

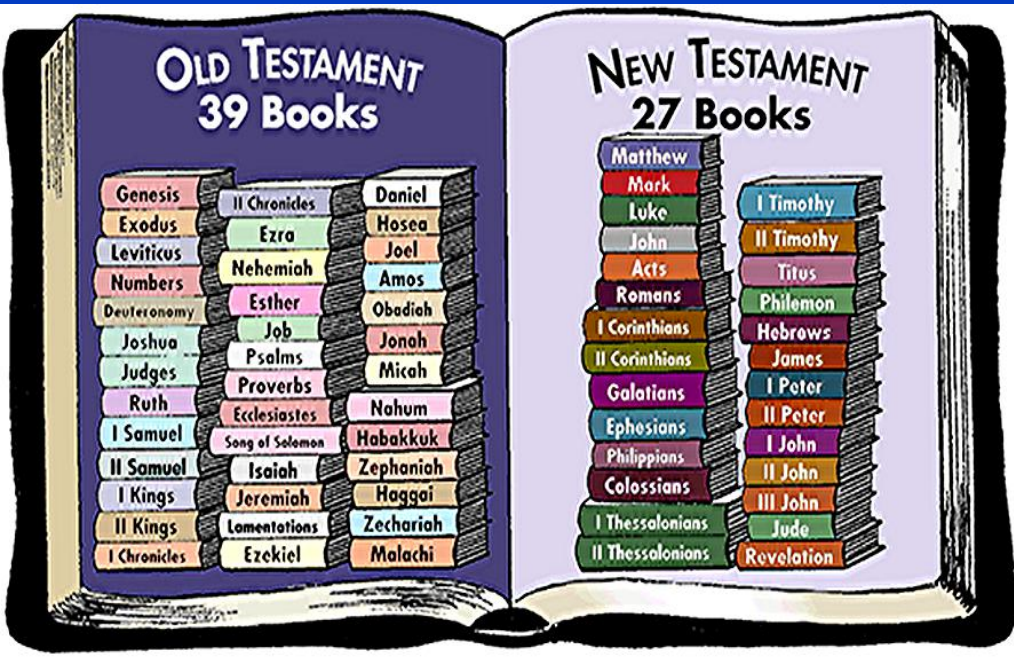


# AFTERSHOCKS

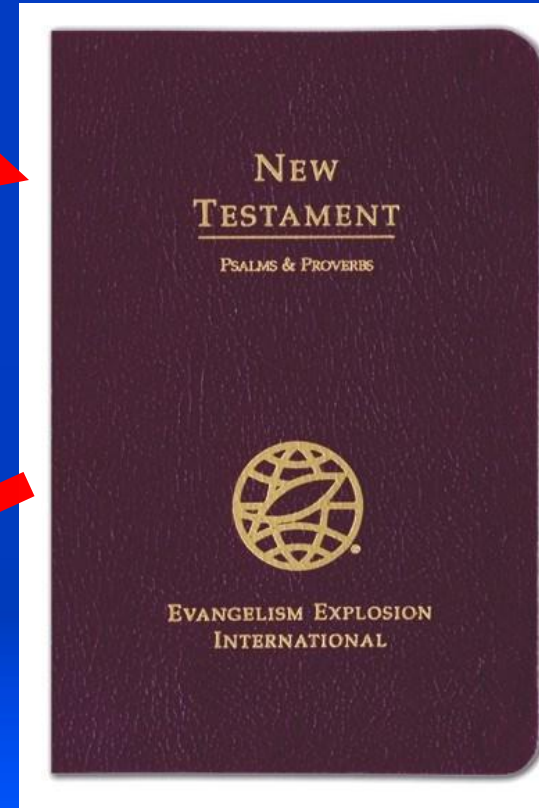
- Chapters 9 and 10 occur in about 4 ½ months
- The wrongs committed were so drastic, great pain was the outcome
- Priests taught people customs that had absorbed pagan thoughts and practices
- While doing wrong, people thought they were doing right
- God blamed the Priests as the party most responsible for the people being so mixed up
- The Lord says the Priests broke their covenant with Him



