

# WHY SUCH ANGER AGAINST THE WAY ?

- Paul joins the group he set out to destroy
- Judaism is the organizational birthplace of Christ-worship
- Violent disagreement over Traditions (doctrines)
- In modern times disagreements over *Halakhah* can be heated
- One faction of Judaism being picked on by another faction of Judaism



**PURIM BOMB ATTACK**



# NOT ALL OF JUDAISM PERSECUTED THE BELIEVERS

- At this point there were no gentiles active in The Way
- Romans were not involved in the persecution of Believers
- An issue of infighting among Jewish factions
- Paul still in Damascus, healed of his blindness
- Hananyah didn't trust Paul
- Paul began to teach in the local Damascus synagogues





# PAUL A ZEALOT IN EVERYTHING



- 1) When young, sought the best religious training at the best school
- 2) Pharisee of Pharisees
- 3) Cheered Steven's stoning
- 4) Hired as a hunter of Believers
- Had fiery debates in Damascus, but not a single person recorded as coming to faith on his account
- Vs. 23 ***“Quite some time later”*** indeterminate amount of time
- ***Halakhah*** = Mainstream Jewish Law





# DISCREPANCIES IN THE ACCOUNT OF PAUL'S ESCAPE FROM DAMASCUS?

- The timeline of events is problematic
- Gal. 1:15-19
- Acts 9 says Paul comes to Damascus, stays awhile and returns to Jerusalem
- Gal. 1 says after leaving Damascus, went to Arabia then returned to Damascus
- 3 years in Arabia?





**ACTS**  
**9:1**

**ACTS**  
**9:26**

**ABOUT 3 YEARS**

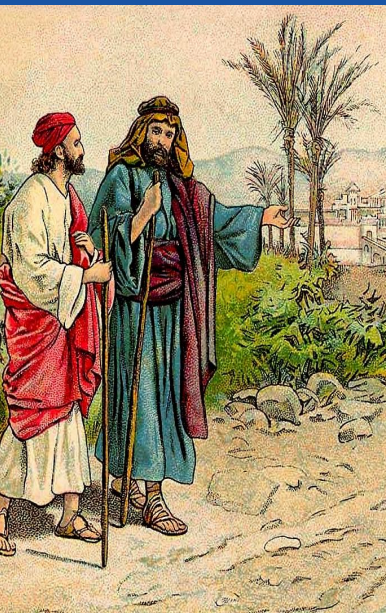
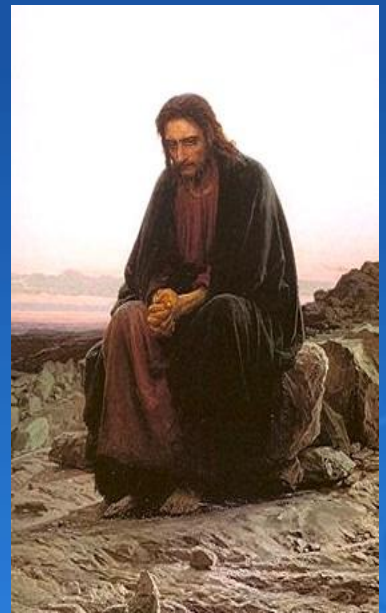
**Paul goes to Damascus**

