

## Joshua 24

### The Sanctuary at Shechem

**Joshua 24:1** Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and called for the elders of Israel and for their heads and their judges and their officers; and they presented themselves before God.

**Joshua 24:26** And Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak that was by the sanctuary of Yahweh.



▲ Artist's drawing of the large temple fortress at Shechem. This building was 86 feet by 69 feet in size, with walls that were almost 17 feet thick. Such massive walls indicate that the structure had multiple stories. The foundations were stone, but the superstructure would have been made of mudbrick. This temple was first constructed in the Middle Bronze Age (circa 1600 BC) and was destroyed in the Iron Age I (circa 1100 BC).

**Genesis 12:6** Abram passed through the land as far as the site of Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. Now the Canaanite was then in the land.

**Genesis 35:4** So they gave to Jacob all the foreign gods which they had and the rings which were in their ears, and Jacob hid them under the oak which was near Shechem.

**Joshua 21:21** They gave them Shechem, the city of refuge for the manslayer, with its pasture lands, in the hill country of Ephraim, and Gezer with its pasture lands.

**Joshua 24:25** So Joshua made a covenant (berith) with the people that day, and made for them a statute and an ordinance in Shechem.

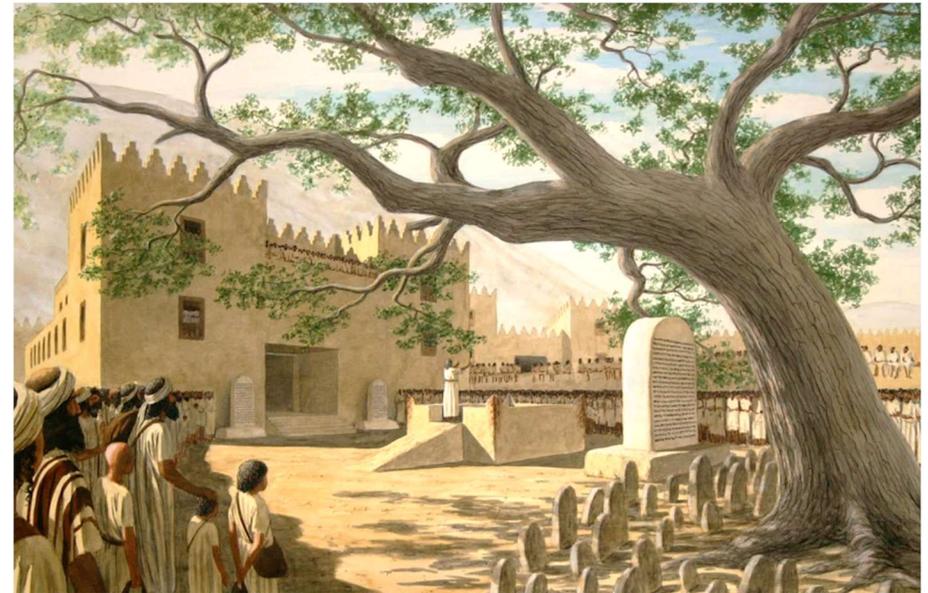
**Joshua 24:32** Now they buried the bones of Joseph, which the sons of Israel brought up from Egypt, at Shechem, in the piece of ground which Jacob had bought from the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem for one hundred pieces of money; and they became the inheritance of Joseph's sons.

**Judges 9:4** They gave him seventy pieces of silver from the house of Baal-berith with which Abimelech hired worthless and reckless fellows, and they followed him.

**Judges 9:6** All the men of Shechem and all Beth-millo assembled together, and they went and made Abimelech king, by the oak of the pillar which was in Shechem.

**Judges 9:46** When all the leaders of the tower of Shechem heard of it, they entered the inner chamber of the temple of El-berith.

**1 Kings 12:1** Then Rehoboam went to Shechem, for all Israel had come to Shechem to make him king.



▲ Two standing stones were found flanking the entrance of the temple at Shechem, and an altar and a massive standing stone were found in the courtyard. The altar, made of earth and stone, measured 7.2 x 5.4 feet and 1.1 feet high. The massive standing stone, or *masebah*, which stood 6.6 feet further to the southeast, is 4.8 feet wide, 1.4 feet thick, and, although broken, 4.8 feet high. It is estimated to have once stood 10 feet tall, resulting in a weight of over 5 tons.