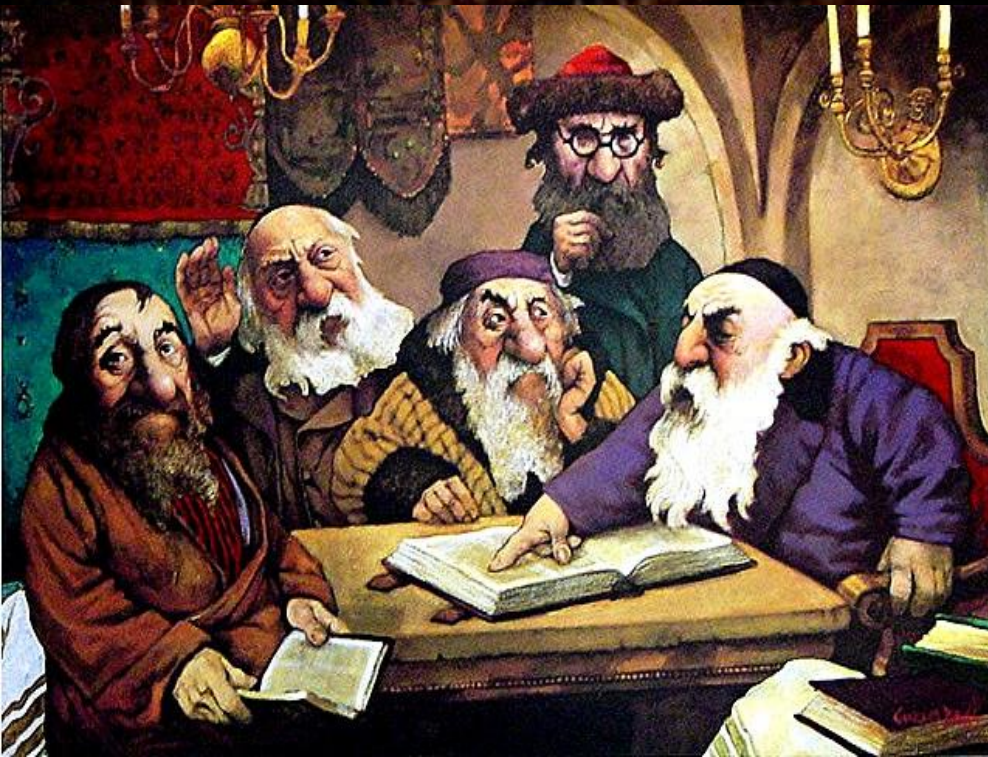


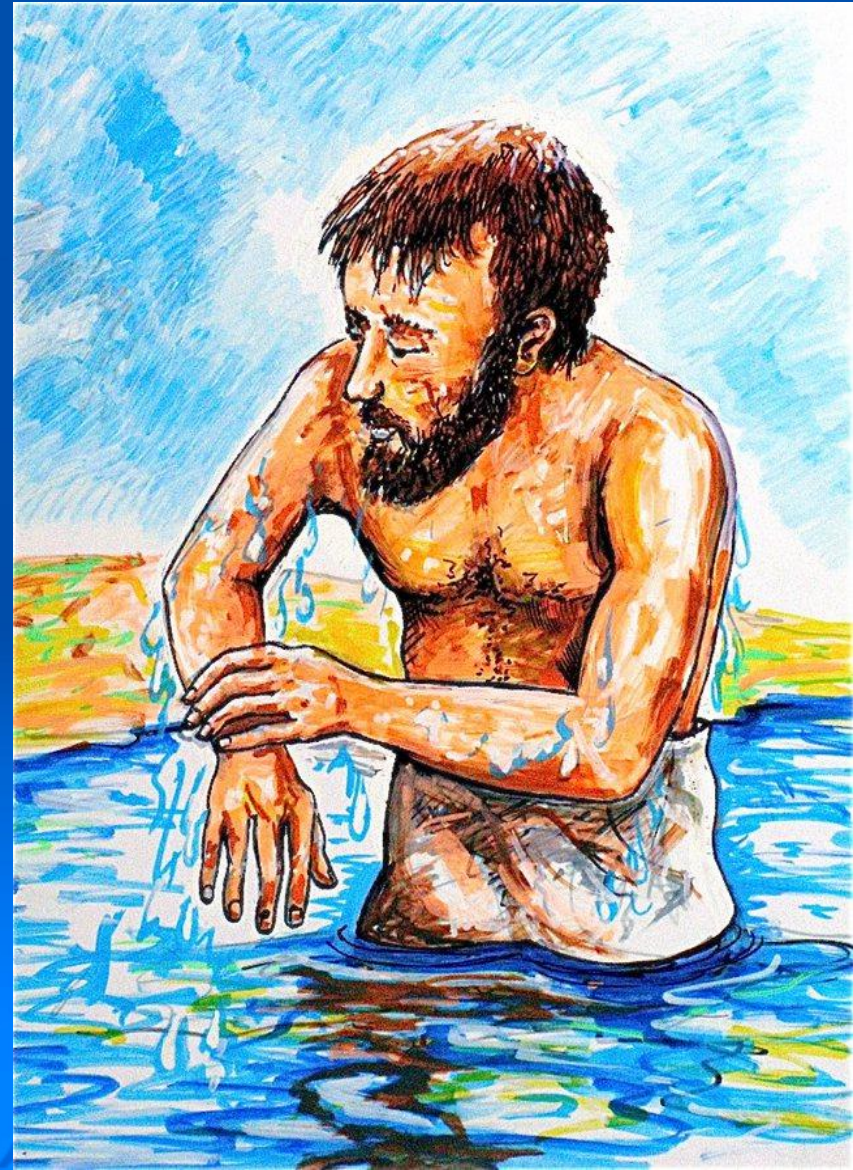
THE GOSPEL IN THE OLD TESTAMENT



- Na'aman, Syrian army commander
- Story of Na'aman shows us the Gospel in the Old Testament
- New Testament does not construct the Gospel
- New Testament tells us who the deliverer of the OT Gospel is and what it means for us
- New Testament is primarily inspired commentary (midrash) on the Hebrew Bible

WHY WOULD A GENTILE CONTRACT *TZARA'AT* ?

- *Tzara'at* = wearing on one's skin the sign of inner uncleanness of spirit
- YHWH would at times afflict disobedient Hebrews with *tzara'at*
- God only expected obedience & faithfulness from His chosen people
- Na'aman is told he can be cured by Israel's great prophet Elisha
- He is told to bathe 7 times in the Jordan, and when he does, his *tzara'at* disappears





- Na'aman seemed to have an open heart and God afflicted him with *tzara'at* to drive him towards YHWH
- A Gentile MUST be immersed in Israel's living water if he or she is to be delivered from an unclean spirit
- As Na'aman did, a Gentile must give up idol worship and declare allegiance to the God of Israel
- Na'aman did NOT become a Hebrew, he continued living as a gentile, but he did receive a clean Hebrew spirit

NA'AMAN'S CIRCUMCISED HEART



- In Bible era a nation, its culture, traditions, and its gods were inseparable
