



# *“What do you believe you believe?”*

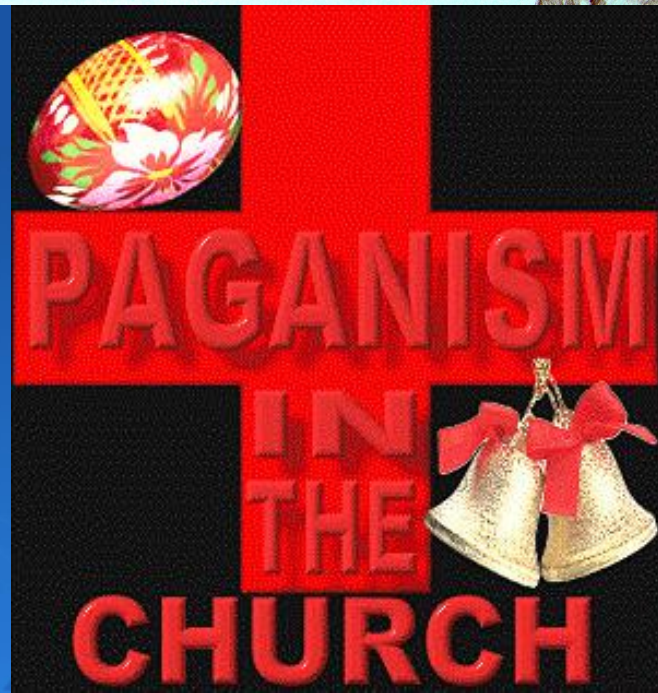
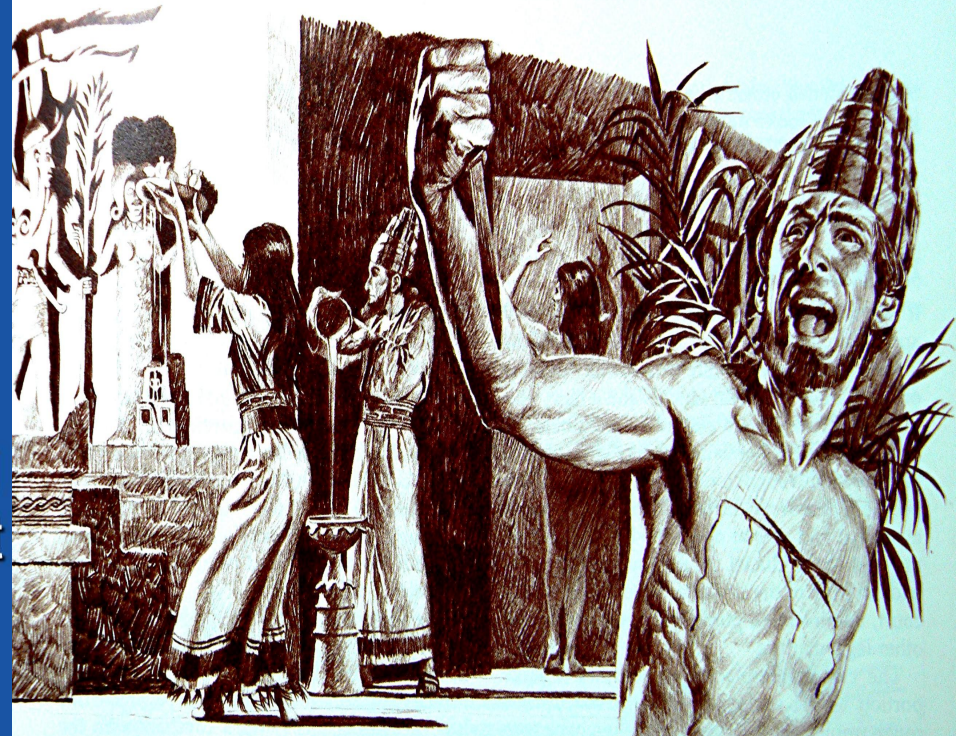
- There are things we hang on to that have no place in the life of a Believer
- Those in Samuel who were denounced for IDOLATRY were Hebrews who remained Hebrews
- They did NOT give up worship of YHWH
- They DID mix pagan ways with their worship of God





# WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

- Idolatry was NOT the wholesale rejection of God
- Hebrews thought that retaining some worship of YHWH meant that God found it acceptable
- A somewhat paganized Christianity is the “new normal”
- Generally, the biblical idolaters are NOT pagans, but God followers
- Idolatry is the illicit mixing (*sha'atnez*) of the pagan with the divine that leads to confusion (*tevel*)





