

# BOTTOM LINE: RITUAL PURITY

- Circumcision was the main topic of the Jerusalem Council
- Circumcision and ritual purity are welded together as one issue
- Issue arose due to gentiles wanting to join the Yeshua movement
- Only 1 Synagogue system; gentiles and Jews met there
- This created ritual purity concerns among some Jews



# THE MEANING OF CIRCUMCISION

- From the earthly physical aspect, it is the removal of the male foreskin
- Practiced by various groups for religious and societal reasons
- A rite of passage into adulthood
- Bible says it is to occur on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of life
- Some Christian denominations see it as a religious rite
- In modern times seen as a medical benefit
- Has lately been challenged by the medical establishment
- Outlawed in some European nations as “mutilation”





# Genesis 17 The Covenant of Circumcision

- 1) Circumcision is the sign of membership in the Covenant
- 2) Those who refuse are not part of the Covenant people
- 3) Sign applies to Hebrews and those gentiles who are attached to the Hebrews
- 4) Not a manmade doctrine, but performed by men
- Outward symbol of inward spiritual trait
- Reality of Duality
- The physical is an inferior copy of the original spiritual

## REALITY OF DUALITY

HEAVEN AND THE  
SPIRITUAL WORLD

SPIRITUAL REALITY



PHYSICAL REALITY

# ***“Write it on your hearts....”***



- Torah given on physical stone, but was to be written on our spiritual hearts
- Deut. 6:1 – 9
- Humans to write it on our own hearts
- Since it wasn't done, then the spirit of the Law couldn't be performed
- Jer. 31 ***“I will put my Torah within them and write it on their hearts....”***
- This new covenant was ABOUT the Torah, not creating a new and different Torah

## **God's New Covenant**

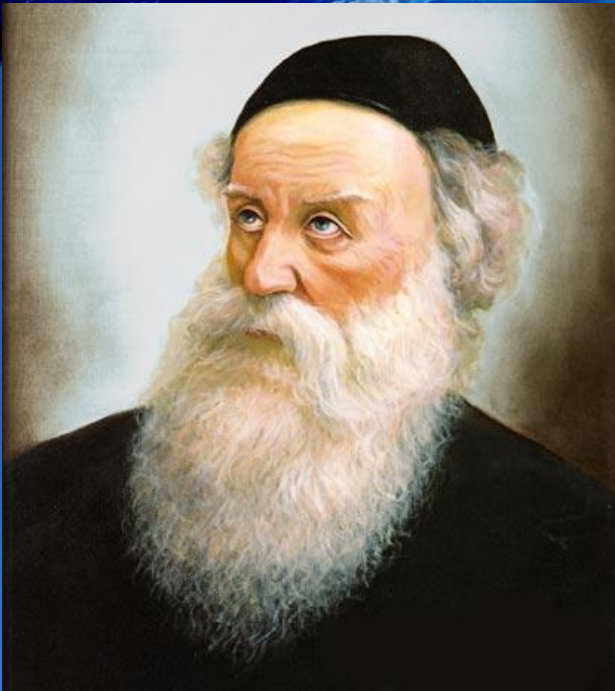
**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

A heart-shaped stone with Hebrew text written on it. The text is in a cursive script and reads: "I will write my law on their hearts and minds". The stone is set against a dark background, and its shadow is visible.

*I will write my law  
on their hearts  
and minds*

# THE HEART: OUR SPIRITUAL CONNECTING POINT WITH GOD

- 18<sup>th</sup> century Rebbe Schneur Zalman, Chabad
- Attempt to restore the missing spirituality to Judaism
- Circumcision of the heart related to repentance
- Uncircumcised heart NOT capable of repentance
- It is only the Lord who circumcises hearts
- Repentance enables redemption



