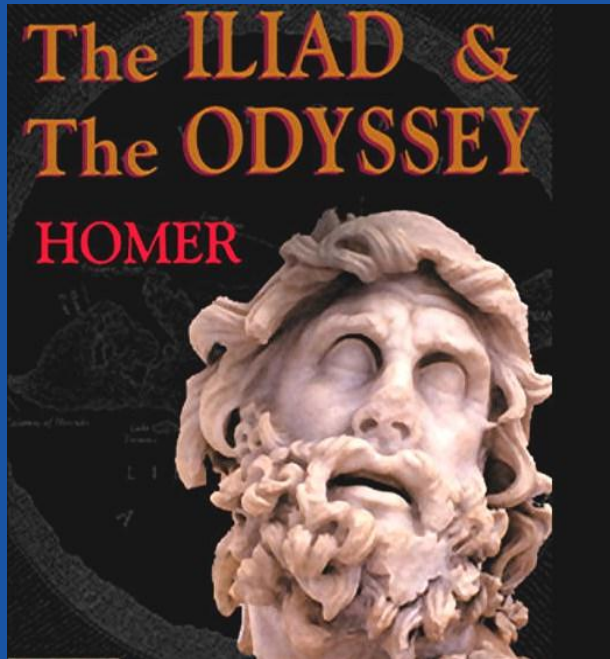
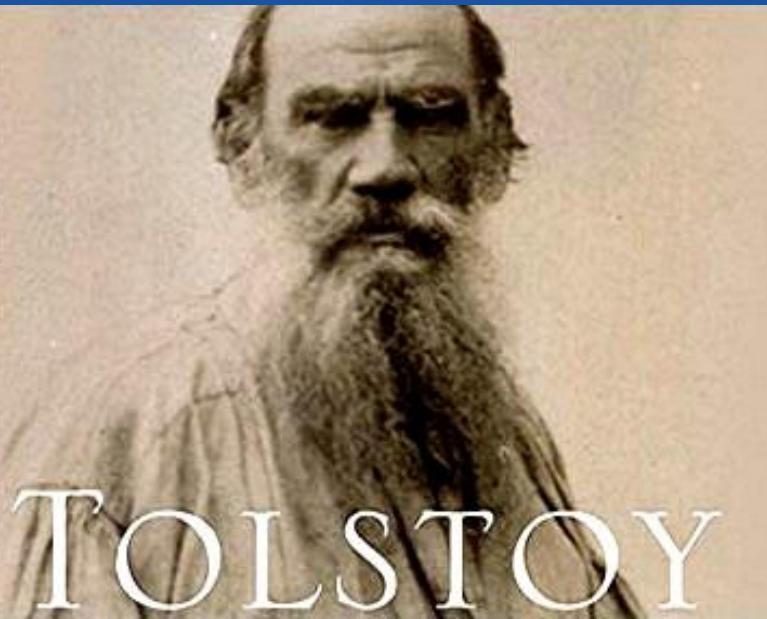


WORLDVIEW MATTERS



- *Sha'ul* was Paul's given Hebrew name
- Paul comes from Paulus, Latin
- Paul often misunderstood and misquoted (in English)
- We must understand Paul, Homer, & Tolstoy within the context of the unique individuals that they were
- Paul was not a blank sheet of paper; he had a personal worldview taken from his life experiences and training



TOLSTOY

THE HISTORICAL PAUL



- We can't use only the term "Jew" to fully describe Paul
- Paul is a true foreigner to 21st century Westerners
- Paul from large city of Tarsus; not a country boy like Yeshua
- Came from a prestigious family of Pharisees in the Diaspora
- A Roman citizen
- Spoke Greek as his first language
- Educated at the Academy of Gamaliel in Jerusalem
- Paul was taught the Halakhah of the Pharisees

A CONTRAST OF TWO WORLDS

- Paul's thought processes greatly influenced by Halakhah of the Synagogue
- Synagogues used the LXX for their Bible
- Paul born in Tarsus, but "brought up" in Jerusalem
- A "young man" was 24 – 40 years of age
- Paul indoctrinated by the type of Judaism present in the Holy Land more than in the Diaspora
- He was not a Hellenist Jew in the usual sense of the term



