

## Deuteronomy 12

Verses 1 – 7

**“These are the statutes and the judgments which you shall carefully follow in the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you to possess as long as you live on the earth. <sup>2</sup> You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations whom you are going to dispossess serve their gods, on the high mountains, on the hills, and under every leafy tree. <sup>3</sup> And you shall tear down their altars and smash their memorial stones to pieces, and burn their Asherim in the fire, and cut to pieces the carved images of their gods; and you shall eliminate their name from that place. <sup>4</sup> You shall not act this way toward the Lord your God. <sup>5</sup> But you shall seek *the Lord* at the place which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and you shall come there. <sup>6</sup> You shall bring there your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the contribution of your hand, your vowed offerings, your voluntary offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. <sup>7</sup> There you and your households shall eat before the Lord your God, and rejoice in all your undertakings in which the Lord your God has blessed you.**

**These are the statutes and the judgments which you shall carefully follow**

How many times has Moses used the word careful or carefully in the Book of Deuteronomy in chapters 1 thru 11?

14 times so far. (depending on which version you use)

And he will use it another 21 times by the end of this book.

**<sup>3</sup> And you shall tear down their altars and smash their memorial stones to pieces, and burn their Asherim in the fire, and cut to pieces the carved images of their gods; and you shall eliminate their name from that place.**

Moses repeats some themes over and over again in Deut.

We just covered this in chapter 7 verse 5

Getting rid of the many false gods in Canaan was of paramount importance because God wanted Israel to get started on the right footing.

**But you shall seek *the Lord* at the place which the Lord your God will choose from all your tribes, to establish His name there for His dwelling, and you shall come there.**

God's dwelling place was at the Tabernacle.

During their time in the wilderness the Tabernacle was moved from one location to another as they were led by the cloud.

However, after they crossed the Jordan and took over Canaan and the land was distributed and settled the Tabernacle remained at Shiloh for over 300 years.

See Chart 1205

<b>Where the Tabernacle was located while Israel was in the wilderness</b>				
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Began</b>	<b>Ended</b>	<b>Years</b>
Num. 33	42 locations	1445	1406	39

<b>Where the Tabernacle was located after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?</b>				
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Began</b>	<b>Ended</b>	<b>Years</b>
Joshua 5:10	Gilgal	1406	1396	10
Joshua 18:1	Shiloh	1396	1070	326
Jeremiah 7:14	Shiloh destroyed	1070		
	Not sure	1070	1020	50
I Sam 21	Nob	1020	1010	10
I Chron. 16:39-40	Gibeon	1010	960	50
I Kings 8:3-4	Temple	960		

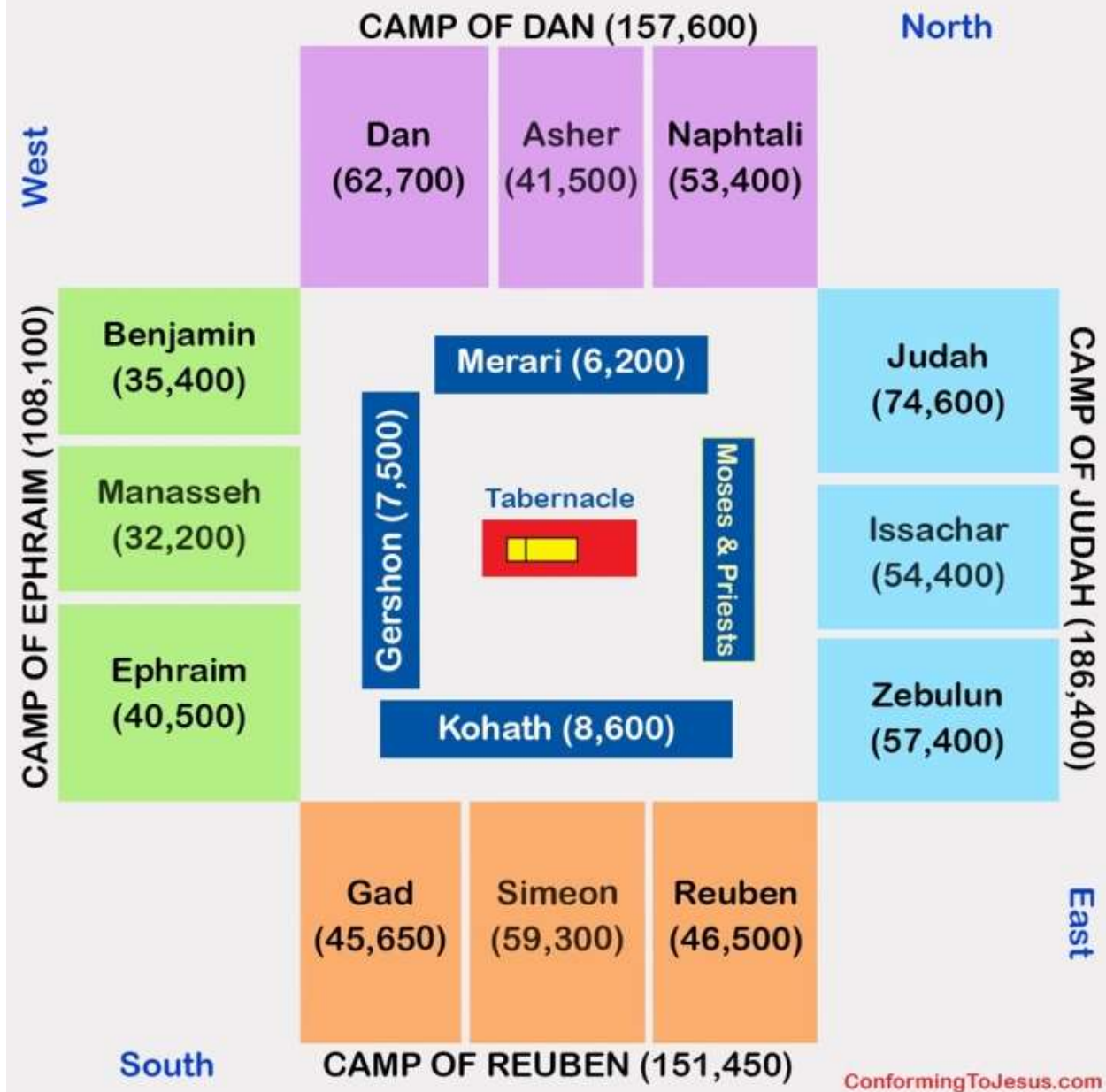
When Israel was in the wilderness all of Israel surrounded the Tabernacle and were probably within 5 miles of it.

