

# WHEN THE COMFORTABLE BECOMES FATAL



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 13: Israel's acceleration towards God's judgment
- Without alertness, our benign surroundings can turn out to be deceptively dangerous
- The changes are slow and can go on unnoticed until the victim succumbs
- Kings and Chronicles show us what happens when leaders lead people away from God's commands and into manmade customs that please us more

# FROM INNOVATION TO DEVIATION

- Each new monarch add his own misguided changes to God's laws and commands
- Jeroboam, 1<sup>st</sup> King of Israel after the civil war, developed the Golden Calf cult as a political tool of control, saying the Calves were YHWH
- At first the people complained, but then accepted
- 30 years later, Queen Jezebel demanded respect for Ba'al, but allowed Golden Calf worship
- Soon, Golden Calf worship was outlawed, and only Ba'al worship was permitted

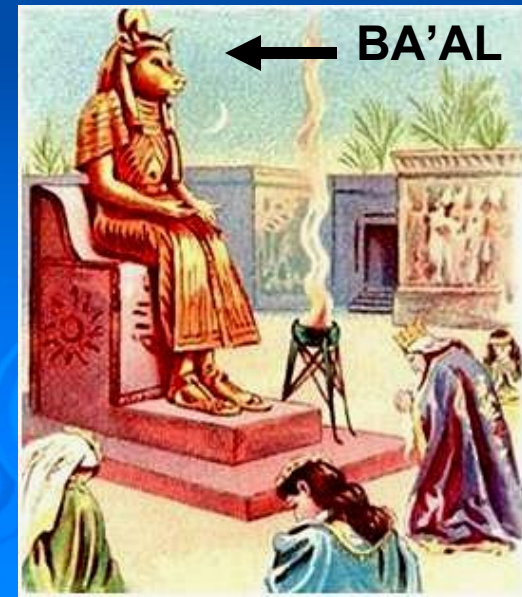
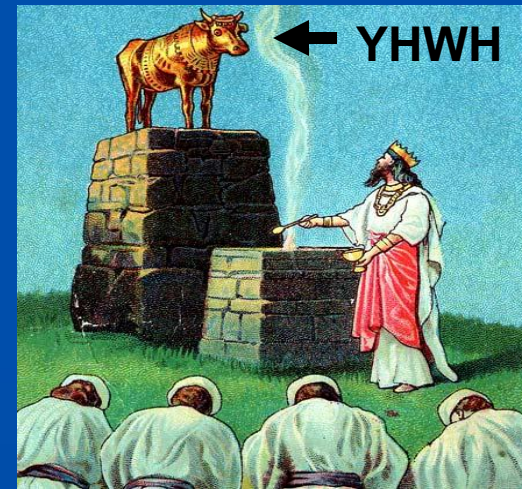
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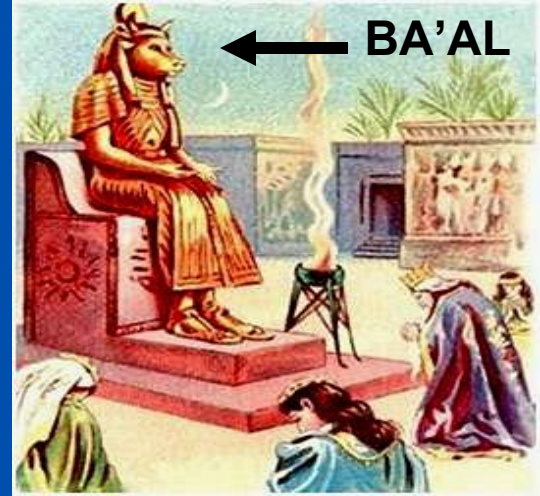
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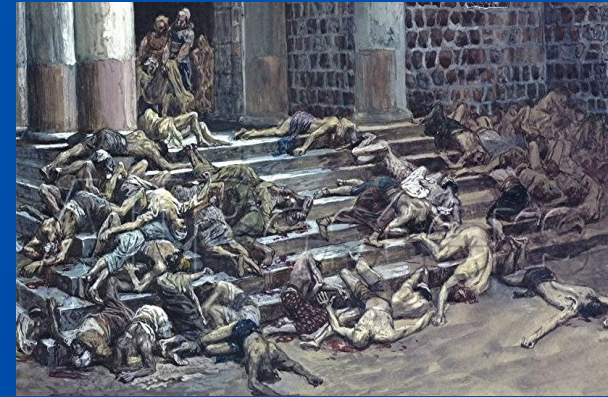
# THE FORBIDDEN NOW SEEMS GOOD

