

- Judah still being ruled by descendants of King David
- Northern Kingdom was really 7 ½ tribes
- Trans-Jordan tribes were 2 ½ tribes, but closely allied with the Northern Kingdom
- Assyria first conquered the Trans-Jordan tribes and then the remainder
- Israelites were sent to places all over the Assyrian Empire

THE NEW SAMARIA

- Samaria no longer just a city, but a large region
- Samaritan = Samaritan
- A time lag of around 10 years between 2nd Kings Chapter 17 verses 23 and 24
- The exile of the 10 tribes took place slowly over several years



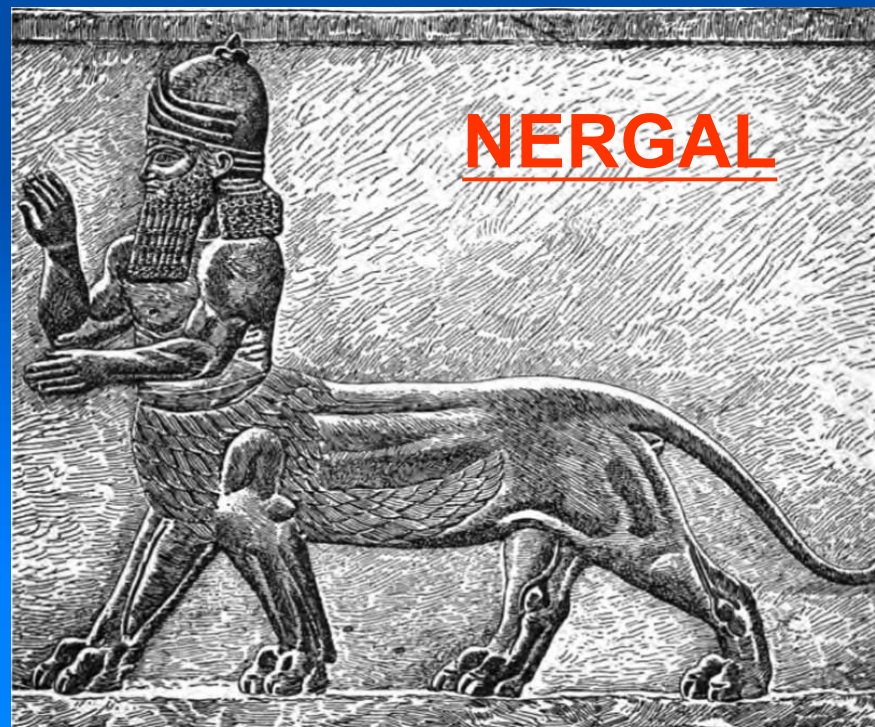
TO FEAR GOD



- *Yare* = fear
- Old English sense means to show respect or reverence
- *To worship* is best in modern English
- Lions attacking the new settlers of Samaria was seen as vengeance from the local deity
- The lion population exploded as the Israelites left the area

WHICH GOD IS THE HEBREW GOD?

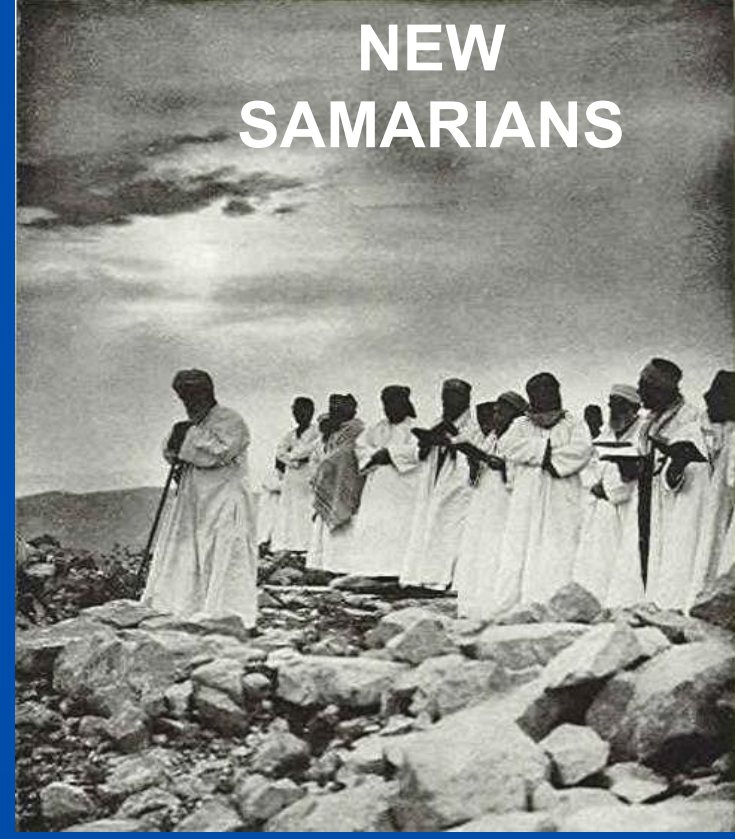
- Settlers of Samaria didn't know YHWH and asked for a Hebrew Priest to teach them
- The Priest sent was NOT a Levite, but rather a priest of the Golden Calf cult of the northern kingdom
- He taught the colonists an apostate religion, but how would they know any better?
- ***Succoth-B'not*** = booths of the daughters



