

# Cultural Resources

“There are many tribes.”

# Culture in America

- Disclaimer: Do not misunderstand this presentation; it is not meant to make light of anyone's beliefs directly or by comparison.
- Who and what do we worship?
  - \$\$\$\$\$
  - power
  - things/ toys

# Spirituality

- Is that all there is, my friend?
- Why?
- Fragility of meaning
- Source of strength

# National Cemeteries

- Arlington National Cemetery
  - Kennedy Gravesite
  - Tomb of the Unknowns
- Pearl Harbor
- Flanders Fields

# National Historical Parks

- Hanscom AFB, MA
  - Minuteman Historical Park (Concord and Lexington)
- Oceana NAS, VA
  - Williamsburg
- The Goldwater Range
  - Mesa Verde National Park



# What makes a Cultural icon?

- *Here is a stone which the feet of a few outcasts pressed for an instant; and the stone becomes famous; it is treasured by a great nation; its very dust is shared as a relic.*

Alexis De Tocqueville,  
Democracy in America, 1835



This Rock has become an object of veneration in the [United States](#).  
I have seen bits of it carefully preserved in several towns in the Union.  
Does this sufficiently show that all human power and greatness is in the soul  
of man?

Here is a stone which the feet of a few outcasts pressed for an instant;  
and the stone becomes famous; it is treasured by a great nation;  
its very dust is shared as a relic.



Does this sufficiently show that all human power and greatness is in the soul of man?



וַיִּקַּם אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ  
אֶל-אֲרָץ פִּי  
שֶׁבַע וַיִּקְרָא  
וַיִּגַּר אֶבְרָם  
רַבִּים: פ

כב וַיִּדְּ  
וְהָאֱלֹהִים נֵן

tree develops  
and is particu-  
lar of the northern  
why Abraham

comes to an end.

(vv. 1-2)

the phrase indi-  
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22 At that time Abimelech and Phicol, chief of his troops, said to Abraham, "God is with you in everything that you do. 23 Therefore swear to me here by God that you will not deal falsely with me or with my kith and kin, but will deal with me and with the land in which you have sojourned as loyally as I have dealt with you."

24 And Abraham said, "I swear it."

25 Then Abraham reproached Abimelech for the well of water which the servants of Abimelech had seized. 26 But Abimelech said, "I do not know who did this; you did not tell me, nor have I heard of it until today." 27 Abraham took sheep and oxen and gave them to Abimelech, and the two of them made a pact. 28 Abraham then set seven ewes of the flock by themselves, 29 and Abimelech said to Abraham, "What mean these seven ewes which you have set apart?" 30 He replied, "You are to accept these seven ewes from me as proof that I dug this well." 31 Hence that place was called Beer-sheba, for there the two of them swore an oath. 32 When they had concluded the pact at Beer-

22. *At that time* Soon after the expulsion of Ishmael.

*Abimelech* The deliberate omission of his royal title emphasizes that he and Abraham are considered to be equals.

*said to Abraham* The entire action occurs in the Beer-sheba region. Hence, Abraham must have left Gerar for this place after the episode recounted in chapter 20.

*God is with you* This is an acknowledgment of Abraham's success and power.

23. *not deal falsely* Abimelech is suggesting a mutual nonaggression pact.

*kith and kin* The Hebrew phrase *nin*

וַיִּהְיֶה בַּעַת זֶה וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ  
וּפִיכֹל שַׂר-צְבָאוֹ אֶל-אַבְרָהָם לֵאמֹר  
אֱלֹהִים עִמָּךְ בְּכֹל אֲשֶׁר-אַתָּה עֹשֶׂה:  
וְעַתָּה הִשָּׁבְעָה לִּי בֵּאלֹהִים הַנָּה אִם-  
תִּשְׁקַר לִּי וּלְנִינִי וּלְנִכְדֵי פִחֹל אֲשֶׁר-  
עִשִׂיתִי עִמָּךְ תַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּדִי וְעַם-הָאָרֶץ  
אֲשֶׁר-גָּרַתָּה בָּהּ: וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְרָהָם אֲנֹכִי  
אֲשָׁבַע:

25 וְהוֹכַח אַבְרָהָם אֶת-אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ עַל-אֲדוּת  
בְּאֵר הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר גָּזַל עַבְדֵי אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ:  
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ לֹא יָדַעְתִּי מִי עֹשֶׂה  
אֶת-הַדָּבָר הַזֶּה וְגַם-אַתָּה לֹא-הִגַּרְתָּ לִּי  
וְגַם אֲנֹכִי לֹא שָׁמַעְתִּי בְלַחֵי הַיּוֹם:  
וַיִּקַּח אַבְרָהָם צֹאן וּבָקָר וַיִּתֵּן  
לְאַבְיִמֶלֶךְ וַיִּכְרְתוּ שְׁנֵיהֶם בְּרִית: וַיִּצַּב  
אַבְרָהָם אֶת-שֶׁבַע בְּכֶשֶׁת הַצֹּאן לְבִדְדוֹן:  
וַיֹּאמֶר אַבְיִמֶלֶךְ אֶל-אַבְרָהָם מָה הַנָּה  
שֶׁבַע בְּכֶשֶׁת הָאֱלֹהִים אֲשֶׁר הִצַּבְתָּ לְבִהְיֹתָ:  
וַיֹּאמֶר בִּי אֶת־שֶׁבַע בְּכֶשֶׁת תִּקַּח מִיָּדִי  
בְּעֹבוֹר תְּדַוְּהֵנִי לְעֵדָה בִּי חִפְרָתִי אֶת־  
הַבָּאֵר הַזֹּאת: וַיַּעֲלֶפֶן קָרָא לְמָקוֹם  
הַהוּא בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע בִּי שֵׁם נִשְׁבַּעוּ  
שְׁנֵיהֶם: וַיִּכְרְתוּ בְרִית בְּבָאֵר שֶׁבַע

*'nakkid*—literally, "son and grandson"—simply means "posterity" or "forever."

*as loyally as* This refers back to 20:14-15.

25. *seized* They had prevented Abraham from free access to water for his herds.

27. *sheep and oxen* The animals may have been part of the pact-making ceremony.

29. *these seven ewes* The seven ewes are not part of the traditional ceremony but a separate transaction. By accepting them as a gift, the king publicly acknowledges Abraham's ownership of the well.

31. *Beer-sheba* The name can mean either "well of oath" or "well of seven." The narrative,



34 Moses went up from the steppes of Moab to Mount Nebo, to the summit of Pisgah, opposite Jericho, and the LORD showed him the whole land: Gilead as far as Dan; <sup>2</sup>all Naphtali; the land of Ephraim and Manasseh; the whole land of Judah as far as the Western Sea; <sup>3</sup>the Negeb; and the Plain—the Valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees—as far as Zoar. <sup>4</sup>And the LORD said to him, “This is the land of which I swore to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ‘I will assign it to your offspring.’ I have let you see it with your own eyes, but you shall not cross there.”

<sup>5</sup>So Moses the servant of the LORD died there,

#### THE DEATH OF MOSES (34:1–12)

**1. Moses went up** As commanded in 32:49, and earlier in 3:27.

**steppes of Moab** The eastern part of the lower Jordan Valley, just north of the Dead Sea. This plain extends about 9 miles (14 km) from north to south, and 5 to 7 miles (8–11 km) from the river to the mountains of Moab. This is the plain where the Israelites were encamped while Moses addressed them.

**Mount Nebo** God shows Moses Israel's future territory from Mount Nebo. Standing atop the mountain, Moses could see the entire land of Canaan.

**3. Negeb** The northern part of today's Negeb.

**the Plain** That is, of the Jordan, probably the entire Jordan Valley and, apparently, the Dead Sea and Lake Tiberias.

**city of palm trees** Jericho, the first city conquered by the Israelites in the Promised Land, was celebrated for its palms. Despite its desert location and climate, abundant sources of water give it the luxuriant appearance of an oasis to this day.

**as far as Zoar** The plain extends from the mouth of the Jordan to the Dead Sea.

לָד וַיַּעַל מֹשֶׁה מִמֵּעֶרְכַת מוֹאָב אֶל-  
 הַר נָבוּ רֹאשׁ הַפְּסָגָה אֲשֶׁר עַל-פְּנֵי יַרְחוֹ  
 וַיִּרְאֵהוּ יְהוָה אֶת-כָּל-הָאָרֶץ אֶת-הַגְּלִלָּה  
 עַד-דָּן: 2 וְאֵת כָּל-נַפְתָּלִי וְאֵת-אֶרֶץ  
 אֶפְרַיִם וּמְנַשֶּׁה וְאֵת כָּל-אֶרֶץ יְהוּדָה עַד  
 הַיָּם הָאֲחֵרוֹן: 3 וְאֵת-הַנֶּגֶב וְאֵת-הַכְּפָר  
 בְּקֶעֶת יַרְחוֹ עִיר הַתְּמָרִים עַד-צֶעֶר:  
 4 וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוָה אֵלָיו וְאֵת הָאָרֶץ אֲשֶׁר  
 נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי לְאַבְרָהָם לְיִצְחָק וְלִיעֲקֹב לֵאמֹר  
 לְיָרְעֶךָ אֶתְנַנָּה הִרְאִיתִיךָ בְּעֵינַיִךָ וְשָׂמָּה  
 לֹא תַעֲבֹר:  
 5 וַיָּמָת שָׁם מֹשֶׁה עֹבֵר-יְהוָה בְּאֶרֶץ מוֹאָב





