

***“But the people did what was evil in God’s perspective..”***



- People return to idolatry to begin each new cycle
- After 40 years of rest and peace the Israelites drifted back to sin
- God sent the Midianites to oppress Israel
- Came in vast numbers at harvest time like locusts
- 7 years before Israel **FINALLY** cried out to **YHWH!!**

God of  
Israel

Canaanite  
Ba'als



# SYNCRETISM

- The act of blending
- Israel blended their rituals and culture with that of the Canaanites
- Happens slowly and imperceptibly
- Canaanites were NOT inherently murderers and barbarians
- 40 years was plenty of time for Israel to forget and then to backslide

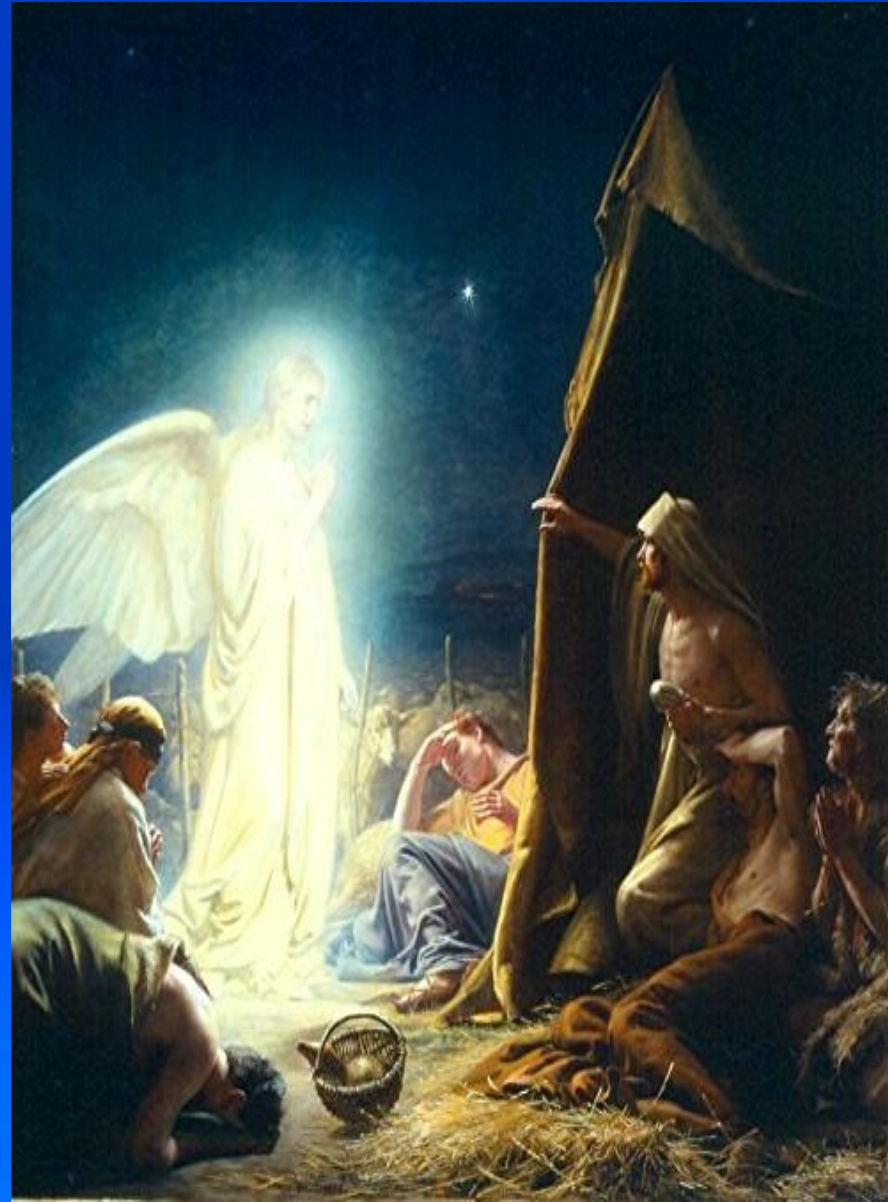
# THE SLIPPERY SLOPE

- Not that long ago few young people even knew what homosexuality was!!
- Gays then “came out of the closet” and asked to be treated decently and not as criminals
- Next demanded that homosexuality be declared as reasonable and “good”
- Now it is taught as normal and desirable in our schools
- Thousands of Gay Churches have sprung up



