

GENESIS 12: COVENANT



ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



covenant

- **Abraham will become a great nation.**
- **Abraham will be blessed, and will be a blessing.**
- **God will bless those who bless Abraham, and curse those who curse him.**
- **Abraham's name (reputation) will become great.**
- **God will use Abraham to bless all families.**

WHAT IS A COVENANT?

- COVENANT IS THE MEANS GOD USED TO ESTABLISH HIS SET-APART PEOPLE
- Webster's defines a covenant as an agreement among church members to defend a doctrine. Also, as a contract.
- Webster's definition is NOT the Bible definition of a COVENANT!
- A Biblical covenant was sacred



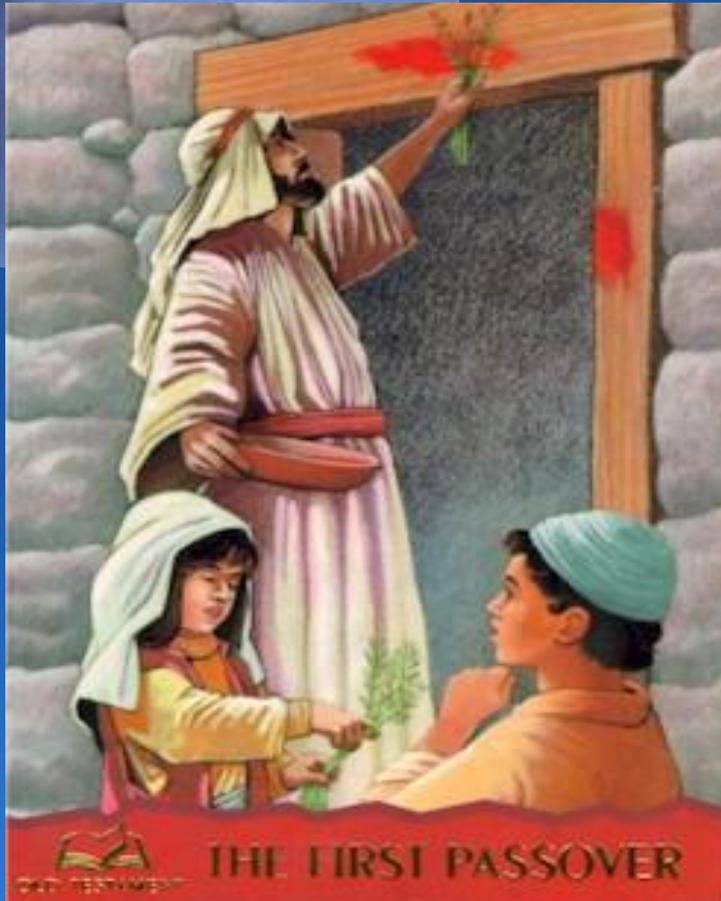
- Covenants among men used to sell land, make treaties, allow use of a water well.....
- Mutual agreement.....BOTH parties had obligations
- One party.....Covenant IMPOSED upon someone
- We tend to think of Covenant in terms of a ***promise*** or a ***contract***
- Contracts and promises can be broken, usually with only small penalties
- **THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE WITH A BIBLICAL COVENANT!**

IN HEBREW, COVENANT IS *B'RIT* (BERIT)

- Hebrew *Barah* = cut or divide
- In Greek, word used in N.T. is *diatheke*
- *Diatheke* misses the mark substantially
- Language and culture are a package
- Cultures and their languages have unique concepts not always present in other cultures
- Some Hebrew concepts, like *B'rit, Shalom, or Messiah* have no parallel in other languages
- When a concept doesn't exist in a culture, neither does a WORD for that concept exist in their language!

UNDERSTANDING THE CULTURE IS KEY

- Bible translation problems are primarily because the translator has no in-depth knowledge of the culture
- Christians have believed that a “will” or “testament” is the modern day equivalent for a **covenant**....NOT TRUE!
- A Biblical covenant is **PERMANENT** unless is it **conditional**
- A permanent covenant **cannot** be retracted
- **Death** was the penalty for breaking a covenant!



