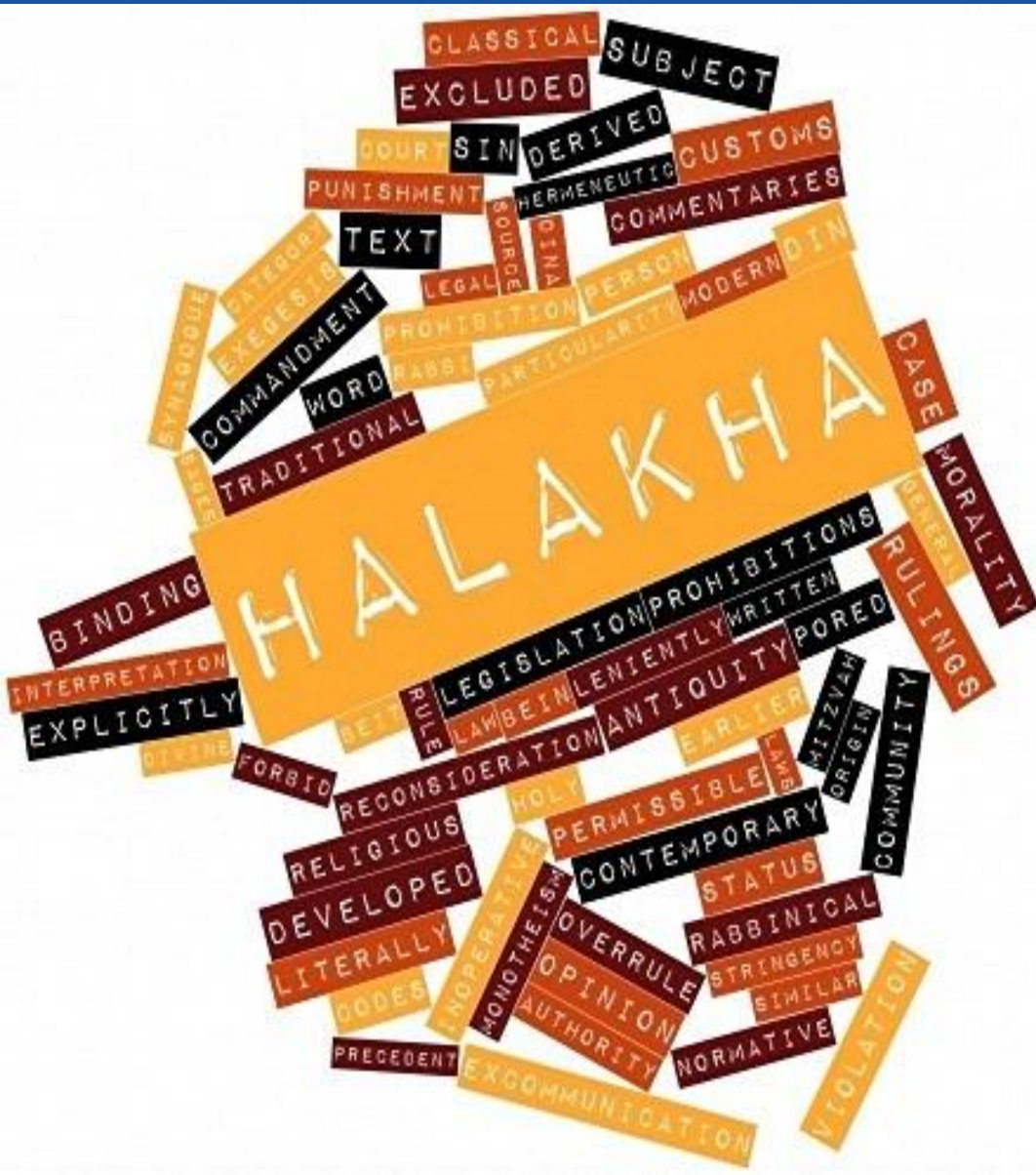
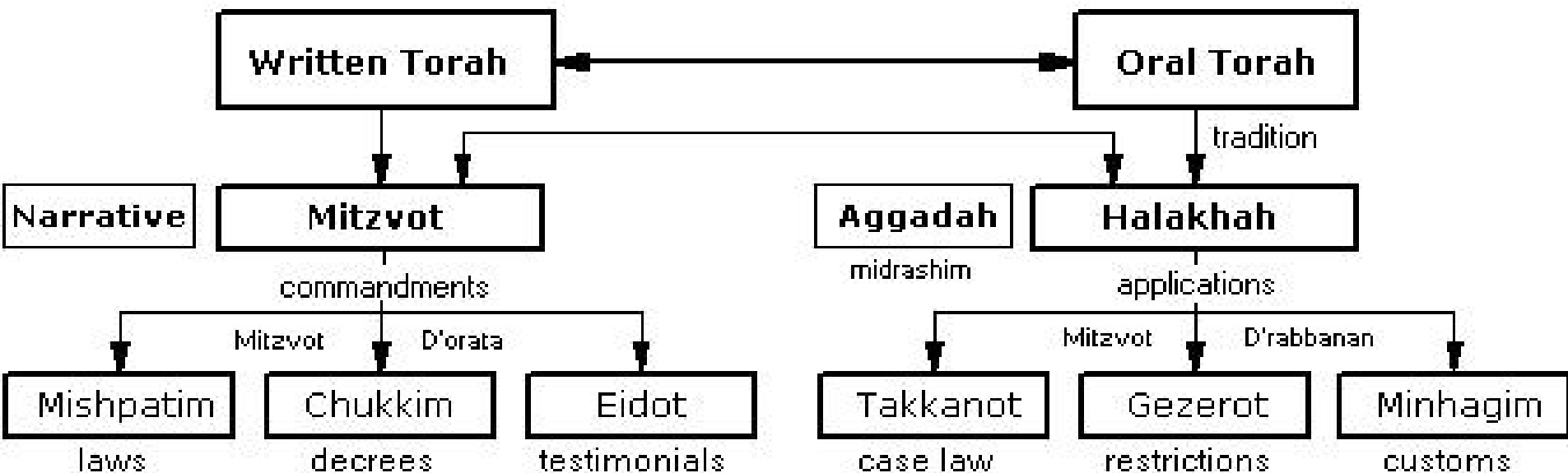


