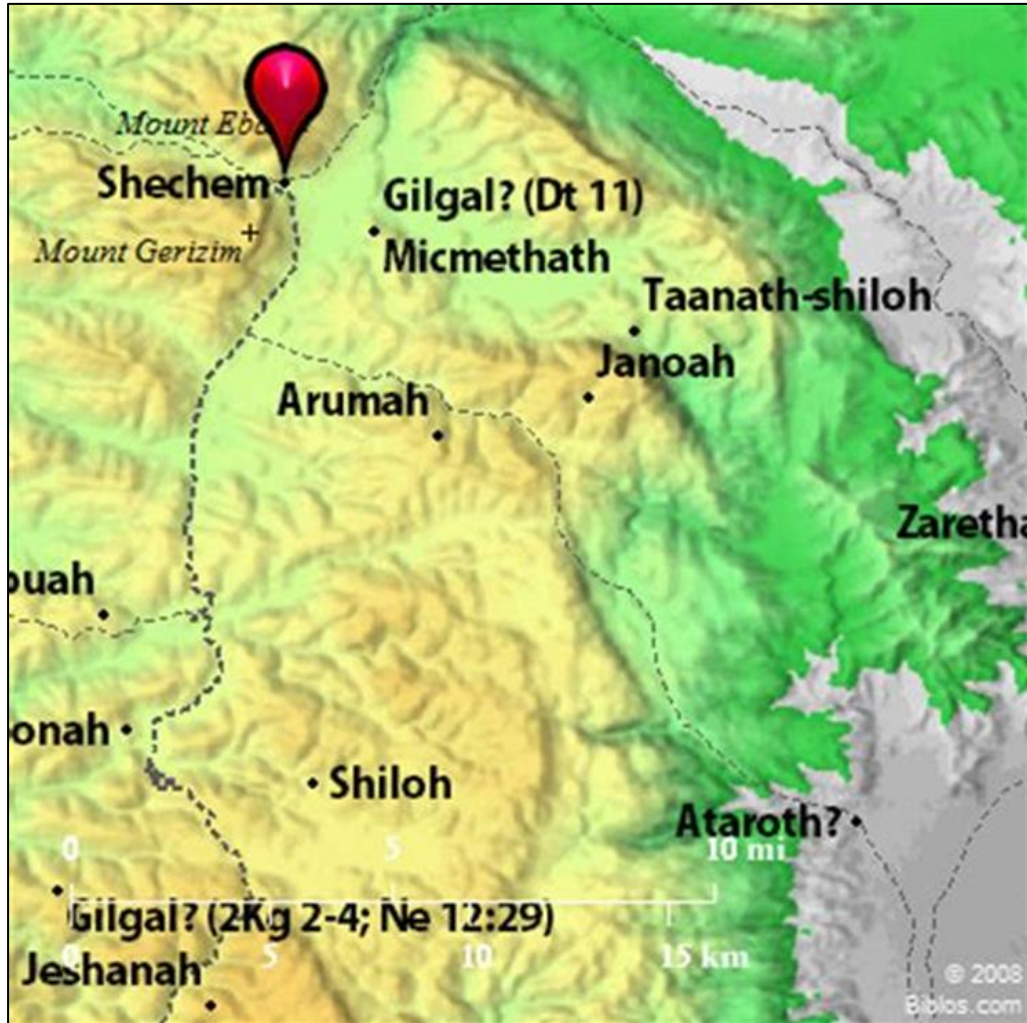
A Special Place where Abram met with the Lord



Genesis 12:6-7 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

Shechem

A Special Place where Jacob met with the Lord



Genesis 33:18-20 And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.

(God-the God of Israel)