This may sound like a long distance but not when we consider the community has a population of 2.5 million people.

See Pic 1210

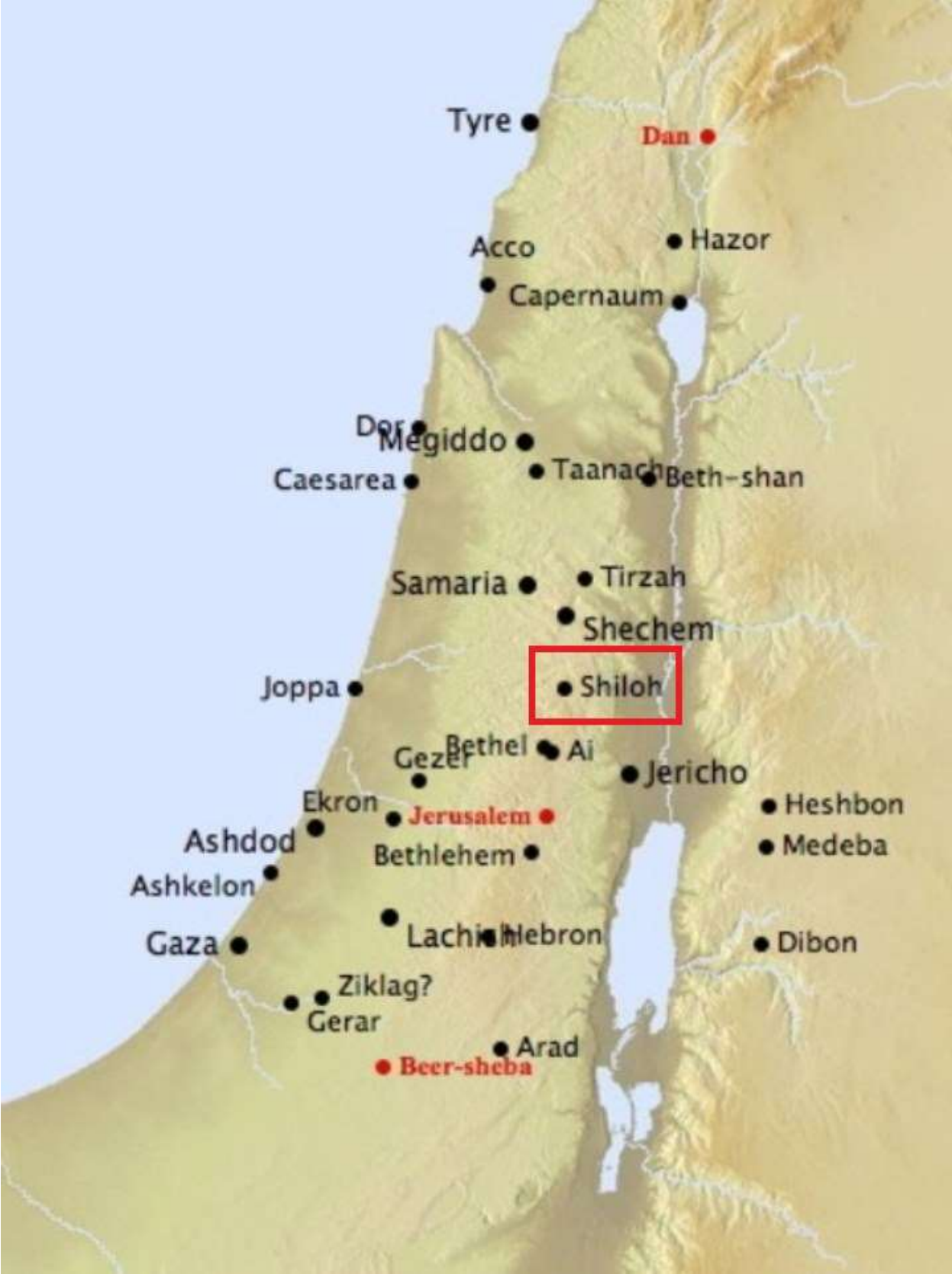
# ENCAMPMENT OF THE TRIBES OF ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS

Numbers 2:1 - 3:39



After they settled in Canaan the people had to travel a much longer distance, depending on where they lived, to get to the Tabernacle.

See pic 1215



Verses 8 – 14

**<sup>8</sup>“You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, everyone *doing* whatever is right in his *own* eyes; <sup>9</sup> for you have not as yet come to the resting place and the inheritance which the Lord your God is giving you. <sup>10</sup> When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around *you* so that you live in security, <sup>11</sup> then it shall come about that the place in which the Lord your God will choose for His name to dwell, there you shall bring everything that I command you: your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution of your hand, and all your choice vowed offerings which you will vow to the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your sons and daughters, your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion or inheritance with you. <sup>13</sup>“Be careful that you do not offer your burnt offerings in any *cultic* place that you see, <sup>14</sup> but *only* in the place which the Lord chooses in one of your tribes: there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do everything that I command you.**

**You shall not do at all what we are doing here today, everyone *doing* whatever is right in his *own* eyes**

During their time in the wilderness there had not been a rigid adherence to the requirements of the law because many statutes and regulations applied to their occupation of the Promised Land.

For example, the festivals, tithing, and even the observance of circumcision had not been followed for 40 years.

See Joshua 5:5

**When you cross the Jordan and live in the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and He gives you rest from all your enemies around *you* so that you live in security, <sup>11</sup> then it shall come about that the place in which the Lord your God will choose for His name to dwell, there you shall bring everything that I command you**

The Tabernacle was at Gilgal during the time it took to capture & settle Canaan.

Then the Tabernacle was moved to Shiloh where it remained for 326 years.

See Chart 1220

**Where the Tabernacle was located while Israel was in the wilderness**

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Num. 33	42 locations	1445	1406	39

**Where the Tabernacle was located after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?**

Scripture	Place	Began	Ended	Years
Joshua 5:10	Gilgal	1406	1396	10
Joshua 18:1	Shiloh	1396	1070	326
Jeremiah 7:14	Shiloh destroyed	1070		
	Not sure	1070	1020	50
I Sam 21	Nob	1020	1010	10
I Chron. 16:39-40	Gibeon	1010	960	50
I Kings 8:3-4	Temple	960		

**There you shall bring everything that I command you:**

**Your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and all your offerings**

In the wilderness, their income was limited, but in the Promised Land they would be greatly blessed.

They would have trees and vineyards, crops and cattle, and all of this was supposed to be tithed.

And it was supposed to be given at the Tabernacle

**Be careful that you do not offer your burnt offerings in any *cultic* place that you see, <sup>14</sup> but *only* in the place which the Lord chooses in one of your tribes: there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do everything that I command you.**

The high places used by the Canaanites for their sacrifices were strictly forbidden.

The Tabernacle was the only acceptable place to offer sacrifices.