THE PATH THAT ONE WALKS



- Stephen's execution was over issues of *halakhah*
- *Halakhah* is derived from the root word *heh-lamed-kaf* הלכ
- The legal code of conduct for Jews
- Sources: Torah of Moses, Oral Torah and customs
- Judaism sees Torah of Moses, Oral Torah and customs as generally equally valid and authoritative



- Terms often used interchangeably
- Paul at times used terms as commonly spoken and at other times more technically correct and academic
- **Halakhah** = rabbinical law = Jewish law
- **Mitzvah, Mitzvot** (plural) = law, commandment, originally a commandment of God from Torah of Moses, but later also a ruling or law from **Halakhah**
- **Mitzvah** can also mean doing a good deed

BIBLE ERA JUDAISM

- These terms were easy and instinctive for the Jews who used them
- Context nuanced the meaning
- Writers of the NT didn't think in terms of explaining Judaism and Messiah to gentiles!
- It is FALSE to say that Scripture is so mystical that context doesn't matter, and therefore the Jewish writer's original intent also doesn't matter. That whatever we decide it means is good enough
- The result is a disjointed Christianity that wanders aimlessly



ACTS

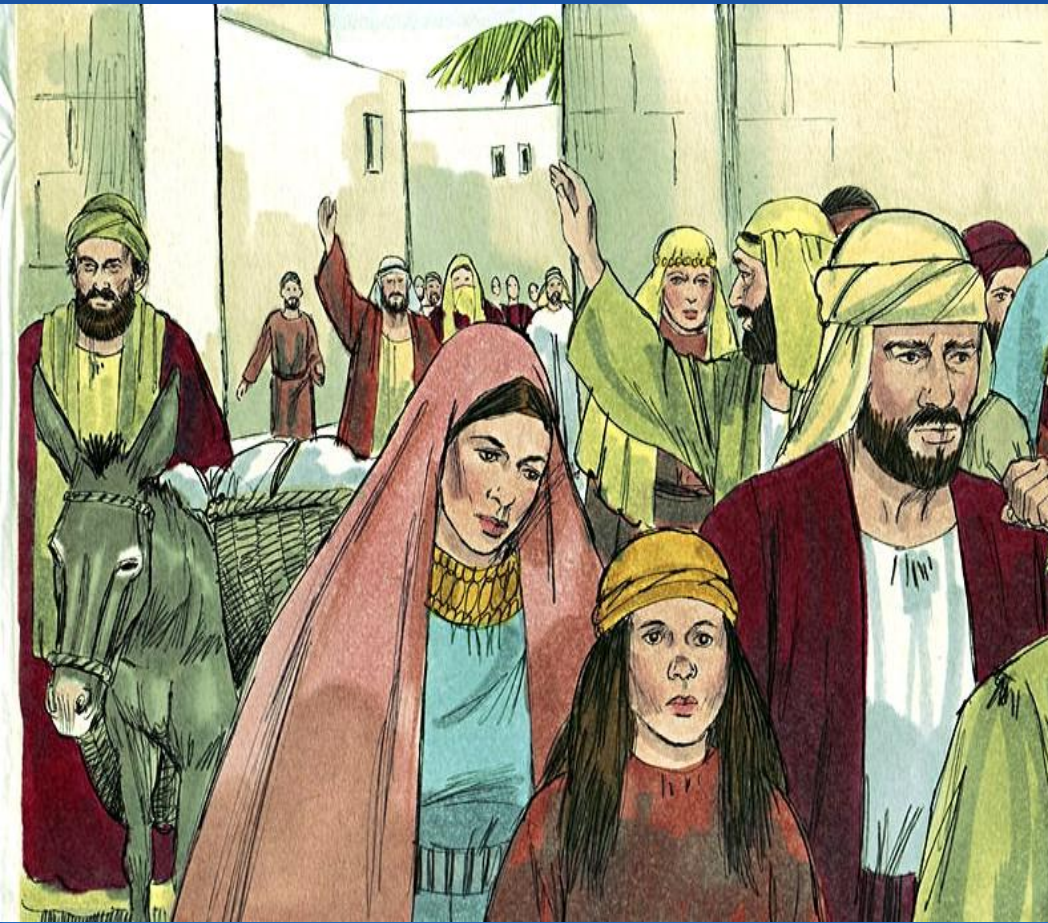
CHAPTER 8



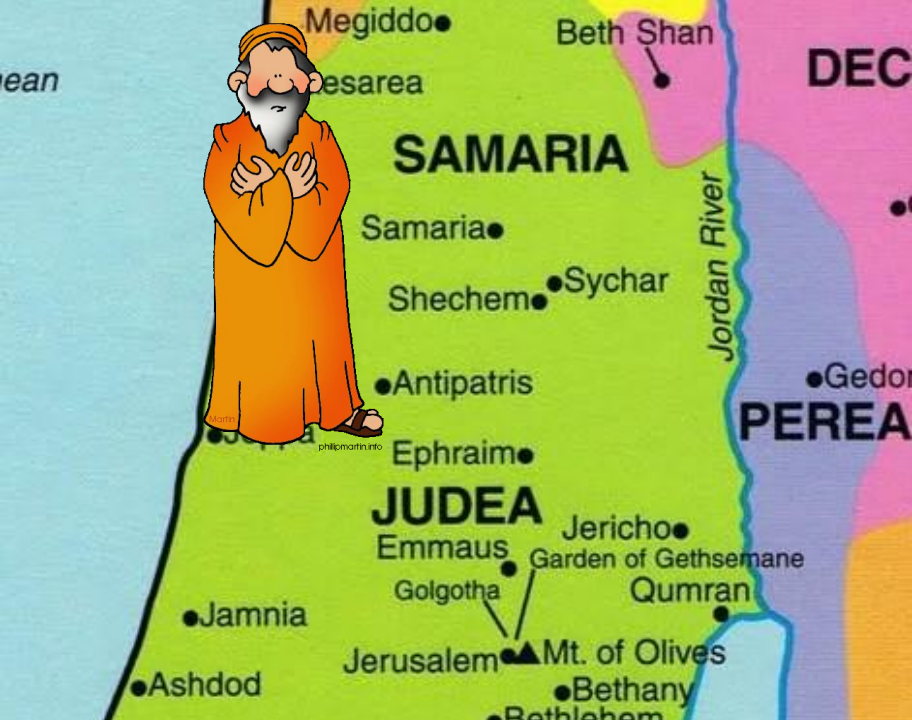
- Paul was in full agreement with Stephen's execution
- ***anaireses*** = unjustifiable killing, to destroy the undesirable
- ***"Arose a great persecution against the Church...."***
- ***Ecclesia*** = assembly in general
- The term church is anachronistic; not in use in this era
- This persecution was about one faction of Judaism being bullied by other factions of Judaism



BELIEVERS FLEE JERUSALEM



- The 12 Disciples remained behind
- They claimed Stephen's body and buried him
- Word of his death could not have reached Stephen's family in Samaria yet (if he had any)
- Believers had committed no crime; it was an issue of *Halakhah*
- Later, the faction of Hillel murdered several of the faction of Shammai over the Decree of 18 Things (an issue of *Halakhah*)



