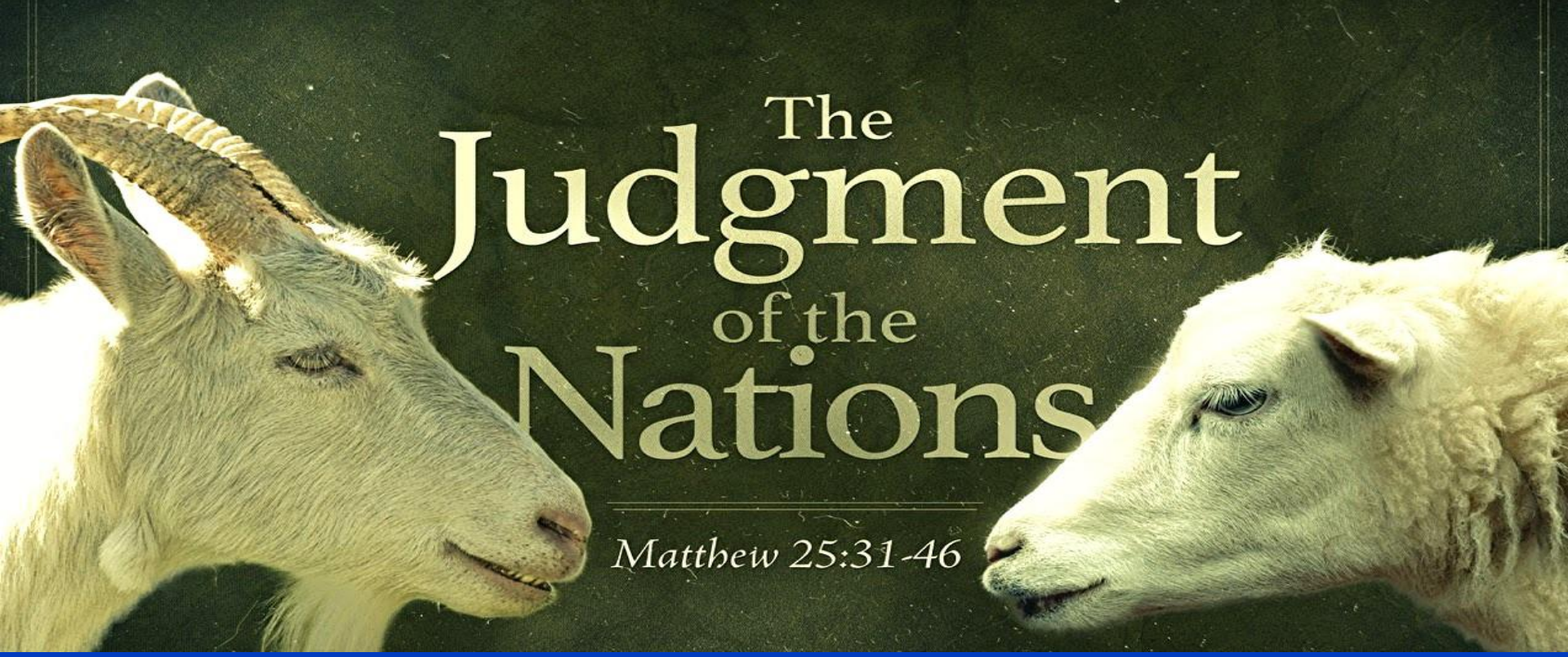
- Yehoveh not a typical god as defined in Amos's era
- Hebrew writers of the Bible did not think from a universalist mindset
- Amos bases his theological view on The Torah
- Amos believed that not only Israel, but also the nations had strayed from God's established law

