

# Judges Series

## Lesson #56

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Dean Bible Ministries

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**No Compromise with  
the World System  
Judges 6:25–33**

# JUDGES

2021

**When Chaos Was King**

# Outline of “Judges” (Chieftains, Tribal Rulers, Leaders)

**1:1–3:6**

## **Introduction**

**How Israel went from  
spiritual victory  
to being worse than  
the Canaanites**

**Incomplete obedience**

**Compromise**

**Failure**

**Cycles of discipline**

**3:7–16:31**

## **Paganization of the Leadership**

**Othniel (the best)**

**Ehud**

**Shamgar**

**Deborah**

**Gideon**

**Tola, Jair**

**Jephthah**

**Ibzan, Elon, Abdon**

**Samson (the worst)**

**17:1–21:25**

## **Paganization of the Priests**

**Chap. 17–18**

**and the**

**People**

**Chap. 19–21**

**Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the spirit of the age, but be transformed by the renewing of your thinking, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.”**

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***αἰών* *aiōn* masc sing dat (m) age, spirit of the age**

**Rom. 12:2, “And do not be pressed into the mold of the spirit of the age, but be transformed by the renewing of your thinking, that you may demonstrate that the will of God is good and acceptable and complete.”**

**HVP vs. DVP**

**James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

**James 1:6, “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.**

**James 1:7, “For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;**

**James 1:8, “he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.”**

**δίψυχος *dipsuchos* masc plur voc double-minded**

**James 4:4, “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”**

**HVP vs. DVP**

**James 4:8, “Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.”**

**δίψυχος *dipsuchos* masc plur voc double-minded**

**1. A double-minded man is someone who has a soul filled with a lot of human viewpoint (HVP) thinking.**

**What is human viewpoint thinking?**

**HVP is the opposite of divine viewpoint (DVP)**

**DVP expresses God's thinking on any subject, any value, any way or method of thinking, or making decisions, or evaluating situations in life.**

**We can also call this way of thinking, wisdom, TRUTH, the only correct way.**

**The only source of DVP is the Bible, the Word of God, which is called the thinking, the mind of Christ in 1 Cor. 2:16. The only way we can know the thinking of Christ is to know the Word of God.**

**2. In contrast, DVP produces skillful living, inner joy, happiness, tranquility, stability. This is the opposite of running your life on feelings, emotion, the opinions of fallible human beings. HVP will always lead to instability, failure, self-induced misery, because HVP is always based on arrogance, man as the measure, rather than God's Word as the measure.**

**3. The root problem in this world is that everyone of us develops within the cultural framework of HVP.**

**4. As we have seen in our study of Judges to this point, the conflict in Israel was between the DVP of the Mosaic Law and the HVP of the Canaanite culture, which had substituted a fertility worship for the worship of the true God of Creation, *Yhwh*.**

**Ex. 20:2, “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.**

**Ex. 20:3, “You shall have no other gods before Me.”**

**Judg. 6:8, “that the LORD sent a prophet to the children of Israel, who said to them, ‘Thus says the LORD God of Israel: “I brought you up from Egypt and brought you out of the house of bondage;**

**Judg. 6:9, “ ‘ “and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.”**

**Judg. 6:10, “ ‘ Also I said to you, “I am the LORD your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.” But you have not obeyed My voice.’ ”**

**Judg. 2:1, “Then the Angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim, and said: ‘I led you up from Egypt and brought you to the land of which I swore to your fathers; and I said, “I will never break My covenant with you.**

**Judg. 2:2, “ ‘ “And you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.” But you have not obeyed My voice. Why have you done this?’**

**Judg. 2:3, “Therefore I also said, ‘I will not drive them out before you; but they shall be thorns in your side, and their gods shall be a snare to you.’ ”**

**Judg. 2:10, “When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.”**

**Judg. 2:11, “Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD, and served the Baals;**

**Judg. 2:12, “and they forsook the LORD God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them, and they bowed down to them; and they provoked the LORD to anger.**

