

Stripling Discovery Leads to New Facts about God

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There is more information yet to be learned about God in the Bible than people realize. From the Bible's perspective everything it says about God was written millennia ago. We are the ones who keep learning more about Him—whether by examining His words or by exploring His universe.

Doctor Scott Stripling's astonishing discovery of the Joshua Tablet on Mount Ebal discussed in the previous article continues to leave speechless various universities and religious denominations.

We wonder how long it will be before they comment on the discovery of the oldest recorded name of God written twice in Hebrew-- with the word *curse* written ten times according to Hebraic Meter. The tablet contains 40 letters, arranged in twelve words.

The discovery of the Joshua Tablet leads us to reexamine Israel's first dedication service on Mount Gerizim and Ebal after their entering the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 27-28). Verses 5 and 6 in Chapter 27 offer cryptic words about building the *altar to the Lord*. There is more to the *altar to the Lord* than previously known.

⁵ "Moreover, you shall build there an **altar to the LORD your God**, an altar of stones; you shall not wield an iron *tool* on them.

⁶ "You shall build the **altar of the LORD your God** of uncut stones; and you shall offer on it burnt offerings to the LORD your God; (Deu 27:5-6 NASB)

Besides instructions to build the altar on Mount Ebal, in two consecutive verses we read *altar to/of the Lord your God*. Why is the phrase repeated two times? Why is Israel commanded to divide with six tribes on one mountain and six tribes on the other? Why are twelve curses listed in verses 16-26? The answer to these questions is about God being the God of each tribe and the God of all twelve tribes collectively.

In fact, in the Torah Moses repeats the phrase about an *altar to/of the Lord* twelve times. God starts dictating the phrase to Moses in Genesis 8:20; Moses does not know he will write it twelve times. Moses will not be able to attend the last two repetitions about which He writes.

Altar to/of the Lord 12 times in the Torah

altar to the Lord	מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה	(Gen 8:20)
altar to the Lord	מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה	(Gen 12:7)
altar to the Lord.....	מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה	(Gen 12:8)
altar to the Lord	מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה	(Gen 13:18)
on the altar of the Lord	עַל־מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה	(Lev 17:6)
on the altar to the Lord	עַל־מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה	(Lev 22:22)
on the altar of the Lord your God.....	עַל־מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ	(Deu 12:27)
on the altar of the Lord your God.....	עַל־מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ	(Deu 12:27)

altar of the Lord your God.....	מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ	(Deu 16:21)
altar of the Lord your God.....	מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ	(Deu 26:4)
altar to the Lord your God.....	מִזְבֵּחַ לַיהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ	(Deu 27:5)
the altar of the Lord your God.....	אֶת־מִזְבֵּחַ יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ	(Deu 27:6)

Multiple phrases about God, such as the above Hebraic Meter usually divide into seven and five, but here they divide into six and six, in the same way Israel is to divide with six tribes on Mount Gerizim and six on Mount Ebal. The first six phrases say *altar to/of God* and the last six say *altar to/of the Lord your God*. Even the staccato distribution of *to* and *of* are divided into six and six; then also the first six phrases in the series appear in Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and the last six in Deuteronomy

The degree that Hebraic Meter permeates the Torah would not be accessible without computers. The Holy Spirit waited silently for three and half millennia for human technology to catch up to the text just as God waited from the beginning of time for the world to discover DNA, the standard model of nuclear physics, electro magnetics, and chemical spectrum analysis. If the reader has not noticed, the series also divides into thirds.

Considering that this list was inaugurated when Noah offered a sacrifice to God after the Flood, it would be at least 900 years before Israel was to divide up on two mountains for this inaugural worship service in the Promised Land.

The event on Mount Ebal was written in God’s mind long before Moses wrote the first of twelve phrases on *the altar of the Lord* beginning in Genesis 8:20, the twelfth being Deut. 27:6. The reaffirmation of Hebraic Meter in the Joshua Tablet makes it clear that God wants us to know how He coordinated the division of six tribes on Mount Gerizim and six tribes on Mount Ebal with six repetitions of *altar to the Lord* and six more repetitions of *altar to the Lord your God*.

Search the internet and any biblical text in any book in the world and learn that this is the first recognition of God’s revelation of the foundation of Israel coordinated in Hebraic Meter with events in the text. From our perspective this is new information about God, Israel, and the Torah, which we previously had no idea was in the text.

God planned out the events that led up to Deuteronomy 27 and 28 and He planned to repeat the phrase about an altar dedicated to Him twelve times. From the altar built by Noah and three more built by Abram and all the events that led to Israel’s building the altar for its national dedication service on Mount Ebal, God arrived at the fulfillment of His promise in the 12th repetition. This is followed by twelve curses if they do not obey His Laws.

And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; (Gen 12:2)

Evidently, regardless of what the world thinks about His Bible, these twelve repetitions arranged in Hebraic Meter are particularly important to God.

This writer has not found much use, until now, for the word *theodicy* (the·od·i·cy). It is a *noun* which means: “the vindication of divine goodness and providence in view of the existence of evil.” Merriam Webster defines *theodicy* as: “defense of God's goodness and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil.”

This statement about theodicy is found in the internet dictionary:

“Theodicy is an ‘intensely urgent’ and “constant concern’ of ‘the entire Bible’. The Bible raises the issue of *theodicy* by its portrayals of God as inflicting evil and by its accounts of people who question God's goodness by their angry indictments. However, the Bible “contains no comprehensive theodicy.”

It is simply amazing how many educated people fail to understand what they are reading. Chapters 27-28 of Deuteronomy give detailed lists of how God will bless the nation of Israel if they obey Him and how God will curse them if they do not obey Him. It is a comprehensive theodicy, even as are the Book of Revelation and other sections of the Bible.

Now, three and half millennia later, Dr. Scott Stripling has dug up a true theodicy, not just for Israel, but for the entire world. The Joshua Tablet was found in 2019 but its discovery was not announced until March 29, 2022.

Since that time the world has experienced a global pandemic; it is experiencing an international monetary crisis; there are more threats of nuclear war than have ever been recorded; and by the end of 2022 it faces an imminent global famine. We might prefer that Stripling had left his discovery in the ground.

However, there is not much benefit to a theodicy if people are not warned of what is coming, which is the point of it all.

Revelation about and from God is always accompanied by judgment—whether blessings, or curses--because God is never a neutral observer. To those He wishes to preserve He gives repentance (Acts 5:31, 11:18; 2 Tim. 2:25) while He leaves as blind as the men of Sodom those whom He destroys.

Interest in God always leads to the need for repentance. Many today are too educated to repent. Repentance is always a good place to approach God and has often led to God's relenting of His curses (as he did with Nineveh in the book of Jonah).

The following two videos are excellent resources for learning about the Joshua Tablet.

Mt. Ebal “Curse Tablet” Full Press

Conference https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDD92qp_1fQ&t=13s held at the Lanier Theological Library in Houston Texas.

Archaeological find upends secular academia - Pod for Israel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWlKg9g1IXs&t=1908s>