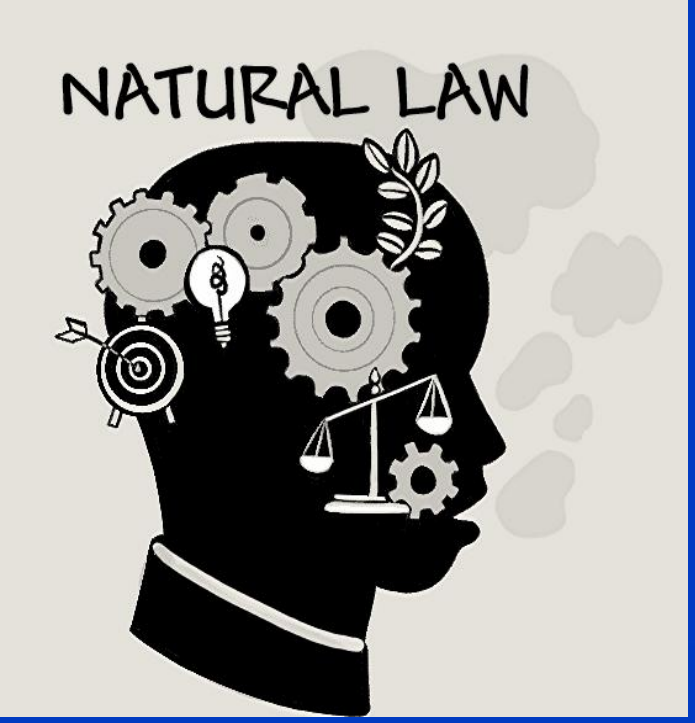
3 CRIMES…NO 4

- Damascus and Aram are parallel terms
- 3-4 pattern occurs within a 7-8 numerical pattern
- These patterns were a common literary feature
- 7-8 pattern used for Aaron's ordination and for the Spring and Fall Feasts:
- Lev. 8:33 – 9:2
- Lev. 23:34 – 36
- #7 = ideal completeness
- #8 = the climax

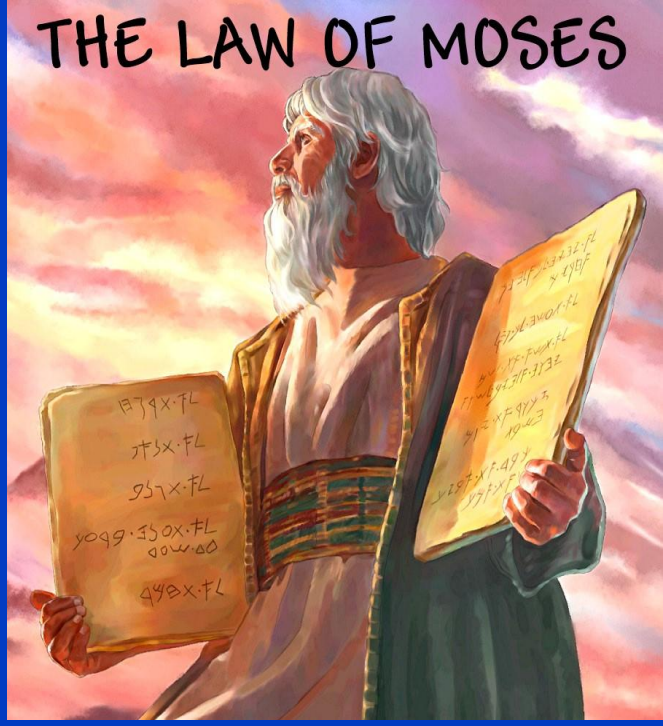


- Micah 5:1 – 4 Ecclesiastes 11:1 – 2
- Psalm 90:10 1Kings 5:29 – 30
- #3 = ***Shelosh*** = harmony, new life, completeness
- #4 = the compass directions = the entire earth
- At first, only the 8 nations judged, but later all nations
- Joel 4:1 – 2 Matthew 25:31 - 33

- God's objective moral code applies to all humans
- Romans 2:9 – 16
- St. Thomas Aquinas: Natural Law is man's rational participation in the eternal Law
- Natural Law is basically to do good and do no evil
- Who defines what is good and what is evil?