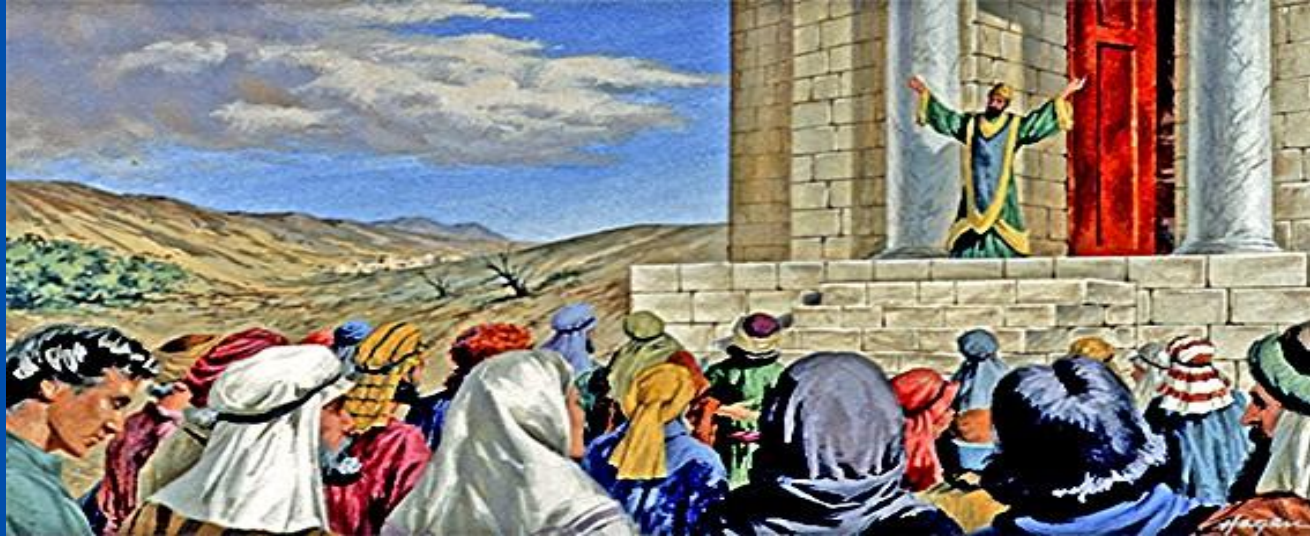
WHO WERE THE NEW SAMARIANS?

- God calls these people the “covenant” people
- Why?
- Remnants of the 10 tribes stayed, and they mixed themselves with the new colonists
- In Jesus' day the Samaritans were despised as a mixed breed of Hebrews and gentiles
- Samaritans insisted they were true Israelites, which enraged the Jews and Galileans
- **WAKE UP CHURCH !!** Many of us are as the New Samaritans !

