

Bethany Bible Study & Discussion



Deuteronomy Part 14 (chapter 13) KJV

3.22.2023

Chapter 13

(Idolatry influencers)

From ch.12: Worship in the New Testament

Can a miracle worker be a false prophet/teacher?
How must we respond? (1-5)

Can our family & friends lead us astray? How must we
respond? (6-11)

Can an entire city be seduced into idol worship? How
must we respond? (12-18)

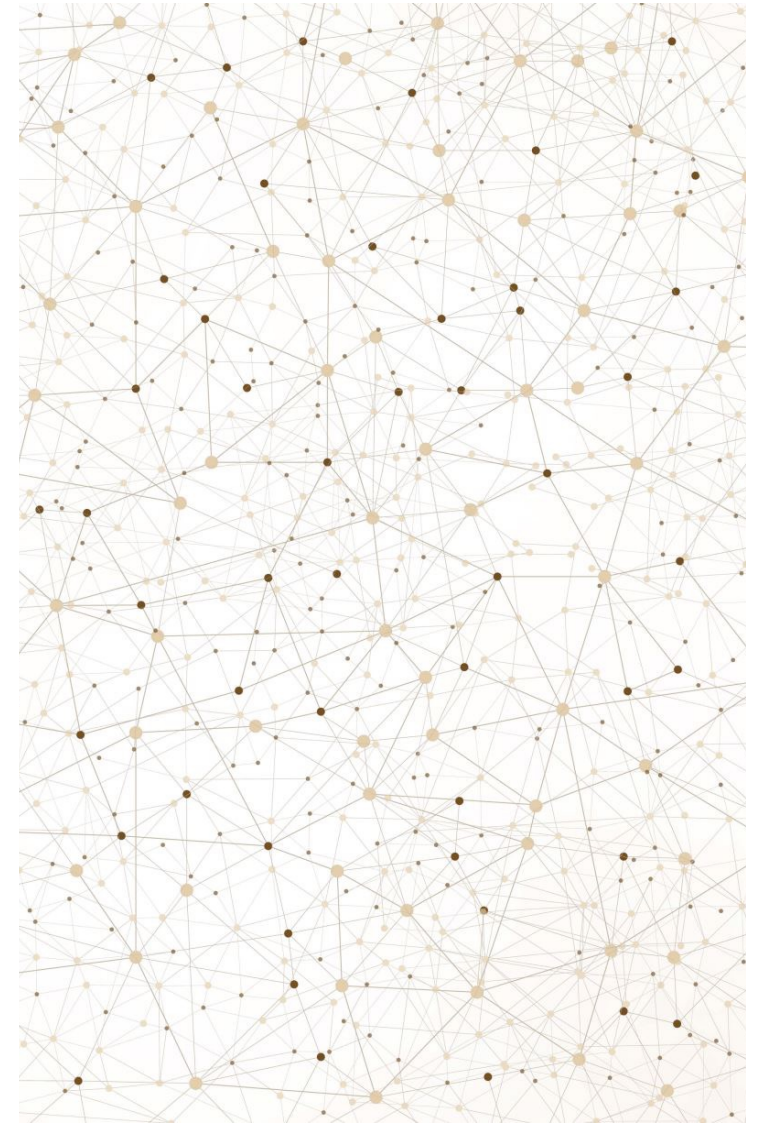
From ch.12: God's chosen place, Shiloh: A place of
significance ... what happened?

Worship (from ch.12)

PREPARING for WORSHIP

- **Destroy the idols**
- **Go to the chosen place**
 - Bring burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes, vows, freewill and heave offerings, firstlings
 - Eat and rejoice with family, servants, stranger, widows, and Levites
 - Be mindful of the needy
 - Follow complete obedience
 - Do not bring unholy things/practices to a holy place

Worship in the New Testament



Worship in the New Testament

Place does not matter (John 4:20-24, Mathew 18:20, Acts 7:44-50)

- Tabernacle, Ark of the covenant and Temple not required
- Animal sacrifices, blood not required (Jesus paid it all, for ever for everyone)

What Matters for worship by NT believers?

