

Joshua's Farewell Address

Joshua 24

Joshua's Farewell Address

- The Place: Shechem

Shechem

- Where Abraham had received promises and devoted himself to God – Gen. 12:6-7
- Where Jacob had devoted himself and his family to God – Gen. 35:4
- Where Joshua had previously devoted the nation to God - Josh. 8:30-35

Genesis 12:6–7 (ESV)

6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. **7** 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

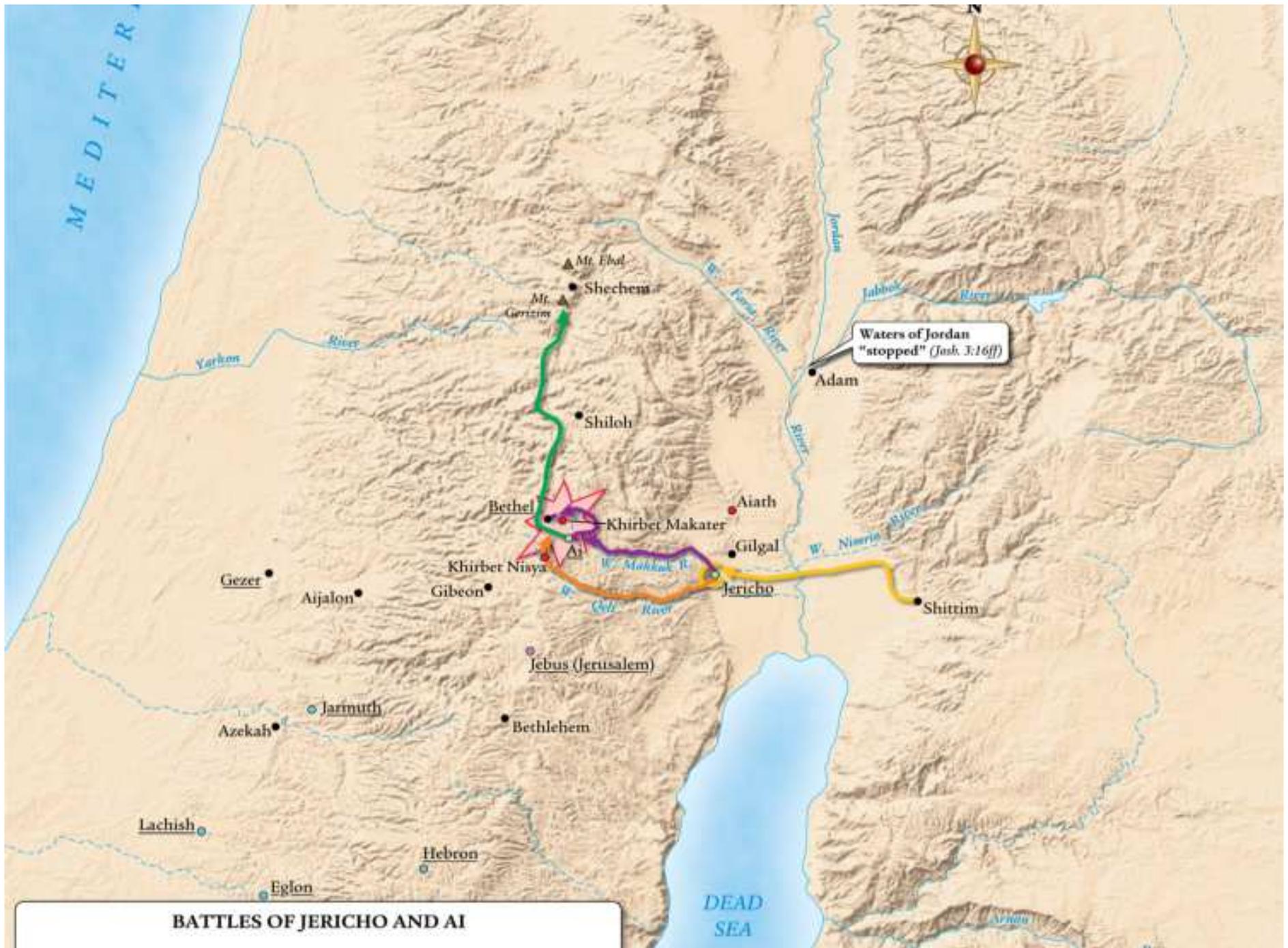
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Genesis 35:1–4 (ESV)

1 God said to Jacob, “Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there. Make an altar there to the God who appeared to you when you fled from your brother Esau.” **2** So Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, “Put away the foreign gods that are among you and purify yourselves and change your garments. **3** Then let us arise and go up to Bethel, so that I may make there an altar to the God who answers me in the day of my distress and has been with me wherever I have gone.” **4** So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods that they had, and the rings that were in their ears. Jacob hid them under the terebinth tree that was near Shechem.

