

Hunter Gatherer Farming City living Trading Theocracy Judges Kings Captive nations Empires Catholic church Reformed church

God does not change, we do!

→ Hebrews 13:8

*Jesus Christ is the same
yesterday and today and forever*

Our plan for today

- To investigate how the **true God revealed Himself in successive stages.**
- To explain how **God allows** time for **developing man to build faith** in ways acceptable to his culture and experience.
- To **understand what we can do TODAY** to meet God's work in this historical timeframe.

Ancient Search

The meaning to Life!

- **FAITH IS**

- Hebrews 1:11 ←

- being sure of what we hope for
and certain of what we do not see**

- The big questions. . . What IS **HOPE**

1. How does hope in God develop?
2. What is hoped for?
3. How is certainty in God's presence gained?

This search distinguishes MAN from other forms of life!

How does God address our search?

- He meets us where we are,
- He listens to us,
- He respects our requests,
- He allows us to learn through experience,
- He treats those who love him differently to those who don't,
- He loves those who love him *and* those who don't,
- He is always fair!

Our FATHER distinguishes MAN from other forms of life!

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The **true God** reveals **unchanging**
aspects
of himself
in successive stages
historically

Today we walk through history
taking a glimpse of how he has
done this!



Hunter
Gatherer

Farming

Trading
City living

Theocracy

Judges

Kings

Captive
nations

Empires

Catholic
church

Reformed
church

• Gods Offer: Eternal Life

- ➔ – **Gen 2:9** tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- ➔ – **Gen 2:16** You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil,

- **Pre-History:** Beginning of Mankind
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Live Godly life as an individual forever
- **Mankind:** Happily naked, No knowledge evil exists, Simple existence(Live directly off the land)
- **Failure PRIDE!** We decide we know better than God! EVIL enters us!
- **Worship:** Direct contact with God
- **God's response:** No eternal life with EVIL (Gen 3:21) ←

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

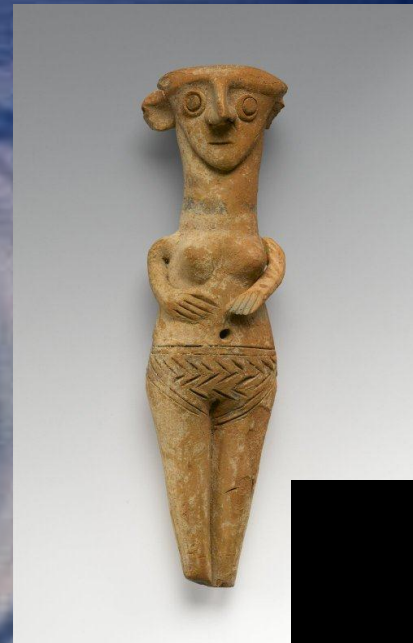
- **Man's choice: Farming Life**

- – **Gen 4:2** Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil.
- **Pre-History:** Started after 13000 B.C. before 8000 B.C
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Live Godly family life
- **Mankind:** Managing livestock, Managing the land, crops, Family groups live, work and worship together.
- **Failure PRIDE!** We fail again! CAIN decides God is wrong! Murder! EVIL breaks families apart! Joshua 24:2,14
- **God's response:** Separates evil people from good (e.g. flood)
- **Worship:** family worship (clay figurines, mounds)