**SYNAGOGUE
& PHARISEES**

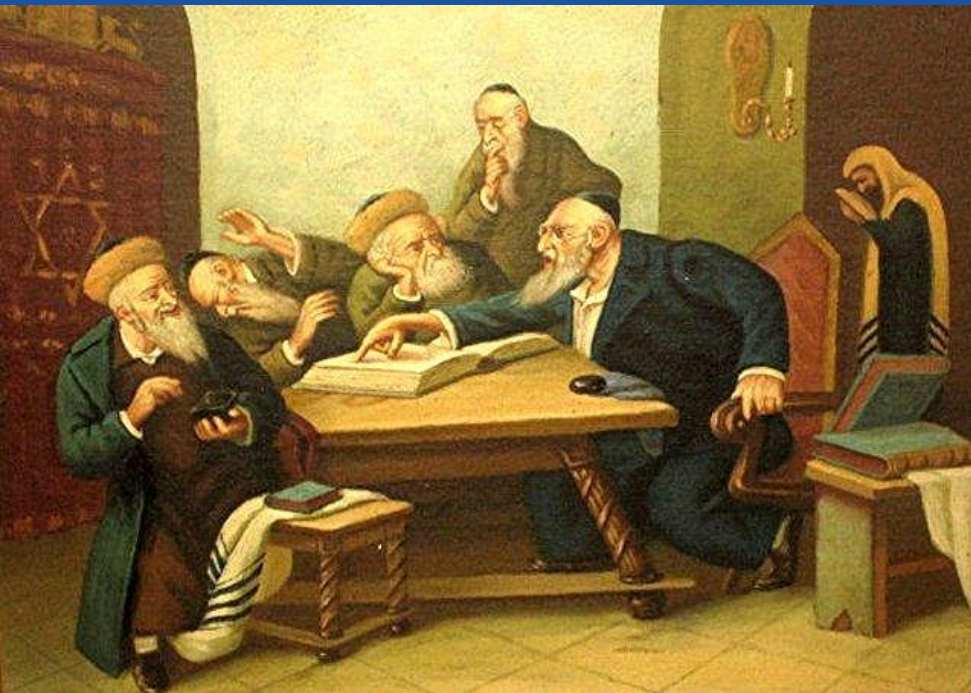


**TEMPLE
& PRIESTS
SADDUCEES**

LIFE CONTEXT IS KEY



- Yeshua was a rural craftsman, whose world was the Synagogue
- Only time Yeshua was at the Temple was for Feast Days
- Sermon on the Mount
- Matt. 5:21 *“You have heard our fathers were told...”*
- Matt. 5:22 *“But I tell you....”*
- Matt. 5:31, 32 Divorce
- Christ is not making restrictions of the Law easier to follow; He is making them stricter



RABBI PAUL

- Yeshua was not speaking AGAINST the Laws of Moses, He was giving His interpretation OF the Laws of Moses
- Paul also doesn't speak against the Law, but rather interprets the Law in light of Yeshua's advent
- With this understanding, we see that Paul did not have a negative attitude about the Law
- Paul is never repudiating or pulling away from Judaism
- Rather he is challenging some erroneous Traditions of Judaism



CONVERSION OF PAUL ?



- Conversion means to metamorphose
- Paul did not metamorphose from a Jewish caterpillar to a Christian butterfly
- Paul TURNED from the wrong interpretations of the Law and the Prophets to the right interpretations
- He did not cease being a Jew, did not renounce Judaism, did not stop going to Synagogue or Temple

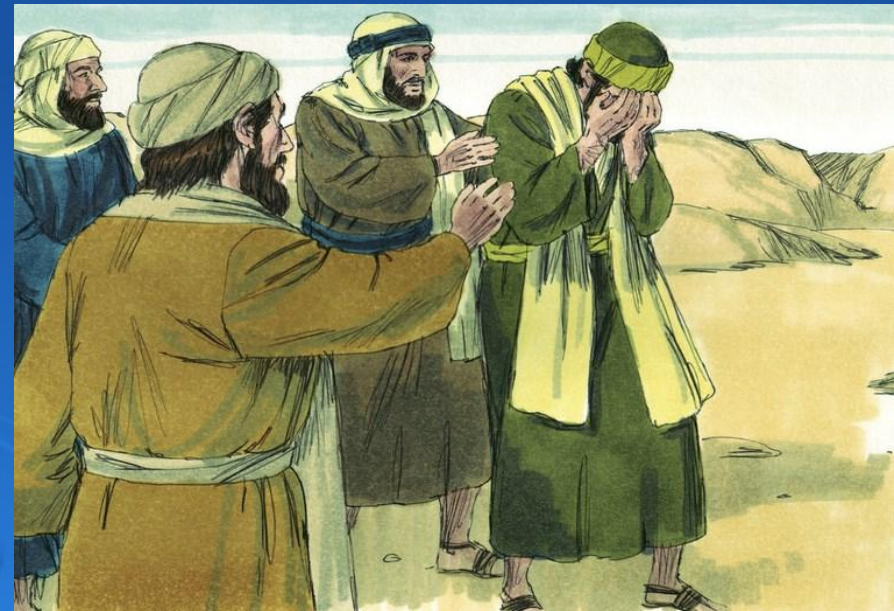
ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS



- Paul furiously trying to stamp out The Way
- High Priest gives him authorization to go after the Believers who fled
- Synagogues the hub of Jewish life
- 130 mile journey
- Paul goes blind
- Yeshua calls out “*Sha’ul* ! Why are you persecuting me”

“*Sir, who are you?*”

- Yeshua tells Paul to get up and complete his journey
- Paul’s blindness was not due to the brightness or his friends would also have been blinded
- It was a living metaphor that exposed his **SPIRITUAL** blindness
- Paul is not ill; he doesn’t eat or drink in order to fast to prepare for more of God’s oracle to him



