

*Homogeneous and Heterogeneous*

	Good	Bad
Homogeneous =		
Heterogeneous =		

What is God's plan for similarities and differences in ~~the~~<sup>our</sup> church?

**Building Bridges**

Joshua 22

Chinese: page 385  
 Spanish: page 302  
 Brown: page 234  
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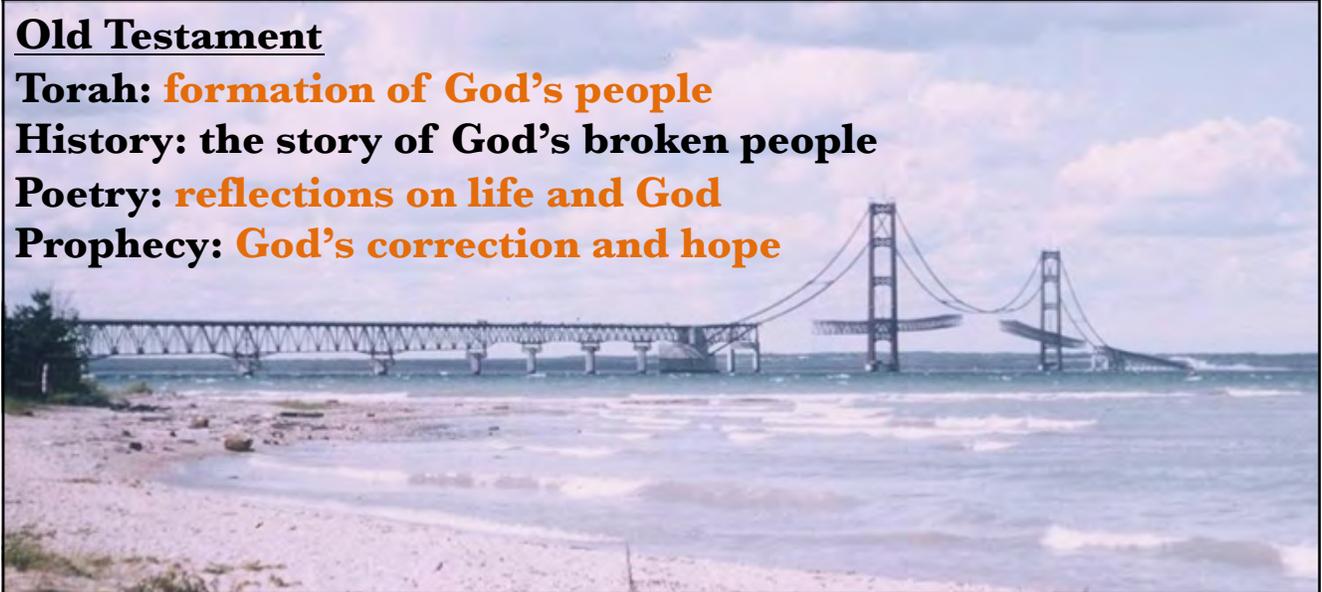
**Old Testament**

**Torah: formation of God's people**

**History: the story of God's broken people**

**Poetry: reflections on life and God**

**Prophecy: God's correction and hope**



## **FORMATION** Crossway Membership Series

- **Who we are** as a church
  - Core values
  - Central theology
- **How we live together** as a church
  - Vision and purpose
  - Key practices

*Living out God's vision for His people*



+40 years Moses died (+ that generation)  
Joshua took leadership  
People prepared to enter the Promised Land

(middle) People conquered land on the east of the Jordan (defense)  
2.5 tribes wanted it for their home

Moses agreed, if they agreed to fight for the 9.5 tribes on the western side

+1 year People were too afraid to enter the Promised Land  
Start Moses led people out of slavery to go to Promised Land

To the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, “Remember the command that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you after he said, ‘The Lord your God will give you rest by giving you this land.’ Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but **all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites.** You are to help them until the Lord gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the Lord your God is giving them. **After that, you may go back** and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.”

Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.”

*Joshua 1:12-16*

## *Joshua 22*

1-9:

10:

11-12:

13-20:

21-29:

30-31:

32-33:

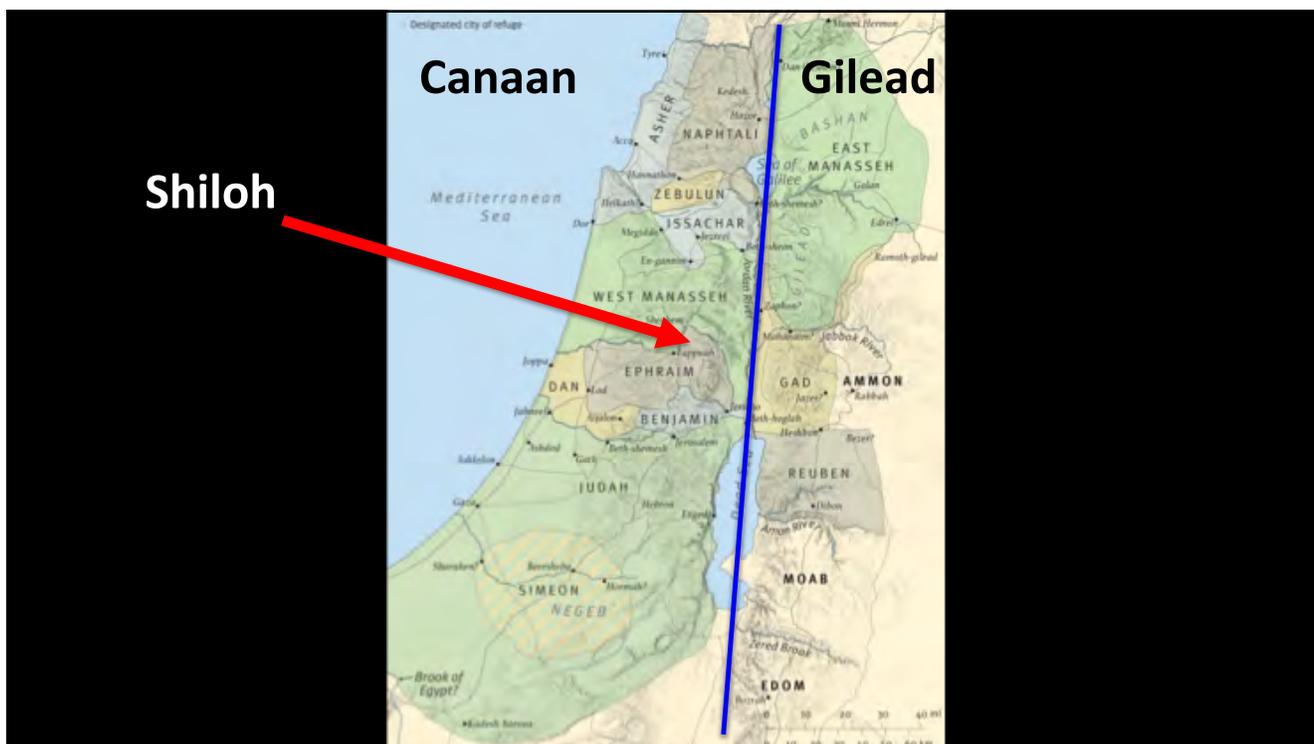
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