A GOD-MADE COVENANT BECOMES A PHYSICAL LAW OF THE UNIVERSE

- B'rit is also used to mean *“laws of nature”*
- A God-covenant is woven into the fabric of the Universe
- The spiritual realm is the **SOURCE** of a God-covenant



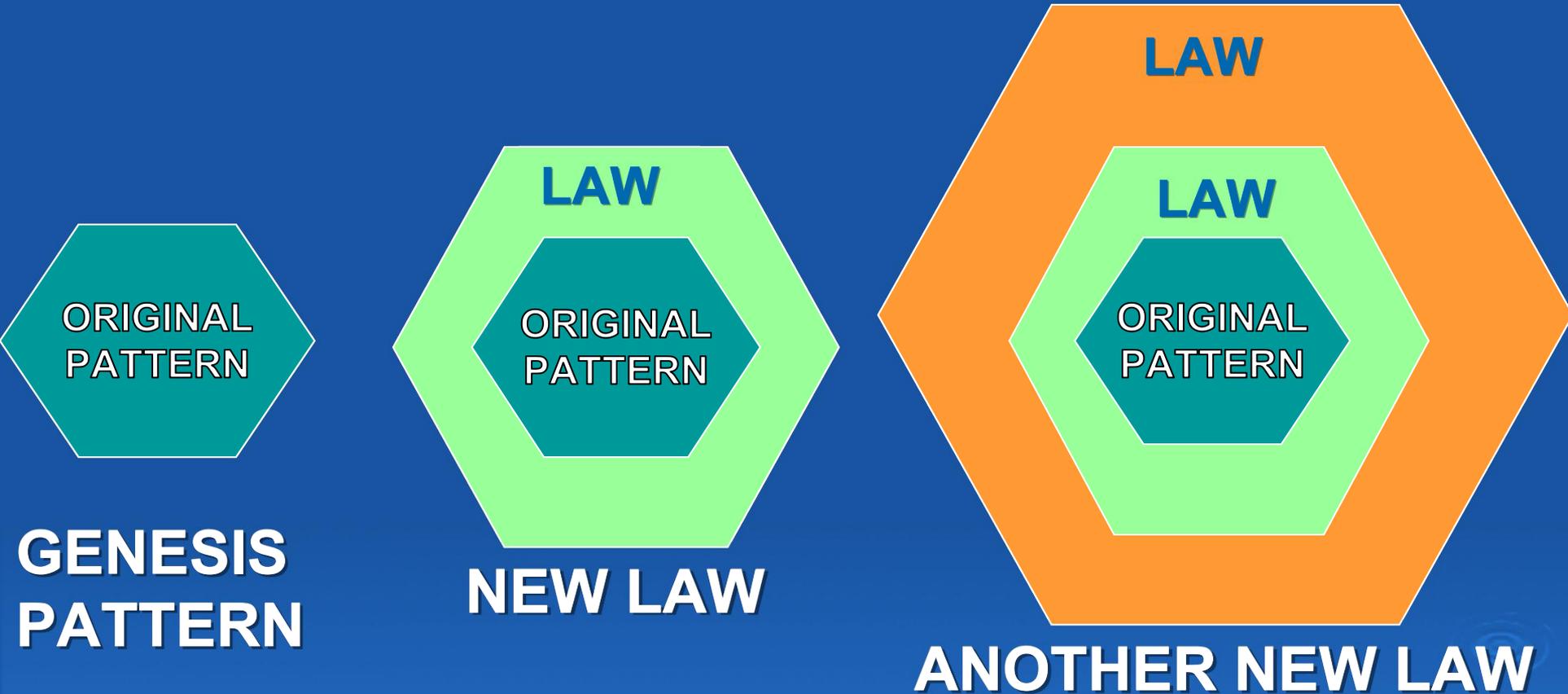


IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS NO DEATH

- Laws of nature were designed for things to exist forever
- At some time it changed
- When did death and decay enter the Universe?
- Two separate events:
 - 1) The fall of Lucifer (Satan)
 - 2) The fall of Man (Adam and Eve)