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

Worship in FARMING times

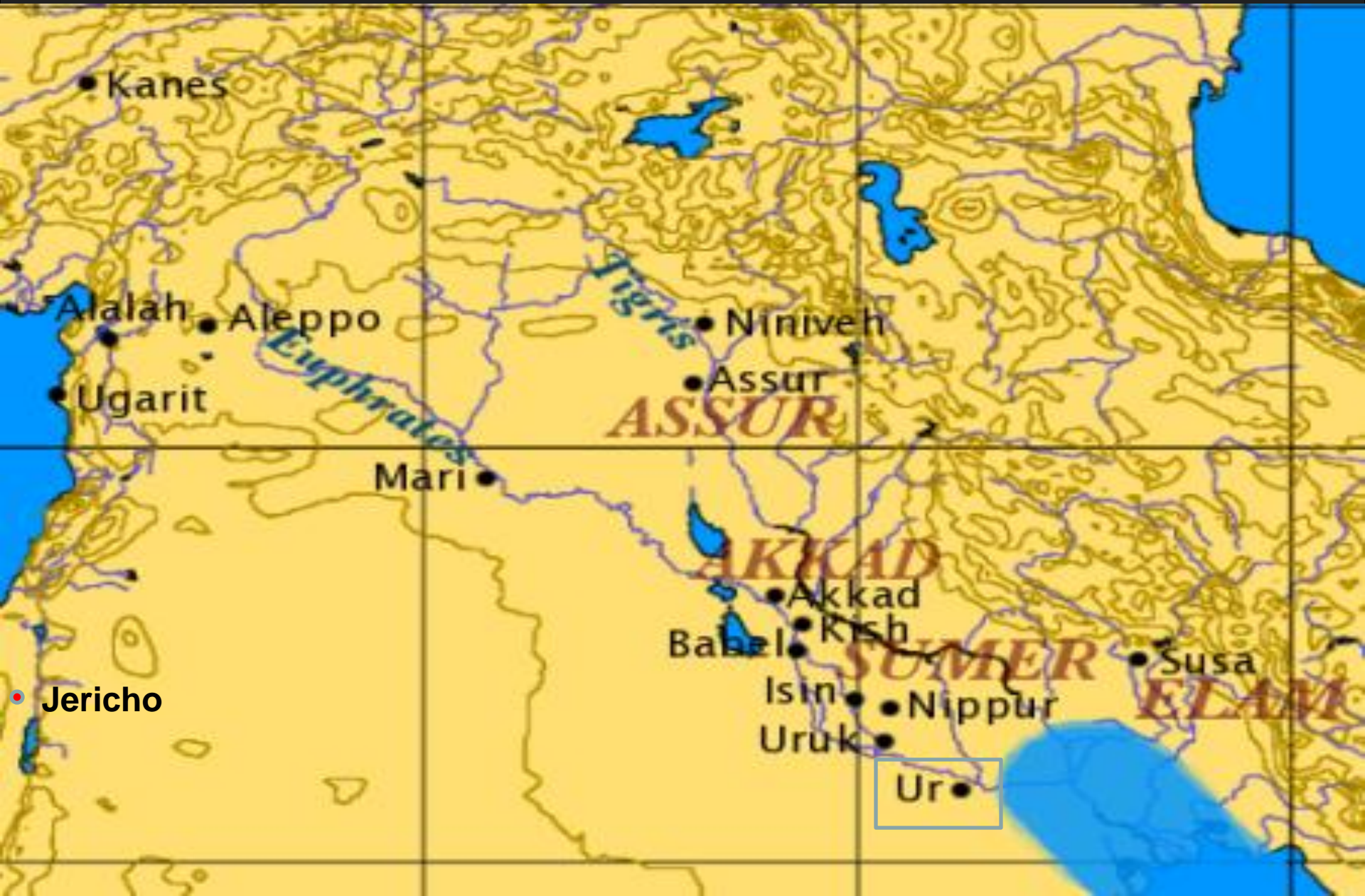
- Individual worship changes to family worship (clay figurines, mounds)
- Joshua 24:2 and 24:14 noted that Terah and Abraham's ancestors had worshiped idols
 - **Joshua spoke to all of the people. He said, "The Lord is the God of Israel. He says, 'Long ago your people lived east of the Euphrates River. They worshiped other gods there. Your people included Terah. He was the father of Abraham and Nahor.**



