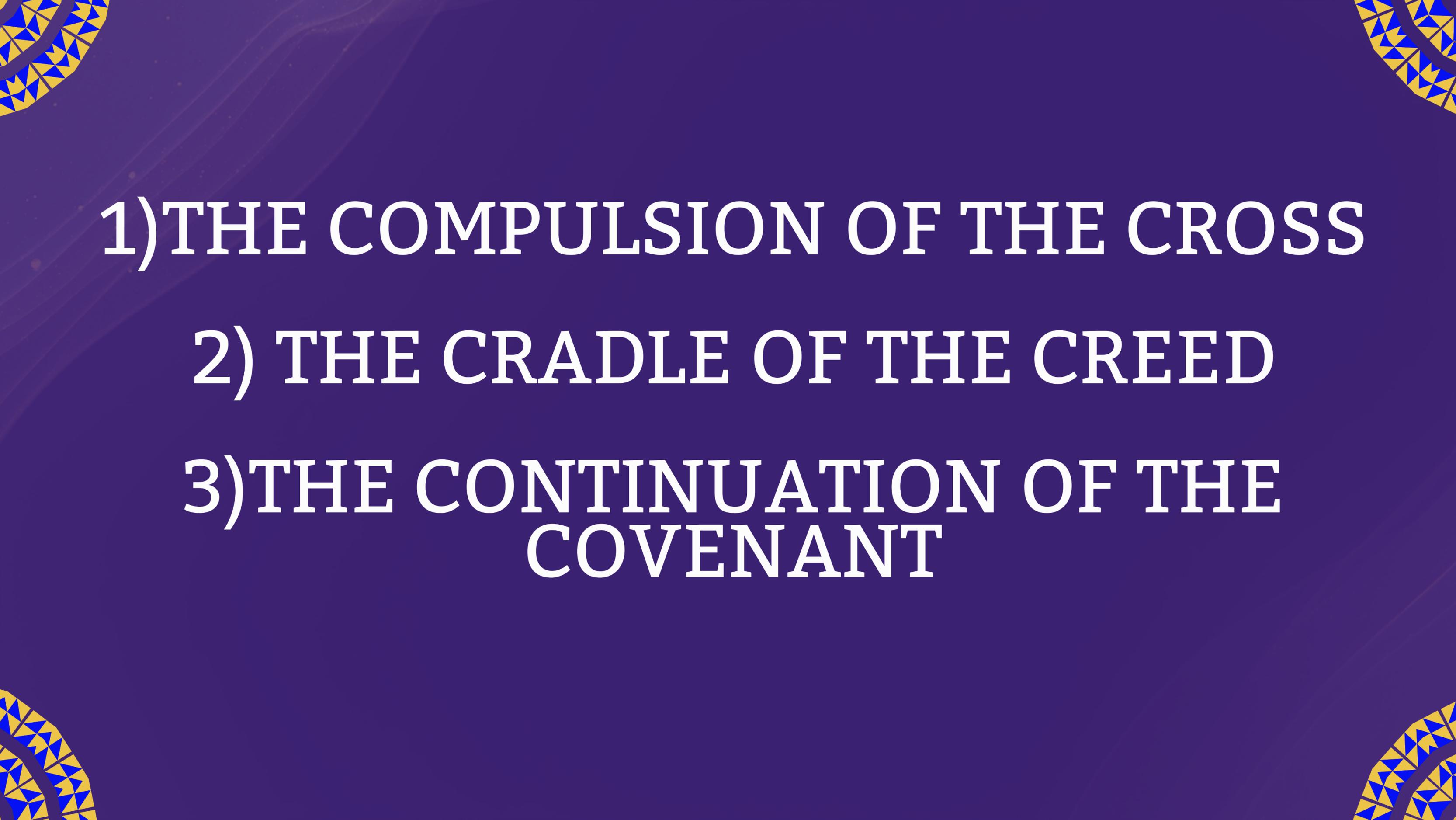


THE CROSS & AFRICA

Mark 15:20&21 (AMPC)

WALKING WITH GIANTS

The image features a dark blue background with decorative geometric patterns in the corners. These patterns consist of overlapping triangles in shades of blue and yellow, arranged in a circular or semi-circular fashion. The main content is a list of three items in white, bold, uppercase text.