**Judg. 2:13, “They forsook the LORD and served Baal and the Ashtoreths.”**

*You shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

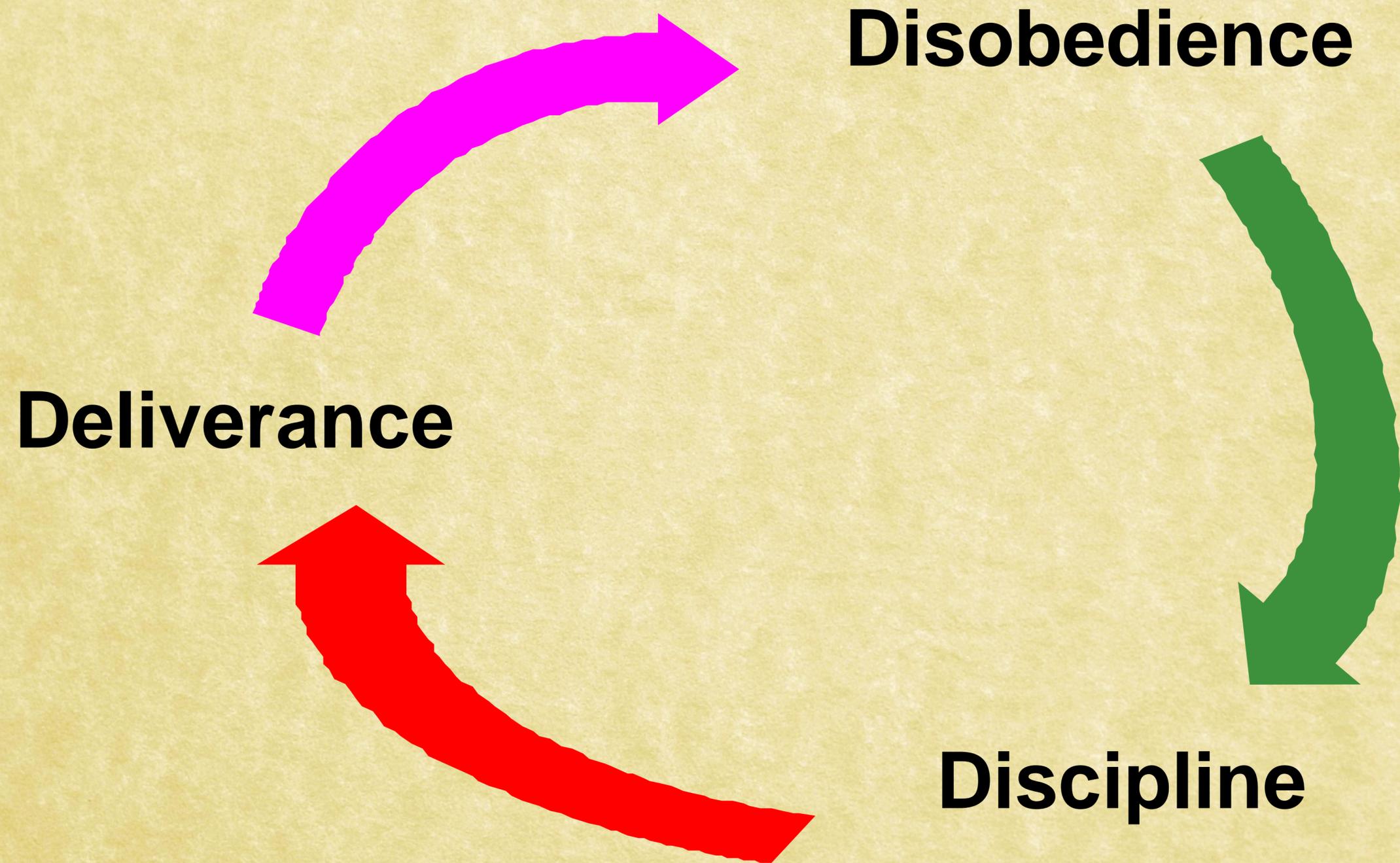
Figurine of Baal from Ugarit, 14th–13th centuries BC

*You shall not fear the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell*



Stele of Baal wielding lightning, from Ugarit, 15th–13th centuries BC

# The Cycles of the Judges



# **The Gideon Cycle:**

**Part 1: The deliverance from the Midianite oppression.**

- 1. Apostasy – Judges 6:1—————ONE verse**
- 2. Discipline – Judges 6:1b–6————FIVE verses**
- 3. Deliverance – Judges 6:7–8:35—NINETY-FOUR verses**

**Total: 100 verses**

**Part 2: The story of the first king of Israel, Judges 9**



Bible Places "Judges"

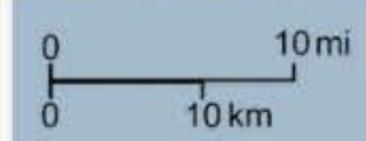
*And the hand of Midian overpowered Israel . . . Israel made dens in the mountains and the caves*



Caves in Arbel cliffs

# Gideon and the Israelites Battle the Midianites

-  Possible routes of Midianite, Amalekite, and Eastern forces to Moreh
-  Gideon and his 300 men's route from Harod Spring to Moreh
-  Possible routes of Asherite, Zebulunite, Naphtalite, and Manassite forces to Harod Spring
-  Territory of Asher
-  Territory of Zebulun
-  Territory of Naphtali
-  Territory of West Manasseh



**Judg. 6:10, “Also I said to you, ‘I am the Lord your God; do not fear the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell.’ But you have not obeyed My voice.” ~NKJV**