- The Lord anointed Jehu to rid Israel of Ba'al worship
- Jehu became King, he obeyed God, but then took Israel BACK to Golden Calf worship!
- He thought he was doing good since the Golden Calves were supposed to represent YHWH
- Christianity has followed a similar path
- We have grown up with our practices and observances, they seem right and familiar to us, so we staunchly defend them

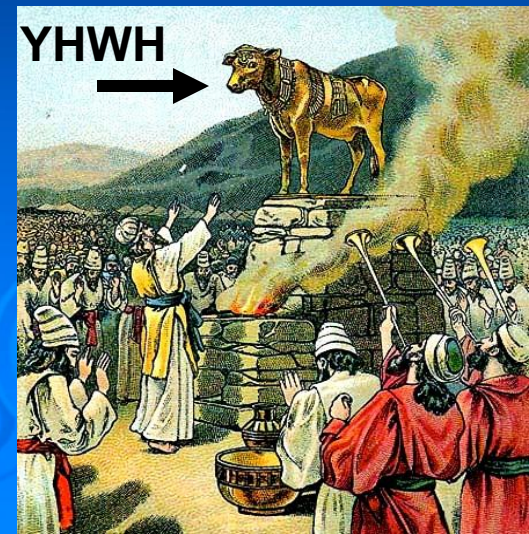
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# HOW WE GOT HERE FROM THERE

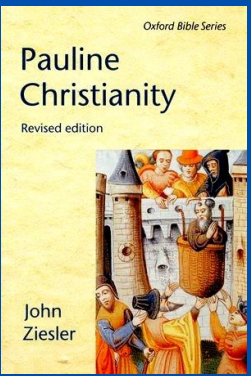
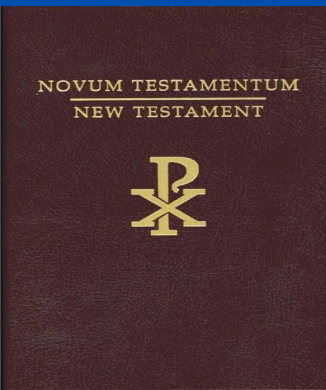
- At first the The Way was led by Jews
- Within 200 years after Christ, gentiles held all leadership
- There was not yet a New Testament
- The gentile leaders knew little of the Torah, and Jewishness was foreign to them
- Temple destroyed in 70 AD, Jews prohibited from living in Jerusalem in 138 A.D
- Center of Christianity moved into the Roman Empire, and then into Rome



OLD TESTAMENT



NEW TESTAMENT



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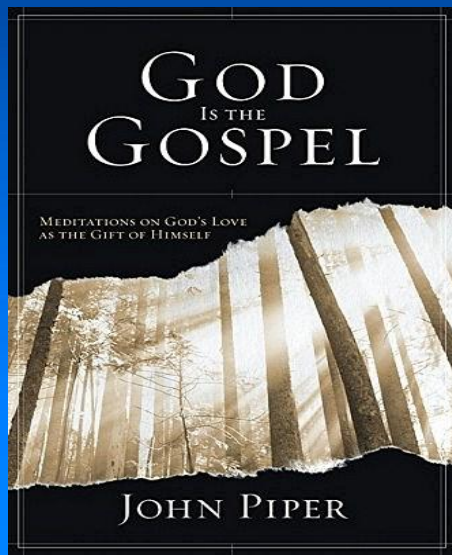


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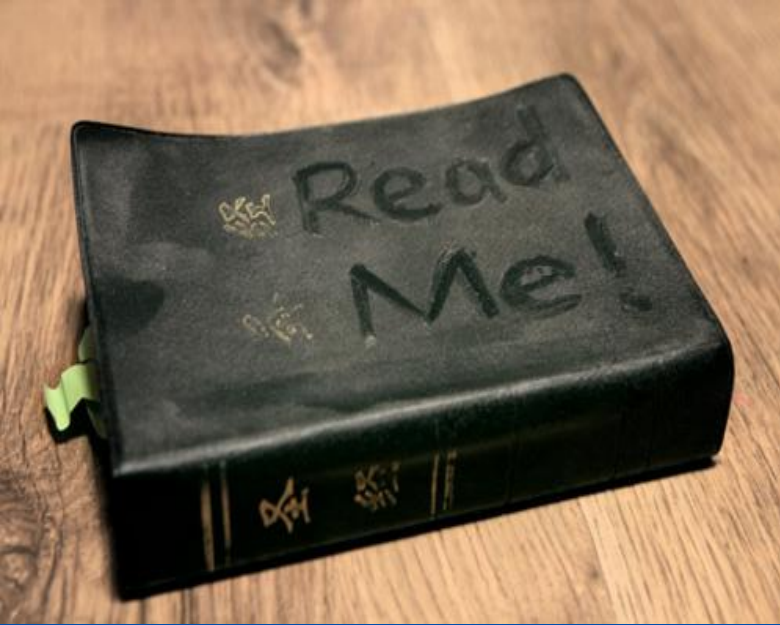
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# FROM BIBLE TO PHILOSOPHY