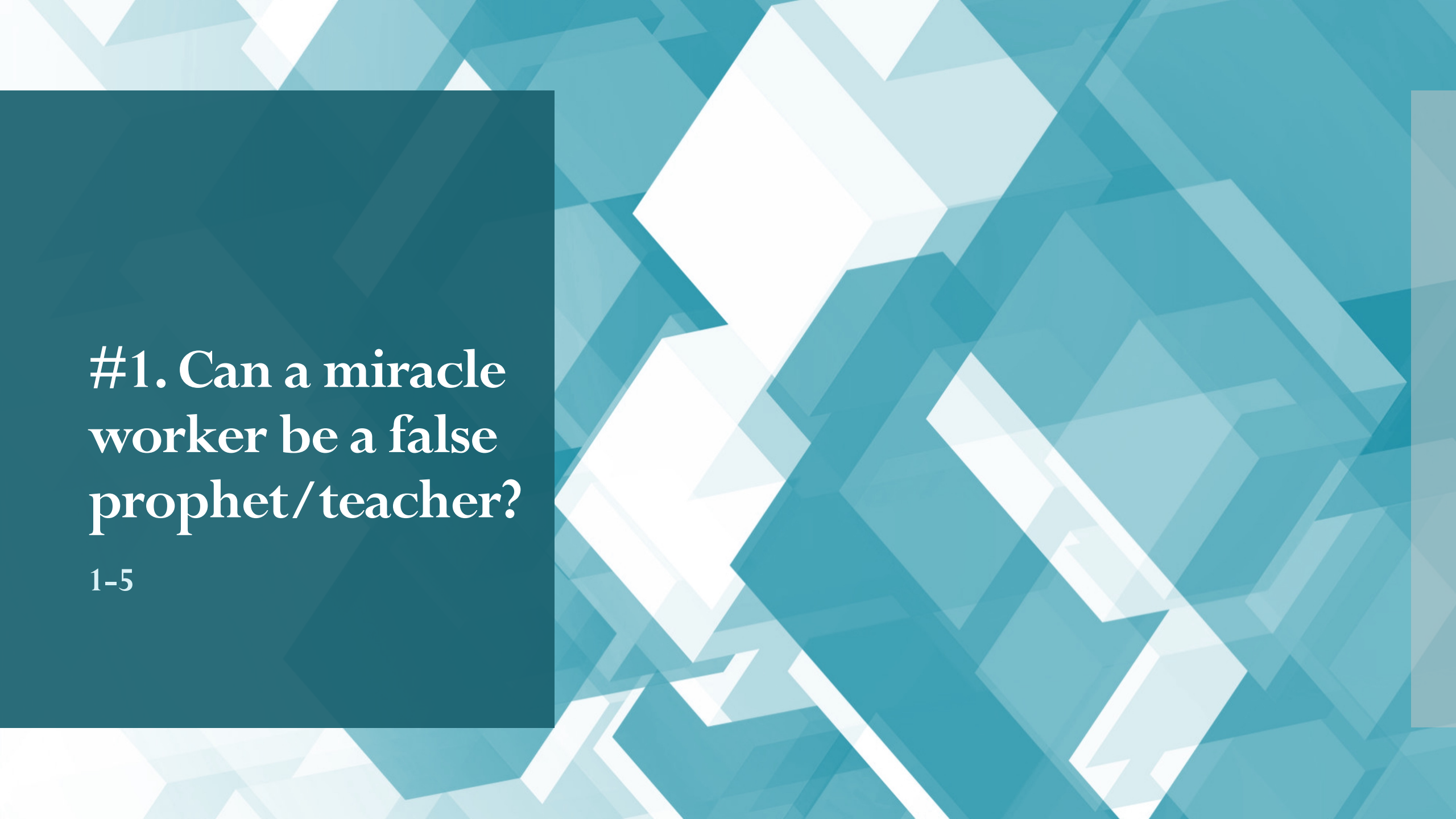
- True worshippers are born-again believers
- True worshippers are separated from the world/idols (Mathew 6:24)
- True worship must come from our heart (not just lips) (Mathew 15:8)
- True worshippers offer themselves as a 'living sacrifice' (Romans 12:1)
- True worshippers worship with understanding (Psalms 47:7)
- Worship without works/love is dead (Hebrews 13:15-16)

