

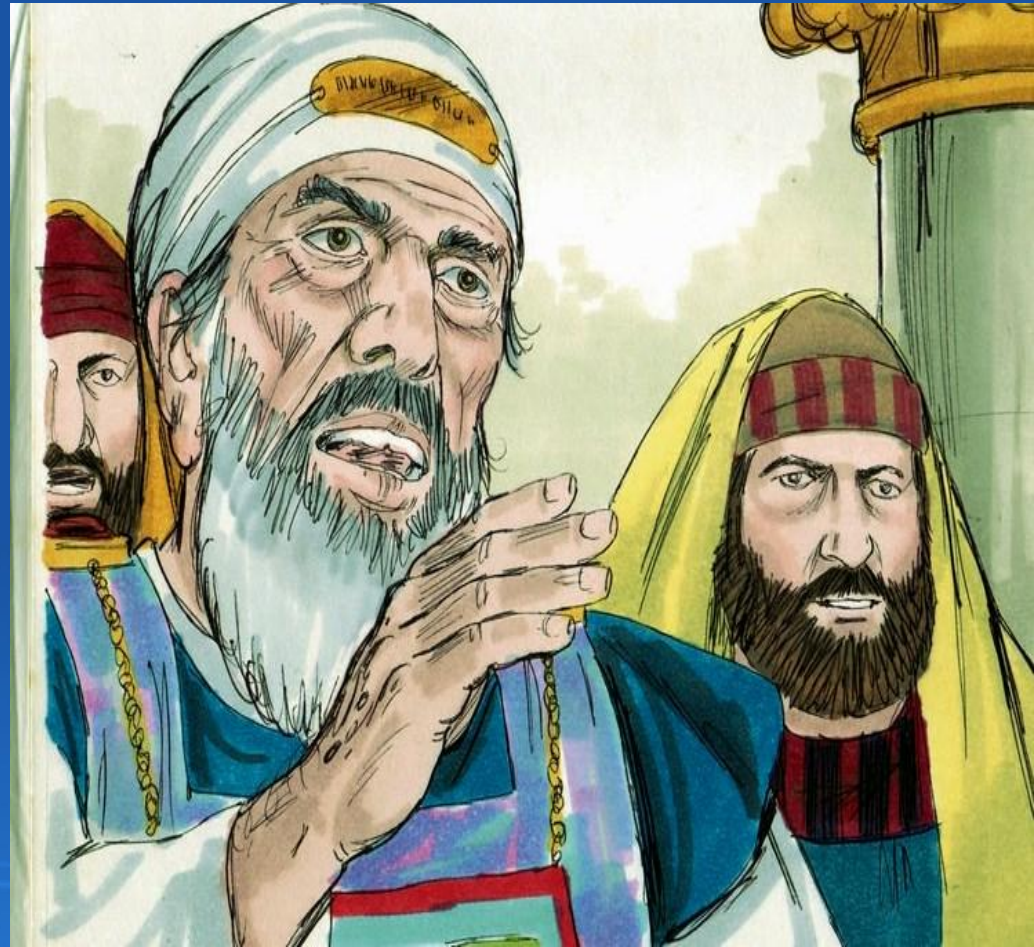
STEPHEN: THE FIRST BELIEVER'S MARTYR

- A mob wants to lynch Stephen
- Synagogue members argued with Stephen over doctrine, but couldn't win
- They retaliated by using false witnesses to accuse him of blaspheming
- Stephen's face glowed because God was present with him
- Like Moses on Mt. Sinai



HIGH PRIEST QUESTIONS STEPHEN

- High Priest Caiaphas, head of the Sanhedrin
- Stephen's long response doesn't directly address the question
- Main issue was "blaspheming Moses", means to dispute the Traditions
- Stephen charged with being against all that Judaism stood for



