

## THE EPIC OF EDEN VIDEO STUDY

# Session 1—The Great Cultural Barrier

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

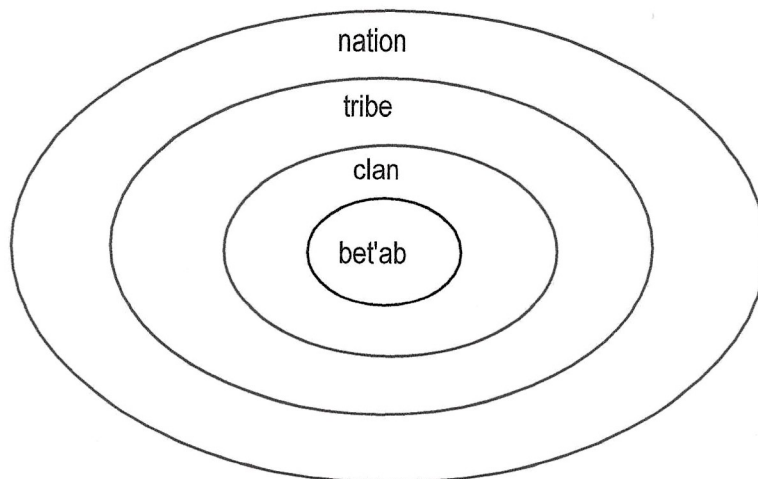
- 1) Christians have been taught the Old Testament is not part of their story
- 2) Cultural understanding - Bible written long ago in different languages about different cultures
- 3) Dysfunctional Closet Syndrome - all information of the Old Testament clumped together

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

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



**Israelite Society**

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)