# THE ANGEL OF THE LORD

- יהוה מלאך
- YHWH malach
- Angel of the Lord
- Messenger of Yehoveh
- Comes to Gideon at a tree in Ofrah, in west Manessah
- The malach YHWH was NOT the prophet from earlier verses
- Gideon, son of Yo'ash



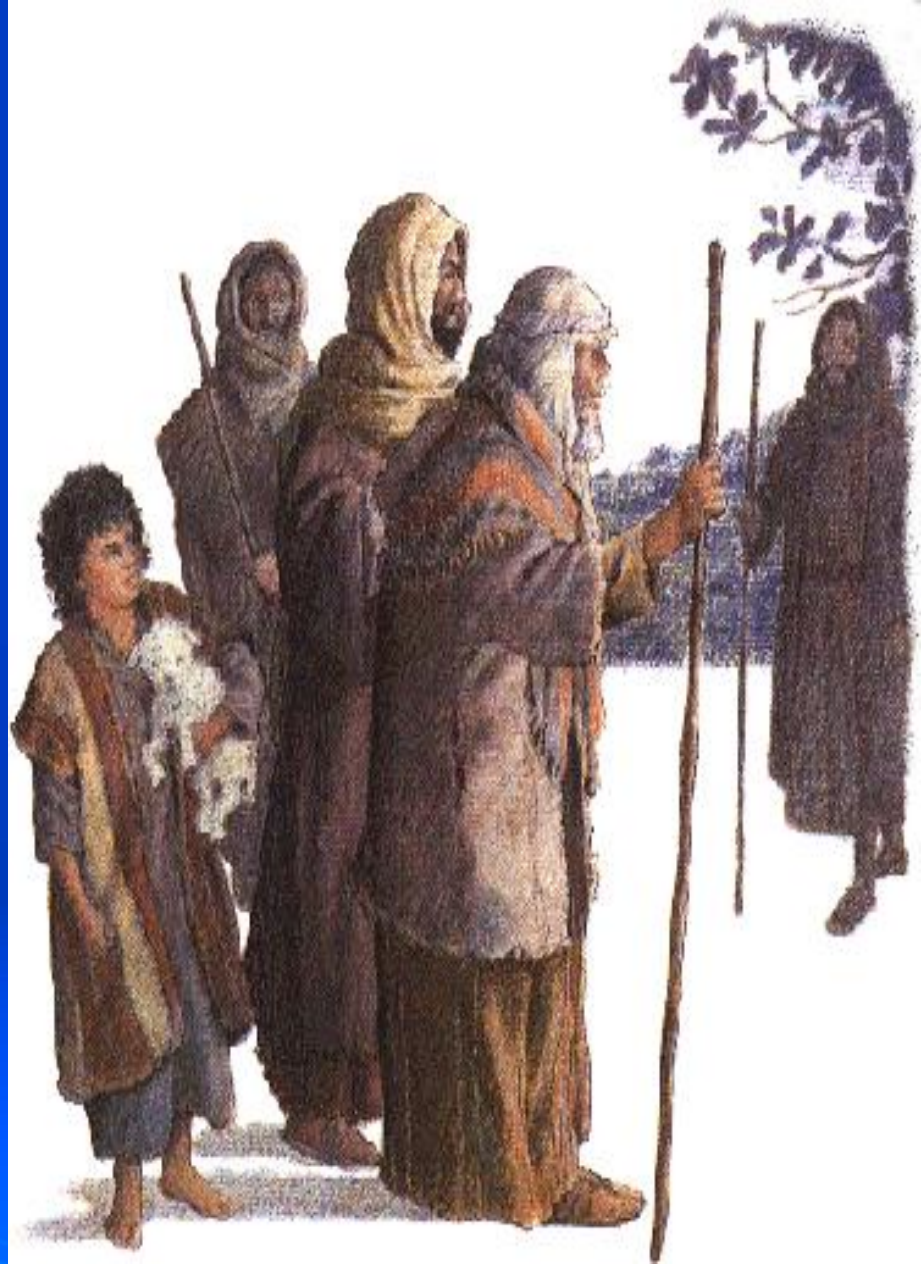
# THRESHING WHEAT IN A WINEPRESS



- Events happened in the summer
- Gideon was trying to hide his actions from the Midianites
- Malach YHWH calls Gideon “a valiant hero”
- A prophetic statement
- God sees us for how He made us, not for how we see ourselves