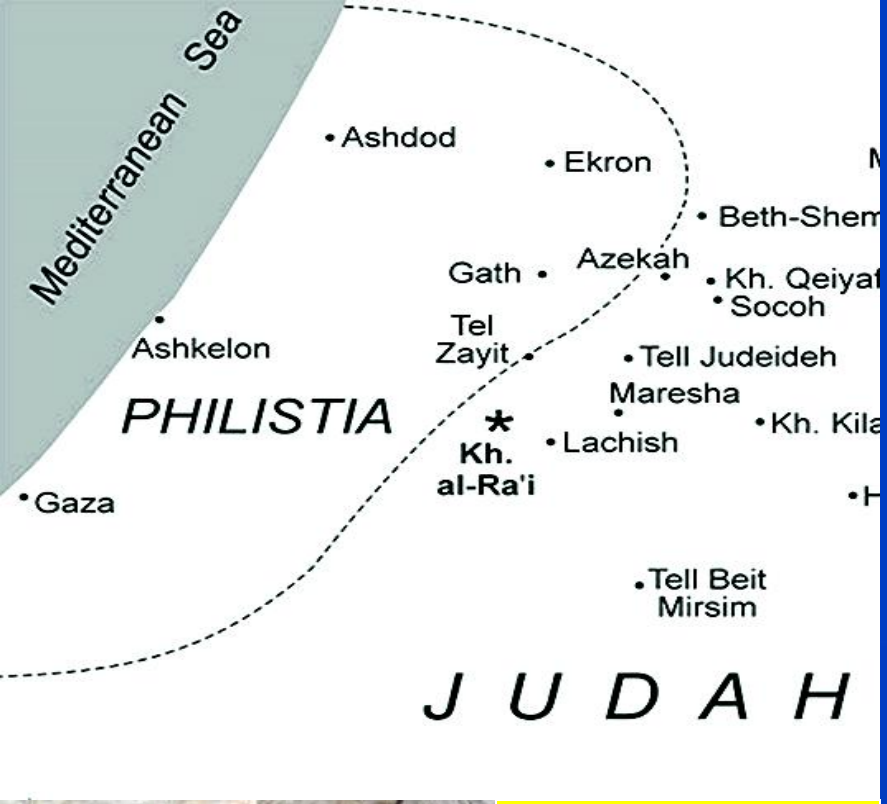


GOD'S MORALITY CODE



- Either someone outside the human sphere defines morality and imposes it universally on humanity
- Or….humans define it and it varies nation by nation and individual by individual
- ALL the crimes of the 6 pagan nations come from, and are defined in, the Torah
- Romans 2:14 - 15

- In the End Times all humans will be judged on the same code of right and wrong
- Aram's pattern of cruelty is the issue
- Aram's most infamous crime was their attack on Gilead
- 2Kings 8:7 – 13 and 2Kings 10:32 – 33
- ***Bi'Kat Aven*** = Valley of Iniquity
- God is going to reverse Aram's history and send them back to Kir