1) THE COMPULSION OF THE CROSS

2) THE CRADLE OF THE CREED

3) THE CONTINUATION OF THE
COVENANT

MARK 15:20&21 (AMPC)

20 AND WHEN THEY HAD [FINISHED] MAKING SPORT OF HIM, THEY TOOK THE PURPLE [ROBE] OFF OF HIM AND PUT HIS OWN CLOTHES ON HIM. AND THEY LED HIM OUT [OF THE CITY] TO CRUCIFY HIM.

MARK 15:20&21 (AMPC)

21 AND THEY FORCED A
PASSERBY, SIMON OF CYRENE,
THE FATHER OF ALEXANDER
AND RUFUS, WHO WAS COMING
IN FROM THE FIELD (COUNTRY),
TO CARRY HIS CROSS.

Location of Archaeological Site of Cyrene



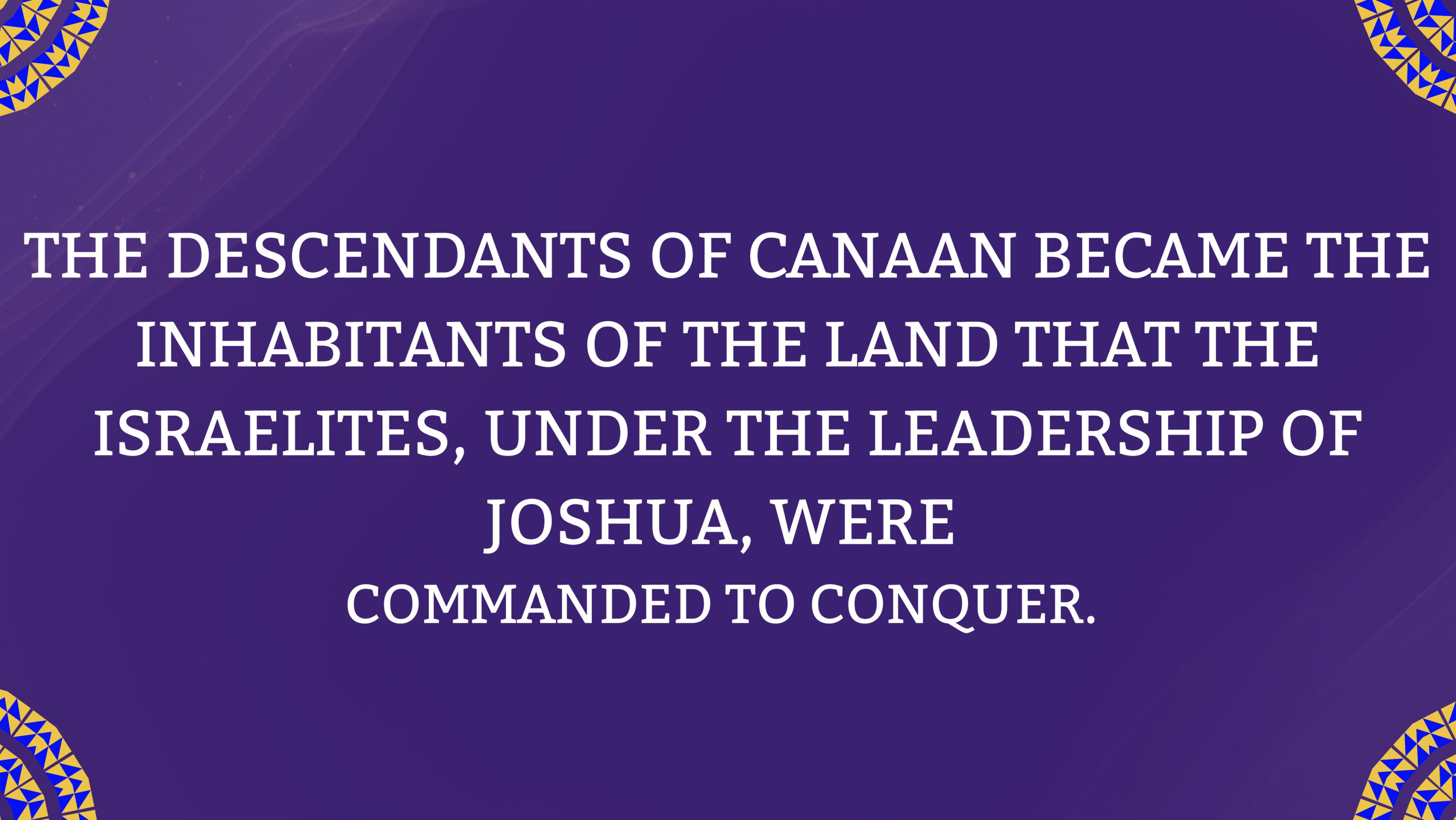
2) THE CRADLE OF THE CREED

GENESIS 9:25-27 (AMPC)

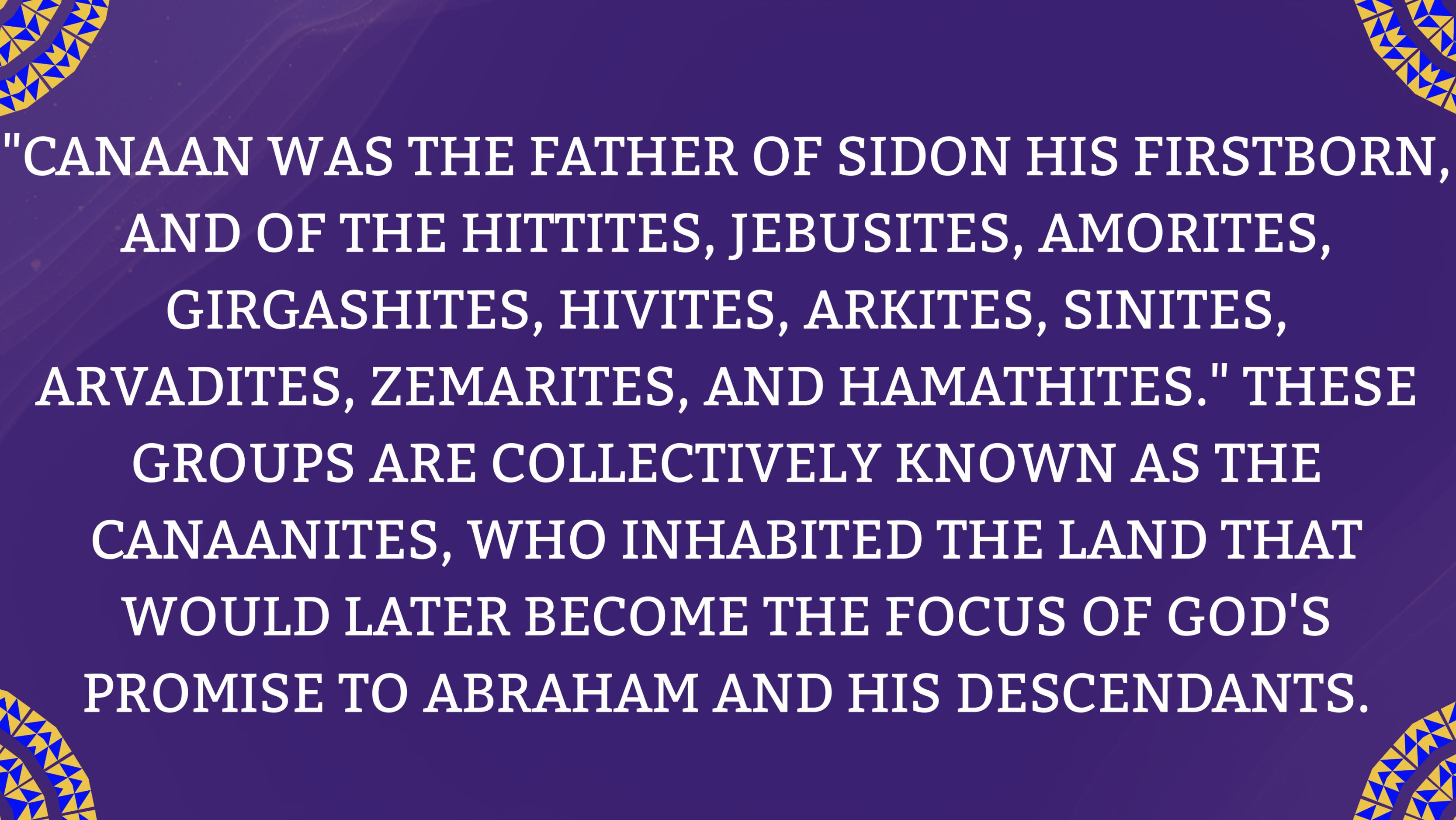
25 HE EXCLAIMED, CURSED BE CANAAN! HE SHALL BE THE SERVANT OF SERVANTS TO HIS BRETHREN! [DEUT. 27:16.]

26 HE ALSO SAID, BLESSED BE THE LORD, THE GOD OF SHEM! AND BLESSED BY THE LORD MY GOD BE SHEM! AND **LET CANAAN BE HIS SERVANT.**

27 MAY GOD ENLARGE JAPHETH; AND LET HIM DWELL IN THE TENTS OF SHEM, AND **LET CANAAN BE HIS SERVANT.**

The image features a dark blue background with a subtle, wavy pattern. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of overlapping semi-circles filled with a repeating geometric pattern of small triangles in yellow and blue. The text is centered and written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

THE DESCENDANTS OF CANAAN BECAME THE
INHABITANTS OF THE LAND THAT THE
ISRAELITES, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF
JOSHUA, WERE
COMMANDED TO CONQUER.

The image features a dark blue background with decorative geometric patterns in the corners. These patterns consist of overlapping triangles in shades of blue and yellow, arranged in a circular or semi-circular fashion. The text is centered and written in a bold, white, serif font.

"CANAAN WAS THE FATHER OF SIDON HIS FIRSTBORN,
AND OF THE HITTITES, JEBUSITES, AMORITES,
GIRGASHITES, HIVITES, ARKITES, SINITES,
ARVADITES, ZEMARITES, AND HAMATHITES." THESE
GROUPS ARE COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS THE
CANAANITES, WHO INHABITED THE LAND THAT
WOULD LATER BECOME THE FOCUS OF GOD'S
PROMISE TO ABRAHAM AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

1. CUSH (EAST AFRICA / ETHIOPIA)

CUSH SETTLED IN THE LAND SOUTH OF EGYPT. IN THE BIBLE, "CUSH" IS OFTEN TRANSLATED AS ETHIOPIA (THOUGH IT LARGELY ENCOMPASSED MODERN-DAY SUDAN AND PARTS OF THE HORN OF AFRICA).

- THE LEGACY: THIS REGION PRODUCED THE KINGDOM OF AKSUM, **ONE OF THE FIRST NATIONS IN THE WORLD TO OFFICIALLY ADOPT CHRISTIANITY.**

OUT OF THE CROWD TO CARRY THE CROSS, **HE WAS A DESCENDANT OF PHUT COMING TO THE AID OF THE MESSIAH.**

2. MIZRAIM (NORTHEAST AFRICA / EGYPT) IN HEBREW, THE WORD FOR EGYPT IS ACTUALLY MIZRAIM.

- **The Legacy: This line established the intellectual and architectural marvels of the Nile Valley. This is the land that sheltered the infant Jesus when He fled from Herod—Africa was the Savior's first sanctuary.**

3. PHUT (NORTH & NORTHWEST AFRICA / LIBYA)

PHUT IS GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH ANCIENT LIBYA AND THE SURROUNDING REGIONS OF NORTH AFRICA (THE MAGHREB).