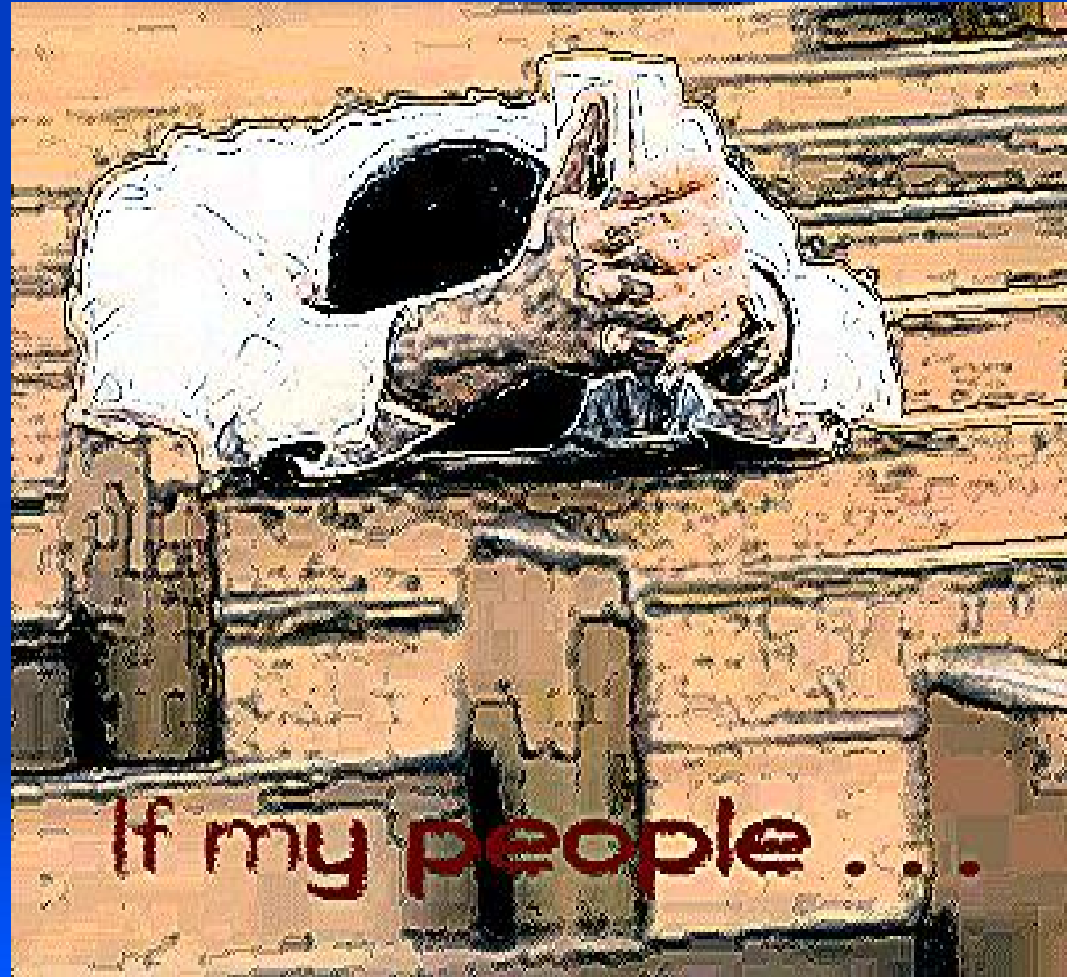
# LORD APPEARS AS A TRAVELER

- Similar to Lord's appearance to Abraham
- Gideon asks why if God is with Israel all these terrible things are happening?
- Gideon asks, "Where are all the miracles...?"
- Gideon answers his own question: "God has abandoned us"
- Gideon was right, God had turned His back on Israel so they could be punished by their enemies