**FROM THIS**



**TO THIS**



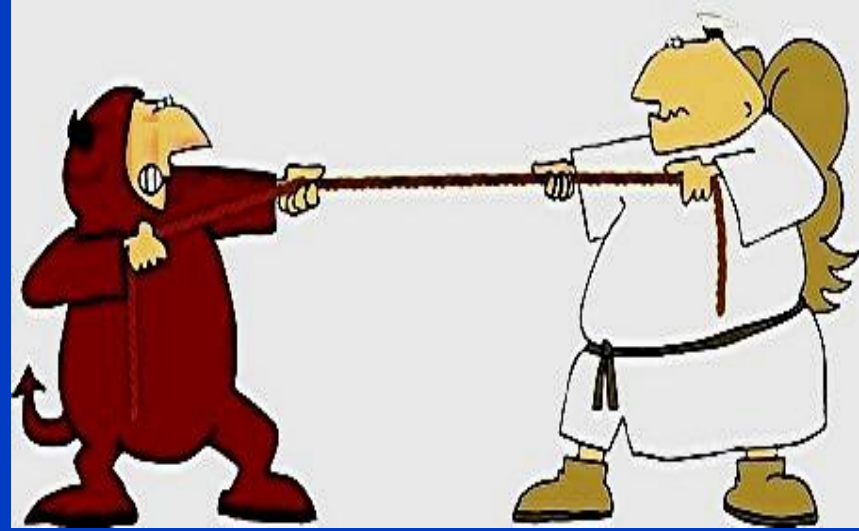
**AND NOW THIS**

**40**

***Easter Bible  
Verses and  
Resurrection  
Quotes***



# HOW GOD'S PEOPLE GET CONFUSED

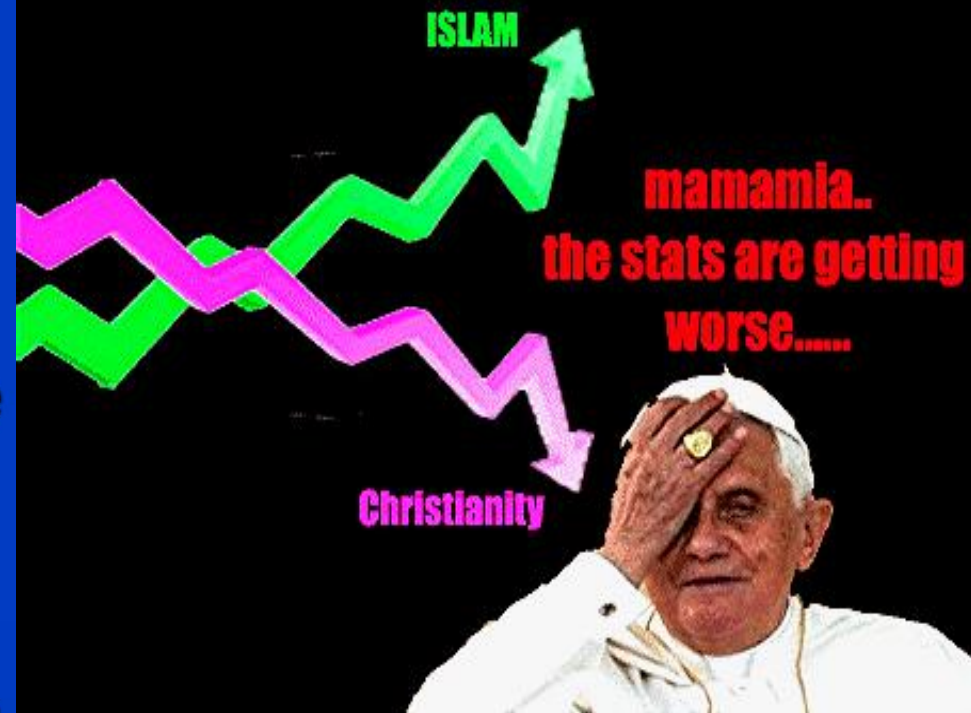


- Saved or not.....leaders or followers..... all still have evil inclinations !
- Intermixing manmade beliefs, philosophies, and political correctness with God's true religion of the Bible
- Reshaping God's image to suit us and make Him more attractive to the masses
- Malachi 2:8, 9



