

## THE EPIC OF EDEN VIDEO STUDY

# Session 1—The Great Cultural Barrier

Why do Christians struggle with the study of the Old Testament?

1) Christians have been taught the Old Testament is not part of their story

2) Cultural understanding - Bible written long ago in different languages about different cultures

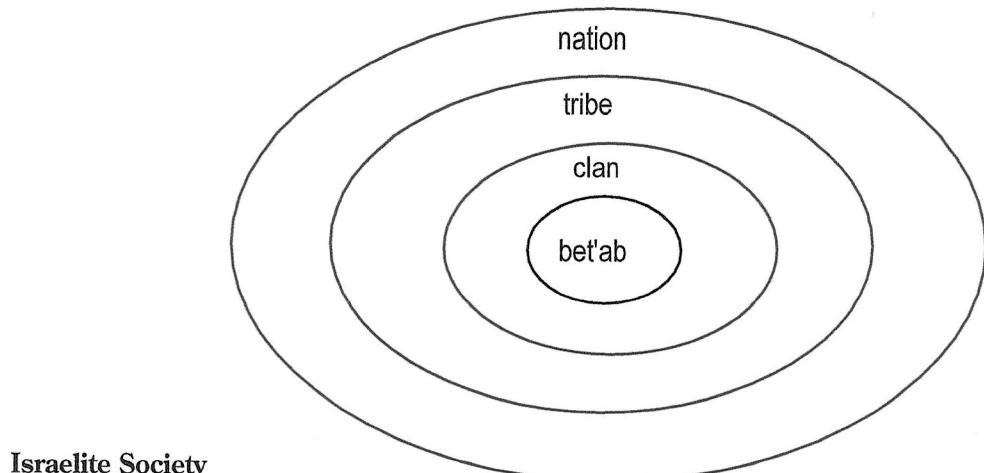
3) Dysfunctional Closet Syndrome - all information of the Old Testament clumped together

Ethnocentric: We assume all other cultures are just like our own.

Canonizing our culture -- thinking our culture is more superior than all other cultures

What was the creature at the center of the table in the picture from Lima, Peru? guinea pig - rodent

Bureaucratic Culture	USA	Tribal Culture	Israel
Run by? state or government		Run by? Family - kinsmen take care of kinsmen	



bet'ab - Father's household

15-30 people --- extended family

Tribal society is best understood by three categories.

Patriarchal: *authority within the household belongs to the oldest*

living

male

Patrilineal: *ancestral descent and inheritance is traced through the male line*

Patrilocal: *the family unit and living space is built around the*

oldest

living

male

Questions, comments, aha moments . . .

Why should we care?

even though Israel's culture evolves, the images and values remain

Purpose -----> Real people

Real places

Real faith

Genesis 38 -----> Judah and Tamar

**John 14:1-3**

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My *Father's house* are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also." (NASB)