PHILIP IN SAMARIA

- Believers fled Jerusalem for Judea, Galilee, Samaria
- This is the Hellenist Philip, one of the 7 in charge of widow's food distribution
- In the eyes of Jews, the Samaritans were an ungodly hybrid
- Talmud Tractate Kutim
- Main issue with Samaritans was not their genealogy it was that they didn't practice Judaism



SIMON THE SORCERER

- Philip shows us that it is important to approach non-Believers on their terms in ways they can understand
- ***Shimon*** = Simon
- Simon was baptized and clung closely to Philip
- Justin Martyr called him Simon Magus, a Gnostic Church Father



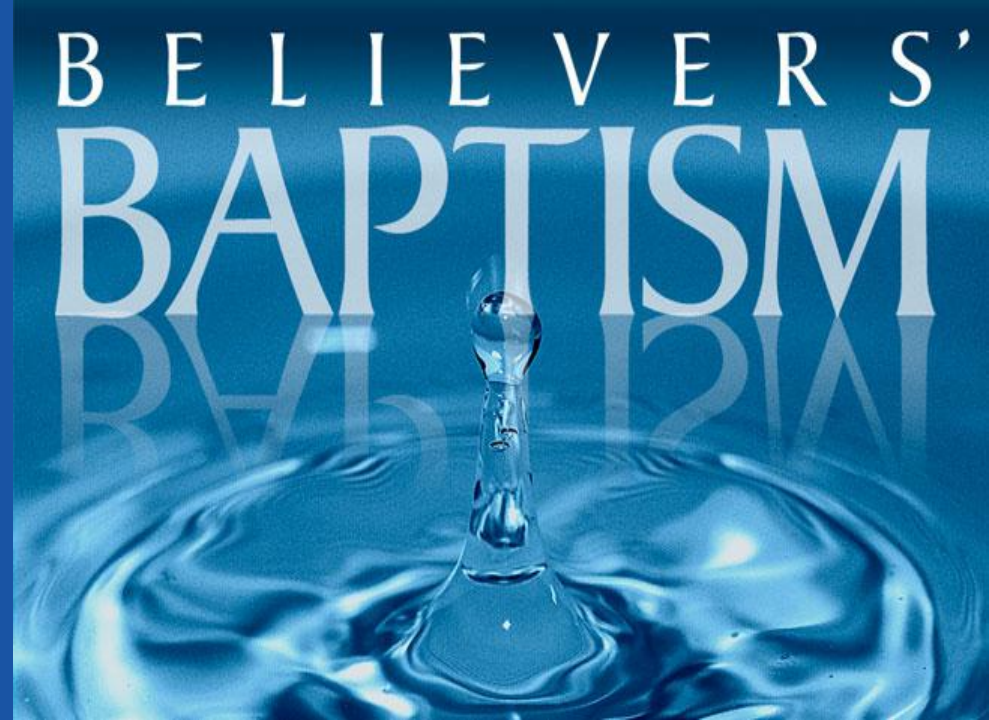
THE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SALVATION, BAPTISM, HOLY SPIRIT



- Peter and John go to Samaria to see for themselves
- ONLY when Peter and John lay their hands on Samaritan Believers do they receive the Holy Spirit
- No suggestion of an ineffective baptism, or of Philip not teaching correct doctrine
- Usually the indwelling of Holy Spirit is immediate upon accepting Christ as in Acts 10