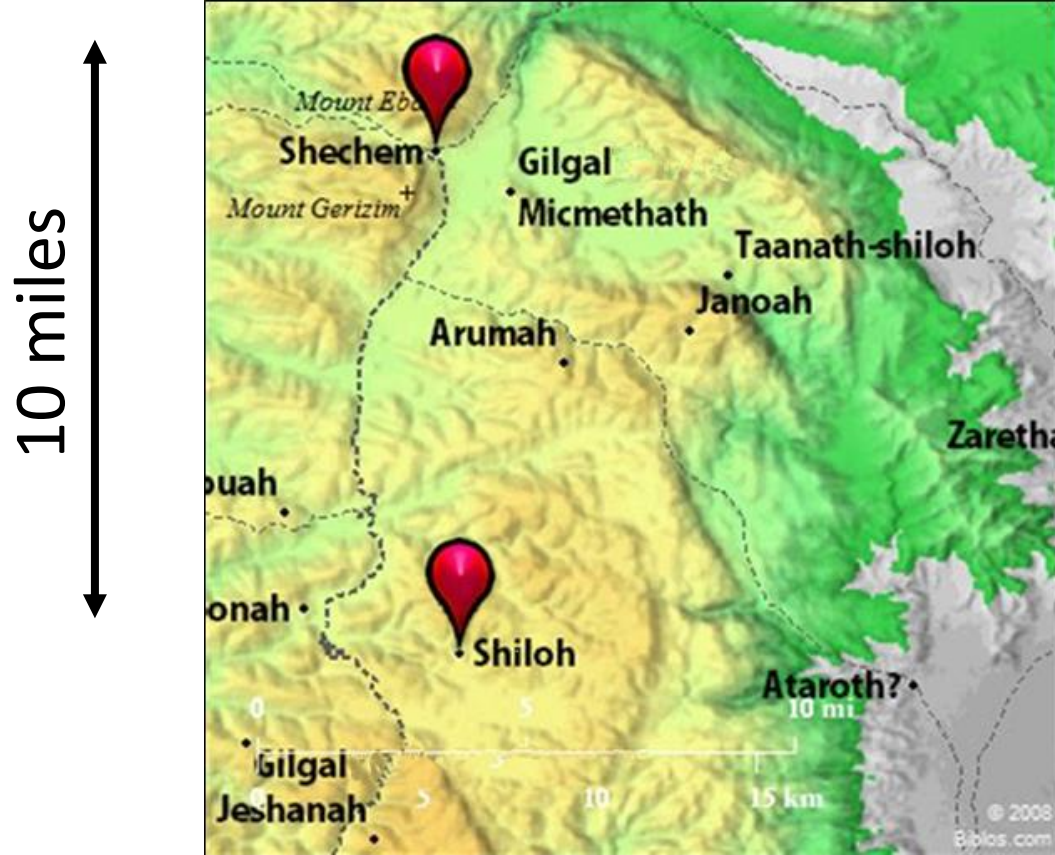
A Special Place where Israel met with the Lord



Joshua 8:30-31 At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, “an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool.” And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings.

The Living God is not a localised deity

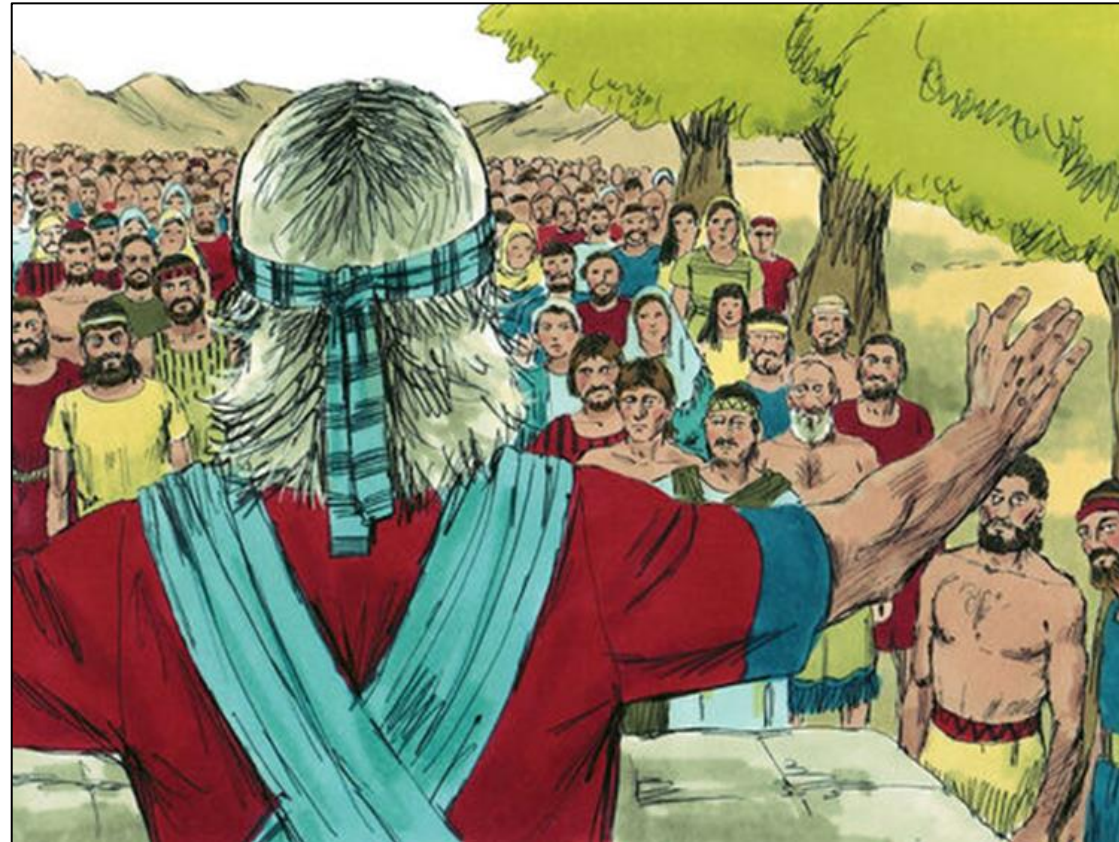
Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.