• **Man's choice:** Trading / City life

- ➔ – **Gen 4:17** Cain was then building a city, and he named it after his son Enoch. [“initiated” rebellion!]
- **Gen 4:19-21** Non Farming life starts , Flocks, crops, metal goods and tools, musical instruments
- **History:** An ancient city discovered - Jericho 6000 B.C
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Live Godly life in communities
- **Mankind:** City breaks family bonds, need to travel to trade.
- **Failure** Pride! Babel! We fail again!
- **God's response:** Separates evil people from good
- Worship:** city worship (altars, ziggurat's,)

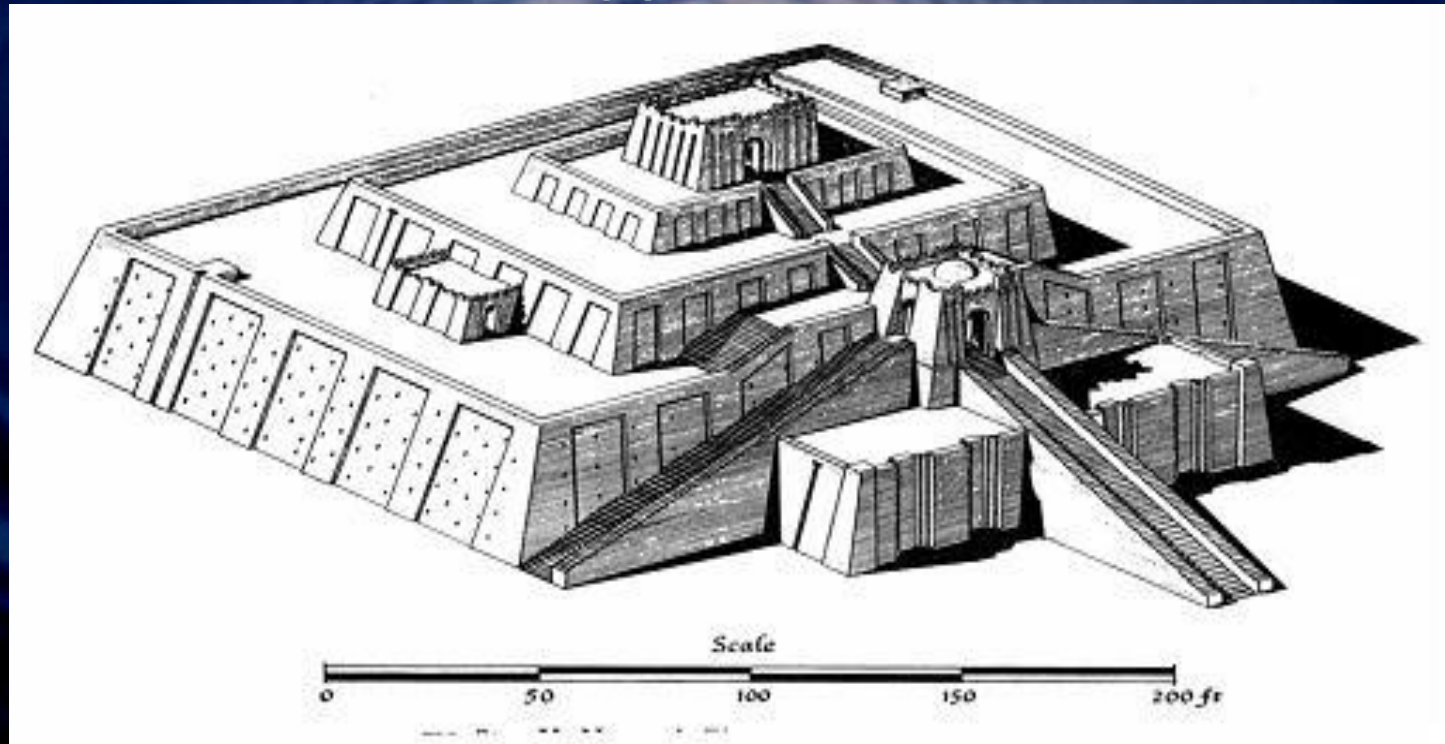
Ancient Cities



Worship in TRADING/ CITY times

Community worship

Individual worship changes to City altar worship
(Ziggurates)



God's people build simple altars of uncut stones.