# PHILISTINES ARE WEIGHED BY GOD



- The thundering was likely a combo of the sound of thunder and a divinely produced terror
- Philistines retreated deep into their territory and stopped attacking Israel
- Israel repented at Mitzpah, God responded by delivering them from their enemy



# ISRAEL AT PEACE WITH PHILISTIA AND THE AMORITES



- Israel reclaims some long lost territory
- Amorites and Philistines were bitter enemies
- Samuel the “national” Judge of Israel
- A remnant of a priesthood took root in Nob and probably other places as well



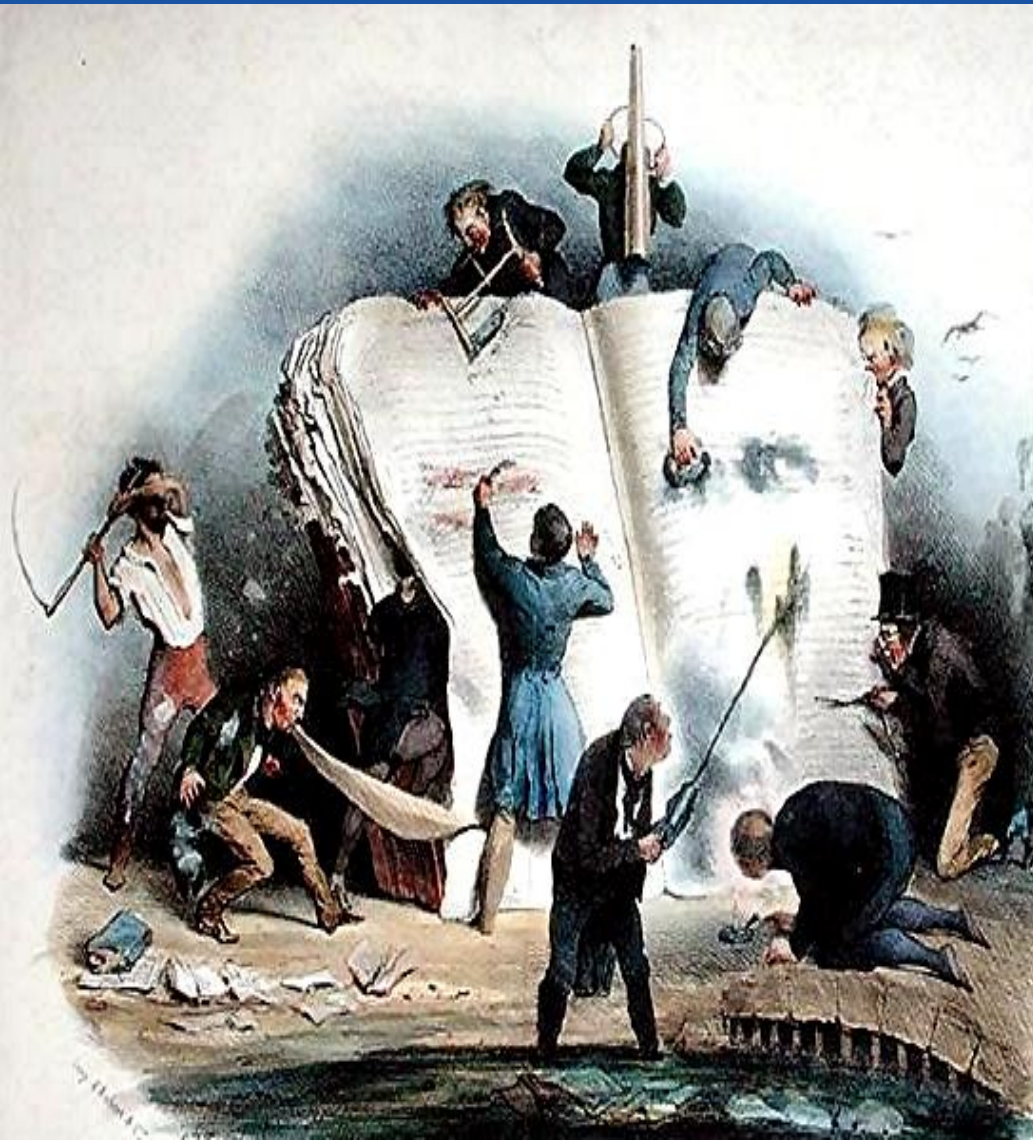
# SAMUEL'S CIRCUIT

- Samuel's primary area of influence was central Canaan
- Ramah, Bethel, Gilgal, Mitzpah
- Samuel had altars of sacrifice built at his home (Ramah) and the other places on his circuit
- Times of transition are messy, confusing and chaotic