**Paul leaves Damascus for Arabia**

**Paul returns to Damascus from Arabia**

**Paul escapes from Damascus**

**Paul goes to Jerusalem**



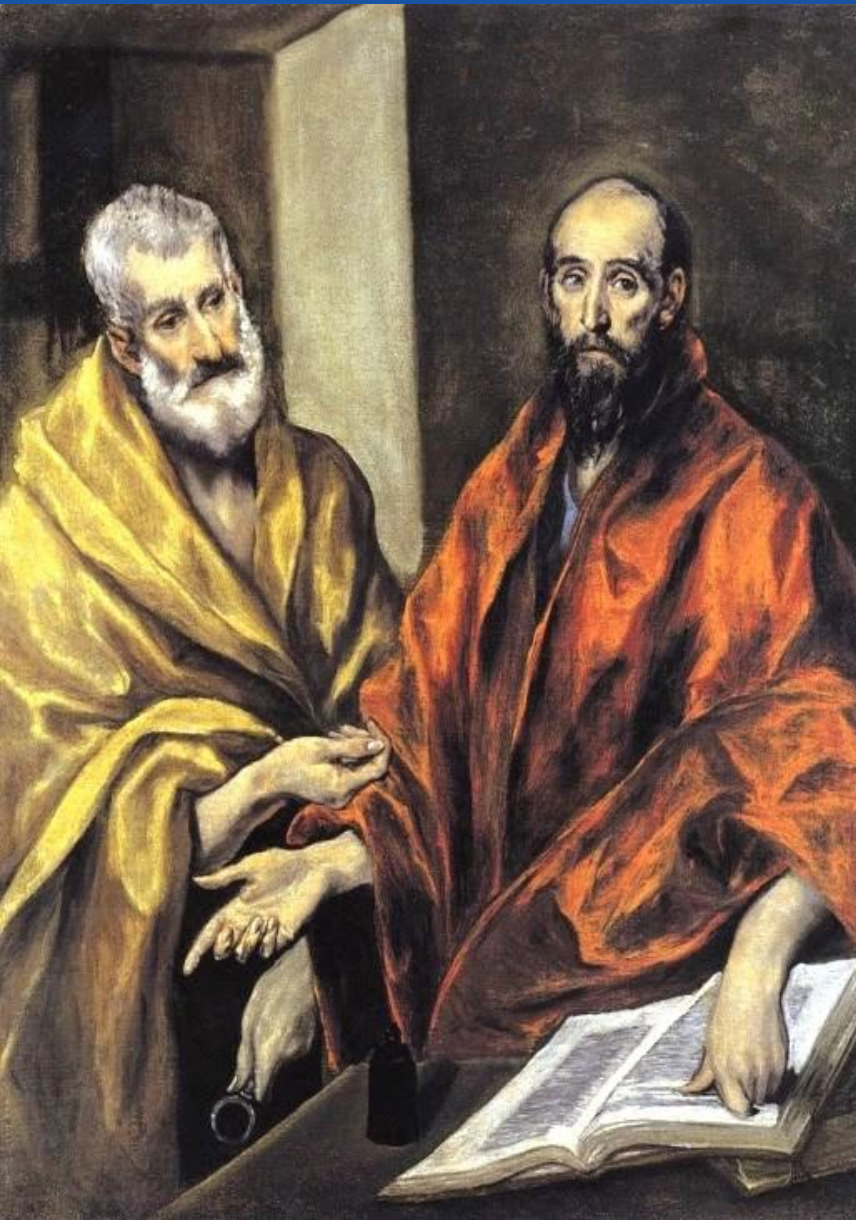
# PAUL THE TORAH SCHOLAR

- We don't know what Paul did in Arabia or how long he stayed
- No evidence of Believer's community in Arabia
- Did not transition from Judaism to "Christianity"
- Paul learned new Oral Traditions that confirmed Yeshua was Messiah
- He did not have to unlearn everything he knew
- Most prolific writer of New Testament documents
- NO New Testament until 150 years after Paul's time





# PAUL IS NOT TRUSTED



- Paul is used to dealing with leadership, so he wants to meet the Believers' leadership
- Bar-Nabba willing to give Paul the benefit of the doubt
- Gal.1:18, 19 says Paul met ONLY Peter and James
- Kefa and Ya'acov the 2 highest leaders
- Paul then went to preach in Jerusalem



# HELLENISTS PLOT TO KILL PAUL

- Most Synagogues were Hellenist
- Why had Judaism forgotten “Thou Shall Not Kill” ??
- Same reason as for erroneous doctrines of today
- God’s Word replaced by manmade traditions and doctrines



**I**  
Thou shalt have no  
other gods before me

**II**  
Thou shalt not make unto  
thee any graven image

**III**  
Thou shalt not take the  
name of the Lord in vain

**IV**  
Remember the sabbath  
day to keep it holy

**V**  
Honor thy Father  
and thy Mother

**VI**  
Thou shalt not kill

**VII**  
Thou shalt not  
commit adultery

**VIII**  
Thou shalt not steal

**IX**  
Thou shalt not bear  
false witness against  
thy neighbor

**X**  
Thou shalt not covet



# FROM CAESAREA TO TARSUS

- Caesarea about 60 miles NW of Jerusalem
- Major port city
- Paul, native of Tarsus and Roman citizen was a big advantage







# Walking in the fear of the Lord

- A standard Jewish expression that meant faithful observance to *Halakhah*
- A Hebraism
- An Americanism = Don't let the cat out of the bag
- The words don't mean what they literally say
- NT full of Hebraisms masked by Greek and English







- Peter goes to Lud (Lydda), and heals Aeneas
- Paralyzed for 8 years, probably due to a Stroke
- Peter goes to Yafo (Jaffa, Joppa) and resurrects Tavita from the dead
- Sobbing widows likely paid to be there as part of Jewish mourning ritual



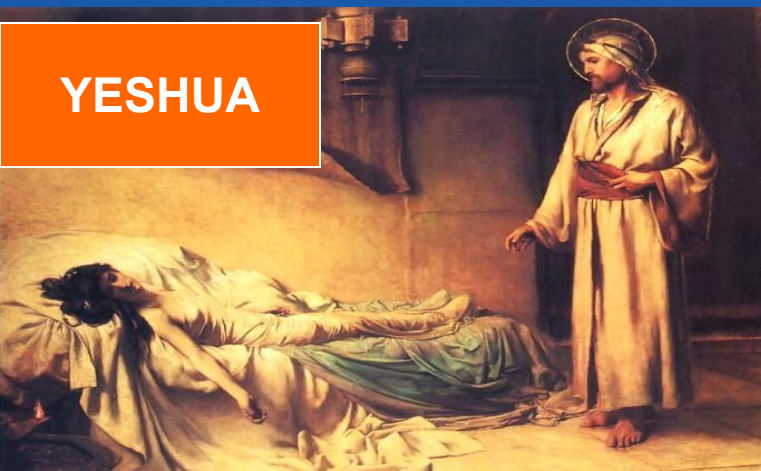
ELIJAH



ELISHA



YESHUA



# A BIBLICAL PATTERN

- Each time the corpse was lying on their bed
- Each time the room was cleared of people
- Was it for Tavita's sake that the Lord reanimated her life?
- No. It was to make Believers out of those who heard about it
- Shimon the tanner
- Odors were putrid
- Peter chose to stay with the lowliest of craftsmen