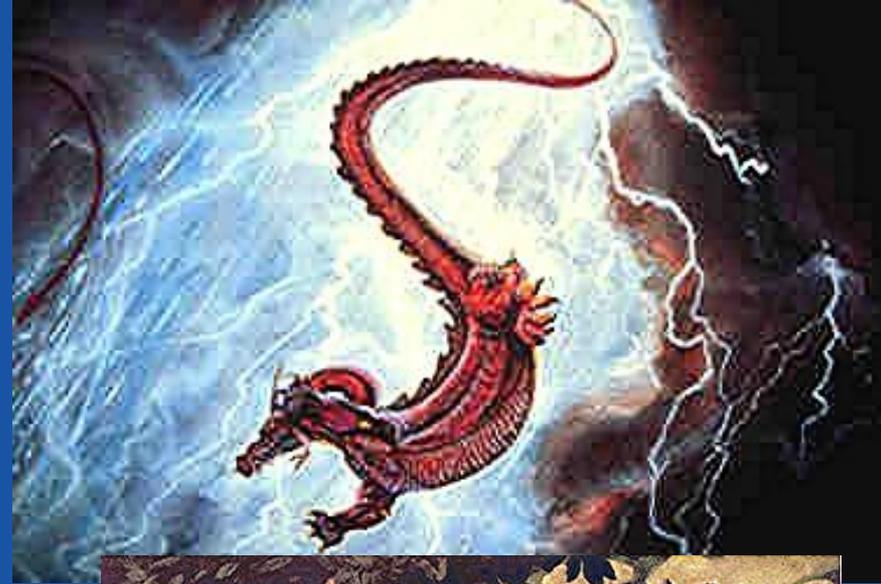


PATTERNS



➤ SATAN'S FALL

INITIATED GOD CHANGING THE WAY THE UNIVERSE OPERATED. DECAY AND DETERIORATION OF INANIMATE THINGS BEGAN



➤ ADAM AND EVE'S FALL BROUGHT DEATH TO ALL LIVING CREATURES

- Everything is dying and decaying
- Spiritually, evil was unleashed
- NOW A SAVIOR WAS NEEDED!

