

# “....can't you choose someone else...?” Tevye



- All that remained of God's people was Judah a few members of the 10 tribes
- King **Achaz**, Hezekiah's father, led Judah into the worst abominations
- **Achaz** didn't want Judah to be "the chosen" any longer, he embraced the new world order of Assyria
- Modern Israel tends to take the "**Tevye**" viewpoint





# INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE WORLD

- Christians and Jews often want it both ways
- Identified as followers of the God of Israel, but obtaining all the economic and social advantages of the unsaved world
- Rev. 3:1-6 “*I know....you have a reputation for being alive, but.....you are dead!*” Yeshua
- King *Achaz* did so much damage, that Hezekiah’s reforms only scratched the surface of Israeli society
- When Hezekiah died, Judah quickly reverted to their old ways



# KING HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS



- Book of Kings works with Isaiah and with 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Chron. 32:24 – 29
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 20 NOT in chronological order with chapters 18 and 19
- Chapter 20 an appendix
- Hezekiah fell ill just before Sennacherib invaded Judah

# HEZEKIAH GETS BAD NEWS

- Isaiah tells *Hizkiyahu* he is going to die
- The king didn't ask to be healed, he merely expresses his distress and reminds God of his righteous behavior
- The king doesn't understand why God would curse him with death so young
- God tells Isaiah to return and tell the King that he shall not die, but rather has gained 15 more years of life



# CONTRAST OF NATURAL VS. SUPERNATURAL



- God did not change His mind
- This is a story of the contrast between the natural and the supernatural
- Hezekiah's illness was a "natural" illness
- Hezekiah prayed, God intervened
- Hezekiah's righteousness no doubt played a role in God's decision
- Hezekiah had NO sons, so there was no HEIR to the throne

# HEZEKIAH'S CONCEPT OF LIFE AFTER DEATH

- Hezekiah had no son to carry on his “life essence”
- Isaiah 38 Hezekiah's prayer of thanksgiving
- Hezekiah thinks this about death and the afterlife:
- 1) *Yah* is the God of the living ONLY
- 2) He will never see human beings again
- 3) God covered his sins so he didn't have to act on them
- 4) Only the living can praise God
- 5) Life is better than death, and death is a hopeless situation

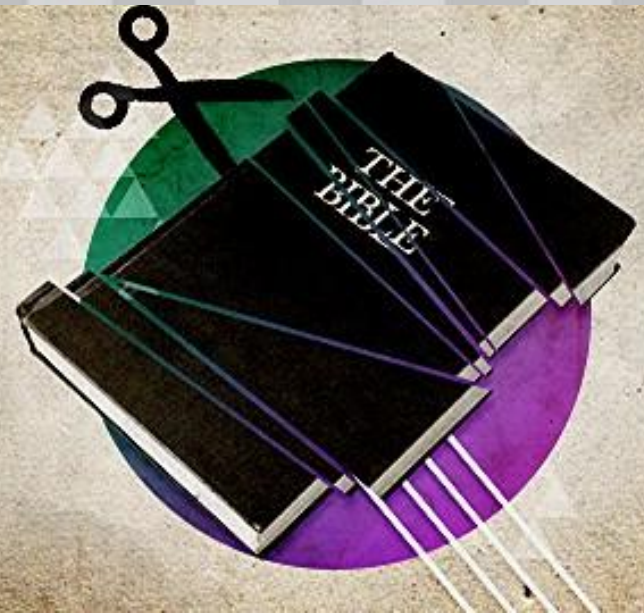


# PROTESTANT BIBLE IS INCOMPLETE

- Hezekiah's views on afterlife are NOT reality or divine instruction
- Martin Luther removed the Books of Apocrypha from the new Protestant Bible
- 1500's A.D.
- Luther thought those books "too Jewish" He was a proud Jew hater
- It's the New Testament that reveals a real, vibrant, eternal life after death
- King Hezekiah and modern Jews see death as the end (generally speaking)



## Apocrypha



# THE ISSUE OF “SIGNS”



- Ashur is the god of Assyria
- A sign is NOT “laying a fleece”
- Wanting a sign is an expression of belief
- Isaiah 7:10 – 12
- King *Achaz* refused a sign because he didn't believe in God for help
- Hezekiah immediately accepts God's deliverance and so wants a sign of surety





# HEALING FIGS ?

- The Lord tells Hezekiah to apply a cake of figs to his abscess or lesion
- Figs do NOT ease skin irritation, rather they CAUSE skin irritation
- The figs are part of the miracle
- Something that causes pain naturally is used by the Lord to heal and soothe



# THE SIGN OF THE SUNDIAL



- *Hizkiyahu's* father *Achaz* had obtained a Chaldean sundial from his masters
- The King got to choose between the advancing or declining of the dial by 10 intervals as his sign
- He chose it to decline since that was impossible
- NOT the same as the miracle of the sun standing still for Joshua