**Dangers &
Distractions to
True Worship
and how we
must respond?
(Ch.13)**

False Prophets (1-5)

Family & friends (6-11)

City (12-18)



#1. Can a miracle worker be a false prophet/teacher?

1-5

Lead astray by false prophets (1-5)

13 If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, ² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them;

³ Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

⁴ Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, ² And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them (1-2)

Prophecy/dream comes true,

but teaching is not consistent with the Word of God (let us go after other gods(2), contradicts commandment #1)

Do not be deceived by “miracles, signs, outward appearances”

- Mega church, dynamic preaching, grand music and miracles may not always be from God but traps to attract people, and then lead them astray
- Even false prophets can do wonders (II Thessalonians 2:9)

Like Bereans, we must verify the teachings (Acts 17:10-12)

Lead astray by false prophets

³Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the Lord your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ⁴Ye shall walk after the Lord your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

THIS IS JUST A TEST ... Lord your God proveth you (3)

COUNSEL OF GOD: Do not pay attention to the words of such prophets

Cleave to the Lord, and fear/obey/serve Him

RESPONSE Reject such prophets/teachers (3)

Sin of false prophets: “turning God’s people away from God who redeemed them from house of bondage” (5)

PUNISHMENT ?

PUNISHMENT

.⁵ And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death; because he hath spoken to turn you away from the Lord your God, which brought you out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to thrust thee out of the way which the Lord thy God commanded thee to walk in. So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee.

PUNISHMENT → “Put to death” (5)

He that sacrificeth unto any god, save unto the Lord only, he shall be utterly destroyed. (Exodus 22:20)

Any sin/weight that takes us away from God is idolatry and must be put to death.

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1)

Who is a Prophet?

True Prophet Communicates God's message

“Moses spake unto the children of Israel *that* which he was commanded” **Exodus 34:34**

If anyone speaks, they should do as one who speaks the very words of God **I Peter 4:11**

Prophecy (is not always about future)

But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. **I Corinthians 14:3**

False prophet:

Speaks before hearing from God or twists the Word of God or communicates only part of the message

Guard
yourself
against false
teachings

“believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1)

”Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”
(I Thessalonians 5:21) Prophecy is one of the gifts, so we must not dismiss it as nonexistent or irrelevant or false.

“they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11)

Some common and dangerous false teachings

No Hell - Focus on God's love, and ignore God's Justice

Deny virgin birth, death on the cross, resurrection, second coming

Faith + works needed to receive salvation/enter heaven

Multiple ways to reach God

God's grace & forgiveness permits us to live a life of compromise/sin

Bible is not the complete revelation

Salvation can be lost

Prosperity gospel

... and more

Jeremiah 23, False Prophets:

Scattered the sheep and did not feed them (1-2)

Lacked holiness (11)

Committed adultery and walked in lies (14)

Spoke their own vision (16)

Sugar coated the messages - peace and no judgement (17)

Not sent by God nor given a message by God (21)

Lead people astray (22)

God will hold them accountable (2,15, 40)

II Peter 2, False teachers

Secretly infuse false teachings that destroys people (1)

Attract many and tarnish the testimony of church (2)

Use deceptive words (3)

Deceive others/themselves (13)

Full of adultery and covetousness (14)

Sin of Balaam (leading others astray) (15)

Ineffective – wells without water/clouds without rain (17)

Words that appeal to flesh, rather than spirit (18)

Preach freedom, but are themselves slaves to sin (19)

There will be false teachers (1)

End of false teachers ... justice & destruction (1,3, 4-6, 17)

#2. Can our family & friends lead us astray?