Exo 26: 25 (uncut stone) ←

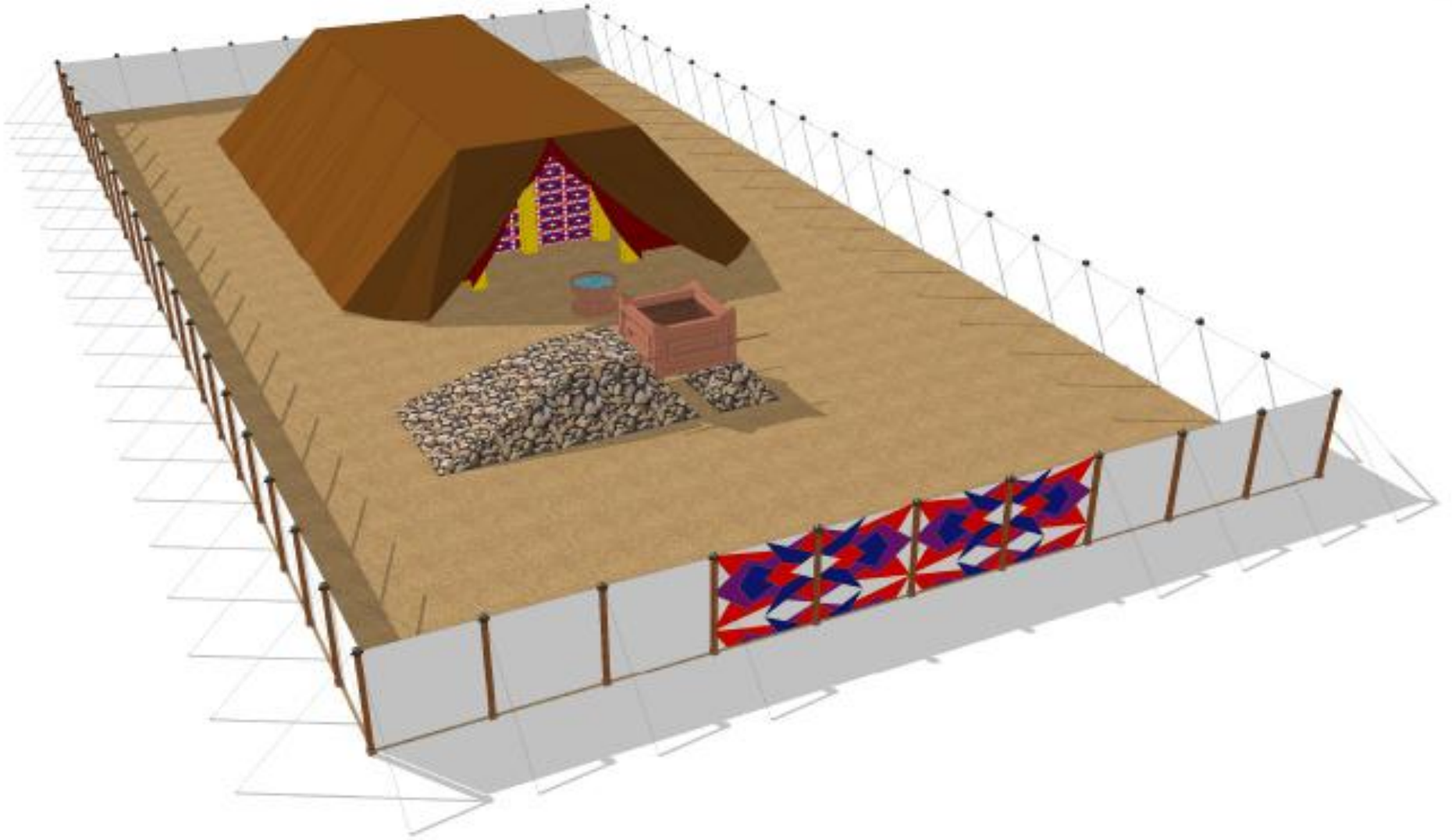
also see [Joshua 8:31](#)