God's presence was there even though the tabernacle site was at Shiloh.

Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says..

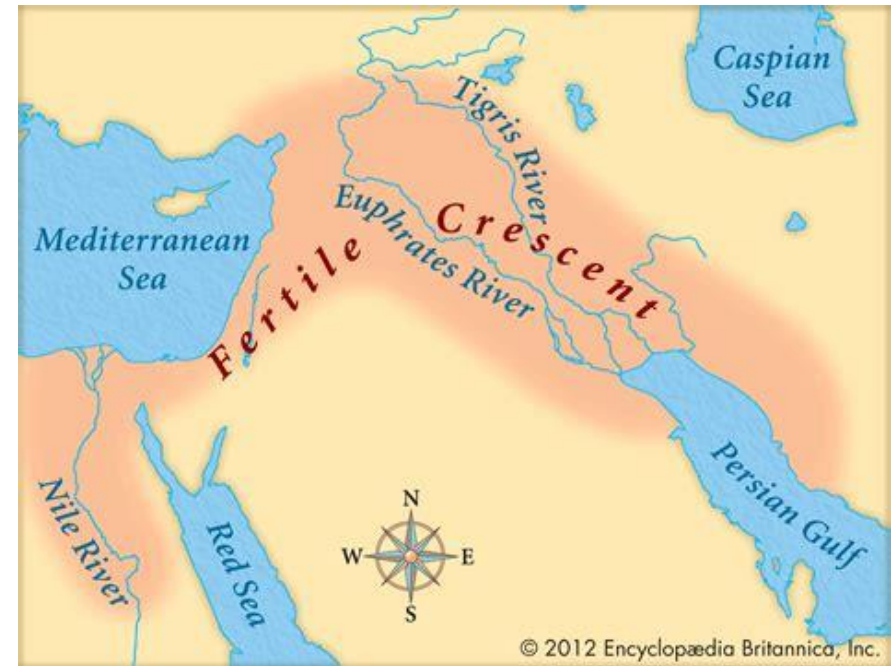
Joshua is speaking for God, giving His perspective and giving Him the glory



What you started from

Long ago **your forefathers**, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the River and worshipped other gods.

A pagan background in a pagan land



Humbling? What was Your life like before you met Jesus? Cf. 1 Cor. 1:26

The all important 'BUT'

But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the River and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau.



God's intervention led to
one becoming many
– look around you now

Life and children are gifts from God

I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau,
but Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt.

Different choices different destinies



God's wonderful deliverance

Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I did there, and I brought you out.



God's wonderful deliverance

and I brought **you** out.

The present generation is included in the former generation - one people group
History can be 'relived' cf. the Passover



We can look back with thanks for Wycliffe, the Reformation, the 18th Century Evangelical Awakening and for the gospel reaching us through other people's faithfulness.

You are where you are today because of God's activity in the past.

