

# DOES GOD LIVE IN THE TEMPLE?



- 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 8:27 – 30 Solomon is bewildered about HOW to describe God and what “dwelling” means
- God’s presence is a mystery
- If Heaven is a place, how can even it be sufficient to house the limitless Creator?

# RAMBAM'S "NEGATIVE THEOLOGY"

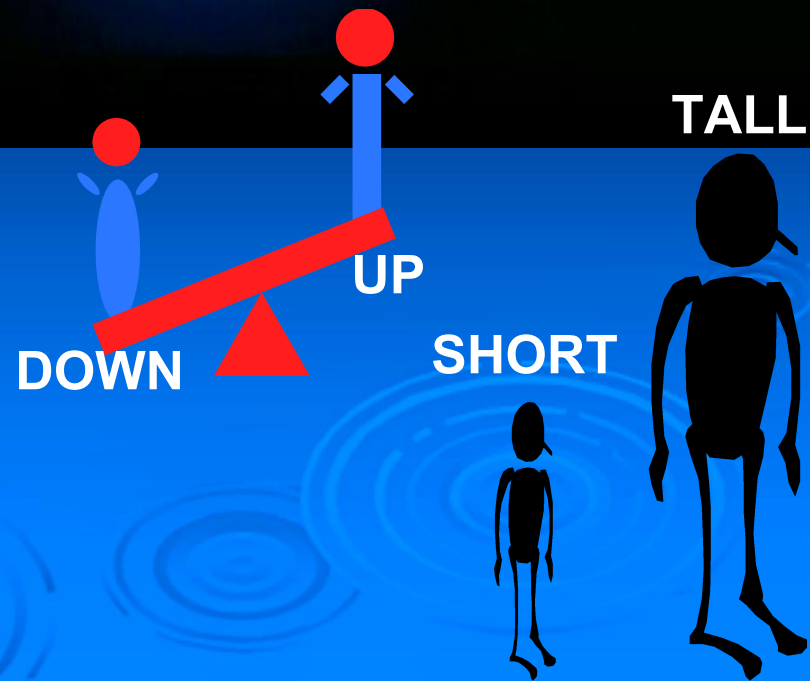
- 1) We must beware of "humanizing" God !
- 2) Maimonides (Rambam) lived around 1200 A.D.
- 3) Negative Theology is the same as the Principle of Opposites
- 4) God is knowing, but also He is NOT unknowing
- 5) Humans can be knowing AND unknowing



death



LIFE



# HUMANIZING GOD

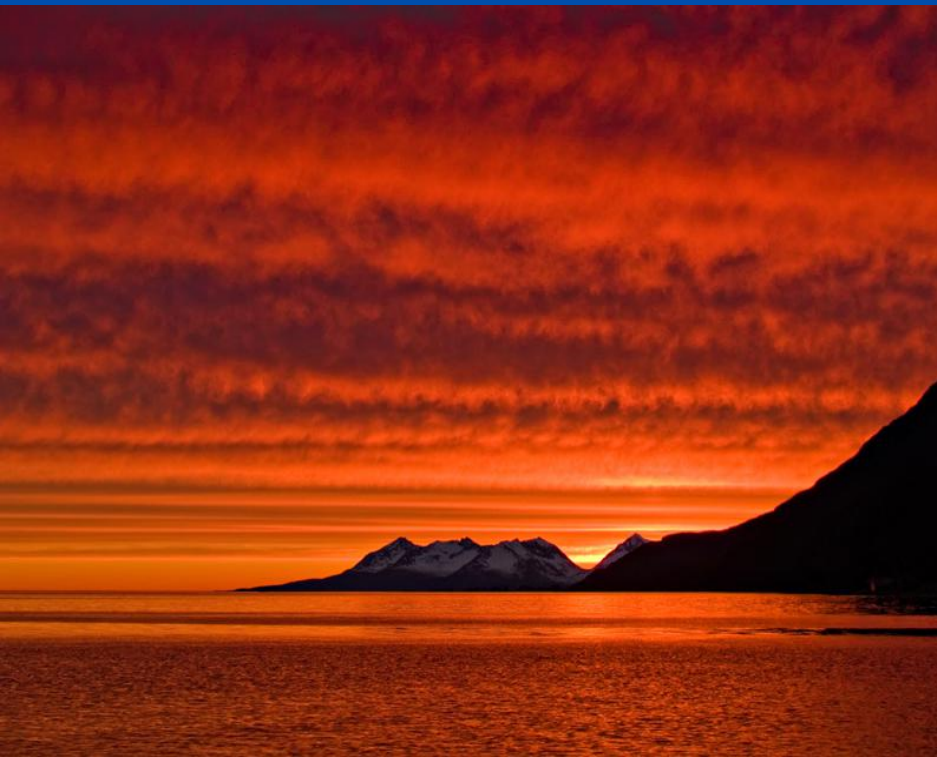
- Humans are fleshly containers of OPPOSITES
- God is *“I am what I am”*
- God is NOT ABLE to NOT exist, to be weak, to be foolish
- God is BY NATURE everywhere
- We should NOT attempt to define WHAT GOD IS because it is not comprehensible to the mortal mind
- Trinity Doctrine is the result of attempts define WHAT GOD IS and has also resulted in “humanizing” God and tarring Him with human flaws and characteristics



# THE PROBLEM WITH WORDS TO DESCRIBE GOD



- To remove a word from biblical context to employ as descriptive of God's substance and being is unbecoming
- If we can't describe a sunset, how can we describe God?
- Shlomo decides it is best to simply ask that prayers directed from anywhere, towards the Temple, be heard by the Lord



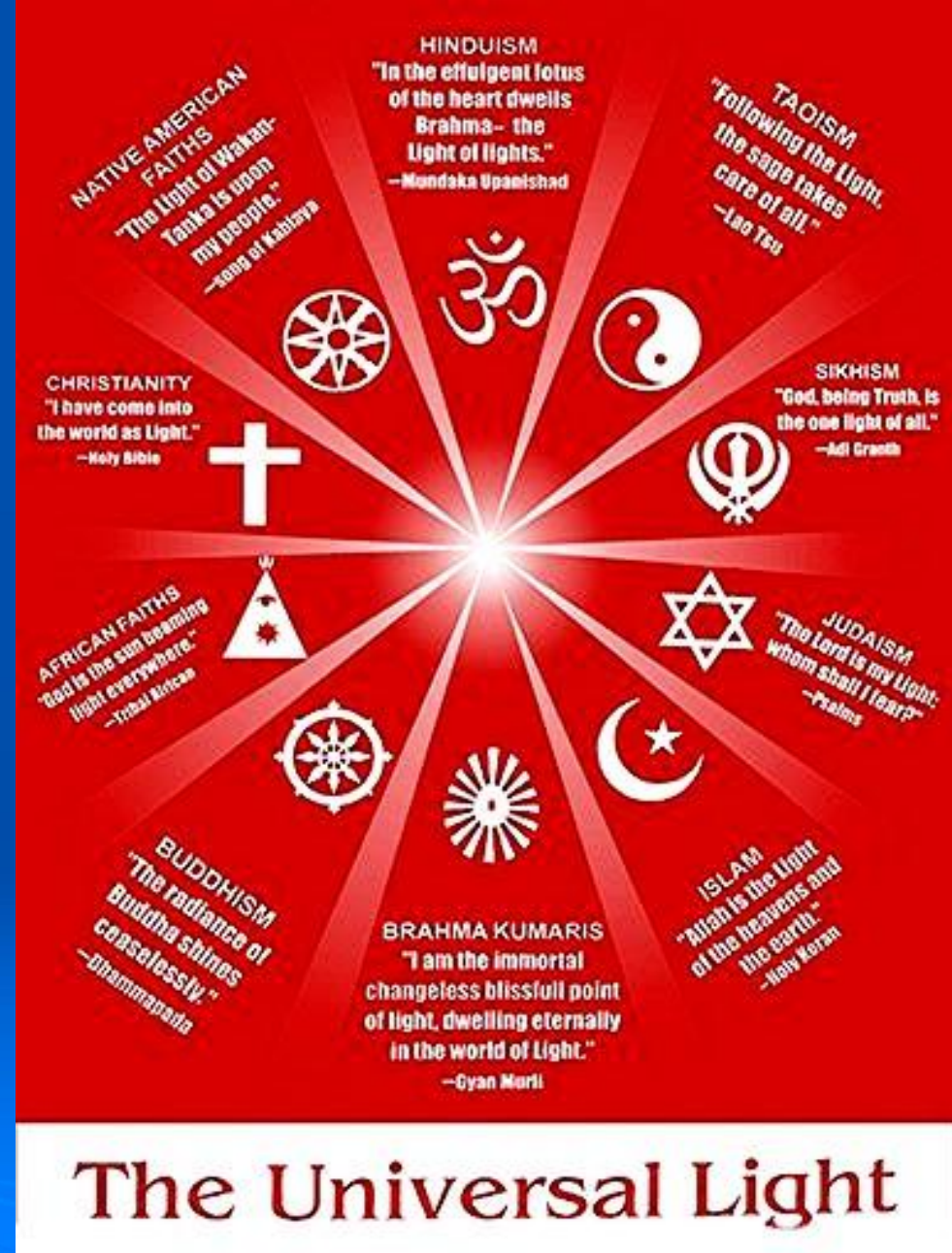
# FIRE FROM HEAVEN



- 1st Kings makes no mention of the altar being lit by divine fire
- 2Chron.7:1
- WHAT pattern was employed here?
- Lev.9:22 – 24
- That God was with Israel is proved by Israel's victories over their enemies, rest in their own land, and because God said He would be with them !

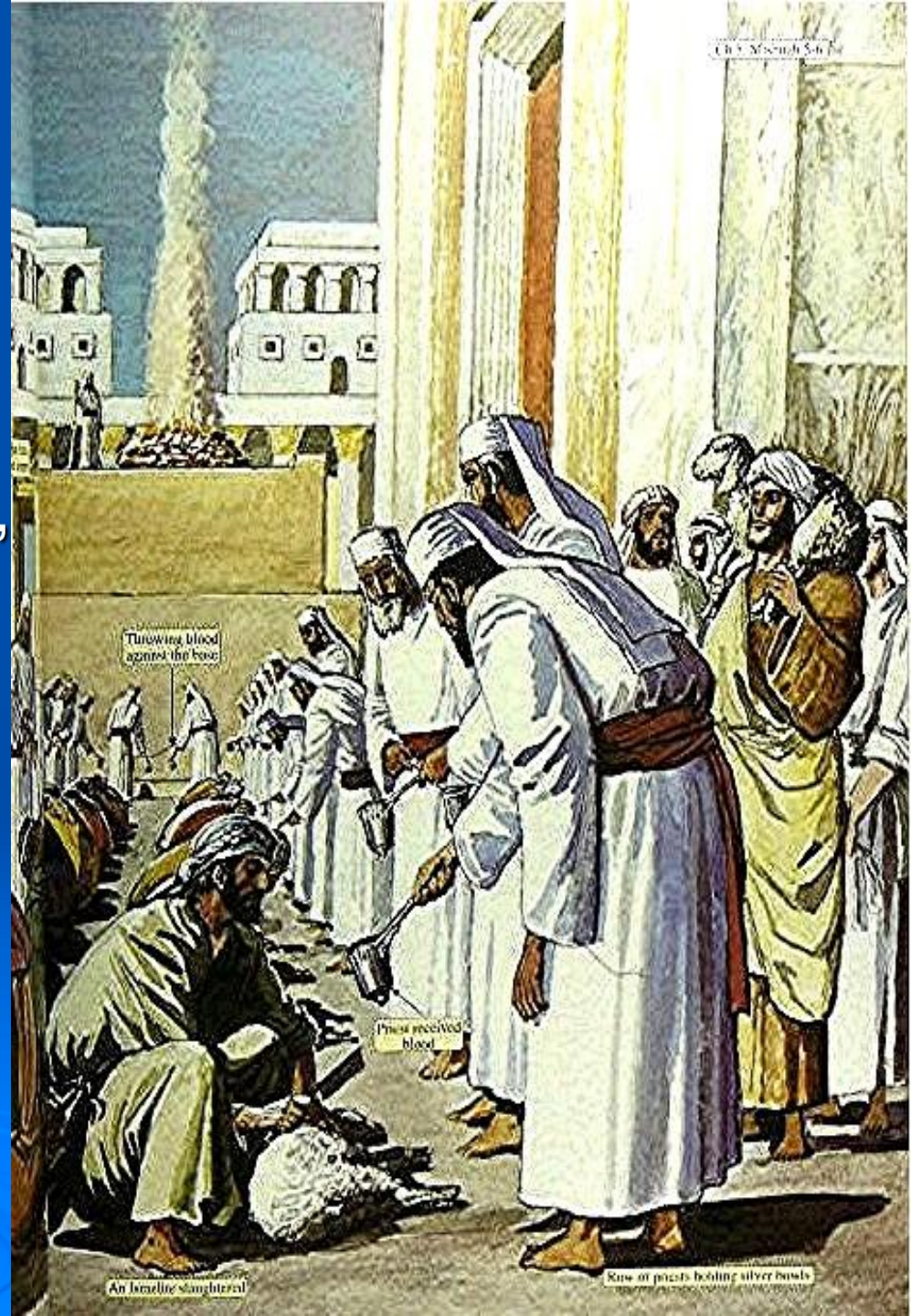
# GOD'S NAME

- Solomon says there is ONE GOD over all the earth. Most overt statement thus far of this reality.
- A god's name was important to ancients because it indicated their sphere of influence
- Many modern Christians and secularists have decide ANY name for God is fine since there is only one God ! NO !
- There is ONLY one name for the one God and that is YHWH

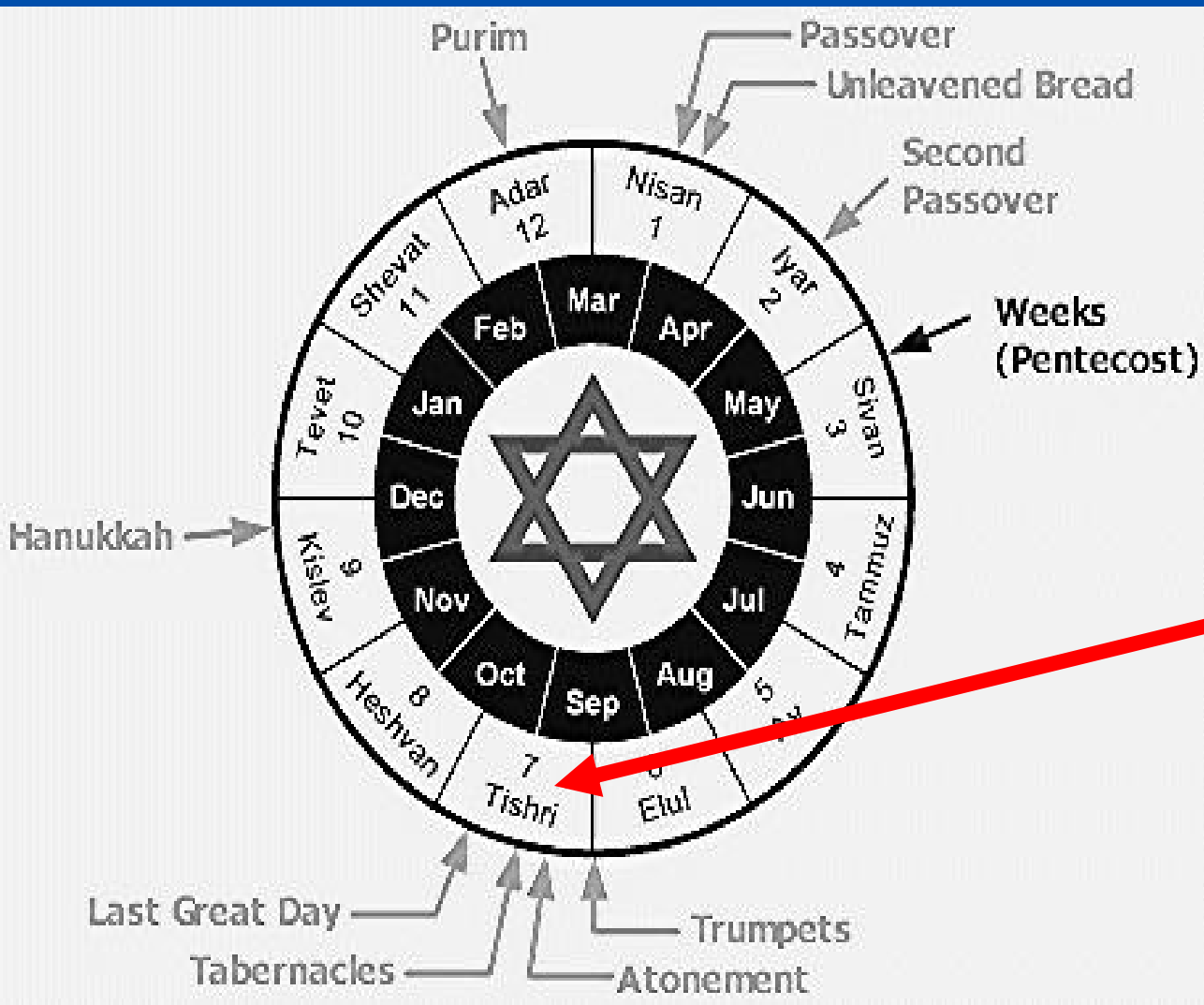


# SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

- *'Olah* = chief offering, all is burned up.
- *Minchah* = grain offering, some burned up rest to the priests
- *Zevah Shelamim* = only the *Helev* is burned up, the rest is for food
- Another area for sacrificing is set up in the Courtyard



# SUKKOT IS ALSO CELEBRATED



- 7 + 7 + 1
- First 7 days was the Temple dedication
- Second 7 + 1 days was **Sukkot**
- **Chag** = pilgrimage



# 1<sup>ST</sup> KINGS CHAPTER 9



- 13 + years after the Temple dedication ceremony, YHWH again visits *Shlomo* in a dream-vision
- 2<sup>nd</sup> vision connected with the 1<sup>st</sup> one at Gibeon
- Important that Solomon build Temple and Palace, but other buildings were for his own fame

# BEHAVIOR MATTERS

- God conditions blessings on Israel and Solomon on 4 things:
- 1) IF Solomon lives in God's presence.
- 2) IF Solomon displays pureness of heart.
- 3) IF Solomon does what God commands.
- 4) IF Solomon keeps to the laws and regulations of Torah
- ONLY then will God allow Solomon's descendants to sit on Israel's throne