- New Testament seen as for Christians, and the Old Testament for Jews
- Paul's writings became the source for church doctrines and organization
- Mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, political correctness deemed Paul's rules too intolerant, so seekers were led only to the 4 Gospels
- All doctrine reduced to: The Law of Love



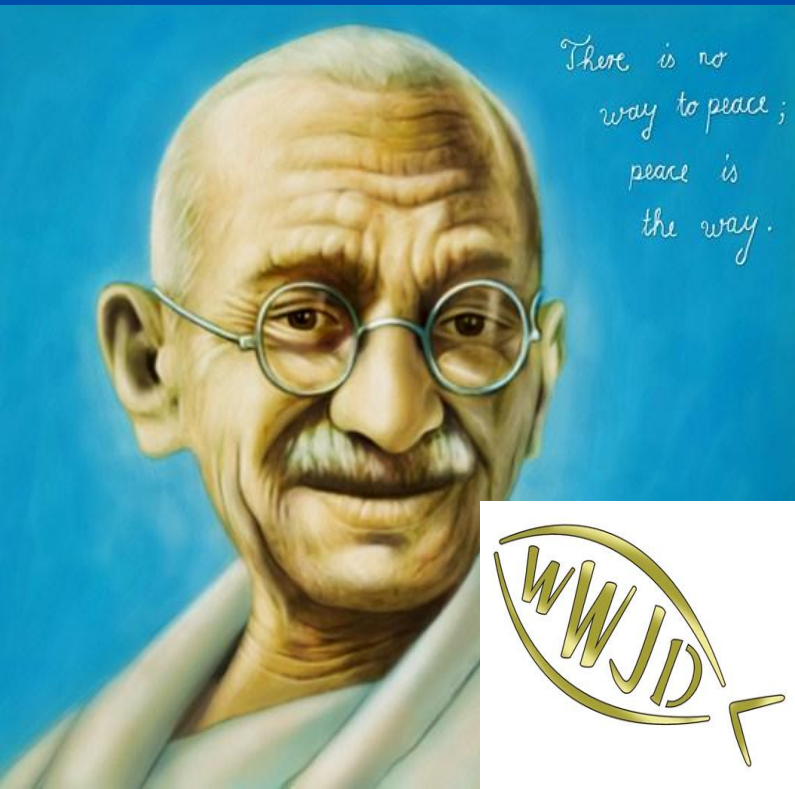
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# HERE WE ARE!



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- Bibles have now been put away in favor of reading books ABOUT the Bible, faith, heaven, social justice, etc.
- Biblical Christian faith has changed to: “The Philosophy of Jesus the Good Teacher”
- We have lost the Biblical Hebrew context for our faith
- Matt. 7:21 -23



# THE DEATH OF ELISHA

- King Joash came to pay his respects to the dying Elisha
- Elisha issued a prophecy of Joash's victory over Aram, using arrows as a symbol
- Elisha was 80 years old when he died
- He was placed in a burial cave
- A family threw their dead family member into Elisha's burial cave to avoid Moabite raiders
- **Gabar** = to bury, but not in the sense of digging a hole and placing a corpse in it



# ANOTHER RESURRECTION!

- Corpse that was thrown into the cave by his family touches Elisha's bones and comes alive!
- No agreement among Hebrew or Christian scholars as to what the meaning of this is
- Vss. 22 – 25 show that Elisha's prophecy was fulfilled
- God's pity on Israel was the result of his covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- This is referring to the covenant with Abraham, handed down to Isaac, then Jacob
- The main covenant term was the promise of a land of their own, Canaan