A separation – darkness water

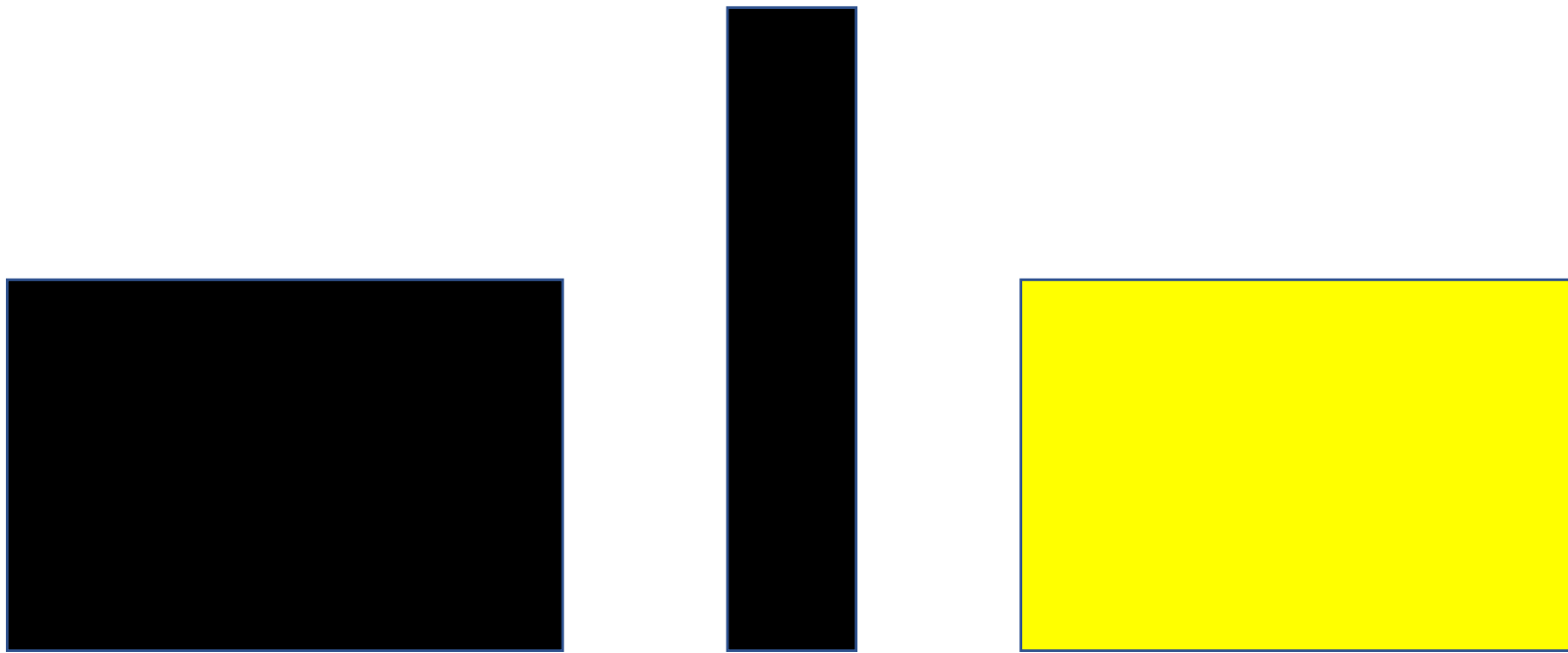
When I brought your fathers out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea. But they cried to the LORD for help, and he put darkness between you and the Egyptians; he brought the sea over them and covered them.



The Exodus redemption from their persecuting masters

A separation for us too.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.