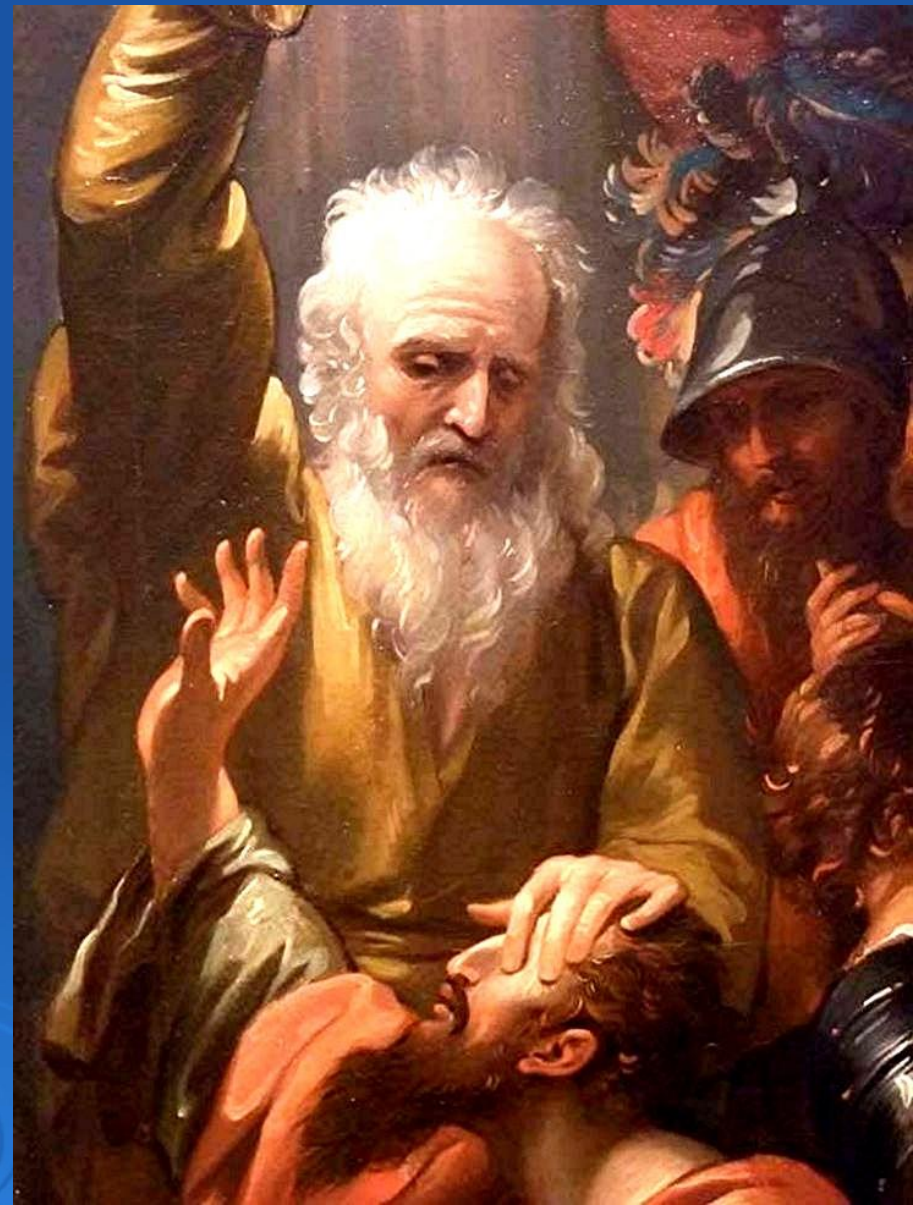
“Behold.....here I am, Lord !”



- **Hananyah** a Hebrew name, no doubt a Believer who fled from Jerusalem
- Greek **idou** = Hebrew **hineni**
- **Hineni** characterizes obedience, attentiveness
- **Hananyah** skeptical because he knew Paul wanted to harm Believers
- Yeshua tells Hananyah Paul's mission is to gentiles and of his coming suffering
- 2Cor. 11:24 - 28

PAUL RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT

- *Hananyah* laid hands on Paul and Paul received the Holy Spirit
- Baptized afterwards
- Paul's blindness was healed
- God ordains no specific order of faith, baptism, and indwelling of Holy Spirit
- A scaly substance literally fell off of Paul's eyes
- Paul ends his fast, begins to regain his strength



PAUL WENT TO THE SYNAGOGUES IN DAMASCUS TO PREACH

- Immediately did not mean urgently or instantly
- *Eutheos* = forthwith, directly
- First Paul stayed with the disciples for a few days
- Paul went to the Synagogues because that's where the Jews were !





SON OF GOD

- Paul preached that Yeshua was the Son of God
- Son of God referred to David and kings who came from him
- Did NOT refer to deity
- Pharisees expecting a flesh and blood human Messiah
- Pharisees taught that the new Davidic king would be the Messiah
- The only issue for Paul's audience was if they would believe that Yeshua was that Davidic King/Messiah