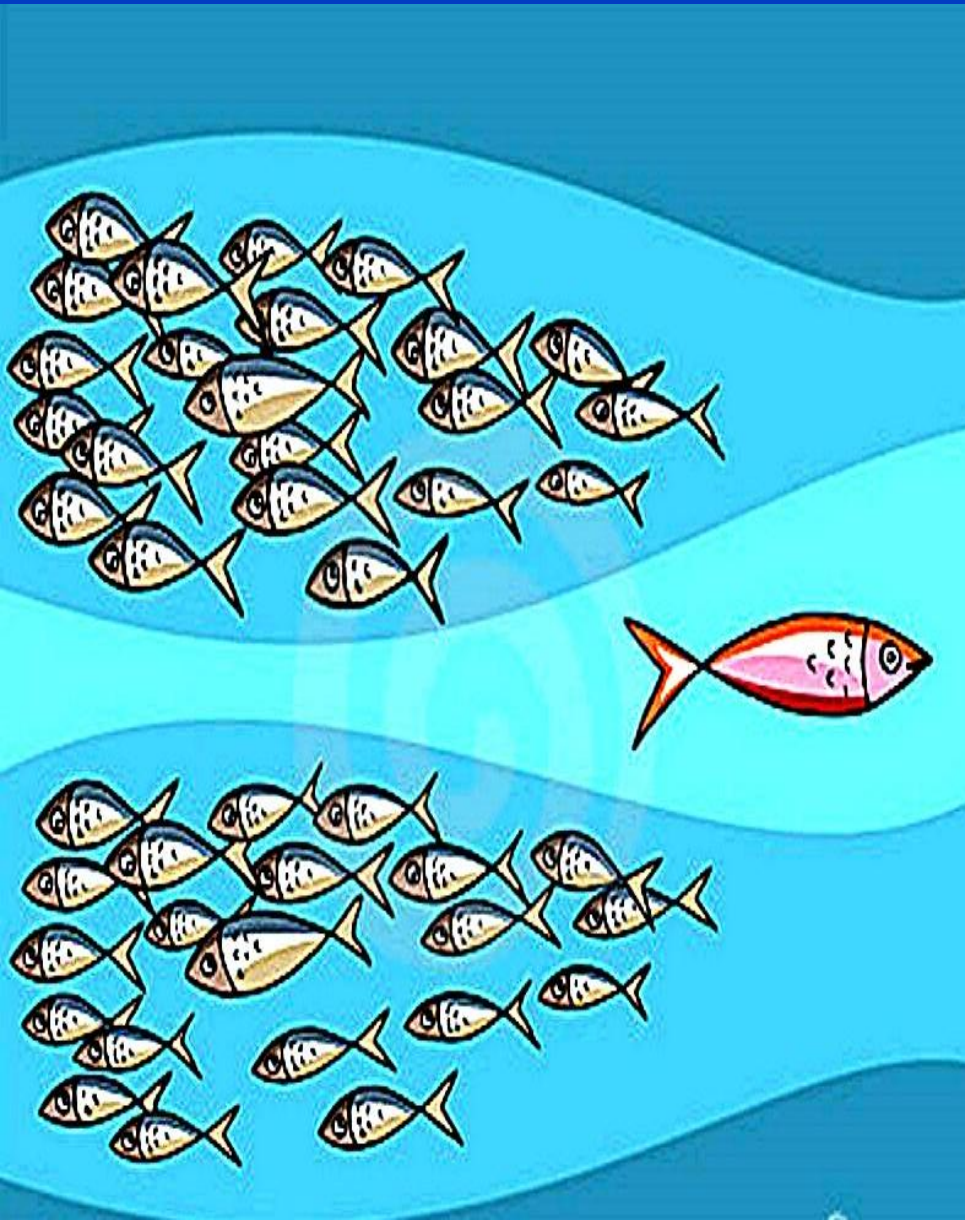
# THE RESULTS ARE IN !!

- Islam fastest growing, Christianity on the decline in the West
- God, through Malachi, said the problem is: Leadership has failed and is “contemptible”
- We can deceive ourselves into thinking we are seeking God’s ways, but they are really our own
- Matthew 7:22, 23