**Judg. 6:14, “Then the LORD turned to him and said, ‘Go in this might of yours, and you shall save Israel from the hand of the Midianites. Have I not sent you?’ ” [Truly, I have sent you, ~RD]**

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



Bible Places "Judges"

Relief of wheat being reaped, from the tomb of Paheri in el-Kab

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Grain being threshed with cattle

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Threshing floor at Gibeon

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Threshing floor

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Threshing floor at Neot Kedumim

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Threshing floor with sledges and a winnowing fork at Yad HaShmonah

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



Bible Places "Judges"

Threshing floor implements at Neot Kedumim

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Peasant winnowing in the Field of Boaz

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Man winnowing

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Chaff on a threshing floor at Gibeon

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



Winepress at Neot Kedumim

*Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites*



Winepress on the summit of Mount Gilboa

**1. Then the Lord = identification of the Angel of the Lord as *Yhwh*—turned to Gideon.**

**2. Is it a question, “Have I not sent you?”**

**or a statement: Truly, I have sent you!**

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**or a statement: Truly, I have sent you!?**

**Verse 16 answers the question.**

**Gideon then tries to avoid the commission for the first time.**

**Judg. 6:15, “So he said to Him, ‘O my Lord, how can I save Israel? Indeed my clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father’s house.’ ”**

**Judg. 6:16, “And the LORD said to him, ‘Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man.’ ”**

**Judg. 6:18, “ ‘Do not depart from here, I pray, until I come to You and bring out my offering and set it before You.’ And He said, ‘I will wait until you come back.’**

**Judg. 6:19, “So Gideon went in and prepared a young goat, and unleavened bread from an ephah of flour. The meat he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot; and he brought them out to Him under the terebinth tree and presented them.”**

*And Gideon went in and prepared a young goat*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Baby goat near Esdar

*And Gideon went in and prepared a young goat*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Baby goats in Nahal Yitla

*And Gideon went in and prepared a young goat*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Goat kid being prepared for the guests at a Bedouin wedding

*And unleavened cakes from an ephah of flour*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Unleavened bread being baked for the Samaritan Passover

**Judg. 6:20, “The Angel of God said to him, ‘Take the meat and the unleavened bread and lay them on this rock, and pour out the broth.’ And he did so.**

**Judg. 6:21, “Then the Angel of the LORD put out the end of the staff that was in His hand, and touched the meat and the unleavened bread; and fire rose out of the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened bread. And the Angel of the LORD departed out of his sight.”**

**Judg. 6:22, “Now Gideon perceived that He was the Angel of the LORD. So Gideon said, ‘Alas, O Lord GOD! For I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.’**

**Judg. 6:23, “Then the LORD said to him, ‘Peace be with you; do not fear, you shall not die.’ ”**

**Judg. 6:24, “So Gideon built an altar there to the LORD,  
and called it The–LORD–Is–Peace. To this day it is still in  
Ophrah of the Abiezrites.”**

**Judg. 6:25, “Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, ‘Take your father’s young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;’ ”**