BEFORE BABYLON



AFTER BABYLON

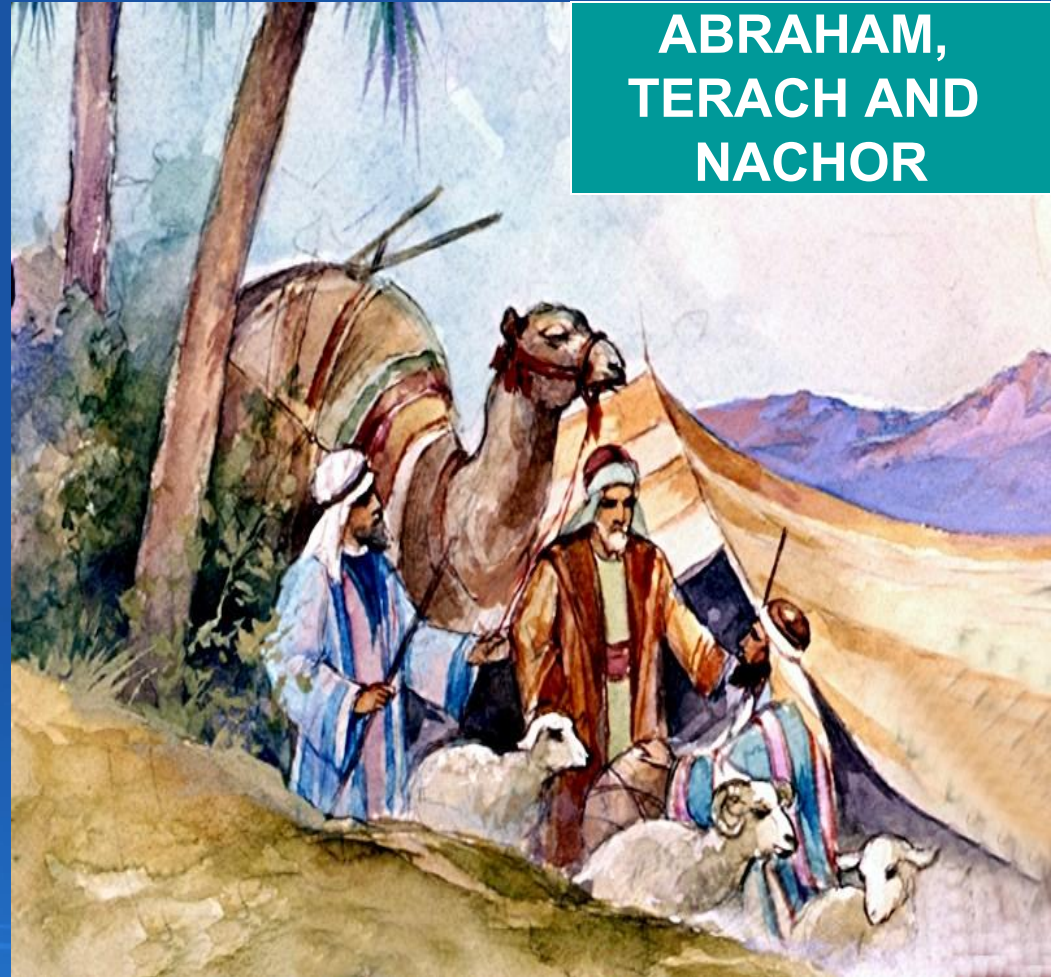


FROM TEMPLE TO SYNAGOGUE

- Priests used to teach the Torah as their job
- Hebrew-ism
- Torah given at Mt. Sinai for all Hebrews to follow
- 10 tribes conquered and scattered by Assyrians
- All that remained in the Holy Land was Judah
- Judah conquered and exiled to Babylon
- Judah-ism = religion of Judah
- A hybrid of Torah and Tradition
- Tradition = Oral Torah

STEPHEN TELLS THE STORY OF A SHARED HERITAGE

- Stephen addresses audience as “brothers and fathers” showing he is one of them
- Stephen quoting from the Torah
- A math error?
- Gen. 11:32 says Terach died at 205
- But numbers add up to 145
- Samaritan Pentateuch says 145, and that is what Stephen was quoting