- **Man's choice: Trading / City life**
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GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

- **Gods Offer: Theocracy**
 - Exodus, Deuteronomy law and tabernacle
- **History:** Exodus is about 1466 B.C
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Live Godly lives as God's people
- **Mankind:** Worship focused for life needs, want laws!
- **Failure** Pride! Golden calf! Cannot keep the law, We fail again!
- **God's response:** Selects one nation to be example to all others, provides his law, permits limited sacrifice
- **Worship:** Idolaters: Idols, temples, sacrifices, mans law
Hebrew : Tabernacle, sacrifices, God's law

Worship in Theocracy Tabernacle



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GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

- **Mankind's choice:** Judges
 - Exodus, Deuteronomy law and tabernacle
- **History:** Othniel appointed judge 1375B.C. ←
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Godly lives led by Godly Judges
- **Mankind:** Choose judges, not priests, making decisions.
- **Failure** Pride! Evil judges! Civil war! We fail again!
- **God's response:** Appoints Judges, Cause Evil Judges to fail together with those who follow them.
- **Worship:** Hebrew : Tabernacle, sacrifices, God's law
 Idolaters: Idols, temples, sacrifices, mans law

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

- **Mankind's choice:** **Kings**
 - See next slide
- **History:** Saul is King, 1043B.C. ←
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Godly lives led by Godly Kings
- **Mankind:** Reject judges, want kings making decisions.
- **Failure** Pride! Evil kings! We fail again!
- **God's response:** Appoints Kings, Cause Evil Kings to fail together with those who follow them.
- **Worship:** Hebrew : Temple, sacrifices, God's law
Idolaters: Idols, temples, sacrifices, mans law

Kingdoms

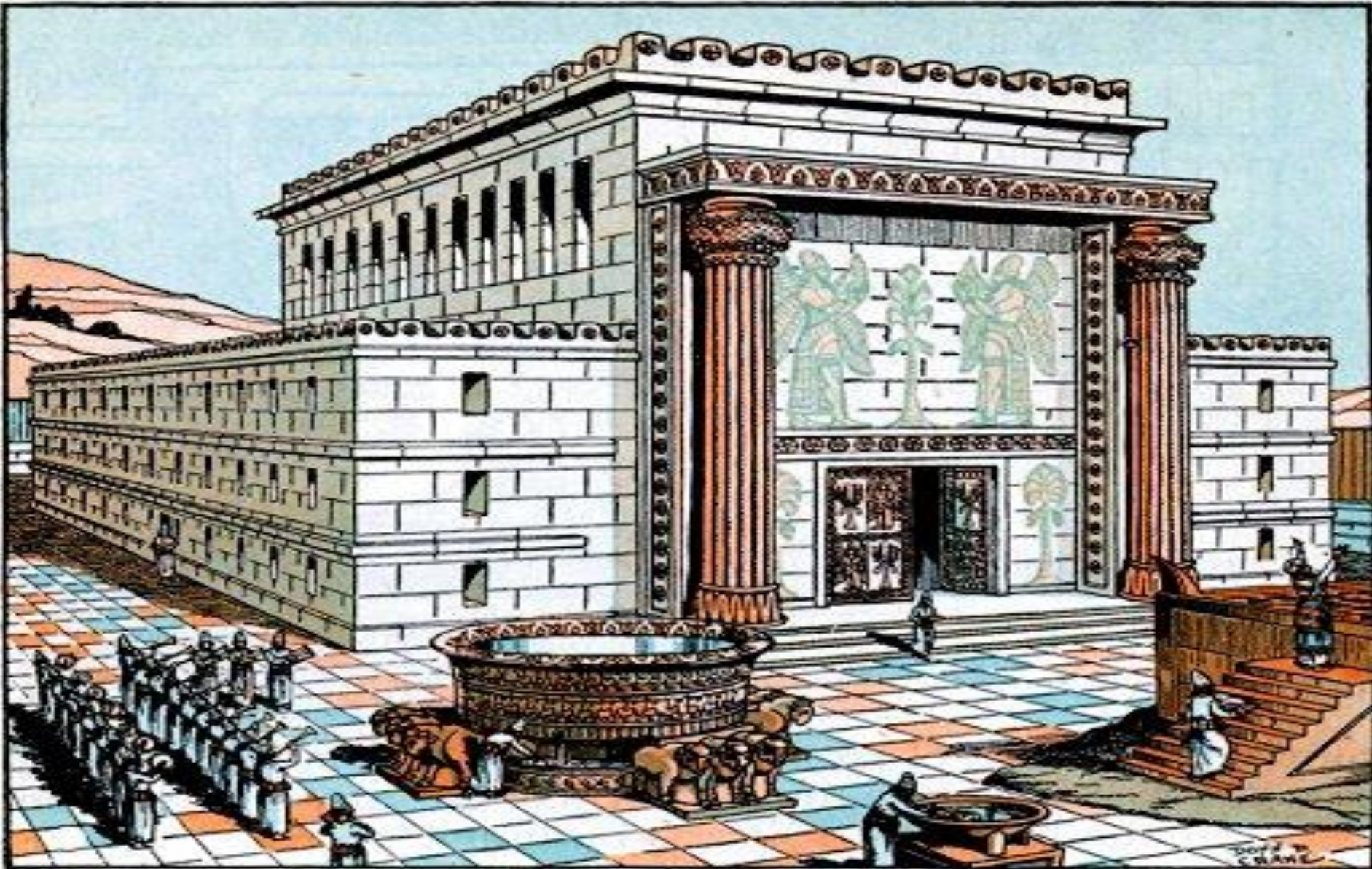
- **Gods Offer: Nation supported by Godly Kings**