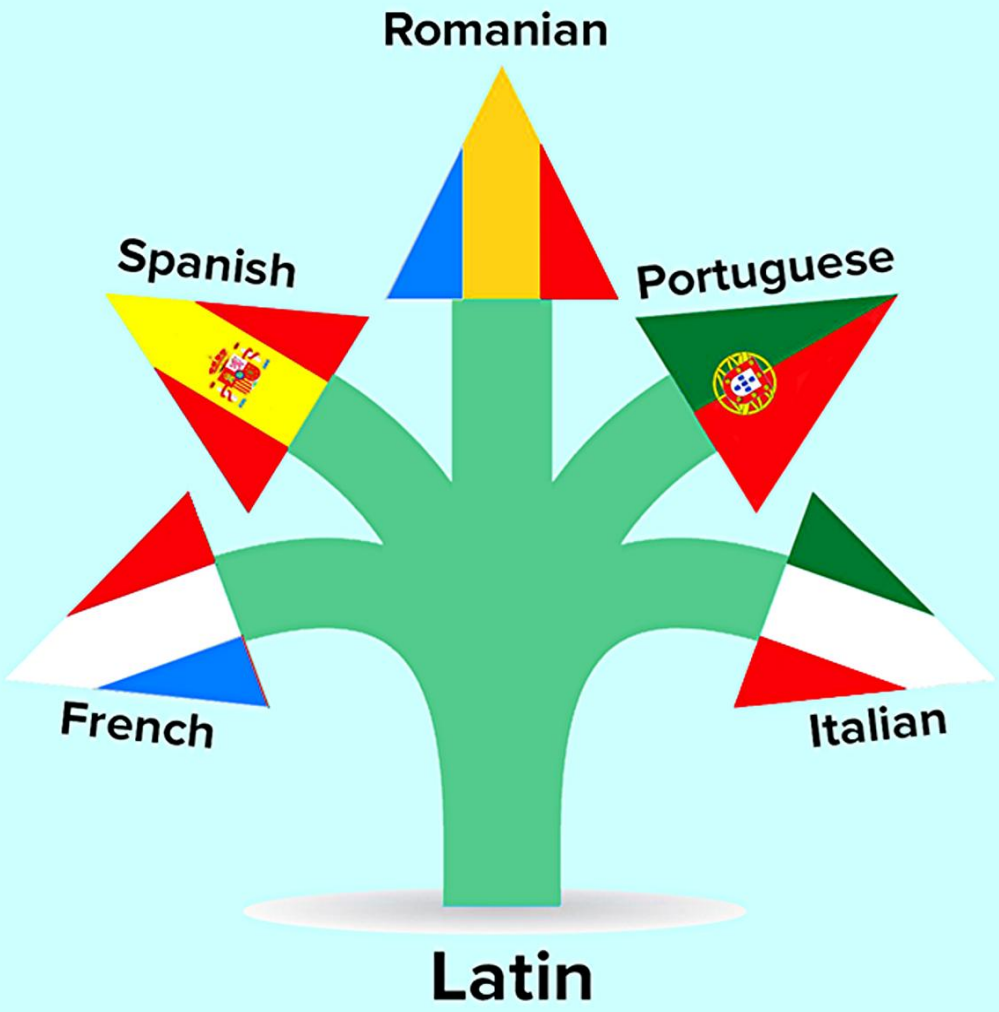


PHILISTIA

- Gaza representative of all Philistia
- Philistines were engaged in the slave trade
- Most notorious example of human trafficking was when Philistia sold an entire population to Edom
- Exodus 21:16
- Yehoveh considered enslavement as immoral and inhuman no matter who did it, or who the victims were

- Tzor (Tyre) a powerful city/state based on shipping, trading
- Also a slave trafficking nation
- Philistines sentenced to death for slave trafficking, but Tzor only sentenced to destruction of their city for transporting the slaves
- Tzor "broke covenant with kinsmen"
- If treaty was between Tyre and Israel, then Yehoveh was the guarantor of the covenant
- Treaty between King David and Hiram found in 1Kings 5:15

