

Inheriting the Land of Promise

JOSHUA

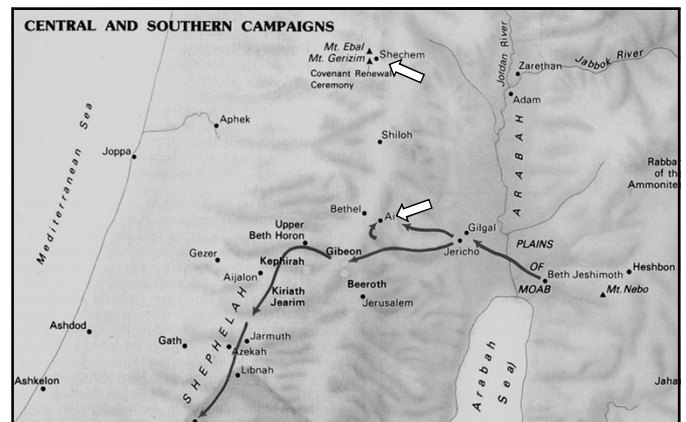
Joshua 8:30-35

³⁰ Then Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal,
³¹ just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of uncut stones on which no man had wielded an iron tool; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings.
³² He wrote there on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written, in the presence of the sons of Israel.

³³ All Israel with their elders and officers and their judges were standing on both sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, the stranger as well as the native. Half of them stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had given command at first to bless the people of Israel.

³⁴ Then afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the book of the law.

³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded which Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel with the women and the little ones and the strangers who were living among them



Covenant Renewal

Why now?

- after the sin of Achan and the defeat at Ai, the nation again needed a ceremonial reminder of its relationship with the Lord
- now that Israel is in the land the conditions of the covenant have a new relevance

Covenant Renewal

Why here?

- this was a strategic location in land – where Abraham first received the promise of the land (Gen. 12:6-7)

Covenant Renewal

Background – Deuteronomy 27-28

- a covenant-treaty that specified the peoples' obligations to the Lord
- section of the blessings for obedience and the curses for disobedience

Covenant Renewal

1. Built an altar

- signified that covenant relationship to the Lord was on the basis of substitutionary sacrifice

Covenant Renewal

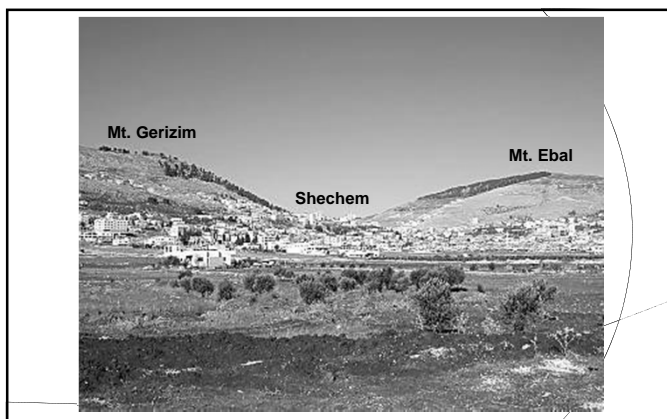
2. Copied the Law

- established the claim and law of Yahweh, the covenant Lord, over all Canaan

Covenant Renewal

3. Read the Law

- all the law was applicable to all the people – words of life and death
- emphasized the blessing and the curse; the people responded with the "amen"



Principles

1. The necessity of obedience to experience covenant blessing/salvation

- obedience is not the meriting of blessing but the response to God's love and grace
- obedience is the demonstration of love for and faith in the Lord

*And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.
The one who says, "I have come to know Him" and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him;
But whoever keeps His word, in Him the love of God has truly been perfected.*

1 John 2:3-5

Principles

2. Sin/disobedience results in misery under God's judgment

ultimately all who are under the Law are under a curse

Fulfillment in Christ

For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us – for it is written, 'CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE'"

(Galatians 3:10,13)