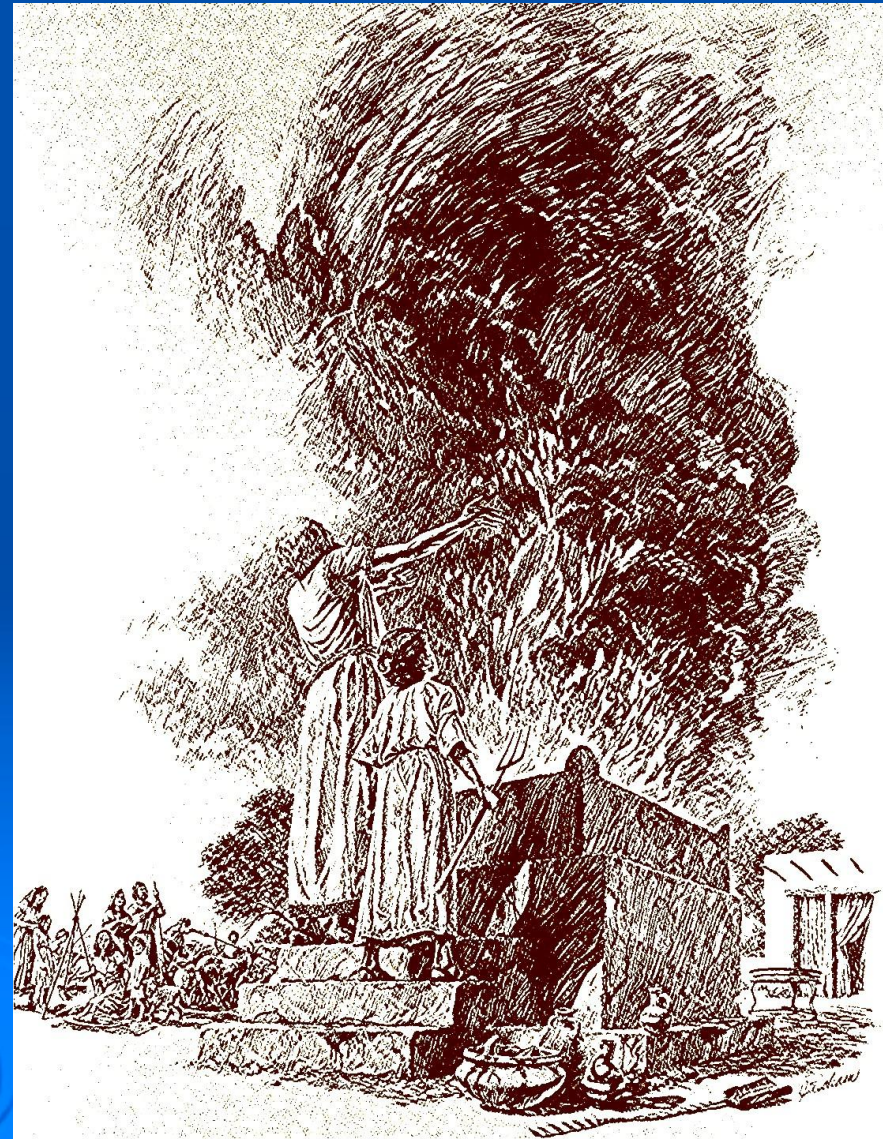
# 2<sup>nd</sup> KINGS 14: BACK TO JUDAH



- **Amatzyah**, son of Joash King of Judah
- Began his reign when Joash King of Israel was in his 2<sup>nd</sup> year
- Joash King of Judah had been assassinated
- Amatzyah a near carbon-copy of his father
- Amatzyah is compared with David, and he doesn't measure up
- David was loyal to YHWH and whole hearted
- **Amatzyah** had no strong inner convictions

# THE PROBLEM WITH HIGH PLACES IS ONGOING

- *Bamot* = high places
- These are private family altars
- NOT pagan, but rather for sacrificing to YHWH
- They are unauthorized since only the Temple in Jerusalem was ordained by God for sacrifice
- These high places were in Judah, and people had easy access to the Temple, so there was no excuse for this behavior



# AMATZYAH TOOK REVENGE FOR HIS FATHER'S SAKE



- It took *Amatzyah* time to quell the rebellion that had begun during his father's reign
- Once he had sufficient power, he rounded up and executed his father's killers
- He did NOT kill their children, which was customary in that era in the Middle East
- He knew the Torah Law on the matter (Deut. 24:16) and obeyed it