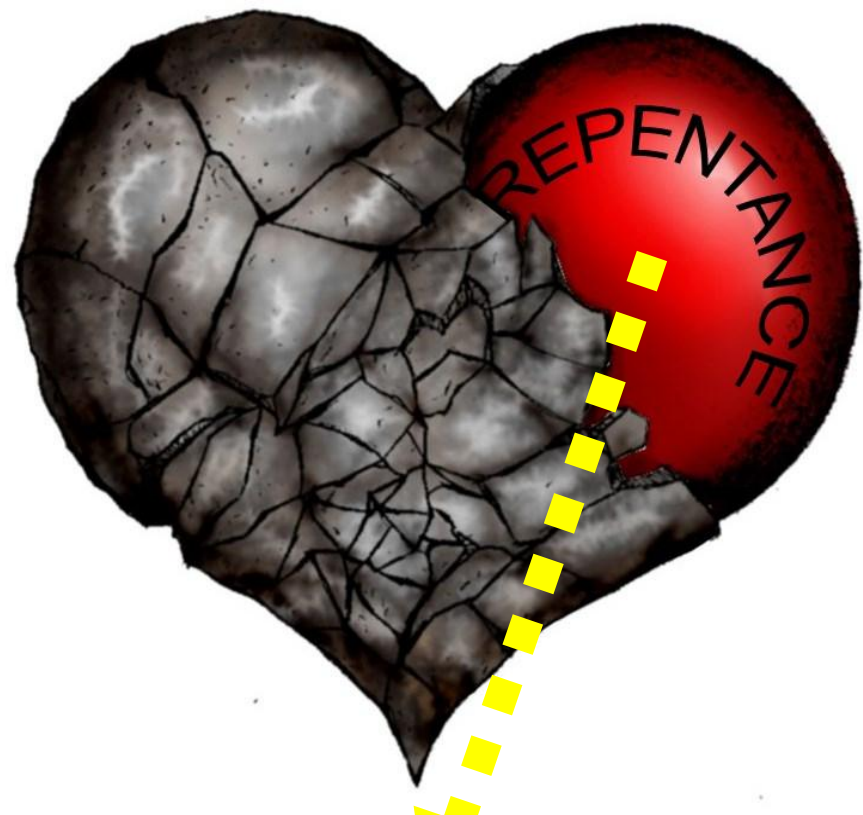
# THE CIRCUMCISED HEART



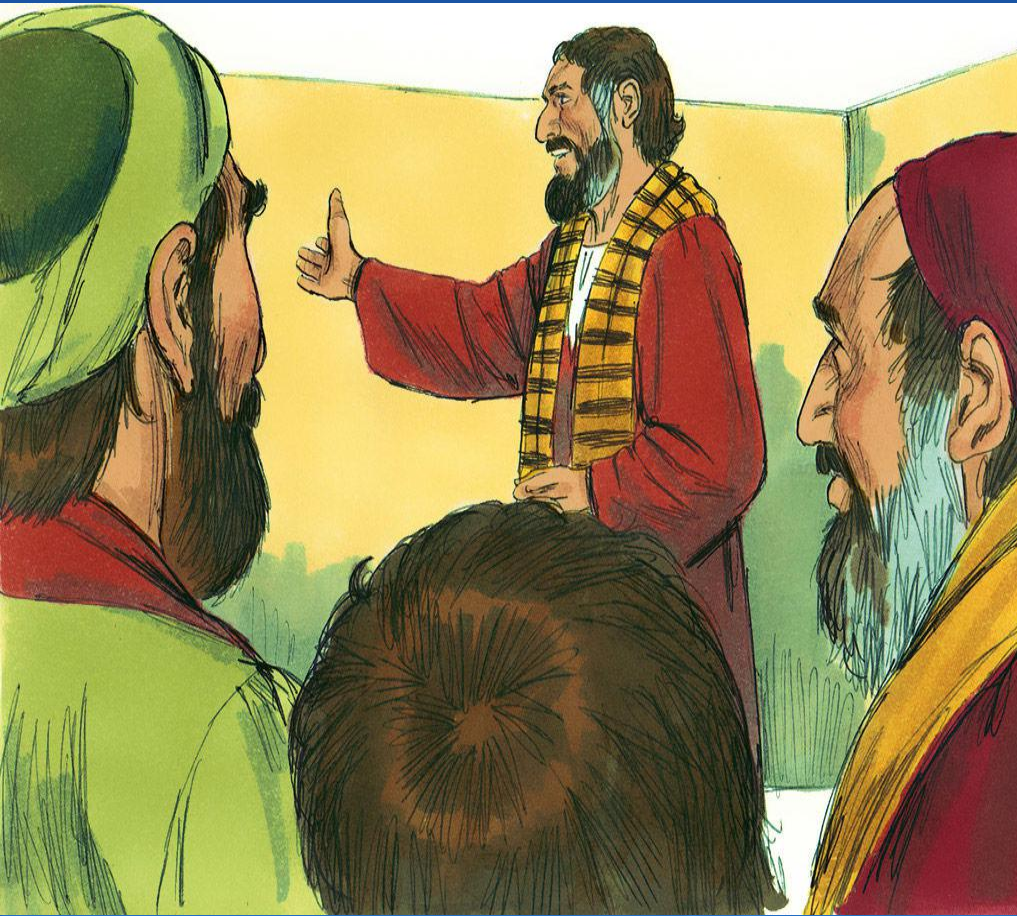
- Romans 2:17 – 3:4
- Paul talking to Jews
- “the circumcised” = Jews
- “the un-circumcised” = gentiles
- These gentiles are Believers
- 1) A Jew who has Torah but disobeys it is less acceptable to God than a gentile who obeys its principles
- 2) A gentile who does NOT have Torah but obeys its principles is a TRUE Jew
- Jews and gentiles do NOT physically trade places
- Jews stay Jews; gentiles stay gentiles

# CIRCUMCISION: A SPIRITUAL ISSUE OF THE HEART

- Matter of a circumcised heart was already known in Judaism
- Circumcision is all about the Abrahamic Covenant
- Gentile can ONLY receive spiritual benefits from a circumcision of the heart
- Jew with ONLY circumcised foreskin, receives ONLY physical benefits (national membership, inheritance of land)
- Jews and gentiles need circumcised hearts for spiritual benefits of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with God



# JAMES SPEAKS



- Paul and Barnabas are advocates for the gentiles
- Jerusalem leadership is more Jewish oriented
- ***Shimon*** = Simon Peter
- The classic way a rabbinic council meets to establish ***Halakhah***
- James says strongest evidence is “What God did”
- Issue resolves itself because God revealed His will **DIRECTLY** to Peter
- No interpretation of Scripture is needed
- Acts 10:34
- James connects prophecy of Amos 9 to what is happening with the gentiles





- Being sensitive to Prophecy is not natural
- James must have struggled with learning that his half-brother was not just Messiah, but that he was divine!!
- Because the leadership of The Way experienced the advent of Messiah Yeshua, they were open and ready for new prophetic revelation and fulfillment that their brother Jews were not



**NO**  
**PROPHETIC**  
**FULFILLMENT**

**FOR**

**1900**

**YEARS!**



- Prophetic fulfillment hibernation for 1900 years
- Trust in Biblical prophecy turned to skepticism
- Modern Church sees itself in End Times prophecy, but very little of Israel
- For Jerusalem Council, inclusion of gentiles was not something they wanted
- But they accepted it as God's will
- Yeshua fulfilled Amos 9 as the seed of Abraham
- But, what should the Council do about it as concerns their Messianic Halakhah?