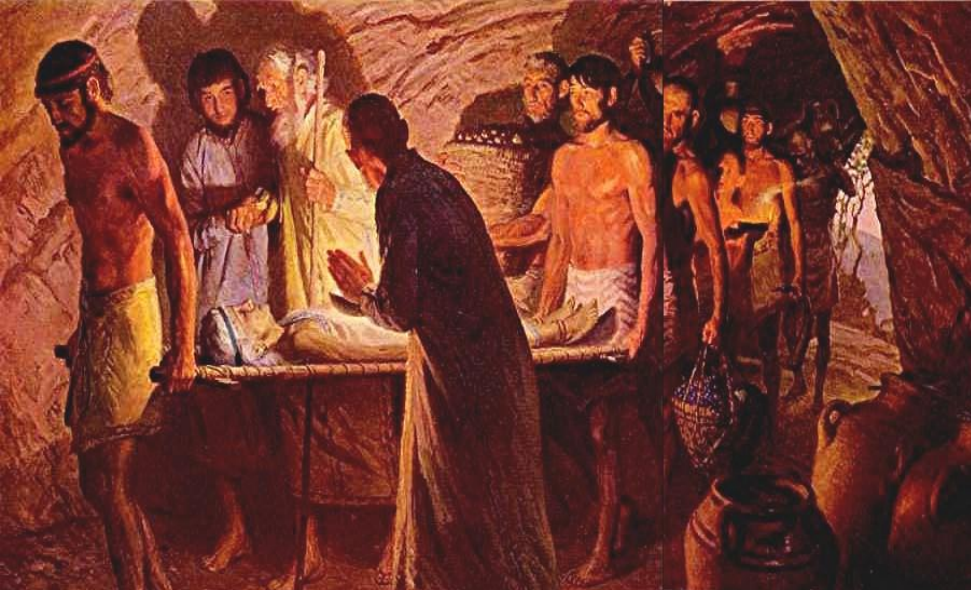


ABRAHAM,
TERACH AND
NACHOR

ANOTHER DISCREPANCY: JACOB GOES TO EGYPT



- Stephen says 75 went with Jacob to Egypt
- Gen. 46:27 in the Hebrew Tanakh says 70 went to Egypt
- We find 75 in the Samaritan Pentateuch and in the Greek Septuagint
- Was Stephen a Samaritan?
- Synagogue used the Septuagint, the Temple used the Hebrew Tanakh



WHERE IS THE TOMB?

- Stephen says tomb of Abraham is in Shechem, bought from Hamor
- Gen. 23:17 says tomb is in Hebron
- Gen. 49:29-33 says Jacob buried in tomb in Hebron, bought from Efron
- Samaritan Tradition had the tomb in Shechem