NEW
SAMARIANS

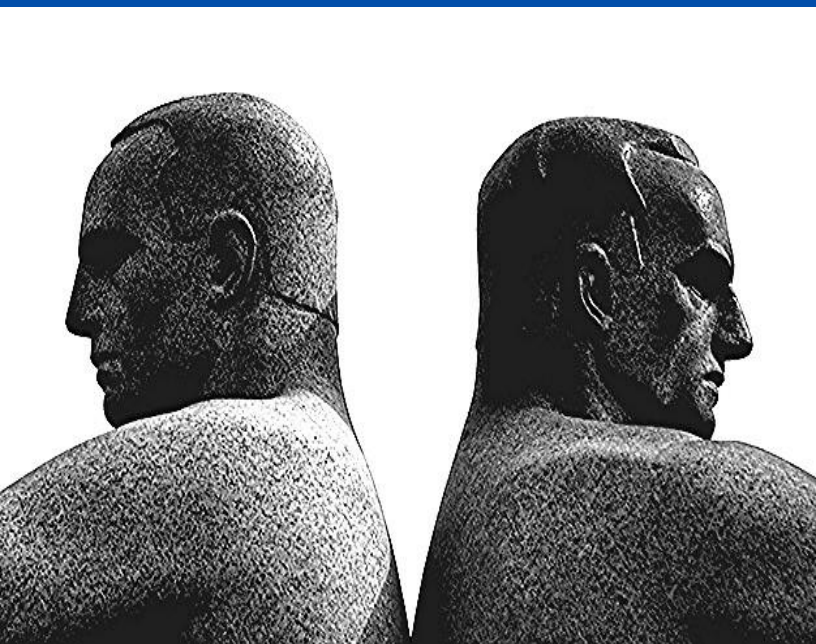


2nd KINGS 18: HEZEKIAH, THE REFORMER



- The focus shifts back to Judah and stays there because there is no more Israel
- Hezekiah, son of Achaz, begins his reign at 25
- ***Hizkiyahu*** = strength of God
- Hezekiah much like King David, not perfect but refused to worship other gods
- A huge contrast between ***Hizkiyahu*** and his father ***Achaz***