Shechem

- Where Abraham had received promises and devoted himself to God – Gen. 12:6-7
- Where Jacob had devoted himself and his family to God – Gen. 35:4
- Where Joshua had previously devoted the nation to God - Josh. 8:30-35

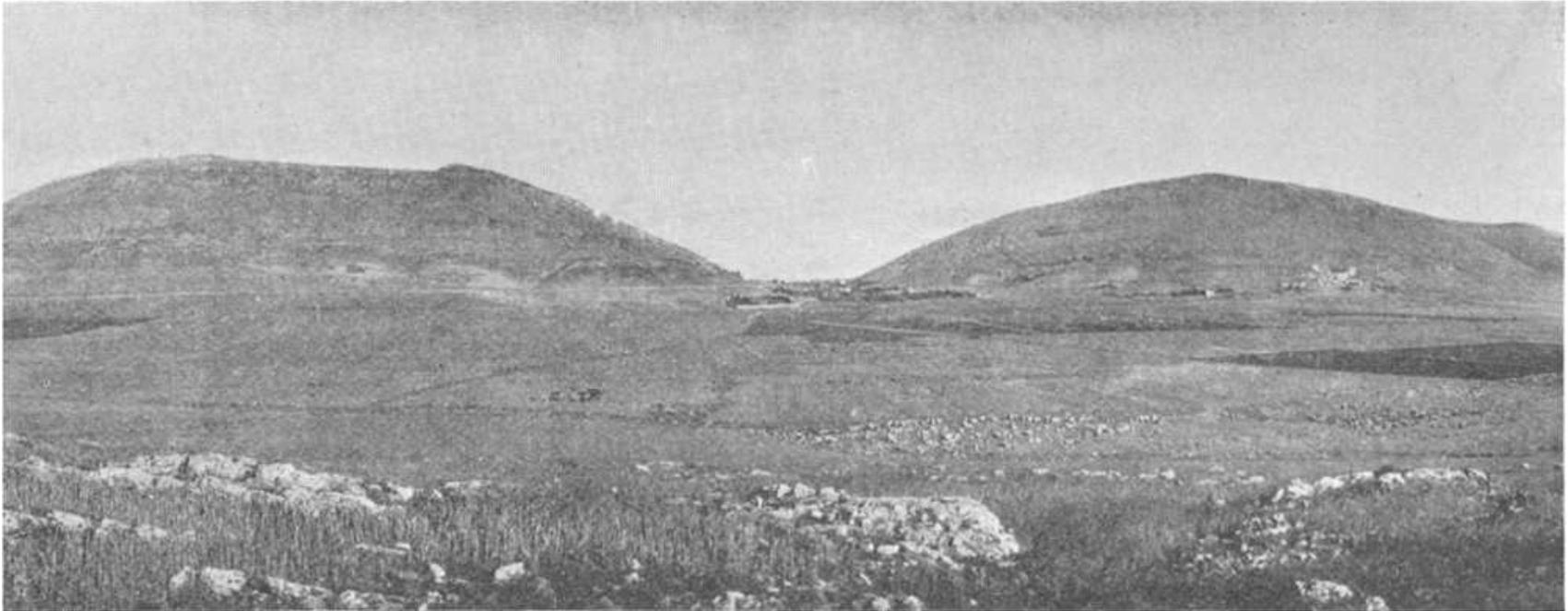


BATTLES OF JERICHO AND AI

Joshua 8:30–35 (ESV)

30 At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, **31** 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. **32** And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written. **33** And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. **34** And 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 commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerazim



Joshua 24:1 (ESV)

1 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God.

Joshua's Farewell Address

- The Place: Shechem
- Their History

Joshua 24:2–13 (ESV)

2 And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods. **3** Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan, and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac. **4** And to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt.

Joshua 24:2–13 (ESV)

5 And I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in the midst of it, and afterward I brought you out. **6** “ ‘Then I brought your fathers out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. And the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. **7** And when they cried to the LORD, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them; and your eyes saw what I did in Egypt. And you lived in the wilderness a long time. **8** Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They fought with you, and I gave them into your hand, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you.

Joshua 24:2–13 (ESV)

9 Then Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, arose and fought against Israel. And he sent and invited Balaam the son of Beor to curse you, **10** but I would not listen to Balaam. Indeed, he blessed you. So I delivered you out of his hand. **11** And you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, and the leaders of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And I gave them into your hand.

Joshua 24:2–13 (ESV)

12 And I sent the hornet before you, which drove them out before you, the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. **13** I gave you a land on which you had not labored and cities that you had not built, and you dwell in them. You eat the fruit of vineyards and olive orchards that you did not plant.'

Joshua's Farewell Address

- The Place: Shechem
- Their History
- The Choice

Joshua 24:14–15 (ESV)

14 “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. **15** And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Three Attitudes Toward Religion

- Focus on the past – Traditionalism
- Focus on the future – Constantly seeking change
- Focus on God – True Religion

Joshua 24:14–15 (ESV)

14 “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the **Traditionalism** others served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. **Innovation** is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

True Religion

Three Attitudes Toward Religion

- Focus on the past – Traditionalism

Luke 3:7–9 (ESV)

7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? **8** Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. **9** Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

Three Attitudes Toward Religion

- Focus on the past – Traditionalism
- Focus on the future – Constantly seeking change

Acts 17:18–21 (ESV)

18 Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities” —because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. **19** And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” **20** For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” **21** Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Three Attitudes Toward Religion

- Focus on the past – Traditionalism
- Focus on the future – Constantly seeking change
- Focus on God – True Religion

John 14:23–24 (ESV)

23 Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

Joshua's Farewell Address

- The Place: Shechem
- Their History Reviewed
- The Choice Presented
- The Covenant Renewed

Joshua 24:21–25 (ESV)

21 And the people said to Joshua, “No, but we will serve the LORD.” **22** Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” **23** He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your heart to the LORD, the God of Israel.” **24** And the people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and his voice we will obey.” **25** So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem.