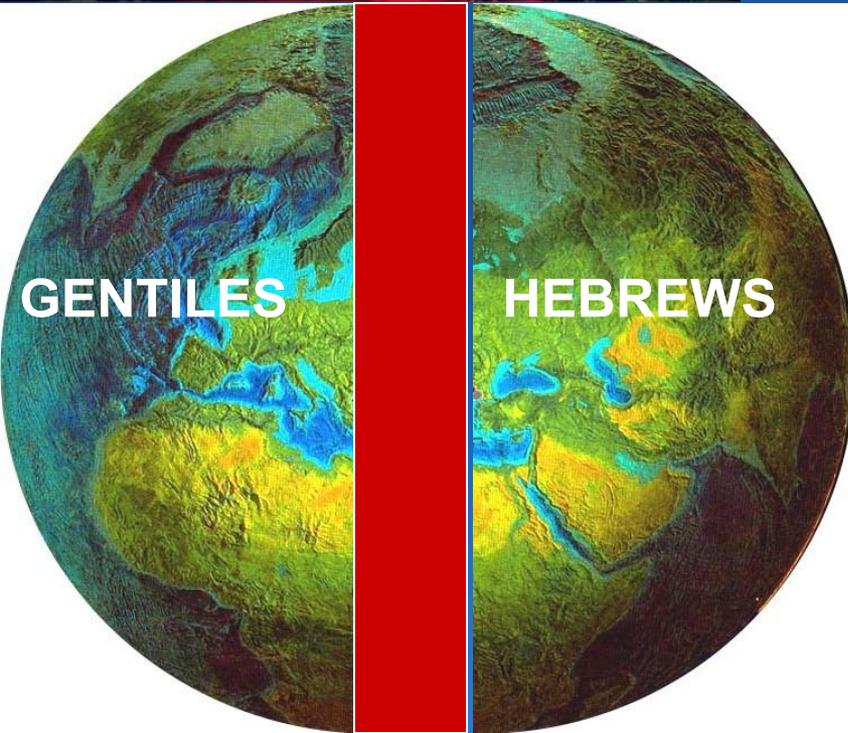


ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

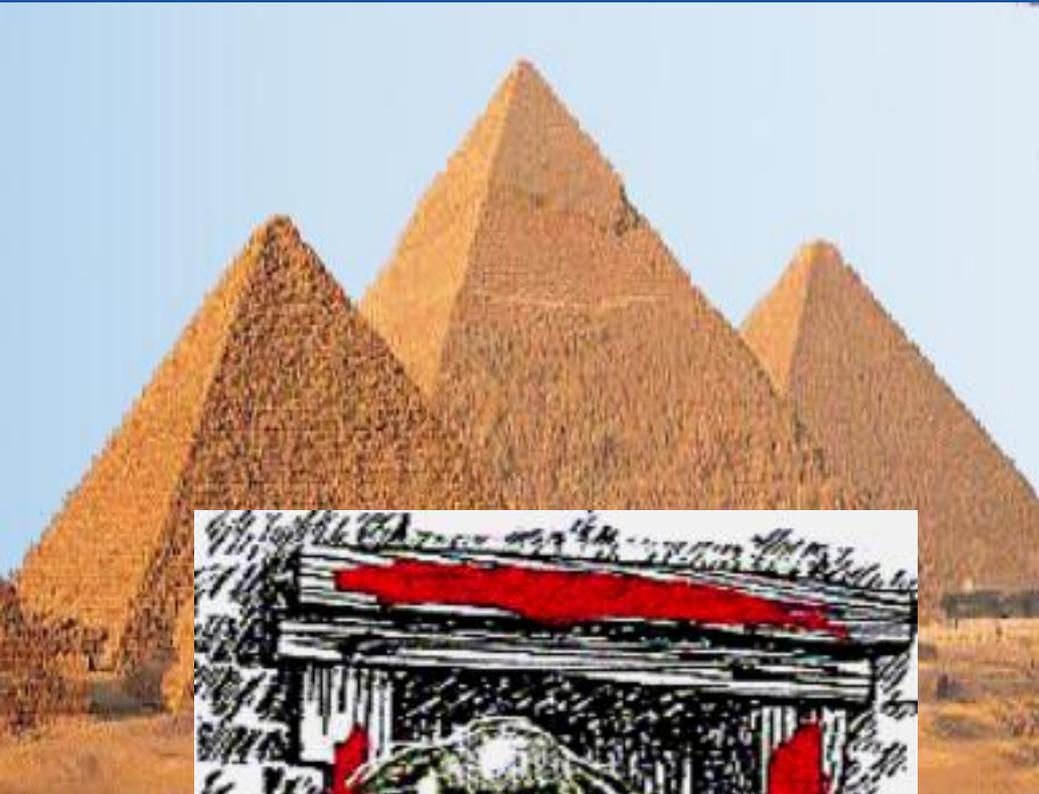


THE WAR WITH AMALEK

- Amalek represents the gentile portion of the world (with one exception)
- Abraham the father of a people set-apart for God
- Because of the Divine Division:
 - 1) Gentiles became the natural enemies of God
 - 2) Gentiles became the natural enemies of God's Kingdom
 - 3) Gentiles are born with the spirit of Amalek



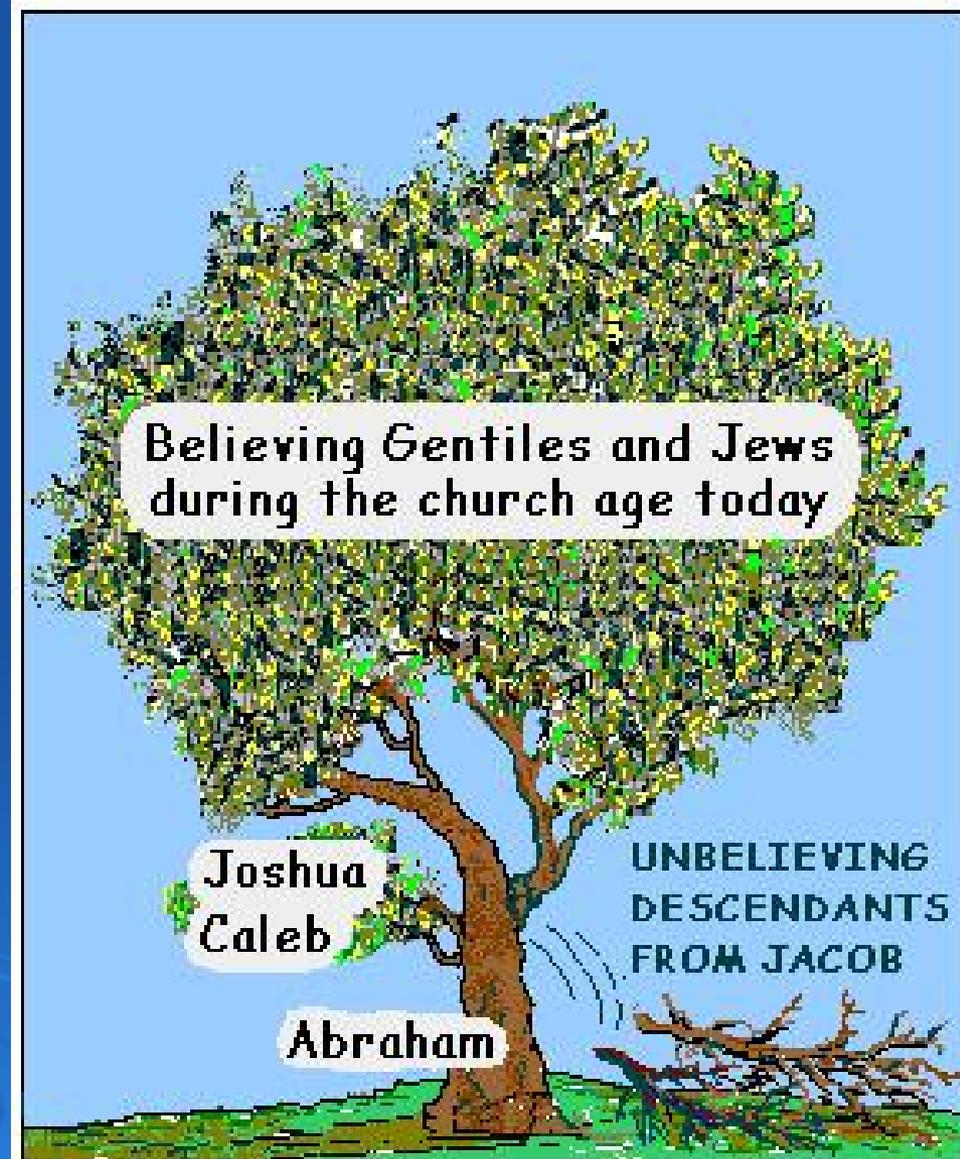
ISRAEL REDEEMED BY GRACE



- Each Hebrew remained redeemed IF.....
- 1) They trusted God
- 2) Obeyed the Law
- IF Israel rebelled, THEN.....
- Redemption was voided
- Restoration was possible with sincere repentance

GRAFTED-IN ALSO MEANS WEEDED-OUT

- Gentiles who by faith trust in Israel's Messiah are transferred from Amalek to Israel
- SPIRITUALLY, such a gentile now has a Hebrew identity
- Gentiles physically, genealogically, nationally remain gentiles
- Jews were NOT to give up their Jewish identity for a "gentile" Messiah



THE SPOILS OF HOLY WAR

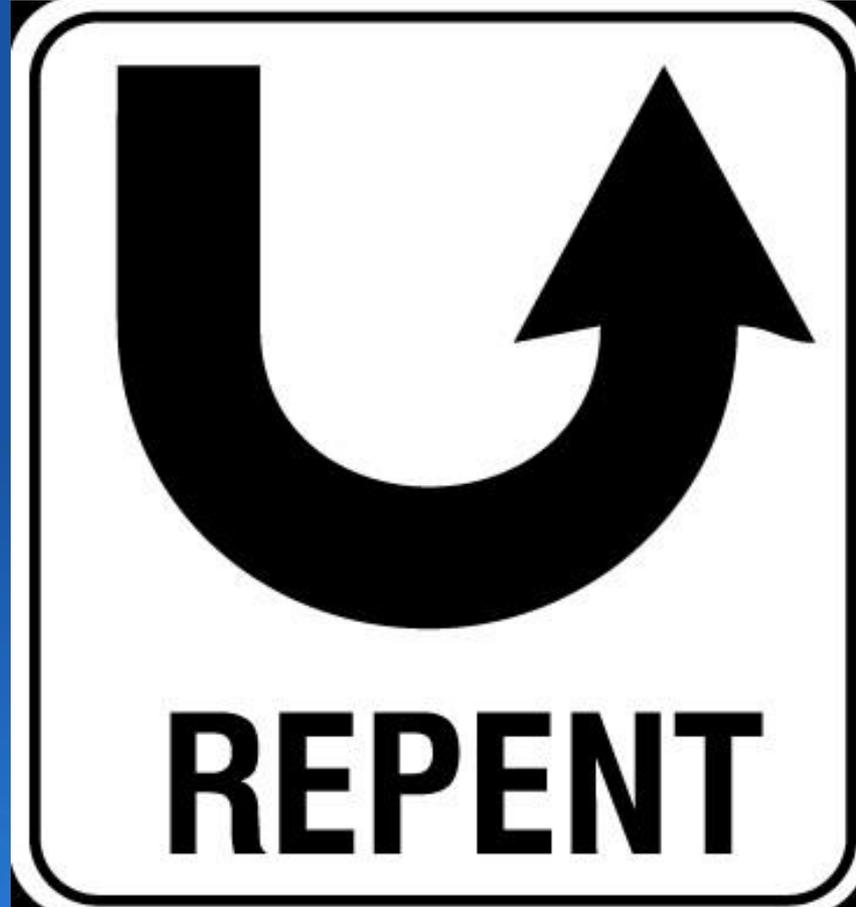


- The Law of the Ban (Herem) prohibited Israel's army from taking the spoils of Amalek for themselves
- God's instructions for Amalek were that ALL was to be destroyed!
- But Saul not only kept some of the spoils, he allowed Amalek's leader (Agag) to live

“ I regret setting up Sha’ul as king...”

- **Nacham** translated to regret or repent
- When applying this term to God, it is figurative or anthropomorphic
- **Anthropomorphic** = applying human attributes to a non-human
- God is NOT a man
- For a man, to repent is to admit an error
- For God, to repent means that a circumstance OUTSIDE OF HIM has changed
- Man moved, God didn’t move

ONLY APPLIES TO HUMANS!



“Samuel cried all night to Adonai....”



- **Shema** = hear AND obey
- Sha'ul HEARD God's instruction but did NOT obey, so he did not **shema**
- Samuel is devastated by God's oracle that Saul has disobeyed and will be deposed as king
- **Charah** = hotly burning, intense upset
- Samuel was embarrassed and worried for his reputation
- Would this also affect Samuel's position and status and duties?

SAMUEL CONFRONTS THE KING

- King Saul was busy building a monument to “his” victory over Amalek
- To take human credit for a Holy War victory is near blasphemy
- “THEY” brought the animals
- “THE PEOPLE” spared the best
- “YOUR God”
- Big gulf between intellectual knowledge OF God, and a personal relationship WITH God



KEEPING THE SPOILS



- **PRINCIPLE:** Following a commandment of God “a little bit”, is the same as not following it at all
- King Saul destroyed MOST of the spoils, but not all
- If we choose to violate a commandment, provided we have a good reason, is it still disobedience?
- Examples for our times:
 - 1) Does a partial tithe give us partial “credit”?
 - 2) Do using outlawed symbols of God to present the Gospel void the commandment?
 - 3) Can we join in pagan celebrations to “other gods” and demons as long as it’s “just for fun” and we don’t really believe it?

“Only a little bit pregnant.....”



- For Saul and his soldiers it was an issue of obedience and application
- Should God bend to our thinking, or us to His?
- Will the Lord accept our explanations and rationalizations?
- Takes little faith NOT to lie, steal or murder
- Takes MUCH more faith to obey commandments that we don't really understand God's purpose for them

COMMANDMENTS THAT COMPLICATE OUR LIVES



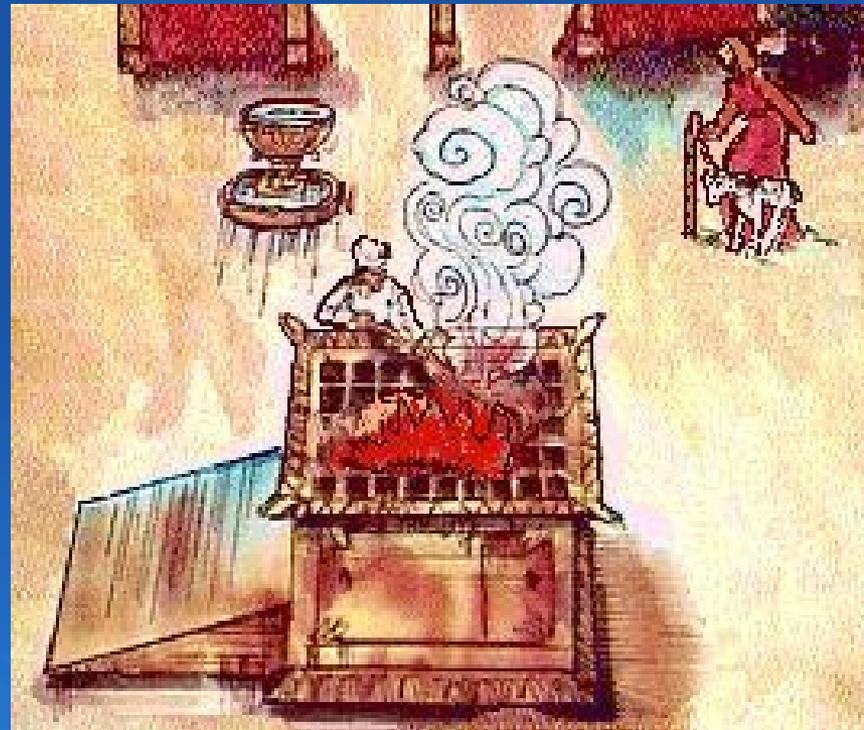
- Why can't Sabbath be any day we choose?
- Why can't two people of the same sex be married?
- Why can't we invent our own observances and deem them holy?
- Harder to deal with because these are not as straightforward as something like murder to understand
- Why wouldn't a loving God WANT Saul's people to have the spoils rather than destroying them?



A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SACRIFICE AND DESTRUCTION



- What's so wrong with Saul wanting to sacrifice the animals at the Altar instead of destroying them?
- 1) Spoils already belong to God. A sacrifice belongs to the worshipper, at a cost.
- 2) Destruction of ban is on unclean ground. Sacrifice on holy ground at holy altar.
- 3) God told Israel NOT to take the spoils, but they did anyway. A direct disobedience.



THE WRONG QUESTION



WHY >

- Saul and his soldiers fell to the “WHY??” stumbling block
- WHY? Is an invitation to disaster
- WHY? Is to satisfy our intellect
- WHY? Is the opposite of proceeding in faith
- WHICH pattern or principle is what we should seek