

# SEARCHING FOR TRUTH

- Hosea 2:1 – 3 God's goal was to restore relationship and to revitalize blessings for Israel
- Why do so many Bible commentators deny this, and say God permanently ended His relationship with Israel and abolished the Covenant of Moses?
- Douglas Groothuis: *“Truth is a daunting, difficult thing; it is also the greatest thing in the world, yet we are chronically ambivalent toward it. We seek it...and we fear it. Our better side wants to pursue truth wherever it leads; our darker side balks when the truth begins to lead us anywhere we do not want to go”*

# HOSEA

## CHAPTER 2

GOD'S OUTRAGEOUS LOVE  
FOR AN  
ADULTEROUS NATION

- A court setting said in a poetic narrative
- God is the accuser, judge and jury
- Gomer's children = the people of Israel
- Israel = the leadership of Israel
- Adultery towards God is idolatry
- "she is not my wife, I am not her husband", it is the condition when adultery occurs

# NOT A DIVORCE PROCEEDING

- Hosea 2:16 – 17
- Re-marrying would be against God's laws
- Malachi 2:16  
*“For I hate divorce...”*
- Deuteronomy 24:1 – 4
- A wife committing adultery has already “married” another man
- Hosea 2:4 What Gomer must do to remediate the situation
- *“....remove her whoring from her face...”*



# 1<sup>st</sup> STEP TO RESTORATION

- Gomer's (Israel's) outward appearance must change
- Stop worshipping Baal and quit attending pagan festivals
- “To be stripped naked” is an expression of shame
- The children accusing their mother will be shown no pity
- Gomer's children are responsible for their own decisions and choices
- Our faith leaders are held to a higher standard, but the congregation is not free of blame



# WHO DO WE WORSHIP?



- Treaties Israel made with their neighbors were for wealth
- Israel praised the Baal's for their abundance!
- Principle: We are to seek out God for our well-being
- The issue is the depth of involvement and commitment
- Israel thought tolerance and diversity were the keys to well being

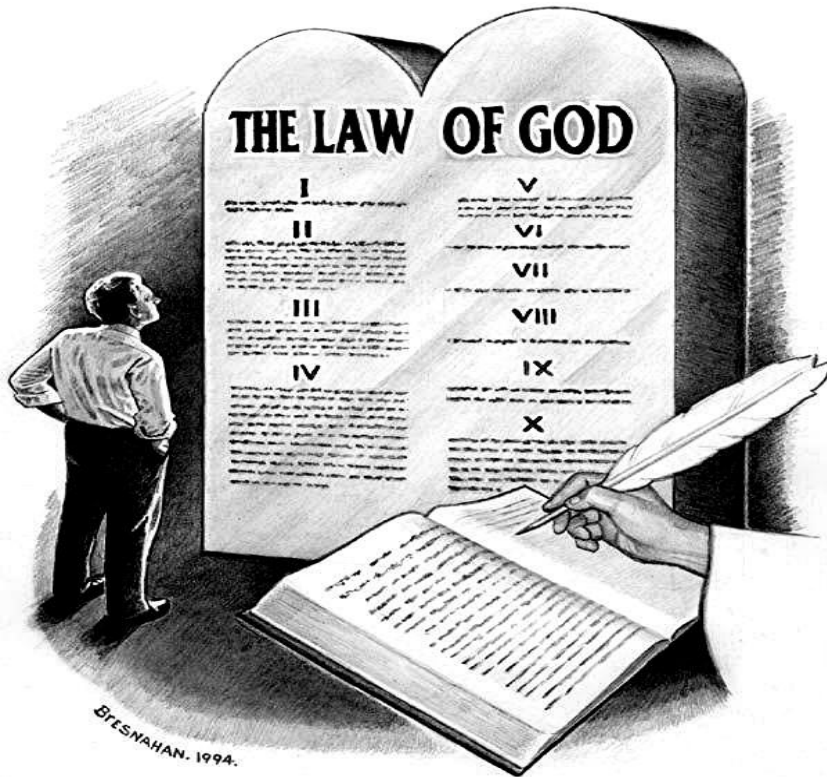
# THE ROAD TO GOD'S WRATH

- Good relations between ancient nations meant respect for their gods
- From God's standpoint this is foolish!
- This was the main cause of the coming destruction of Israel
- Did Jesus change all of God's rules, so that we can do what Israel was not allowed to?