- Na'aman's faith and trust delivered him
- No money can be paid, no work can substitute for faith and trust in Our Lord
- Gentiles being grafted in to Israel's covenants was NOT a New Testament innovation, it is here in 2nd Kings

2ND KINGS CHAPTER 6

Happy moments, **praise** God.
Difficult moments, **seek** God.
Painful moments, **trust** God.
Every moment, **thank** God.

- A series of stories about Elisha with both big and small matters being dealt with in miraculous ways
- What things should we take to the Lord? Phil.4:4 – 7
- 2nd Kings 6 shows us that NOTHING is too small to bring before the Lord

THE LOST AXE HEAD



- Prophet guilds were thriving and needed a larger building
- Prophet is chopping lumber when the axe head falls off into the water
- ***Sha'al*** = begged or borrowed
- Elisha fashions a new axe handle, puts it in the water and the axe head floats up
- A new work of God requires using new things
- Mark 2: 22 new wineskins

KING OF SYRIA TRIES TO CAPTURE ELISHA

- Israel and Syria (Aram) were in a chronic state of hostility
- Ben-Hadad wants to kill King Y'horam, but his plans are revealed by Elisha
- Syrian King sends his army to Dothan to capture Elisha
- ***Al tira*** = Fear NOT!
- Elisha prays to have his assistant's eyes opened so that he can see YHWH's heavenly hosts
- Psalm 34:6 - 8