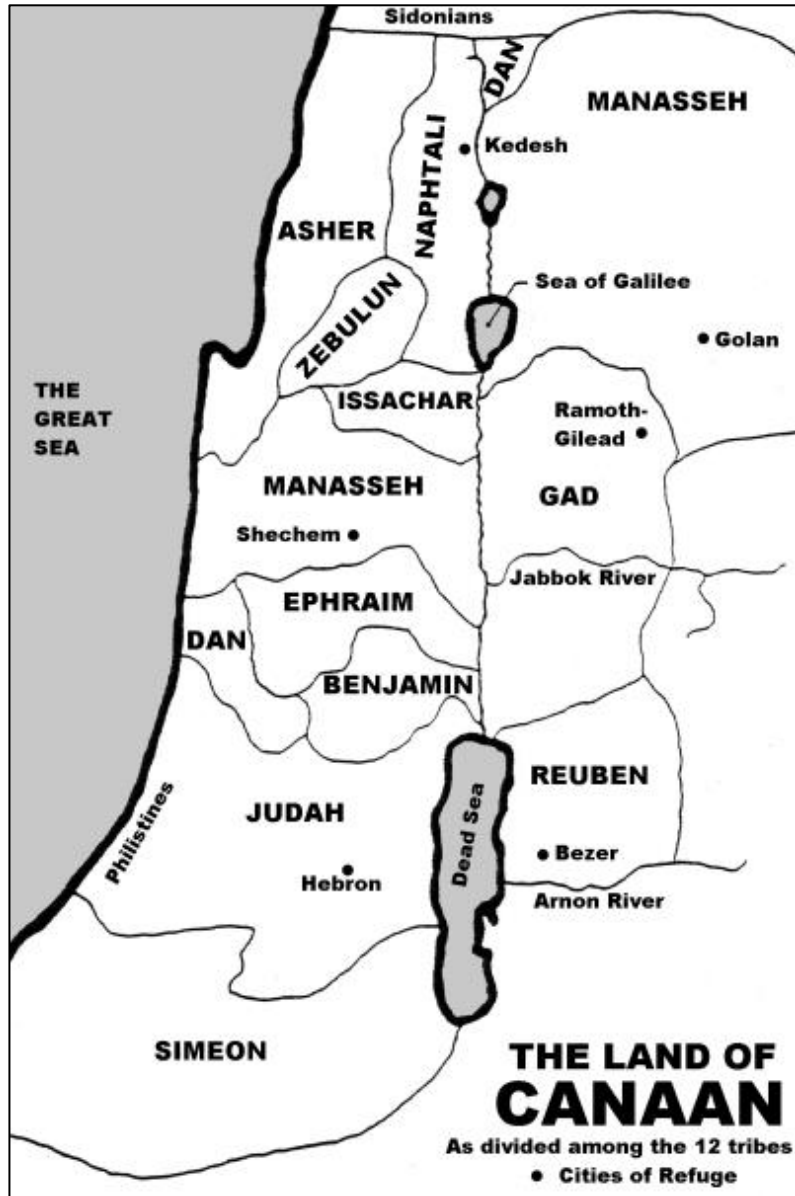
You saw with **your own** eyes what I did to the Egyptians.
Then you lived in the desert for a long time.

Some were still alive who were there at the time eg. Joshua



You lived in the desert (it need not have been like this)
40 years a long time to us

God moves in mysterious ways



I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I gave them into your hands. I destroyed them from before you, and you took possession of their land.

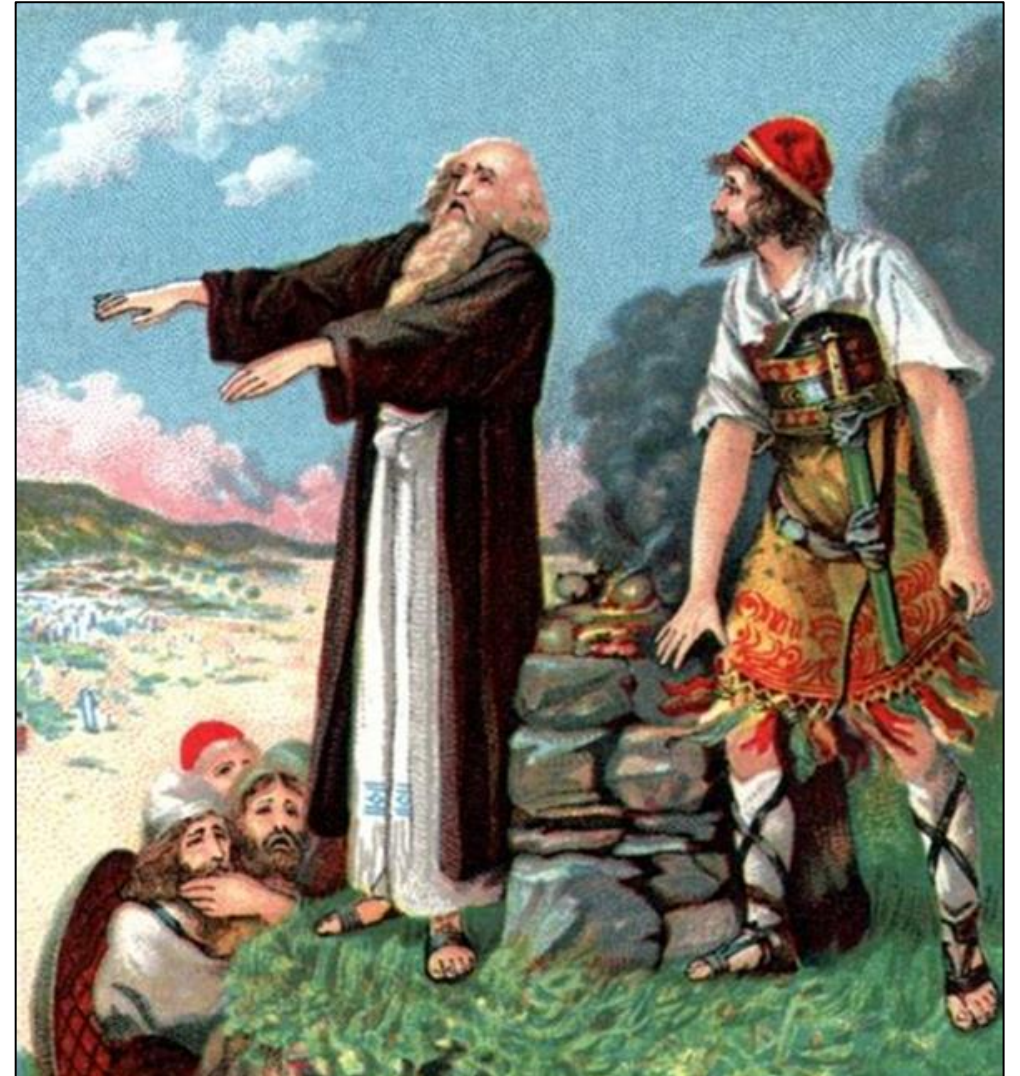
He recalls the capture of the east of the Jordan.