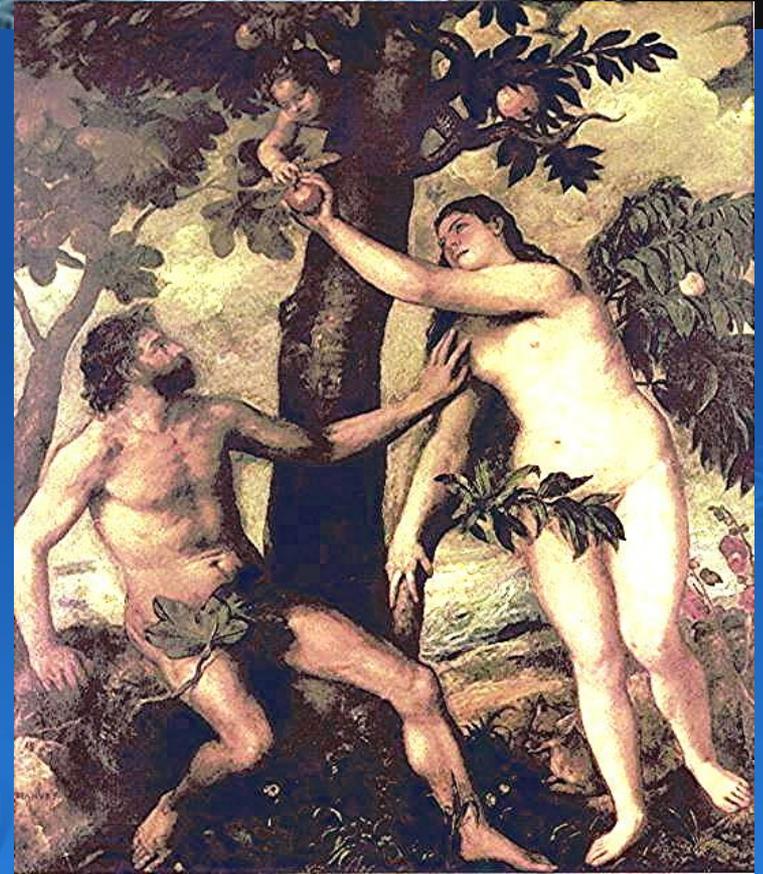


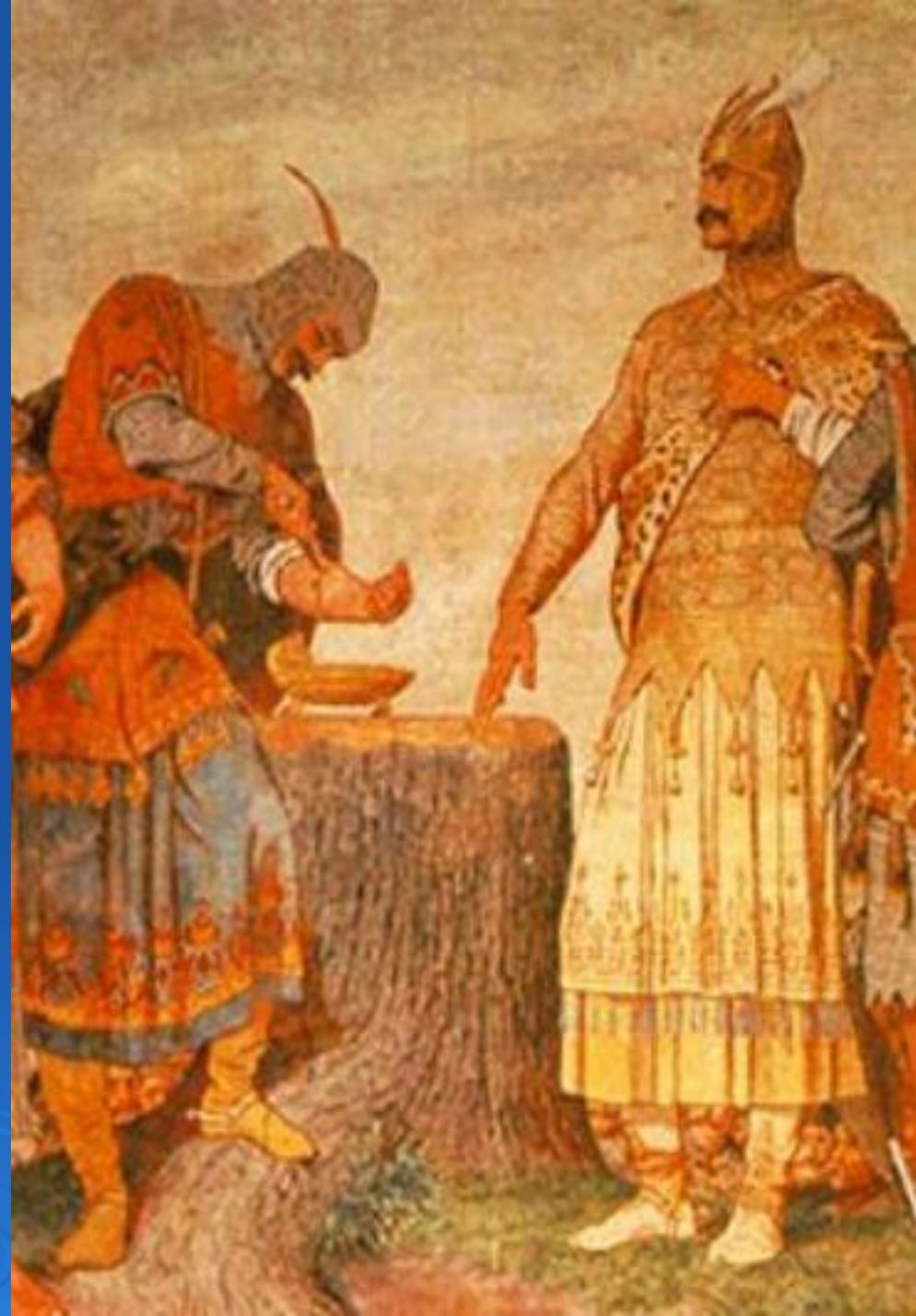


ILLUSTRATION: GRAVITY AS COVENANT

- Gravity is a permanent law of nature
- Holds us to the earth, and the moon to orbit the earth
- LIFE DEPENDS ON GRAVITY!
- Remove gravity, no life as we know it.....Universe different
- When sin entered Heaven, and then entered Man, Laws of Nature changed
- When God makes a covenant, the Spiritual and Physical Universe is never again the same.

MEN ADOPTED GOD'S COVENANT PATTERN

- B'rit, most literally, meant to *cut or divide*
- Arms cut, blood mixed
- Oaths were sworn to a god
- BLOOD AND GOD the center of covenant making