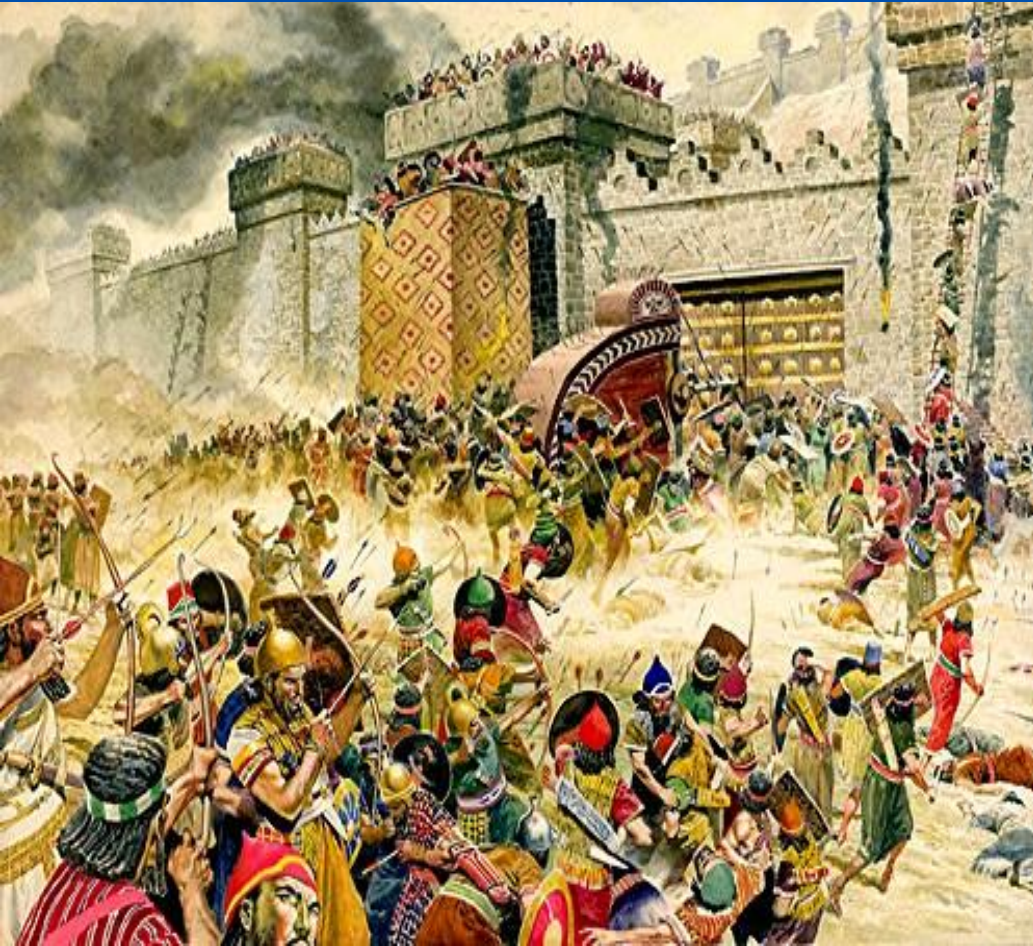


SYRIAN ARMY IS BLINDED

- Syrian army attacks Dothan
- Elisha asks the Lord to close up the army's eyes
- **Sanverim** = unable to perceive (not blind)
- When army arrives in Samaria, Elisha prays that their eyes will open again
- No Biblical command against deceiving your enemy in battle
- King **Y'horam** asks Elisha if he should kill these Syrians
- Army is fed, and sent back to Aram unharmed



BEN-HADAD RETURNS TO ATTACK SAMARIA



- Hostilities stopped for awhile, but then the King of Syria again attacked Samaria
- Siege warfare, city is surrounded and people are trapped
- Cut off from food and sometimes from water
- Often is a waiting game

THE HORRORS OF SIEGE

- Food became so scarce a donkey's head became impossibly expensive
- Unclean animal, not fit for food
- Dove's dung was a colloquialism that referred to carob seed husks used to stretch a meal
- King Jehoram is asked to mediate between 2 women, who had agreed to kill and eat their children
- Cannibalism is well attested to during prolonged sieges
- Lev. 26:27 - 28