Verses 15 - 19

**<sup>15</sup> “However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, whatever you desire, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean *alike* may eat it, as the gazelle and the deer. <sup>16</sup> Only you shall not eat the blood; you are to pour it out on the ground like water. <sup>17</sup> You are not allowed to eat within your gates the tithe of your grain, new wine, or oil, or the firstborn of your herd or flock, or any of your vowed offerings which you vow, or your voluntary offerings, or the contribution of your hand. <sup>18</sup> But you shall eat them before the Lord your God in the place which the Lord your God will choose, you and your son and daughter, and your male and female slaves, and the Levite who is within your gates; and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God in all your undertakings. <sup>19</sup> Be careful that you do not abandon the Levite as long as you live in your land.**

**However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, whatever you desire, only you shall not eat the blood; you are to pour it out on the ground like water**

This was a big change in the Law.

See chart 1225 **Change in the law #1**

Changes in the law	
Lev. 17:3 - 5	Anyone from the house of Israel who slaughters an ox, a lamb, or a goat in the camp, or slaughters it outside the camp, and has not brought it to the doorway of the tent of meeting to present it as an offering to the Lord in front of the tabernacle of the Lord, bloodshed is to be counted against that person. He has shed blood, and that person shall be cut off from among his people
Deut. 12:15 - 16	<b>15</b> "However, you may slaughter and eat meat within any of your gates, whatever you desire, according to the blessing of the Lord your God which He has given you; the unclean and the clean alike may eat it, as the gazelle and the deer. 16 Only you shall not eat the blood; you are to pour it out on the ground like water.

**Why did God make this change?**

Because in Leviticus, everyone was close to the Tabernacle  
But in Canaan, many in Israel would be several days distance away from Shiloh

Israel could kill whatever animals were required for food at any location with the provision that the blood must not be eaten.

**You are not allowed to eat within your gates the tithe of your grain, new wine, or oil, or the firstborn of your herd or flock, or any of your vowed offerings which you vow, or your voluntary offerings, or the contribution of your hand**

Anything that belonged to God had to be taken to the Tabernacle.

This guaranteed that the Levites were not neglected.

Verses 20 – 28

<sup>20</sup> **“When the Lord your God extends your border as He has promised you, and you say, ‘I will eat meat,’ because you desire to eat meat, *then* you may eat meat, whatever you desire. <sup>21</sup> If the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter *animals* from your herd and flock which the Lord has given you, as I have commanded you; and you may eat within your gates whatever you desire. <sup>22</sup> Just as a gazelle or a deer is eaten, so you may eat it; the unclean and the clean alike may eat it. <sup>23</sup> Only be sure not to eat the blood, for the blood is the life, and you shall not eat the life with the flesh. <sup>24</sup> You shall not eat it; you shall pour it out on the ground like water. <sup>25</sup> You shall not eat it, so that it may go well for you and your sons after you, since you will be doing what is right in the sight of the Lord. <sup>26</sup> Only your holy things which you may have and your vowed offerings, you shall take and go to the place which the Lord chooses. <sup>27</sup> And you shall offer your burnt offerings, the flesh and the blood, on the altar of the Lord your God; and the blood of your sacrifices shall be poured out on the altar of the Lord your God, and you shall eat the flesh. <sup>28</sup> “Be careful and listen to all these words which I am commanding you, so that it may go well for you and your sons after you forever, for you will be doing what is good and right in the sight of the Lord your God.**

These verses are a repeat of the prior section, except for part of verse 21

**If the place where the Lord your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, then you may slaughter *animals* from your herd and flock which the Lord has given you, and you may eat within your gates whatever you desire**



In the wilderness, when the law in Leviticus was given, everyone was relatively close to the Tabernacle; within a few miles.

But in Canaan, many in Israel would be a good distance away from Shiloh

Distance north and south	up to 70 miles away	4 day journey
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Distance east and west	up to 30 miles away	2 day journey
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Therefore, killing animals of the flock or herd for common use would no longer have to be taken to the Tabernacle, because it wasn't feasible to do so once they lived in Canaan and were days away from the Tabernacle.

Verses 29 – 32

**<sup>29</sup> “When the Lord your God cuts off from you the nations which you are going in to dispossess, and you dispossess them and live in their land, <sup>30</sup> be careful that you are not ensnared to follow them, after they are destroyed from your presence, and that you do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’ <sup>31</sup> You shall not behave this way toward the Lord your God, because every abominable act which the Lord hates, they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire for their gods. <sup>32</sup> “Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take *anything* away from it.**

**Do not inquire about their gods, saying, ‘How do these nations serve their gods, that I also may do likewise?’ <sup>31</sup> You shall not behave this way toward the Lord your God,**

This is a repeat of the warning given in the first four verses of this chapter

**Because every abominable act which the Lord hates, they have done for their gods; for they even burn their sons and daughters in the fire for their gods.**

Here is the reason God removed the Canaanites.

It was due to their evil conduct which included sacrificing their sons and daughters.

This is hard for a rational mind to comprehend but this was the outcome of their pagan ways of living.