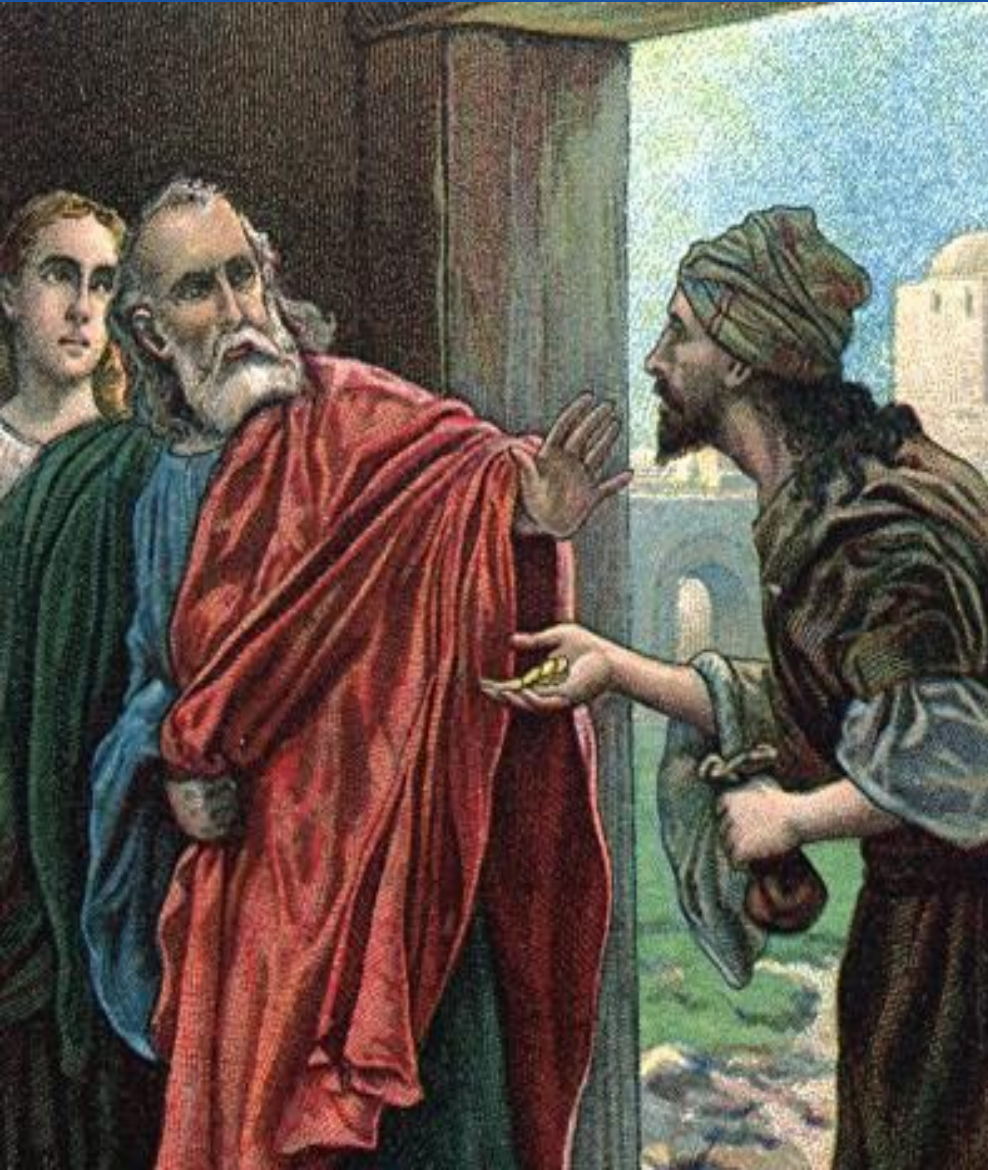
BAPTISM DOCTRINES

- Paul in Acts 9 received Holy Spirit after faith, but before baptism
- Evangelical Christianity believes instantly upon faith, Holy Spirit comes
- Pentecostal Christianity believes coming of Holy Spirit is separate
- In the Bible, there seems to be no set sequence
- We should not establish rigid manmade doctrines about this



HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE
HOLY GHOST
SINCE YOU BELIEVED?

SIMON TRIES TO BUY THE HOLY SPIRIT POWER



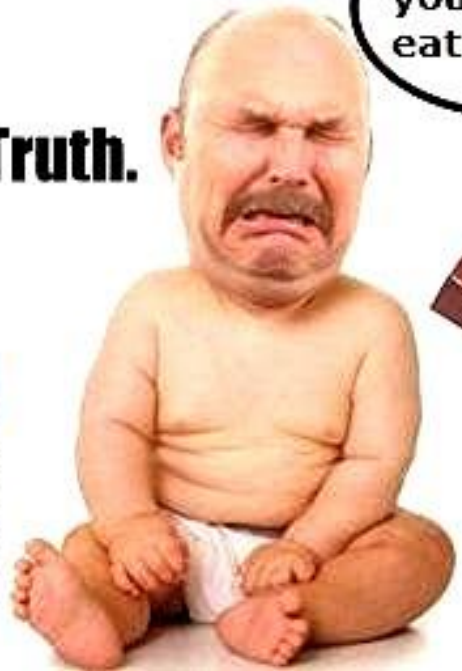
- Many Christian commentators say that Paul excommunicated Simon
- Simon saw the Spirit come upon the Samaritans and offered money to buy it
- Vs. 13: “Simon himself became a Believer”



Gerber Baby Christian Food

Come on,
you have to
eat to grow!

**Some can't
handle the Truth.**



IT TAKES TIME

- Simon had no previous training in the Torah, or the Traditions
- Simon was saved; all we see is a repentant response to Peter's rebuke
- We are being perfected; we shall not achieve perfection
- We live in a world full of Samaritans and Simons who don't know the true God