**Living  
On Mission  
With God**

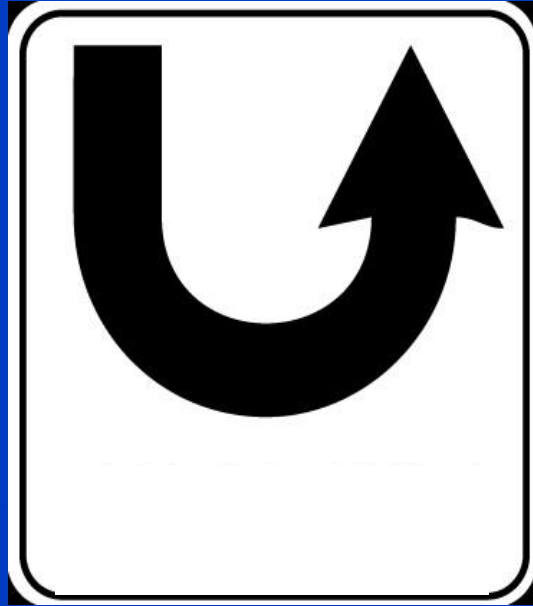
# THE “HARMONY” FORMULA



- 1) Trust God
- 2) Obey Him.
- 3) Be set apart for Him.
- Islam is growing because it preaches what Christianity used to practice:
  - 1) Living for a cause greater than ourselves
  - 2) Undying devotion to God
  - 3) Setting ourselves apart so that the difference is noticeable

# EZRA CHAPTER 9:

## THE 3 R's



**RETURN**



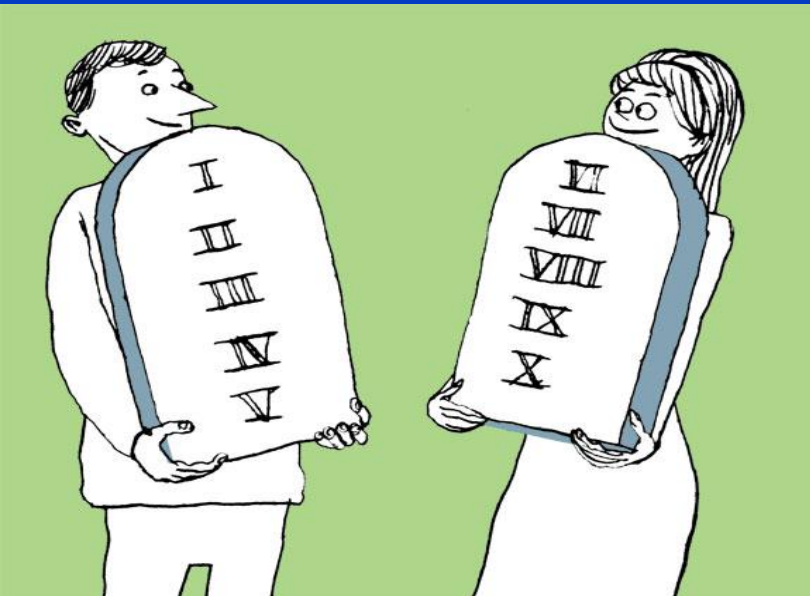
**REPENT**



**REFORM**

- Events of Chapter 9 about 4 ½ months after Chapter 8
- Ezra in shock when leaders tell him that Priests, Levites, and lay Jews married foreign women
- The Torah does NOT prohibit Hebrews from marrying foreign women (many Patriarchs also did)
- Only certain nations were off limits for marriage
- Exodus 34:11 – 16      Deuteronomy 7:1 - 3

# NOT IF WE OBEY, IT IS HOW TO OBEY THE LAW



- The key to know HOW to obey God's laws and commandments:
- Find the PRINCIPLE and follow the SPIRIT of the Law
- All the Law is built upon the 10 Commandments
- The 10 Commandments are built upon 2 guiding principles:
  - 1) Love God Deut.6:5
  - 2) Love Neighbor Lev.19:18
- Christ affirms Matt.22:36 – 40
- The remaining laws are case laws on HOW (or how not) to obey each commandment in practice

LOVE GOD ↑  
← LOVE OTHERS →

# OVERRIDING REALITIES

- 1) No Temple or Priesthood
- 2) History changes, circumstances change, so finding the PRINCIPLE & SPIRIT behind each law was needed for all eras
- Law of sideburns Lev.19
- Law of Sabbath year Lev. 25
- *Shemittah* = release
- 7 year cycle
- Works on the same principle as a week



## Jubilee & the Sabbath Year





# THE PRINCIPLE OF *SHEMITTAH*



- Do we stop growing crops worldwide for a year ?
- Seems to apply only the land of Israel
- However, spiritually as the Kingdom spreads God's laws goes with it
- Principle of 1 in 7 is for land and humans
- ***Shemittah*** was only for the Jubilee year, not for each Sabbath year

# CONDITIONS CHANGE

- Moses slightly modified laws for when entering Canaan
- Details how a law might be observed can change, but the morality and principle behind each law never changes
- Matthew 5:17 – 20
- Circumstances different for Ezra than when Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah 130 years earlier and burned down the Temple