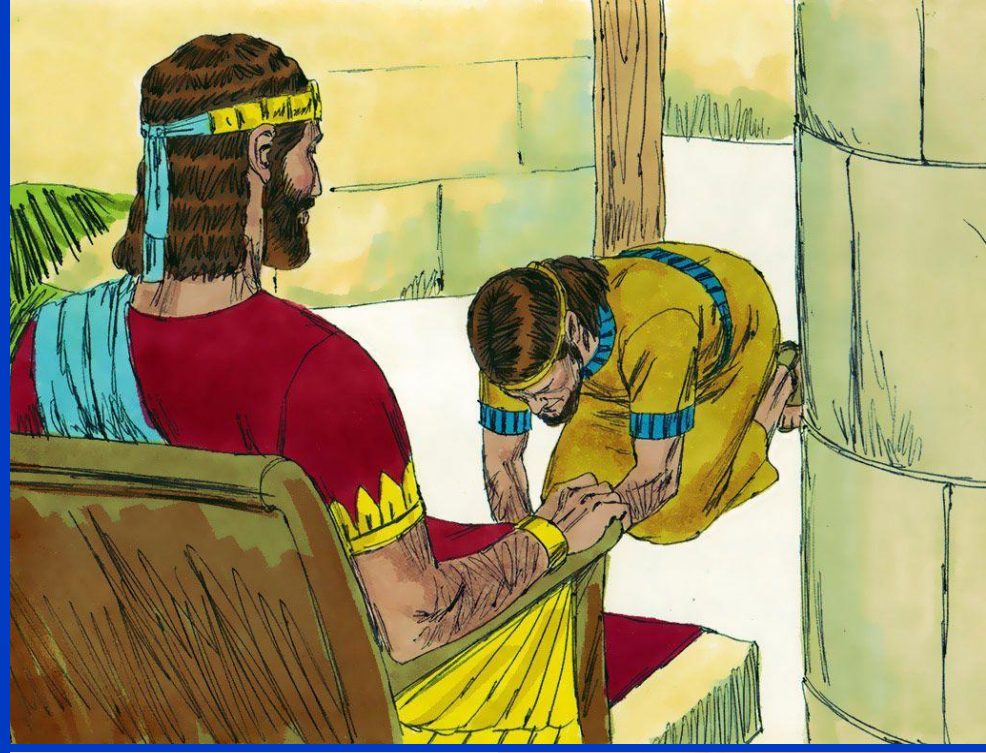
THE IMPORTANCE OF LANGUAGE COGNATES



- Love = ***Ahav*** (***ahab***)
- A cognate = a word present in 2 or more languages that share meaning, spelling or pronunciation
- Ancient Hebrew (biblical Hebrew) has differences from both Masoretic Hebrew and modern Hebrew
- 1Kings 5:15 "…Hiram had always loved (***ahav***) David…"

BIBLICAL MEANING OF LOVE

- Akkadian cognate for ***ahav*** is ***ra'amu***
- It is used in the sphere of politics and treaties
- "You will love Ashurbanipal as (you love) yourselves"
- Matthew 22: Love the Lord your God, and Love your neighbor as yourself
- Taken from Deut. 6 and Lev. 19



You shall love God with all your...strength
You shall love your neighbor as yourself

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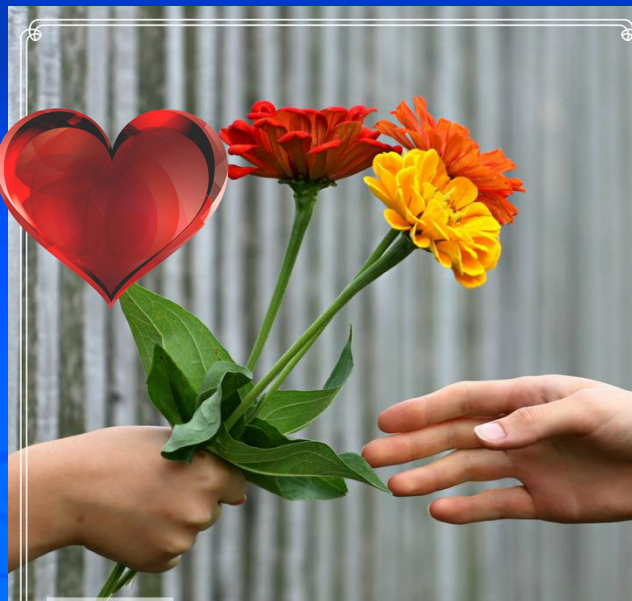
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