- THE LEGACY: THIS IS THE ANCESTRAL REGION OF SIMON OF CYRENE. WHEN SIMON STEPPED OUT OF THE CROWD TO CARRY THE CROSS, HE WAS A DESCENDANT OF PHUT COMING TO THE AID OF THE MESSIAH.**

AFRICA WASN'T JUST A RECIPIENT OF THE FAITH, BUT THE VERY ARCHITECT OF ITS MOST VITAL DOCTRINES.

**1. ON THE DEITY OF CHRIST (ATHANASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA)
THE "BLACK DWARF" WHO SAVED THE CHURCH FROM THE ARIAN
HERESY.**

**"HE BECAME WHAT WE ARE THAT WE MIGHT BECOME WHAT HE IS." — ON
THE INCARNATION**

**APPLICATION: USE THIS TO SHOW THAT THE MOST FUNDAMENTAL
UNDERSTANDING OF THE INCARNATION—THAT GOD TRULY STEPPED INTO
HUMAN SKIN—WAS CHAMPIONED BY A MAN FROM THE NILE. WHEN SIMON
OF CYRENE TOUCHED THE WOOD OF THE CROSS, HE WAS TOUCHING THE
"GOD-MAN" WHOM ATHANASIUS WOULD LATER DEFEND AGAINST THE
WHOLE WORLD.**

2. ON THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY (TERTULLIAN OF CARTHAGE)

**THE NORTH AFRICAN LAWYER WHO GAVE THE CHURCH ITS
VOCABULARY.**

**"WE WORSHIP UNITY IN TRINITY, AND TRINITY IN UNITY; NEITHER
CONFOUNDING THE PERSON NOR DIVIDING THE SUBSTANCE." —**

AGAINST PRAXEAS

**APPLICATION: REMIND YOUR CONGREGATION THAT EVERY TIME
THEY USE THE WORD "TRINITY," THEY ARE SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE
OF AN AFRICAN. TERTULLIAN'S BRILLIANCE GAVE US THE WORDS TO
DESCRIBE THE NATURE OF THE GODHEAD. AFRICA PROVIDED THE
LOGIC FOR THE LORD'S NATURE.**

3. ON THE RESTLESSNESS OF THE SOUL (AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO)

THE BISHOP FROM MODERN-DAY ALGERIA WHOSE HEART REMAINS THE HEARTBEAT OF THEOLOGY.

"THOU HAST MADE US FOR THYSELF, O LORD, AND OUR HEART IS RESTLESS UNTIL IT RESTS IN THEE." — CONFESSIONS

APPLICATION: TIE THIS BACK TO SIMON OF CYRENE'S "INTERRUPTION."

SIMON WAS A TRAVELER, LIKELY RESTLESS AND BUSY WITH THE PASSOVER, UNTIL HE FOUND HIS "REST" IN THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS.

AFRICA'S GREATEST SON, AUGUSTINE, REMINDS US THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH HISTORY WE HAVE, IT IS ALL MEANINGLESS UNTIL IT LEADS US BACK TO THE CREATOR.

3) THE CONTINUATION OF THE COVENANT



**3) THE CONTINUATION OF THE
COVENANT
ROMANS 16:13**



**13 REMEMBER ME TO RUFUS,
EMINENT IN THE LORD, ALSO TO HIS
MOTHER [WHO HAS BEEN] A MOTHER
TO ME AS WELL.**

**THE STAT: BLACK AMERICANS ARE SIGNIFICANTLY
MORE LIKELY TO PRAY DAILY (64%) THAN ANY
OTHER RACIAL GROUP.**

**THE STAT: 70% OF BLACK AMERICANS SAY THE BIBLE
IS "VERY IMPORTANT" IN THEIR LIVES, COMPARED
TO ONLY 39% OF WHITE AMERICANS.**

ADULTS

**DESPITE A GENERAL DECLINE IN U.S.
CHURCH ATTENDANCE, BLACK
AMERICANS PARTICIPATE IN SERVICES
(IN-PERSON OR ONLINE) AT HIGHER
RATES (57% MONTHLY) THAN WHITE,
HISPANIC, OR ASIAN**



GOD'S TRUTH IS MARCHING ON!!!!



NEXT WEEK:
“A UNIQUE EUNUCH”