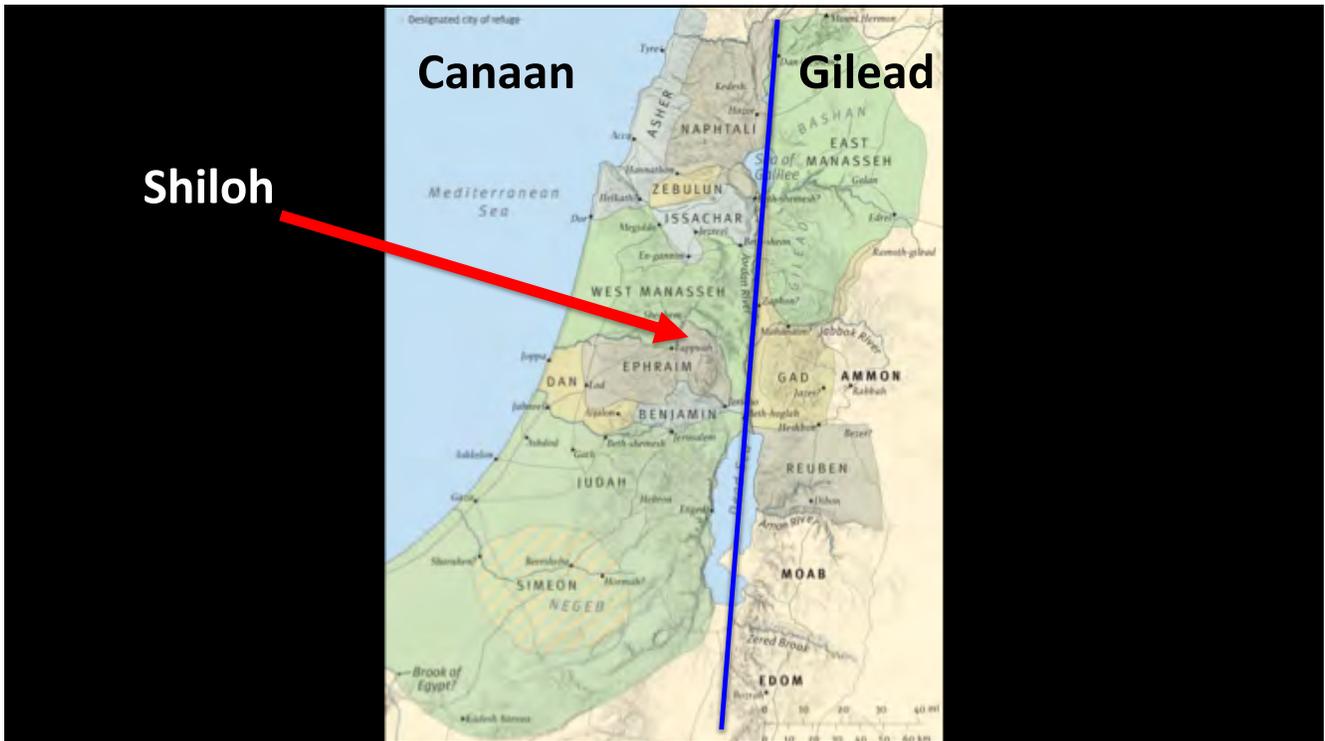
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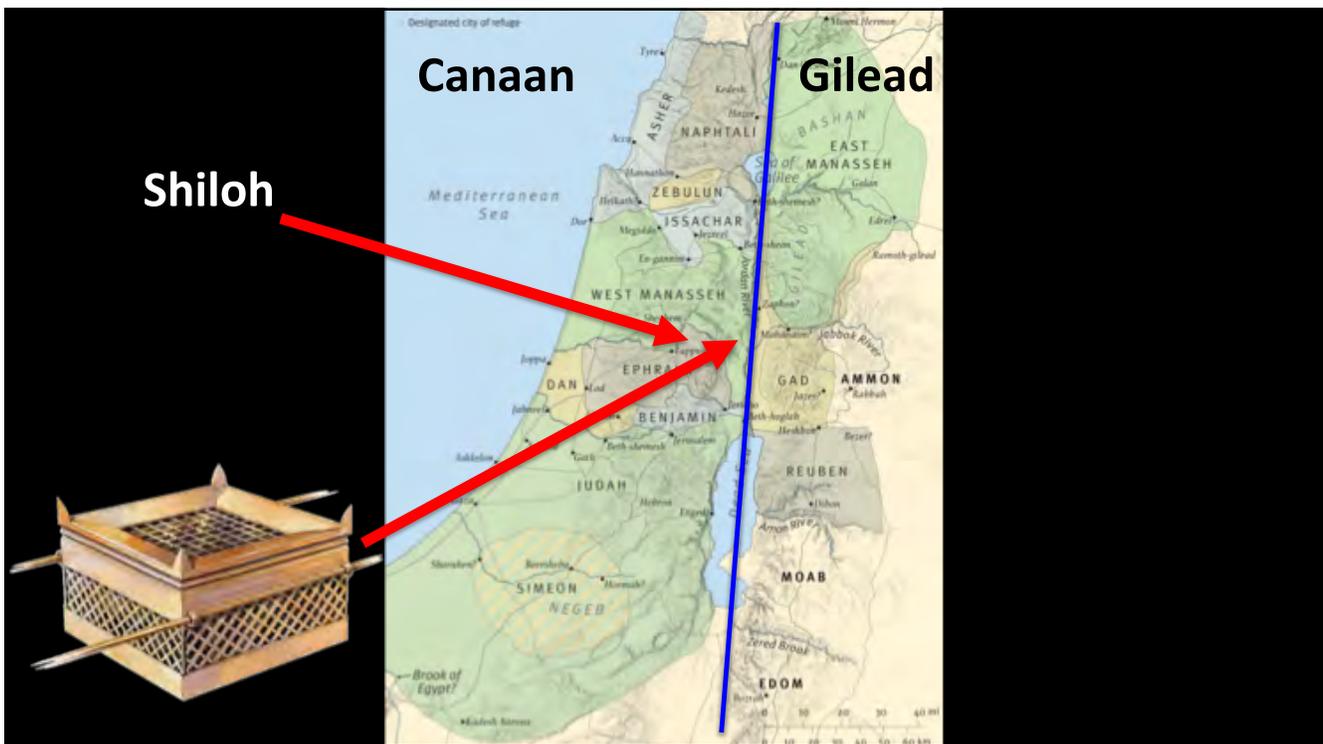
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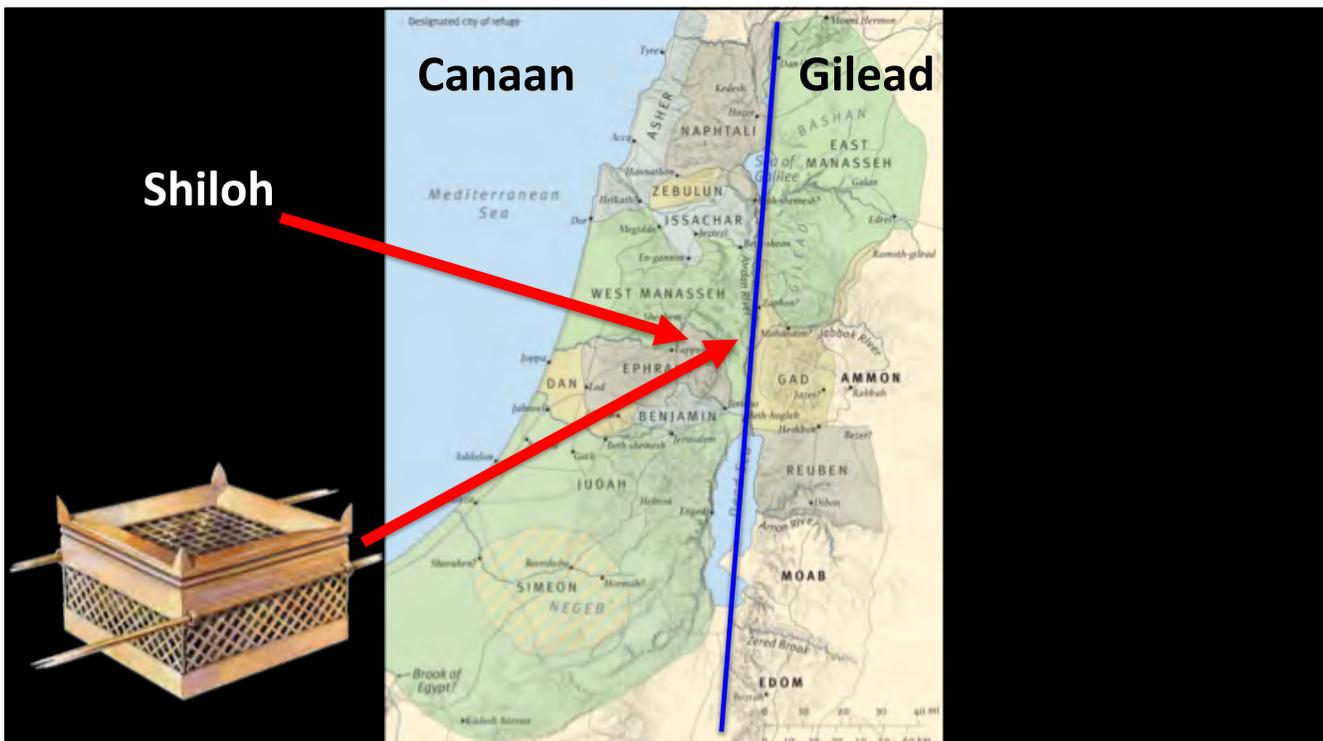
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 32-33: Western tribes are pleased and approve  
 34: Altar named: **A Witness Between Us**  
**—that the LORD is God (of all of us)**