God gave the victory and 'rewards'

He frustrated the evil plans of your enemies

When Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab, prepared to fight against Israel, he sent for Balaam son of Beor to put a curse on you. But I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you again and again, and I delivered you out of his hand.

Protection and blessing - Are we always aware? We should be grateful.



Great miracles

Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands.

You entered the land and defeated those 7 nations who attacked you.



Exodus 15:3 The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.

God's psychological warfare!

I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you--also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow.

He knows how to affect our minds and mental state.

He has many kinds of weapons.

You may have fought but God gave the victory.

Psalm 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

A Murder Hornet



With a sting that can kill!

Unearned favours

So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.



Cultivated ground, Homes, Established groves

They (we) have many causes for profound gratitude

One More Lesson from this History

But Abraham only saw a few children and grand children:-
For Isaac he had to wait 25 years.

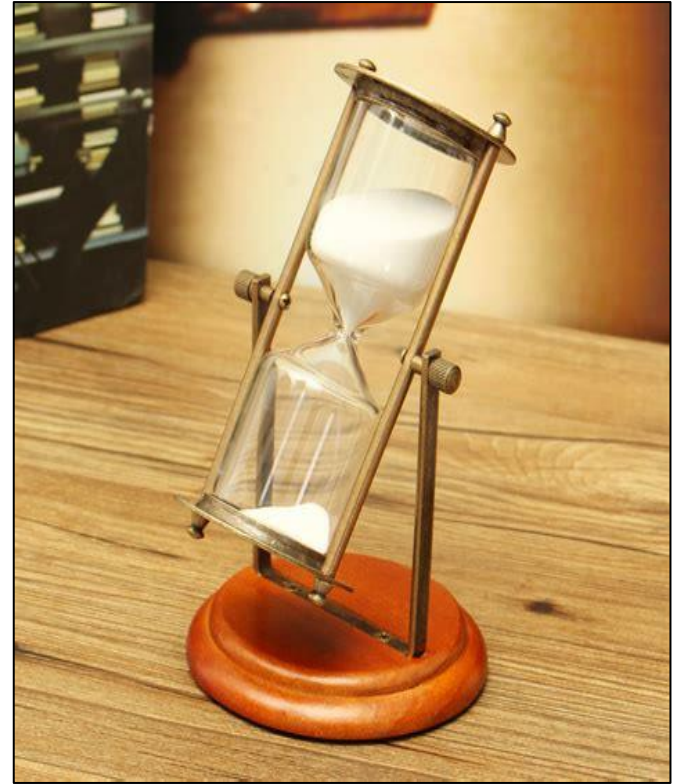
For grand children Jacob and Esau it was an 85 years wait.

The entry to Egypt to the time of Moses took 400 years.

Leaving Egypt to enter Canaan was another 40 years.

Capturing the land took about 7 years.

Overall, from the promise of the land to its fulfilment at the meeting at Shechem, it took about 600 years!



How many turns?

**God keeps his promises – but His timing and ours
may be rather different.**

God's timing

This promise to Abraham:-

Genesis 17:19 God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.

to its fulfilment:-

Matthew 1:20-21 an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

took 2000 years.

God is patient

The Lord is not slow to fulfil his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 2 Peter 3:9

God keeps his promises

Looking back can help us to trust him for the future



He calls us to be patient

James 5:7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.

We can be by growing the fruit of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;

