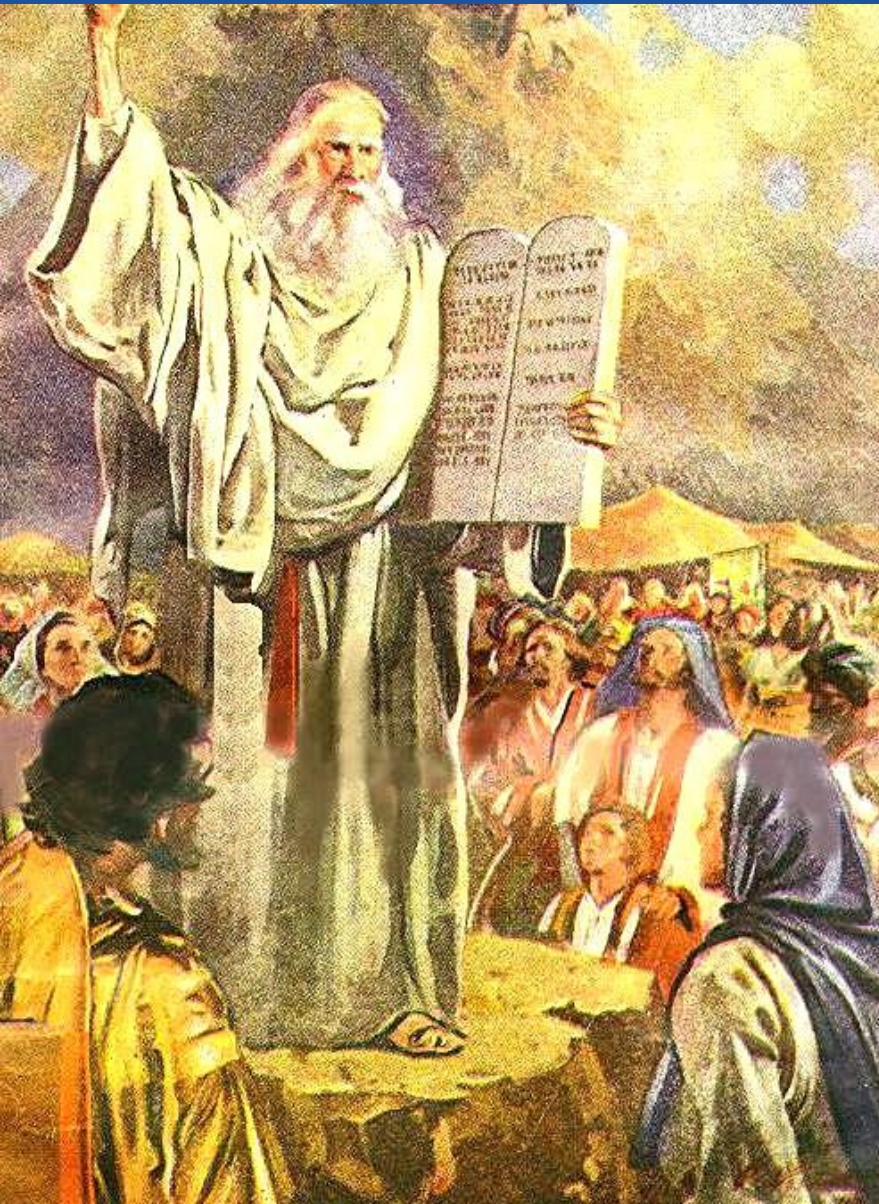


THE TORCH IS PASSED TO SAUL



- At Gilgal the era of the Judges ends and the era of the Kings begins
- Samuel's influence did not end, his role changed
- A "Prophet" became an official office in Israel
- At Gilgal Samuel demonstrated his innocence and faithfulness
- Now that the people knew that had greatly sinned in demanding a king, they're concern was: NOW WHAT?