6-11

Influential family & friends

⁶ If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul, entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known, thou, nor thy fathers;

⁷ Namely, of the gods of the people which are round about you, nigh unto thee, or far off from thee, from the one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth;

⁸ Thou shalt not consent unto him, nor hearken unto him; neither shall thine eye pity him, neither shalt thou spare, neither shalt thou conceal him:

⁹ But thou shalt surely kill him; thine hand shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterwards the hand of all the people.

¹⁰ And thou shalt stone him with stones, that he die; because he hath sought to thrust thee away from the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

¹¹ And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.

Family & friends

Sin of family & friends

Let us go and serve other gods (6)

Response & Punishment

Do not agree (8)

PUNISHMENT Kill them (you should cast the first stone!) (9)

Why Kill?

They tried to take you away from God who brought you out of the land of bondage (10)

To put the fear in others (11)

Family & Friends

Family & Peer pressure is not easy to overcome

But we must overcome

Our love for God must exceed our love for family & friends

And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me (Mathew 10:36-37)

We must live a separated life from this world so that we are not influenced by worldly wisdom of unbelievers.

**#3. Can an entire
city be seduced
into idol worship?
How must we
respond?**

12-18

City in Promised land under idolatry attack

¹² If thou shalt hear say in one of thy cities, which the Lord thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying, ¹³ Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from among you, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of their city, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known;

¹⁴ Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought among you;

¹⁵ Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.

¹⁶ And thou shalt gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof, and shalt burn with fire the city, and all the spoil thereof every whit, for the Lord thy God: and it shall be an heap for ever; it shall not be built again.

¹⁷ And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the Lord may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers;

¹⁸ When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the Lord thy God.

Responding to Idolatry


Sin by children of Belial ... let us go and serve other gods (13)

Response & Punishment

- Inquire if it is true or not (14)
- If true, destroy the city and the inhabitants (15)
- Burn the city and the spoils (16)
- The city shall not be built again (16)
- Do not take any of the goods (17)

Result

- Lord's anger will turn to mercy
- You will multiply just as he promised



From ch.12
God's chosen place,
Shiloh: A place of
significance ... what
happened?

Shiloh ... original chosen place for tabernacle in the promised land

The chosen site for the tabernacle and the ark of the covenant

And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there (Joshua 18:1)

Then they said, Behold, there is a feast of the Lord in Shiloh yearly in a place which is on the north side of Bethel, on the east side of the highway that goeth up from Bethel to Shechem, and on the south of Lebonah (Judges 21:19)

- Eli was the high priest in Shiloh for 40 years, and Hannah offered her prayer at Shiloh and brought child Samuel to Shiloh (I Samuel 1)
- Ark of the covenant (Deuteronomy 10)

Shiloh

- Ark taken from Shiloh to fight Philistines (I Samuel 4:3-4)
- Philistines captured the ark and Eli's sons die along with 30,000 Israelites (I Samuel 4;10-17, Samuel, 98, dies on hearing the news).
- David brought the ark back to Jerusalem (II Samuel 6)

God's Judgement: But go ye now unto my place which was in **Shiloh**, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel (Jeremiah 7:12)

- **The tabernacle at Shiloh had value only because of its ark. Once ark taken out, the building lost its importance** and is not given much attention in bible.
- Common belief - Shiloh destroyed by Philistines around 1050 BC.

Tabernacle at Shiloh to Temple in Jerusalem

Temple built by Solomon in Mount Moriah in Jerusalem

And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of (**Genesis 22:2**)

And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver (**II Samuel 24:24**)

Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite (**II Chronicles 3:1, I Kings 5-8**)

Temple destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar (**II Kings 25**)

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