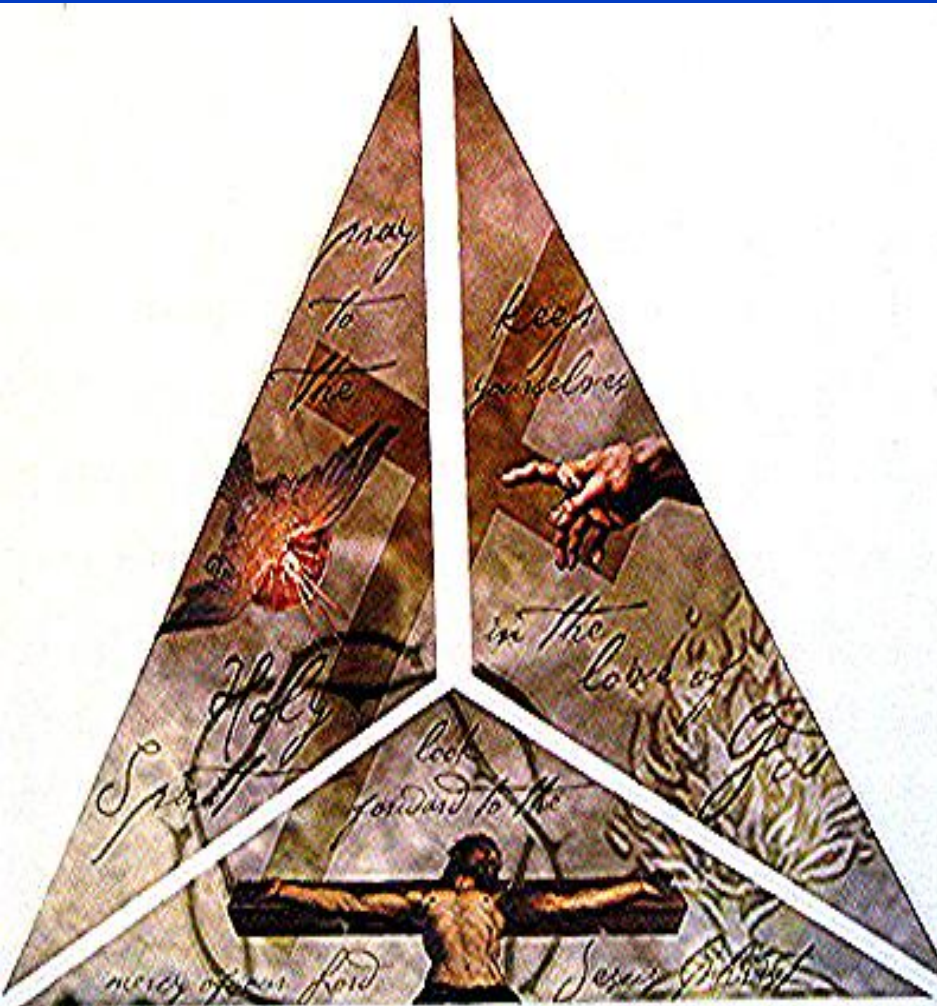


# OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S TORAH IS NOT LEGALISM!

- Only when obedience and faithfulness is present do God's miracles abound
- 2 Chron 7:13 ***"IF my people....pray.. I will hear....heal their land.."***
- We can rest on this BECAUSE the OT is NOT abolished