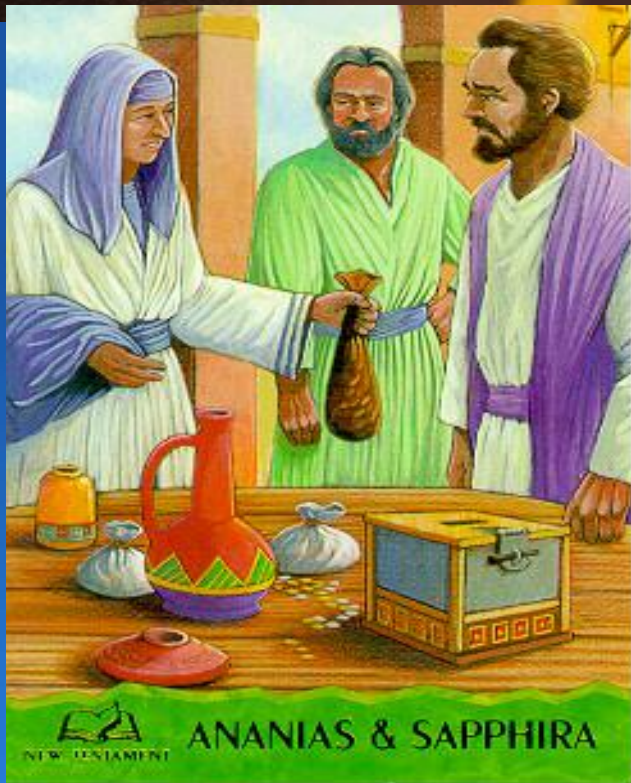
THE COVENANT TONE



- 1st Samuel 12: 14, 15
- “IF.....THEN”
- First the promised blessing for obedience
- Then the promised curse for disobedience
- Dangerous Doctrine: “Do not fear God”
- God still punishes and disciplines His people
- Punishment NOT usually by eternal separation but by means of a foreign oppressor

GOD'S DIRECT PUNISHMENT

- God doesn't GENERALLY punish directly (like Sodom and Gomorrah)
- Even in the OT he usually used wicked nations to oppress His people as punishment
- “Natural Consequences” a code word for NO punishment



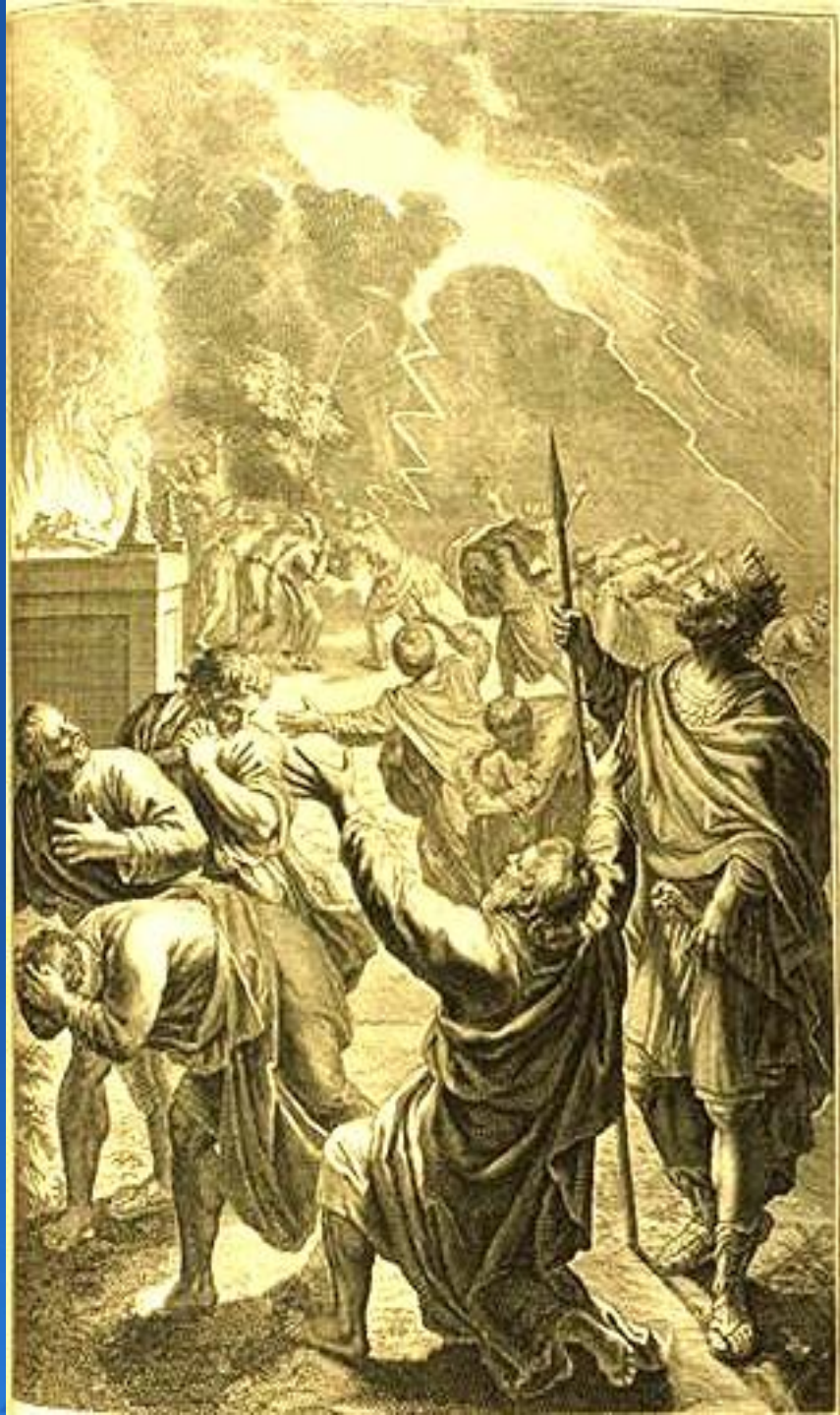
NATURAL CONSEQUENCES?

