

SHEMA!



- Shema Deut 6:4
- Statement of Faith + a prayer
- ***“HEAR O ISRAEL....”***
- Means, HEAR AND OBEY
- Moses is aware of his impending death
- History is the PROOF of what he is telling Israel about the Lord
- Deut. 4 is perhaps one of the 10 most key chapters in all the Bible (1200 chapters in the Bible)

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINES = JEWISH TRADITIONS



- We prefer our doctrines and traditions to the Word of God
- Modern Church Theology:
 - A) Church replaced Israel
 - B) Yeshua abolished Torah
 - C) Studying OT is a “return to the Law”
- Church has done the same thing the ancient Jews did: make the Scriptures subject to manmade philosophies



HARNACK: OT SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BIBLE



- Late 1800's Adolf Harnack writes that:
"...to preserve (OT) in the 19th century as....canonical document in Protestantism is the result of religious.....paralysis.."
- Reasoning: early church ONLY had the OT, so no choice but to keep it
- BUT.....modern church HAS a NT, so no reason to keep OT
- This became the generally accepted view of the Western Church in Europe from that time forward

WALTER KAISER: *HOW WE RESPOND TO THE OT DECIDES OUR ENTIRE VIEW OF JESUS AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD*



- Torah Class goal is to ESCAPE from the mindset that 3/4th's of our Bible is no longer valid
- Old Testament is the formative document FOR the NT
- OT establishes the context to understand Jesus, Salvation, the Church, the Kingdom of God
- Question for our time: Is all the Word of God valid, or only certain parts?
- Moses' question to Israel: Will you obey ALL the Word of God, or will you go back to worshipping elemental spirits and nature?

ISRAEL TO OBEY FOR IT'S OWN SAKE

- Hebrew verb tenses: NO past, present, future
- Perfect = an action is completed
- Imperfect = an action is ongoing
- Verse 5 SHOULD say: “....*see, I am imparting...*” Imperfect tense, action is ongoing
- The giving of the purpose and meaning of the Law is CONTINUING

SIGNS Vs. PROOF

- PROOF of Israel's loyalty is obedience to the Laws
- The SIGN of the Mosaic Covenant is the Sabbath
- The SIGN of the New Covenant in Christ is the Holy Spirit
- The PROOF of a Believer's loyalty to Christ is obedience to God's commands and good works
- James 2:17 "...faith, if it has no works, is dead...."



AN UNPRECEDENTED RELATIONSHIP



- The giving of the Law to Israel is the establishment of a relationship between God and Israel
- The Laws of Moses are superior to manmade laws and justice
- The Torah (commands and laws) is a REFLECTION of who God is
- God's CHARACTER is found in His laws

NO IDOLATRY

- NO physical images of God allowed
- REASON: He did NOT appear in physical form on Mt. Sinai
- God made His presence known in His “words”
- Therefore, Israel should pass on the knowledge of God by words..... NOT with symbols and images



“...Israel is NOT a people of definers.....but a people of witnesses..”

- The proper understanding of Yehoveh comes NOT from concepts, but from eyewitnesses and from our experiences with Him
- Israel actually HEARD God's voice
- We actually HAVE the Holy Spirit in us
- The Hebrew religion was NEVER based on legalistic obedience or sacred god-symbols
- Following the Law was the proper response to the relationship
- A Believer's proper response to Salvation is obedience

IDOLATRY IS DANGEROUS



- It is a danger to God's holiness
- It is a danger to those who practice it
- Idolatry is a capital offense
- Israel did not go from NO idol worship to rampant idol worship overnight
- It occurs slowly, over time
- They took a small liberty, and then another, until JUDGMENT struck!

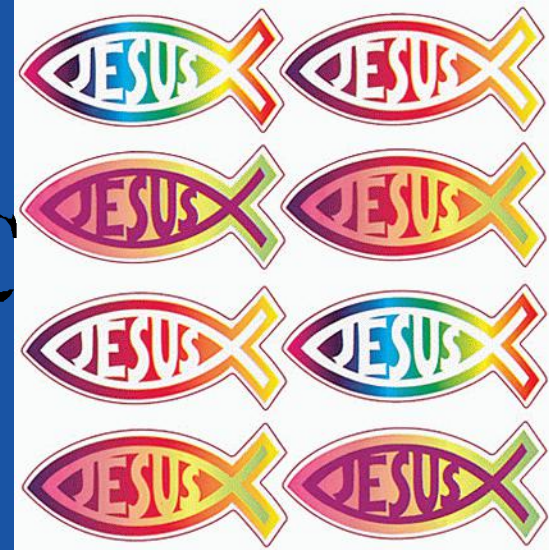
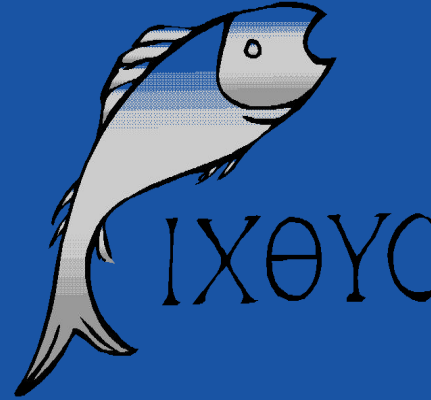
EGYPTIAN
APIS BULL



Vs. 16: No image whatsoever!!

- No image of a man or a woman
- Vs. 17: No image of an animal or a bird
- Hebrews did NOT think that God looked like an animal
- An animal represented an attribute of God, like strength, or the ability to soar above the earth

Vs. 18 NO FISH!!



- Where is the line?
- WE don't establish the line, the Lord does
- The Christian "fish symbol" is not necessarily an idol.....but it CAN be
- Israel would NOT admit to their idol worship. It seemed harmless and they believed they were honoring God
- No worship of heavenly objects
- Heavenly objects would NATURALLY be worshipped by those who did NOT have a relationship with Yehoveh