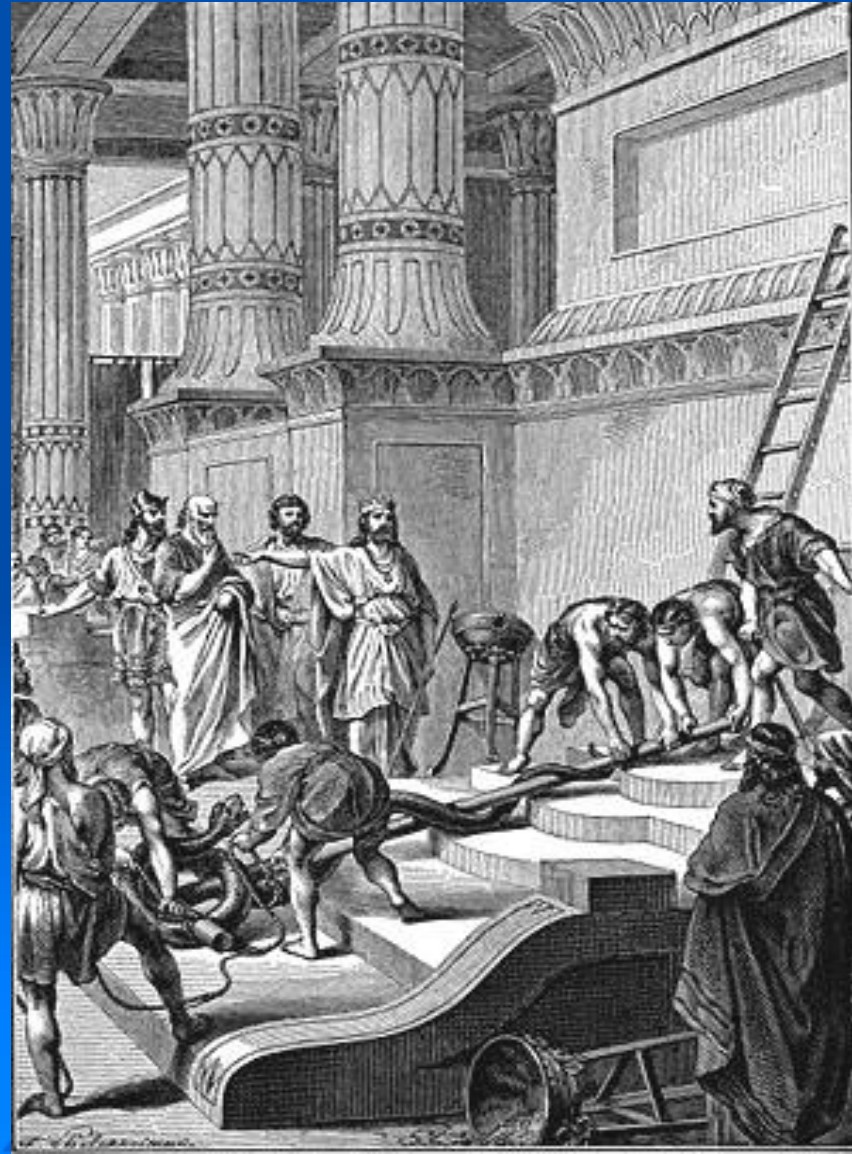
ACHAZ CHOSE UNWISELY



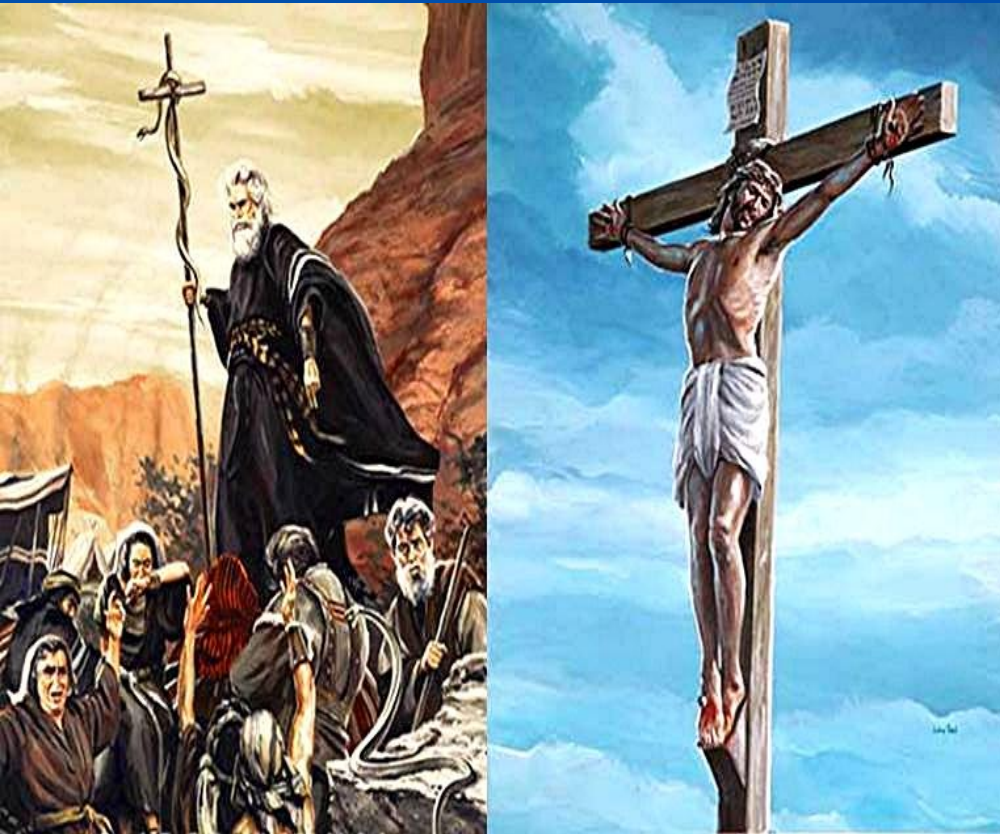
- Isaiah 7:3 – 10, 10 - 12
- King Achaz had a stark choice to make: 1) submit to God and His salvation, or 2) submit to the King of Assyria and be subjugated
- Irrationally he chose Assyria
- 2Kings 16:7 – 8
- Judah became a vassal state under Assyria and paid huge amounts of tribute
- The effect upon Judah was catastrophic

GOD RAISES UP A GOOD KING FOR JUDAH

- Hezekiah removed the high places, tore down religious pillars, cut down the Asherah trees, and destroyed Moses' Bronze Serpent pole
- Pole and serpent had been given a name: *N'chushtan*
- Pole was being worshipped as an idol
- It had been intended for a one-time only use, but it became an object of adoration and worship



COMPARISON OF THE POLE AND SERPENT WITH CHRIST AND CROSS



- Yeshua made the comparison in John 3:14, 15
- But was His intent to adore and bow down to the pole of His execution?
- Hezekiah was considered righteous by God to destroy the Brazen Serpent's pole
- A very short leap from admiring an object that reminds us of our faith, to making it the object of our faith