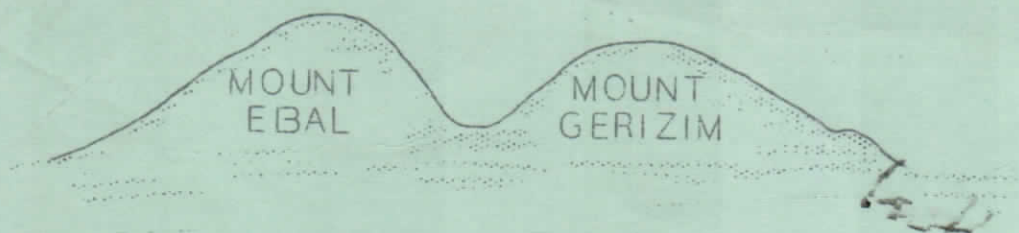


MOUNT EBAL AND GERIZIM - JOSHUA

(M)



We remember Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim because of what happened here soon after Joshua led the children of Israel into the land. You remember that Moses wanted to be very sure that the people would remember and obey God's law when they were in the land. Moses made a plan to remind the people of God's law. (Deuteronomy 27:1-13) As soon as Joshua could, he carried out this plan. (Joshua 8:30-35) The walls of Jericho had fallen. The city of Ai had been defeated and destroyed. Then Joshua brought the people to Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim ~~just as Moses had told him to do.~~ Joshua built an altar of stones, plastered them white, and wrote on them the words of God's commands. All of the people watched Joshua do this. Then the ark was placed in the valley between the two mountains. Half of the people stood on Mount Ebal and the other half stood on Mount Gerizim.

Then Joshua read the commands of God with a loud voice,

"Blessed is the man who does not bow down to any image"

And all the people on Mount Gerizim said,

"Amen"

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Then Joshua said again with a loud voice,

"Cursed is every man that bows down to graven images".

Now all the people who stood on Mount Ebal answered,

"Amen".

Maybe you are wondering what curse means. Curse means that harm or trouble would come to a man who did not listen and obey God. The people were agreeing that this trouble should come to such a person.

And so Joshua and the priests read all the commands of God. And the people who stood on Mount Gerizim answered "Amen" to every blessing. The people who stood on Mount Ebal said "Amen" to every curse. The people heard all the laws of God and agreed that good would come to the man who obeyed and trouble would come to the man who disobeyed.