### *The Big Idea*

God intends for His people to have a diverse unity

Without rich understanding of our differences  
and deep trust in God

God's people will inevitably dishonor God  
and hurt each other

### *Application*

- Realize that how we each the world see is **not** neutral
  - **Perspective:** where you stand  
when you observe the world
  - We all stand somewhere
  - Only God can see purely objectively

### *Application*

- Realize that how we each the world see is **not** neutral
- Learn to see through other people's eyes
  - All have us have **Us** and **Them**
    - How might **Us** and **Them** be defined?
  - “**I** have to learn from **Them**”
    - What makes someone a good learner?

### *Bennett Scale*

Ethnocentric Stages			Ethnorelative Stages		
Individual assumes their own culture is 'normal' and central to others' perceive reality			Individual experiences other cultures as equally complex yet different constructions of reality		
Denial	Defense	Minimization	Acceptance	Adaptation	Integration

### *Application*

- Realize that how we each the world see is **not** neutral
- Learn to see through other people's eyes
- Submit our perspectives to the vision (Word) of God
  - The truth of God's Word is objective
  - God's Word is narrated from human perspectives
  - How we each see the Bible is not neutral
  - Learn to see it more richly by learning how others see it

### *Application*

- Realize that how we each the world see is **not** neutral
- Learn to see through other people's eyes
- Submit our perspectives to the vision (Word) of God
- Commit to be quick to listen generously, slow to speak, and slow to come to judgment (especially in the church)
  - “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this:  
 Everyone should be quick to listen,  
 slow to speak  
 and slow to become angry” *James 1:19*

## Be bridge builders...



### DIVERSE UNITY

We **deeply value our unity in Christ in the midst of the richness of diversity of His body and in our congregation.** We value the diversity of culture, age, educational level, socioeconomic status, kinds of work and careers, and so on. When we cherish diversity, it will help prevent us from drifting away from Christianity to something else (for example, nationalism, or Christianity limited by one's own cultural perspectives, or confusing cultural values as Christian values). We believe that what **makes us the same as human beings** (in particular, we are made in the image of God yet spoiled by sin, so we are in need of a savior, and Jesus Christ is the Savior for all who believe) **is more fundamental than all of the differences between us.**

### *The Big Idea*

God intends for His people to have a diverse unity

**With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.**

*Ephesians 1:8-10*