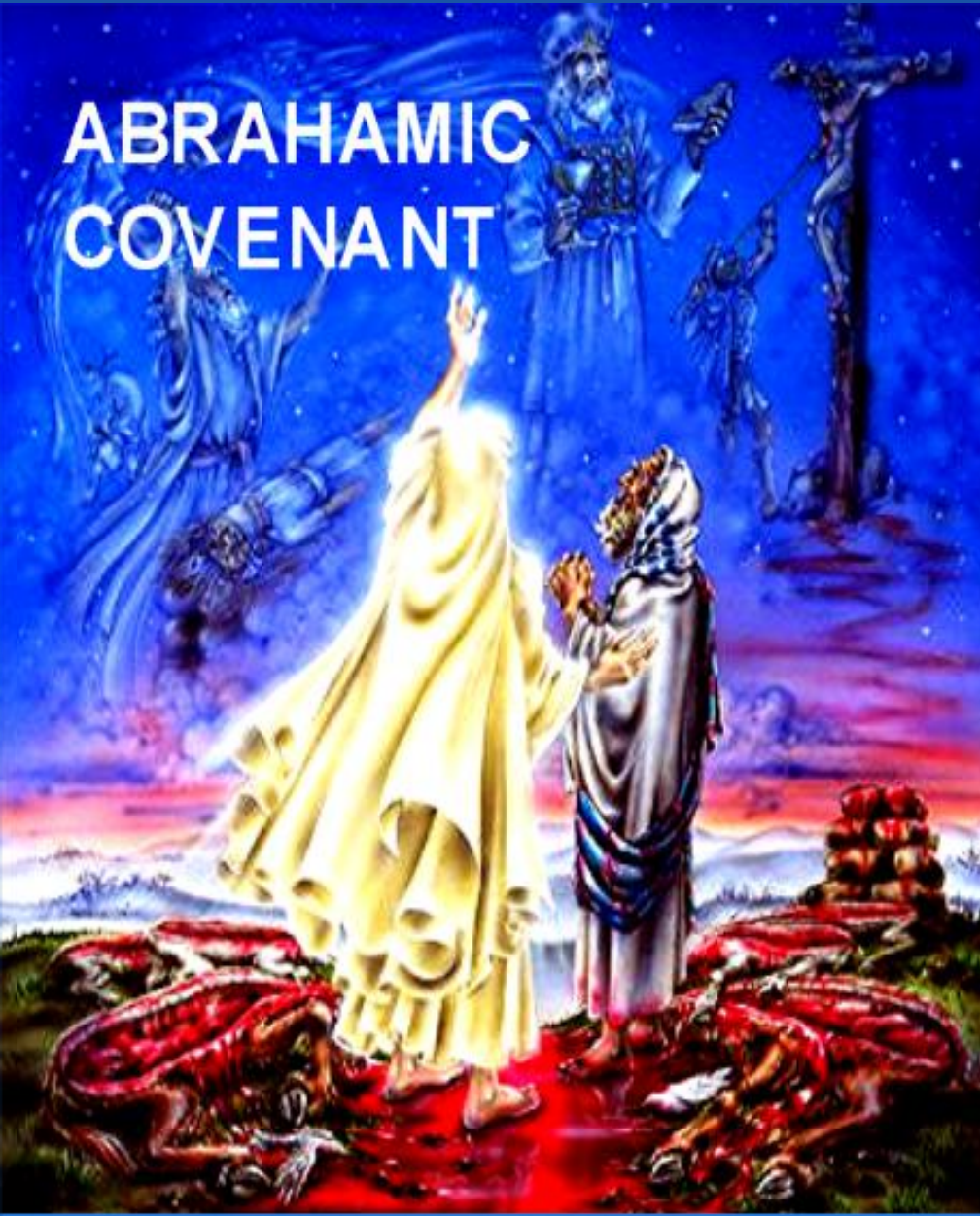
STEPHEN A SAMARITAN

- They figured out that Stephen was a Samaritan
- Likely Stephen was a Jew born in Samaria, later moved to Judea
- Issue of Temple was sensitive; Samaritans had their own Temple, didn't accept the Jerusalem Temple
- Explains the blind hatred towards Stephen by the local Jews



THE FOCUS IS THE LAND

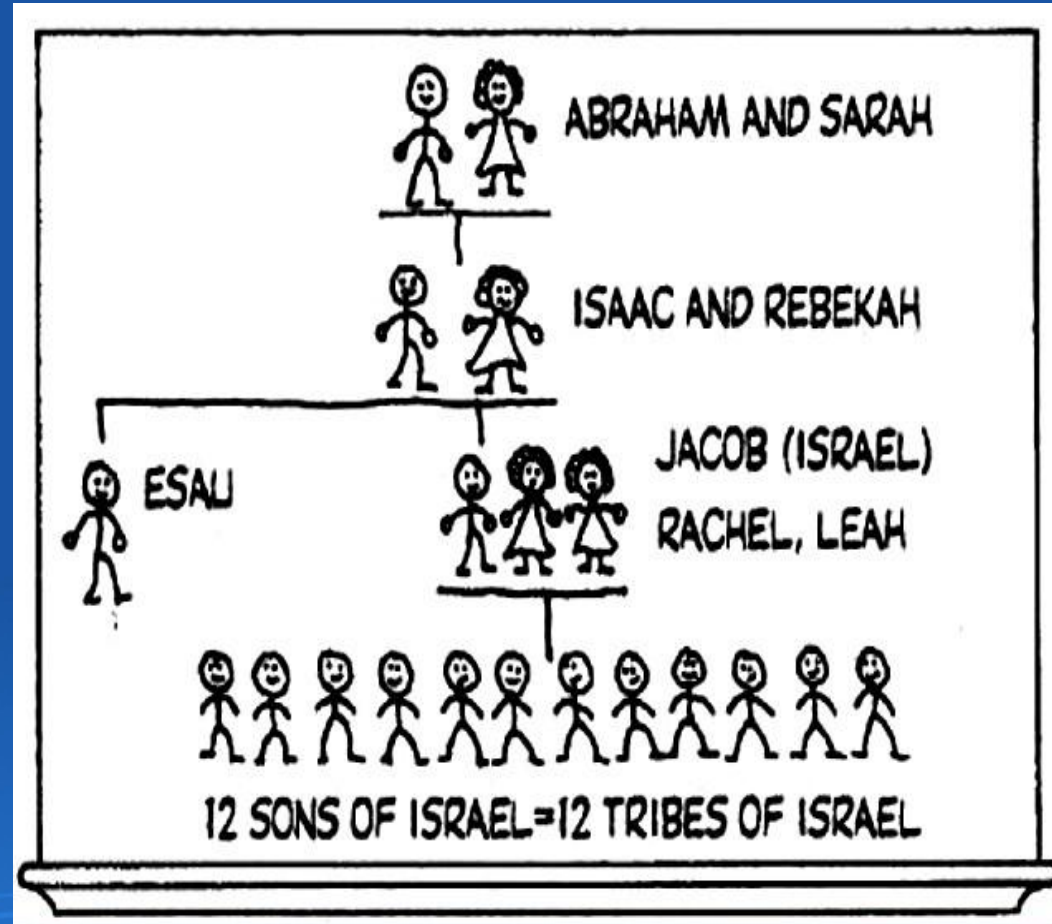
ABRAHAMIC COVENANT



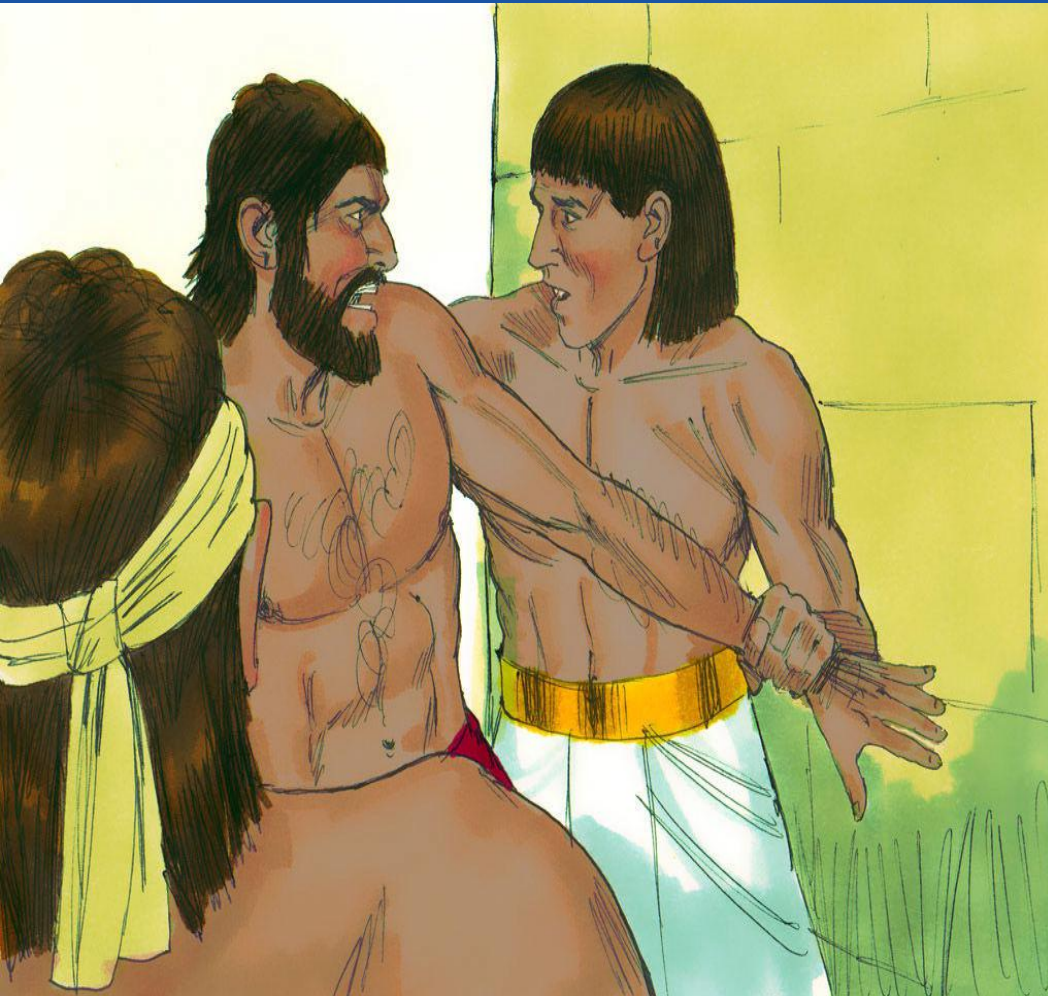
- The land and the people are organically connected
- Before the Promised Land is given to Abraham's descendants they will live in a foreign land
- Circumcision is the sign of the Abrahamic Covenant
- Mosaic Covenant about the relationship between God and His people
- Sign of Circumcision integrated into the Law
- A single sign makes the land and people of God inseparable

FROM ABRAHAM TO ISRAEL

- Covenant passed from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to the 12 tribes
- Story of Joseph
- 1) fulfillment of God's oracle to go to a foreign land as slaves
- 2) A long pattern of faithfulness, then rebellion
- 3) Joseph's life mirrors that of Messiah



MOSES AS A MEDIATOR



- Irony: a hated Hebrew raised in Pharaoh's household
- At 40, Moses goes out to see his "brothers"
- Torah doesn't say Moses was 40, this is a Synagogue tradition
- Moses tries to stop fight between 2 Hebrews and is rejected
- "Who made you ruler and judge....?"
- Moses stops Egyptian from striking a Hebrew by killing him
- Moses mediates both gentiles and Hebrews
- Moses flees to Midian

MOSES BECOME'S GOD'S OFFICIAL MEDIATOR

- Vs. 30 Stephen says Moses in Midian for 40 years
- This is not in the Torah, it is another Synagogue Tradition
- Stephen characterizes Moses as “Ransomer” to draw parallel to Yeshua
- Reminds his audience that Moses said God would raise up a prophet “like him”



And the angel of the Lord
appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush:
and he looked, and behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was
not consumed
Exo . III . 2.

DISOBEDIENCE & REBELLION



- People of Israel did not want to obey Moses
- A willful rebellion against God and His Mediator
- It is not Stephen speaking against Moses, it is his accusers speaking against Moses!
- The respect Stephen is showing towards Moses is his response to Caiaphas' questions
- Stephen has turned from being the accused, to being the accuser