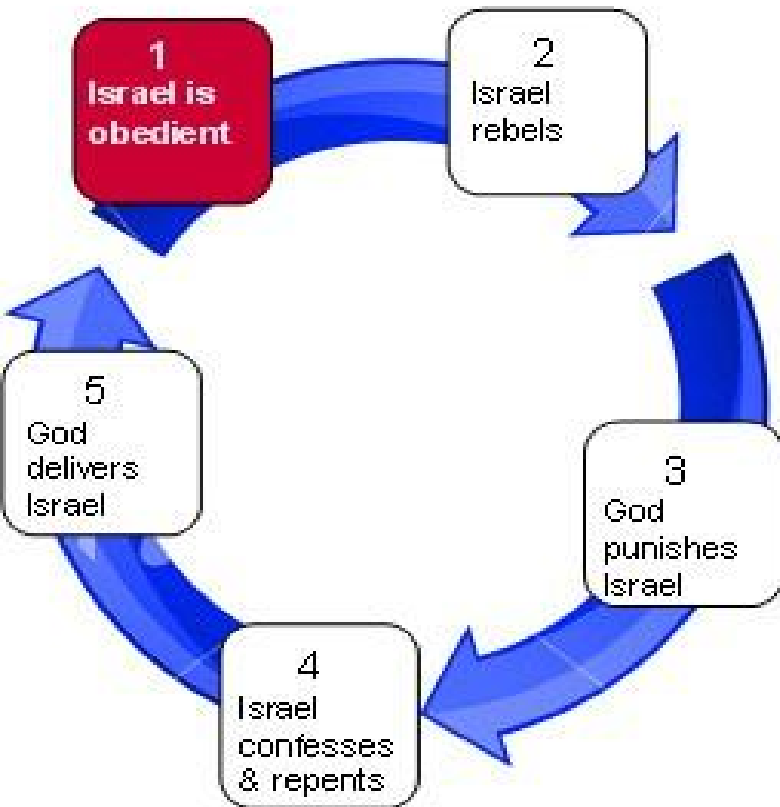


# CONNECT THE DOTS

MAKING SENSE OF THE BIBLE



- Nehemiah 9 prayer consists of “cycles”
- This pattern is representative of Israel’s history
- About the same pattern is present within the lives of Believers
- Good news: if we repent and return to the Lord, He will accept us back