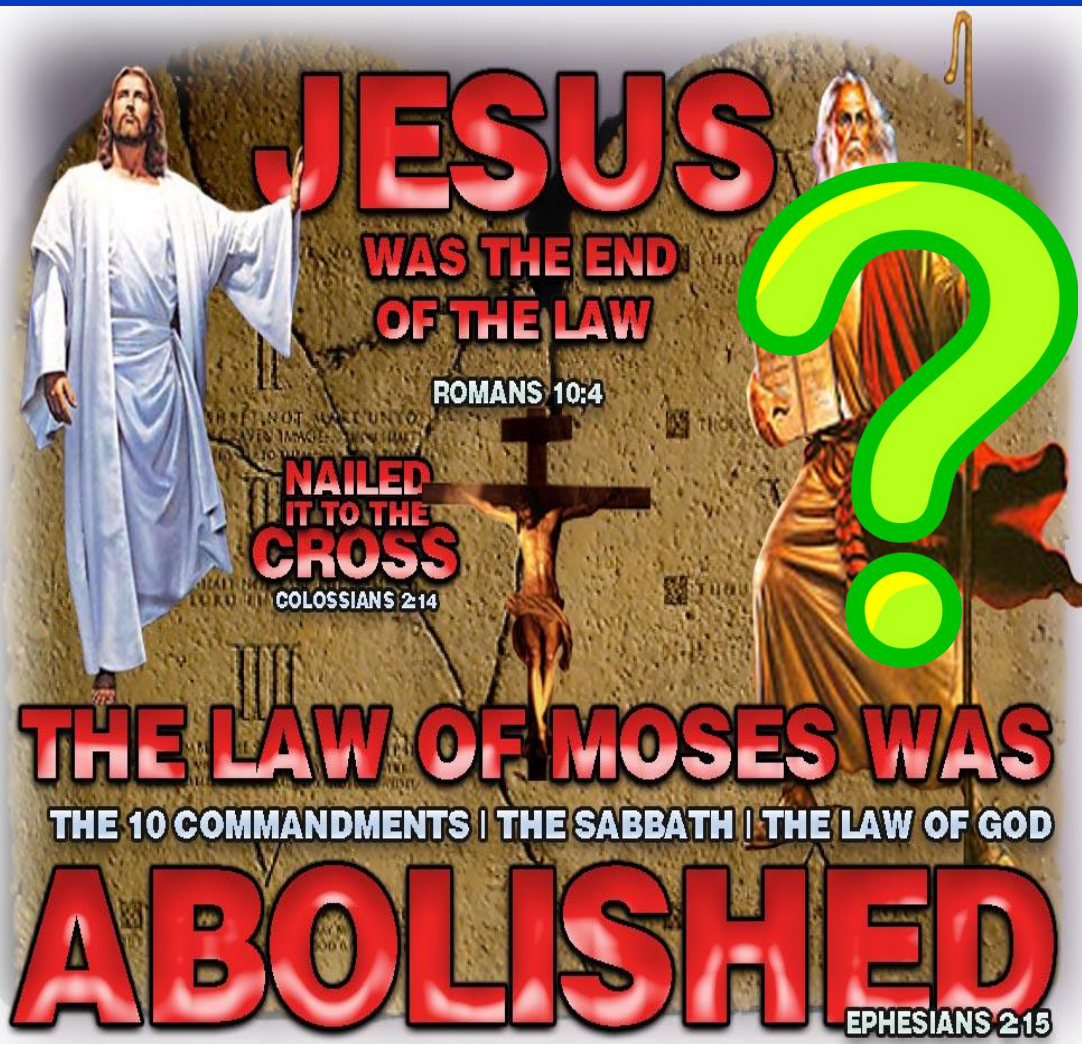


# THE REAL PROBLEM....

- Gomer (Israel) displays a poor character
- Vs. 10 The wife is behaving this way because of lack of knowledge
- Hosea 4:6 *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge....you forgot the Torah of your God”*
- Manmade traditions are foolishness
- The Torah is knowledge



# HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN GOD'S TORAH?



- The Church says the Torah is only for ancient Israel
- Jesus says this:
- Matt. 5:17 – 19  
*“Do NOT think that I have come to abolish the Torah....”*
- To not know God’s Torah is to reject knowledge. To reject knowledge is to reject truth.
- The results are catastrophic



# JUDGMENT FALLS

- God had been providing, but Israel credited the Baal's
- God ends His provision
- The entire spectrum of need for a family is affected
- Whatever abundance we enjoy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century God has given to us
- The new gods of Science and human intellect are given the credit
- Once it's decided in Heaven, it is unstoppable on earth



# BARRED FROM WORSHIP

- Hosea 2:13
- God is not divorcing Israel or abolishing His covenant, so the meaning is Israel can't observe the appointed times (the holy days)
- The 10 tribes had long ago stopped going to the Temple in Jerusalem
- God will give up the fields and orchards to become fallow and overgrown, fit only for wild animals