SAMUEL 8 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

But when they said, "**Give us a king to lead us,**" this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. And the LORD told him: "**Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.**"

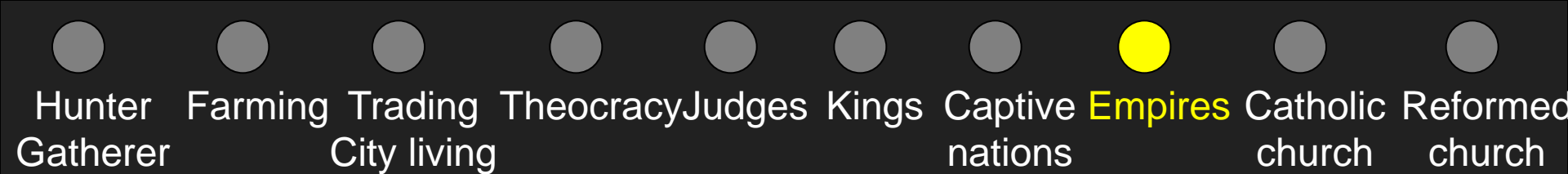
Solomon's Temple



- **Mankind's choice: Kings**
 - See next slide
- History: Saul is King, 1043B.C.
- **OPPORTUNITY: Godly lives led by Godly Kings**
- **Mankind: Reject judges, want kings, making decisions.**
- **Failure Pride! Evil kings! Greedy Kings! We fail again!**
- **God's response: Appoints Kings, Cause Evil Kings to fail together with those who follow them.**
- **Worship: Hebrew : Temple, sacrifices, God's law**
Idolaters: Idols, temples, sacrifices, mans law