# ANGEL OF THE LORD IDENTIFIED!

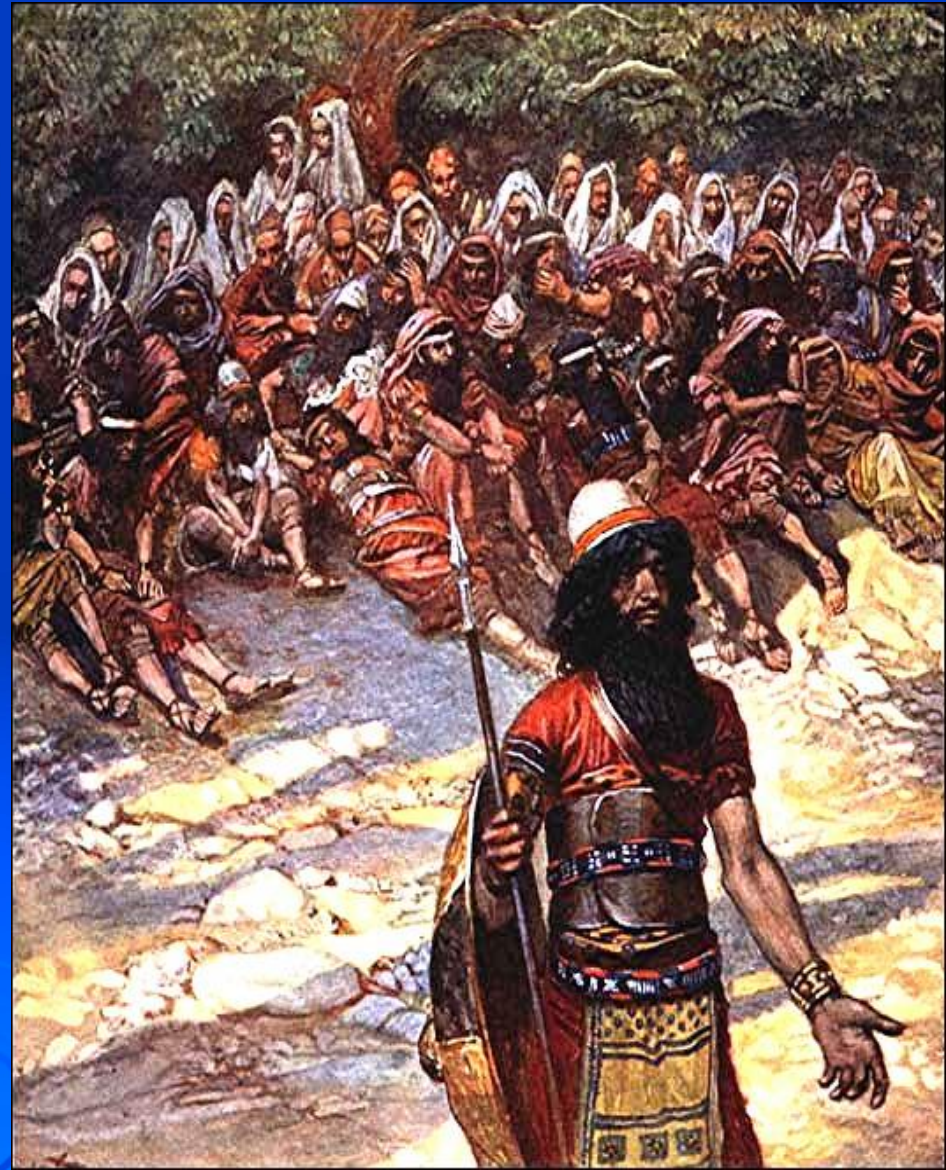


- Vs. 14 *“YHWH turned to him and said....”*
- Strict Trinitarian doctrine says ALL physical appearances MUST be the Son
- Here it says specifically that this PHYSICAL appearance is YHWH
- YHWH is ALWAYS the Father or the Godhead in Holy Scripture



# GIDEON COMMISSIONED AS A SHOPHET

- YHWH says that NOW Gideon has the strength to take on the enemy
- Gideon argues he's the poorest of Manessah, and the youngest child in his family
- Gideon asks for a sign that it's REALLY God speaking to him



# GIDEON KNEW THAT GODS WANTED OFFERINGS



- Gideon prepares a standard Middle Eastern gift of hospitality to his guest
- Used an entire Ephah of flour (40 pounds!)
- ***Minchah*** can simply mean an all occasion gift offering and not the “grain offering”

# THE GIFT IS ACCEPTED



- Gideon thought he was offering a literal meal
- The *malach YHWH* makes it a sacrifice by burning it up
- Then the Angel of the Lord disappears before his eyes!
- Gideon thought he would die
- Ex. 33:18 “...cannot look at me and remain alive....”

# GIDEON'S ALTAR

- Malach YHWH is a separate manifestation of God
- Gideon builds an altar and names it YHWH Shalom
- “To this day” means that at the time the author of Judges compiled the book, that altar still stood
- The altar was a MEMORIAL not a new place of sacrifice