- Atoning often FIRST required reparations to the aggrieved
- Christians Theologians usually are referring to the consequence of our sin in the context of breaking a civil law
- God's Law was to be the law of the land
- The "natural consequence" for breaking God's law varied from reparations, to excommunication, to death
- God's Law is ONLY for the redeemed
- All consequences of sin are "natural"



SAMUEL'S DEMONSTRATION

- Wheat harvest is early summer when there is no rain
- Thunder was seen as God's spiritual wrath in Heaven
- Rain is usually a blessing EXCEPT during the harvest
- God often uses natural things in supernatural ways to demonstrate His power



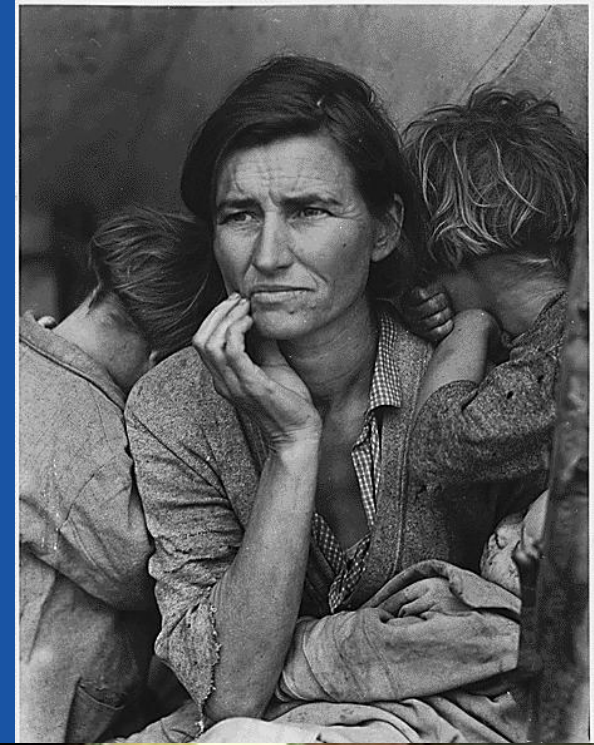
“Do not be afraid.....”



- People begged Samuel to pray that God doesn't kill them
- Crowd startled to hear: ***“Do not be afraid”***
- God is concerned that the people in realizing the depth of their evil will give up
- The solution: ***“Just don't turn away from following YHWH....”***
- You have DONE evil, but don't turn yourself over to that evil
- The Lord has not abandoned you so don't abandon the Lord!

DOOMED?

- Grace has ALWAYS existed
- The Lord tells Israel that the ONLY requirement is that trust and obey Him!
- How is trust and obedience demonstrated? By observing the commands of the Law.
- Another concern is that Israel will turn to false gods for hope



COME HOME!

- God does not want Israel to start doing things that **THEY** think are pious, but are **NOT!**
- We must “come home” on God’s terms, not ours
- The terms are: trust and obey in faith
- The Stumbling Block is our desire to **MERIT** our salvation by our deeds



GOD'S HOLINESS OVERRIDES ALL ELSE



- God does NOT do all for our benefit
- The protection of His Holy Name is paramount
- Samuel says he will intercede for Israel NOT because they deserve it but because God has assigned him to do it
- For Samuel (and leaders) to stop striving to teach righteousness among their people is SIN!

1st SAMUEL CHAPTER 13: THE STORY OF THE ANTI-KING



- The issue was NOT would there be a king, but rather who it was and at who's unction is happened
- Israel demanded the wrong king for all the wrong reasons
- Saul would design his own doctrines, attribute them to God, and then abide by that rather than God's Word
- We don't really know how old Saul was when he took the throne, but probably 40 or older

SAUL'S BATTLE WITH THE PHILISTINES