# 1<sup>st</sup> SAMUEL CHAPTER 8: LITERARY CRITICS' HEAVEN



- Enormous amount happening here in regards to Israel's national history and God's redemptive history
- Literary Criticism heralded as a new means to determine how many writers of a book, how often it was edited, when it happened





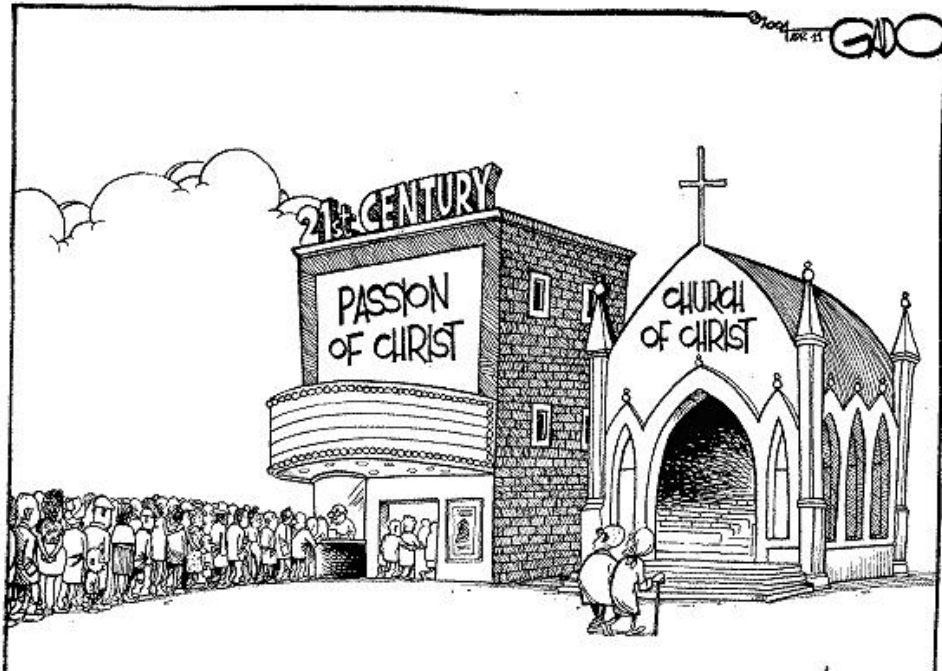
# KING OR NO KING?

- Literary Critics say at least 2 writers involved, with competing and opposite agendas
- Conclusion: Samuel and Kings can't be trusted
- Did the Lord NOT want a king and then He reversed course?
- Book of Judges shows Israel's NEED for a king
- The issue God is dealing with is WHAT KIND of a king, NOT should there be a king



# 2 HISTORIC INNOVATIONS

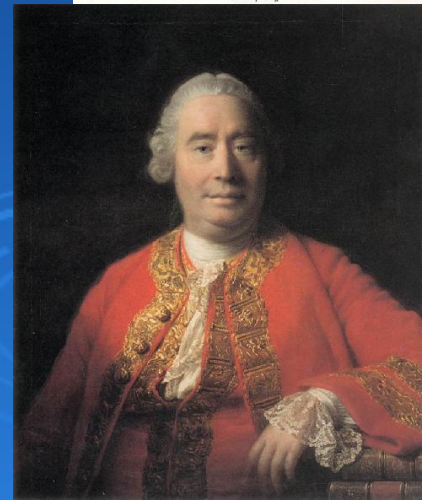
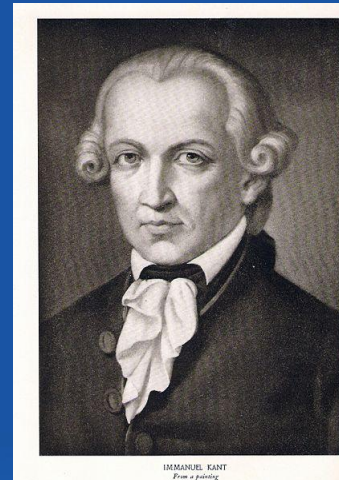
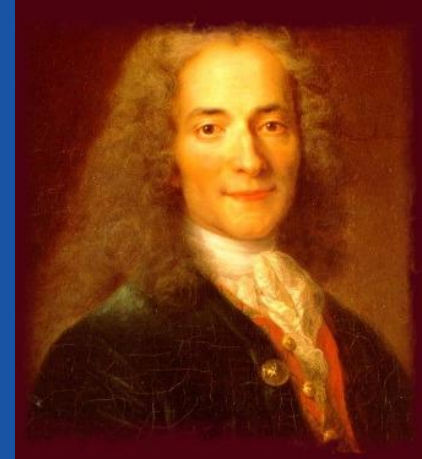
- 1) Orthodoxy vs. heresy
- 2) Systematic Theology
- Orthodoxy/Heresy:
- A Christian religion sets up non-negotiable doctrines to which all members must accept
- Anyone who rejects any of these doctrines is a heretic
- This concept didn't exist in Judaism until about the time of Christ