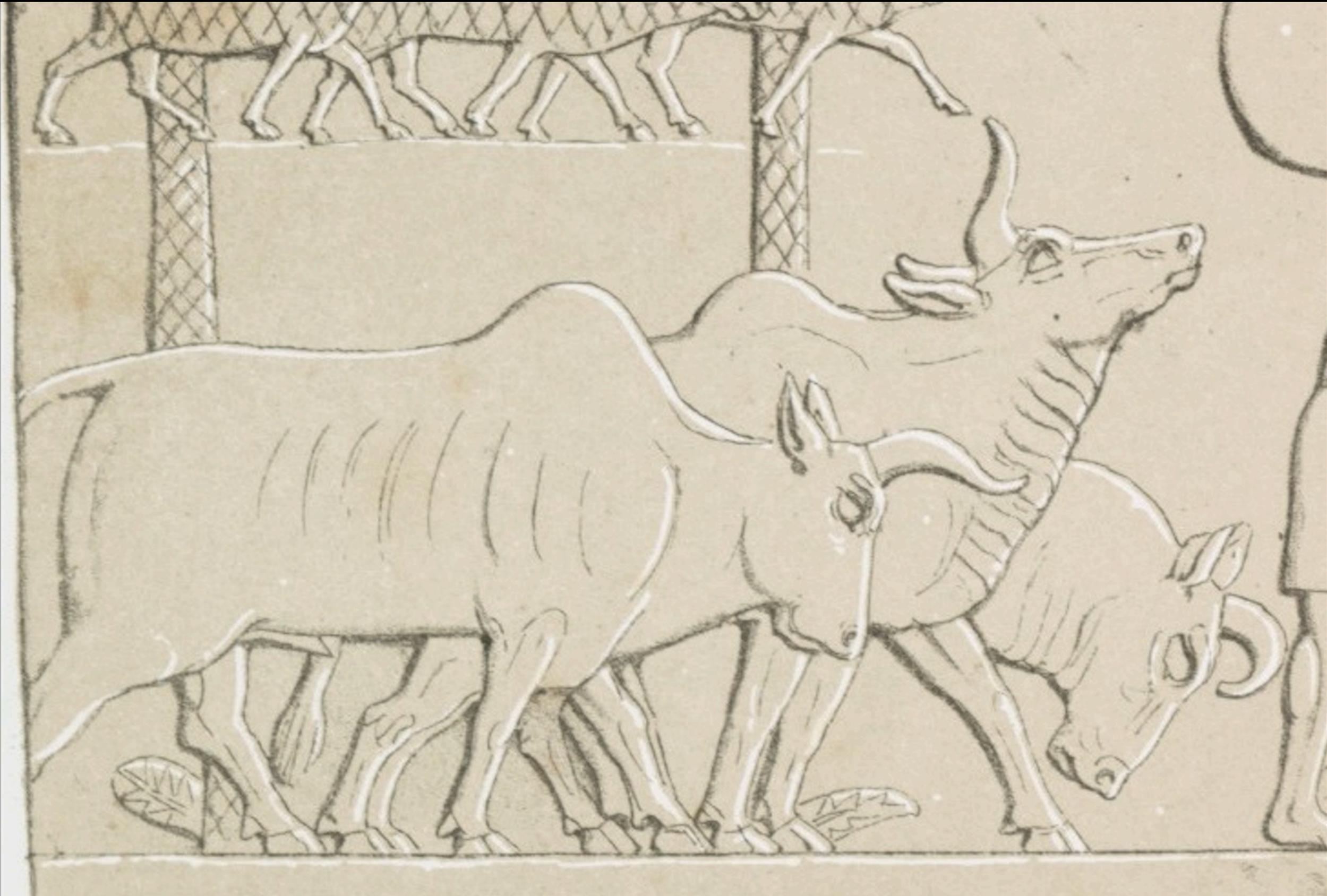
**“Take the bull of the cattle [the prime bullock], which is your father’s, and the bull that is seven years old, and destroy the altar to Ba’al, which is your father’s, and cut down the Asherah pole which is by it, next to it” ~RD**

*That night, Yahweh said to him, "Take your father's bull and the second bull seven years old"*



Men plowing with bulls in the Jezreel Valley

*That night, Yahweh said to him, "Take your father's bull and the second bull seven years old"*



Relief depicting bulls, from the palace of Sennacherib (sketch)

*Tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father*



Statue of a storm god at Karatepe, 8th century BC

**Judg. 6:26, “ ‘and build an altar to the Lord your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down.’**

**Judg. 6:27, “So Gideon took ten men from among his servants and did as the Lord had said to him. But because he feared his father’s household and the men of the city too much to do it by day, he did it by night.**

**Judg. 6:28, “And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built. ~NKJV**

*Tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father*



Statue of a storm god at Karatepe, 8th century BC

*Tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father*



Bull pedestal from the storm god statue at Karatepe, 8th century BC

*Tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father*



Canaanite altar near the palace at Hazor

*Tear down the altar of Baal that belongs to your father, and cut down the Asherah beside it*



Cult stand depicting Asherah, from Taanach, 10th century BC

*And take the second bull and offer a burnt offering with the wood of the Asherah*



Fire celebration during Lag BaOmer

**Judg. 6:28, “And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, there was the altar of Baal, torn down; and the wooden image that was beside it was cut down, and the second bull was being offered on the altar which had been built.**

**Judg. 6:29, “So they said to one another, ‘Who has done this thing?’ And when they had inquired and asked, they said, ‘Gideon the son of Joash has done this thing.’**

**Judg. 6:30, “Then the men of the city said to Joash, ‘Bring out your son, that he may die, because he has torn down the altar of Baal, and because he has cut down the wooden image that was beside it.’ ” ~NKJV**

*In the morning . . . the altar of Baal was broken down and the Asherah had been cut down*



Olive tree cut down near Jubeihah

*Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and called it Yahweh-shalom*



*Bible Places "Judges"*

Sacrificial altar in an Israelite temple at Arad, circa 1100 BC

*Then Gideon built an altar there to Yahweh and called it Yahweh-shalom*



Bible Places "Judges"

Sacrificial altar in an Israelite temple at Arad, circa 1100 BC

**Judg. 6:31, “But Joash said to all who stood against him, ‘Would you plead for Baal? Would you save him? Let the one who would plead for him be put to death by morning! If he is a god, let him plead for himself, because his altar has been torn down!’**

**Judg. 6:32, “Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, ‘Let Baal plead against him, because he has torn down his altar.’ ” ~NKJV**