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

- **Mankind's choice:** **Captive Nations** Jeremiah 29:14 ←
 - **History:** Israel fall 721 BC, Fall of Jerusalem and Judah into captivity approx 586 B.C.
 - **OPPORTUNITY:** Learn evil of about idolatry, return to the good of God
 - **Mankind:** Reject slavery and idolatry and rebuild temple.
 - **Failure** Pride! Takes a long time to repent! Some die!
 - **God's response:** Favor with idolater King's, return to their land, re-build the temple, sustain his people.
 - **Worship:** Hebrew : “synagogues”, songs, God's law
 Idolaters: Idols, temples, sacrifices, mans law
- GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us**



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- **Mankind's Greed: Empires**
- **History:** GREEK WORLD EMPIRE starts 327 BC (Alexander the Great dies)
ROMAN WORLD EMPIRE starts 44 BC (Julius Caesar dictator for life)
- **OPPORTUNITY:** To be saved by Jesus and be preserved as God's people forever
- **Mankind:** crucifies God's son
- **Failure PRIDE!** We want to control the Empires, Peace by FORCE, Re-built Temple is desecrated and destroyed
- **God's response:** Jesus, Holy Spirit!

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

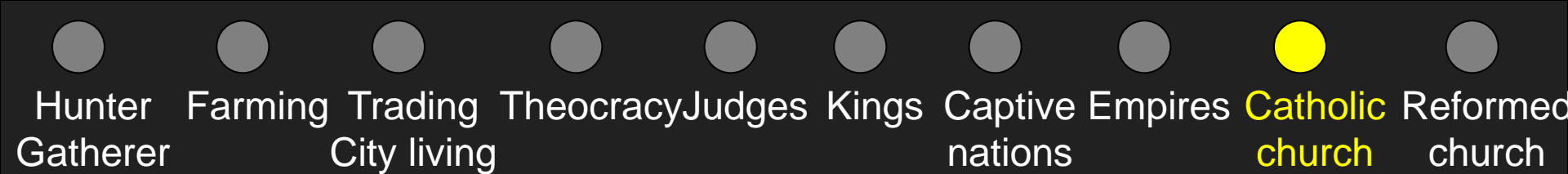
Empires

- Gods Offer: **Keep us together and preserve his people forever**

John 3:16

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.

OPPORTUNITY: Live in a Godly way in an Empire



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- **God's Offer:** World Wide Church
- **History:** In 325 A.D. Constantine summoned the First Council of Nicaea, effectively the first Ecumenical Council
- **OPPORTUNITY:** People led by people of God
- **Mankind:** Leads the church "for" God, political! Greedy!
- **Failure:** PRIDE! Man wants to control the Church and it's members! Conversion by FORCE! CRUSADES ! Indulgences!
- **God's response:** Jesus, Holy Spirit! Jesus, New Christ followers change the world and the Empires, No more sacrifices or Temple!

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

- **God's Offer:** Re-formed Church
- **History:** Re-forming church
 - Anabaptists 1518 A.D.
 - Anglicans 1534 A.D.
 - Lutherans 1520 A.D.
- **OPPORTUNITY:** Churches led by people of God with individual relationships with God.
- **Mankind:** Individual relationship with God is more important than the church as a whole. EVIL increases: Individualism splits the church multiple times. Superiority is ME being the owner and revealer of Gods word. Soul counting and short commitment salvations.

GOD: Wants a loving relationship with us

Today

- Gods Offer: Individuals serving the World sacrificially in God's service, unconstrained by "church" allegiances

The DO revolution of GOD's world is starting

OPPORTUNITY: Live sacrificial lives, spent for God, and focused on the coming eternal life, now!

Hebrews 13 - highlights



- Keep on loving each other as brothers and sisters. Don't forget to welcome strangers.
- Remember those in prison as if you were in prison with them. And remember those who are treated badly as if you yourselves were suffering.
- All of you should honor marriage.
- Don't be controlled by love for money.
- Remember your leaders
- Don't be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings
- So let us never stop offering to God our praise through Jesus.
- Don't forget to do good. Don't forget to share with others.
- Obey your leaders. Put yourselves under their authority.
- **We can do it only with the help of Jesus Christ. Give him glory for ever and ever. Amen.**