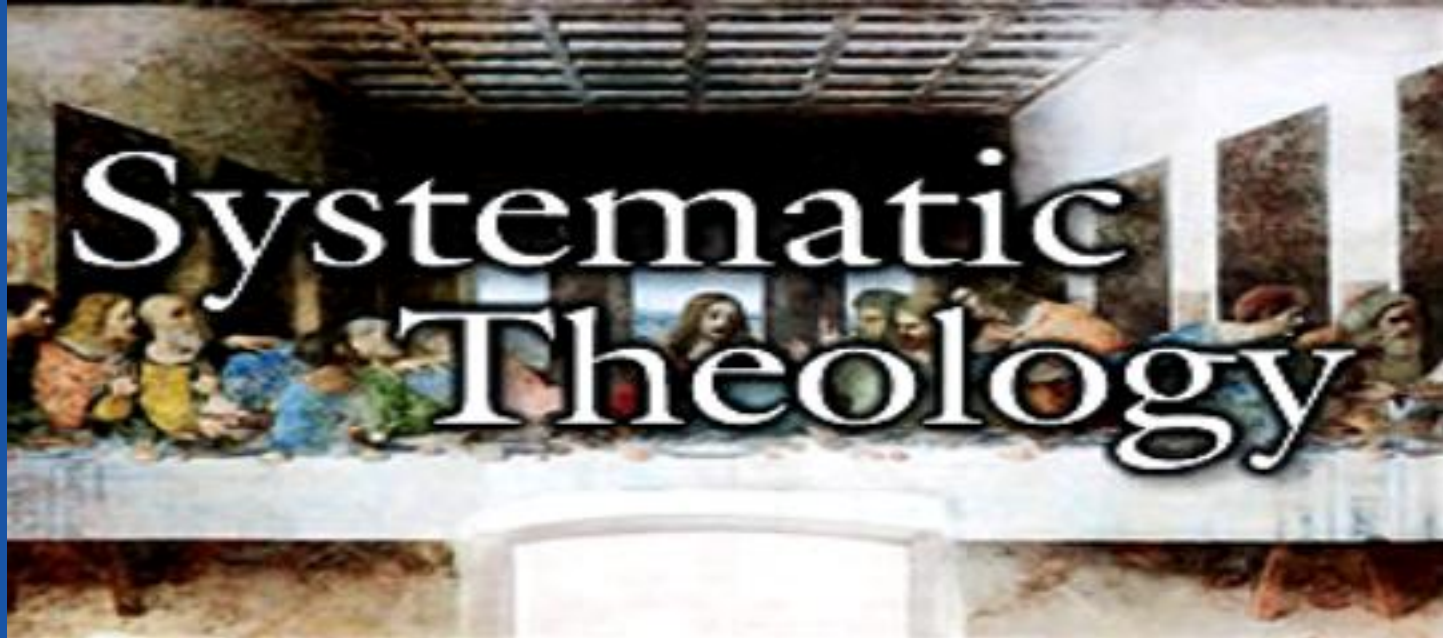


# A RESPONSE TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT

- Systematic Theology BUILT-IN the concept of Orthodoxy/Heresy
- Enlightenment philosophers espoused the denial of the Supernatural and the rise of Secular Humanism
- The Scientific Method became the ultimate protocol to search for truth
- Requires reproducible testing and rational observance by means of human faculties and senses
- Therefore since spirit and faith and God cannot be tested for in a lab, they can not exist







- Question of Israel and Enlightenment social policies forced the Church into a re-evaluation of doctrines
- Result was Replacement Theology
- Modern Systematic Theology consists of approx. 10 categories of questions that defines Christianity
- How a religion/denomination answers those 10 categories of questions determines that group's faith doctrines and rules (Orthodoxy)
- If one disagrees with those answers, the result is heresy



# 3000 CHURCH DENOMINATIONS

- Each denomination generally has its own set of answers to those 10 Systematic Theology questions
- Which set is right?
- IS there a “right” set?
- How did Christianity become so splintered?
- Our unconscious assumptions provide a filter as we read God’s Word