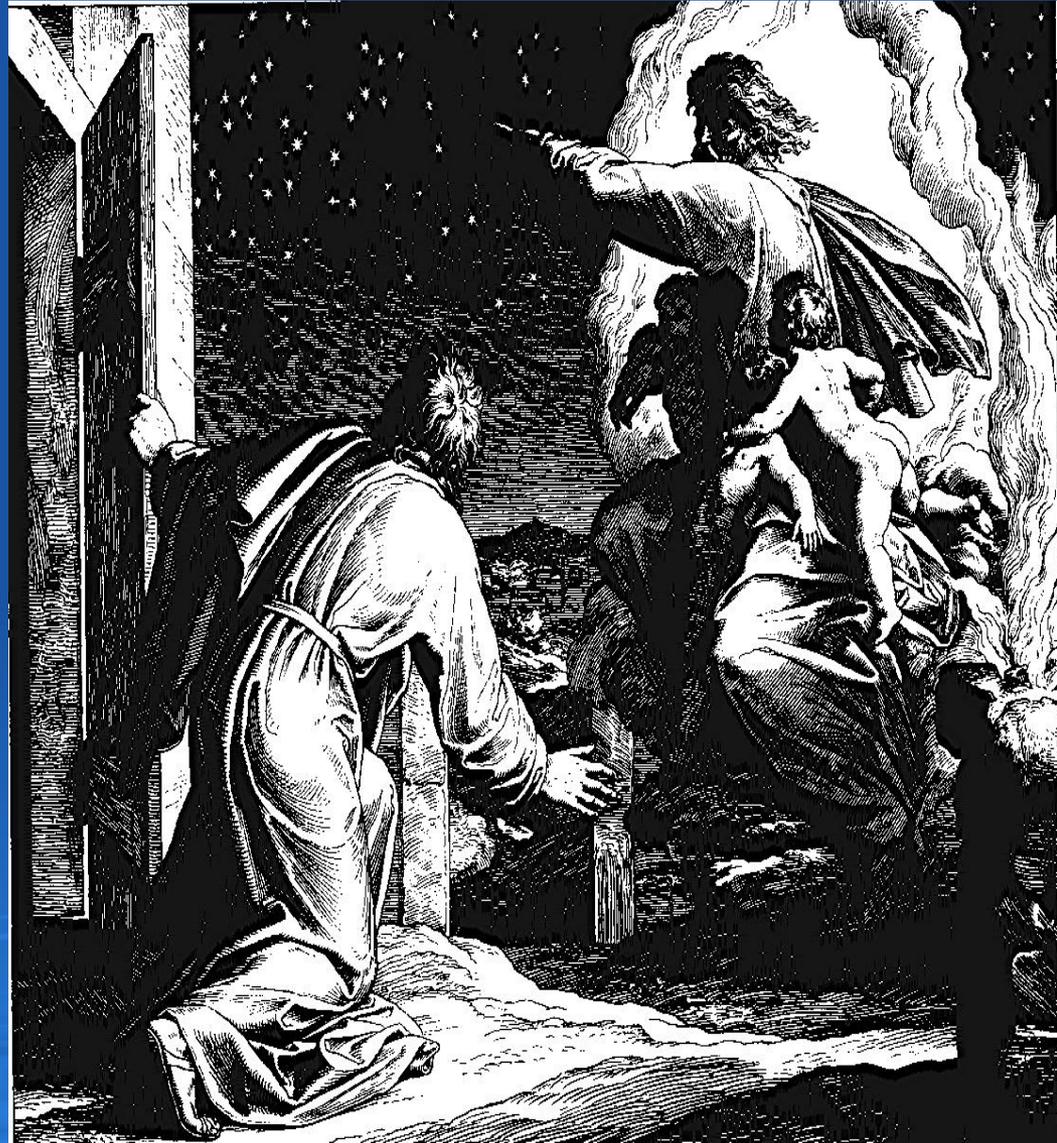
ANIMALS WERE CUT-UP AND DIVIDED INTO TWO GROUPS



- Participants would walk between the pieces
- Blood was important because LIFE WAS IN THE BLOOD
- Salt and bread usually eaten as a covenant meal
- Covenant of Salt
- Salt symbolized PEACE

ABRAHAM CALLED, GIVEN PERMANENT COVENANT

- This means the covenant is FOREVER!
- Most important for us to understand today is that ***“....I will curse those who curse you, and bless those who bless you....”***
- All the promises to Abraham remain intact
- The entire Universe has been fine-tuned to achieve this covenant



WHERE DO YOU STAND?

- Israel, and the Jewish people are the inheritors of Abraham's covenant
- Covenant handed down through ISAAC not ISHMAEL
- Supporting Israel and the Jewish people is our DUTY!
- Does NOT mean to agree with everything they do
- Come alongside them, love them, comfort them, **HELP THEM**
- They are still God's Chosen People