# Creation

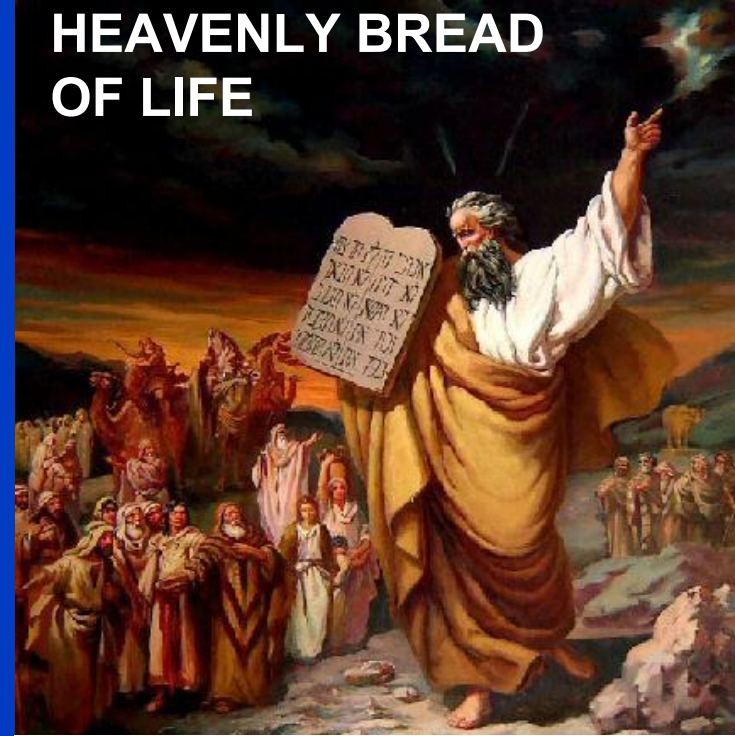
## DAY SEVEN

- Vss. 13, 14 remind us that at Mt. Sinai the Lord gave Moses the Torah, including the Sabbath
- Remember the Shabbat
- Remember = **zakar** = recall
- Shabbat was the final act of Creation
- Rev. 21, 22 Re-Creation of heavens and earth
- The End of Days MEANS no more days!
- Eternity is a permanent, eternal Shabbat

# THE SUPERNATURAL SUSTAINS ISRAEL

- Neh. 9:15 – 21
- The miraculous was on display every day
- Goal of the wilderness journey: to fulfill the Abrahamic Covenant
- Vs 16 is step 2 in Cycle of Sin
- **Shema** = obey what is heard
- **Zakar** = recall
- Israel chose a leader to take them back to Egypt
- They preferred their former subjugation to an evil taskmaster to a redeemed life with God!

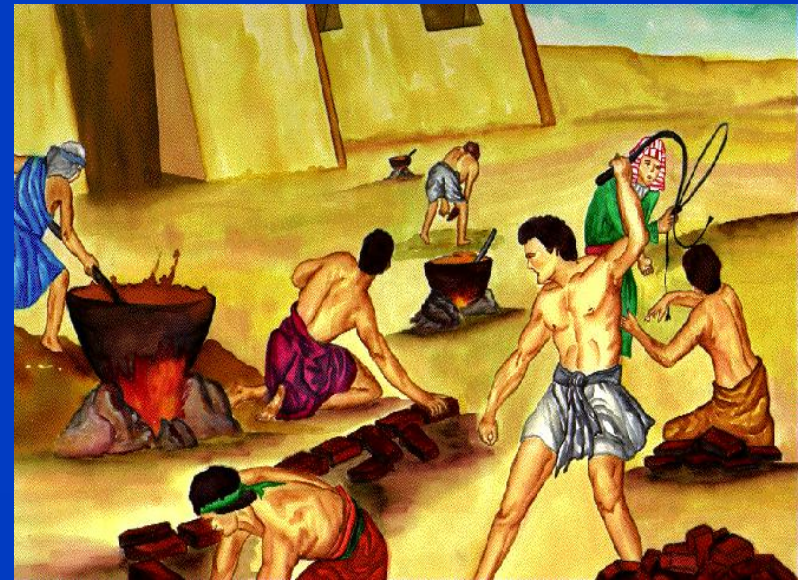
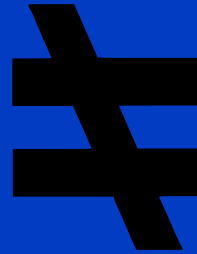
HEAVENLY BREAD  
OF LIFE



EARTHLY BREAD OF LIFE



# LAW AS EVIL TASKMASTER ??



- A common Christian doctrine: Christians should not go back to “Egypt”, because Egypt is the Law of Moses
- **WRONG!** Evil taskmaster is always Egypt, not the Law
- Doctrine probably arose in order to reconcile concept of Eternal Security with Holy Scripture
- NT is clear that a Believer **CAN** willfully choose to turn away from Salvation and return to slavery to Satan
- James 5:19, 20
- Nehemiah 9:17



# THE GOOD SPIRIT

- Vs. 20
- Good Spirit = *tov ruach*
- God's spirit as divine teacher
- Doctrine: Holy Spirit as teacher began after Christ's death and resurrection
- No denying the Holy Spirit was active with humans long before Christ
- New at Pentecost (Shavuot):

***Holy Spirit dwelt INSIDE humans and wrote the Torah on our inward parts***



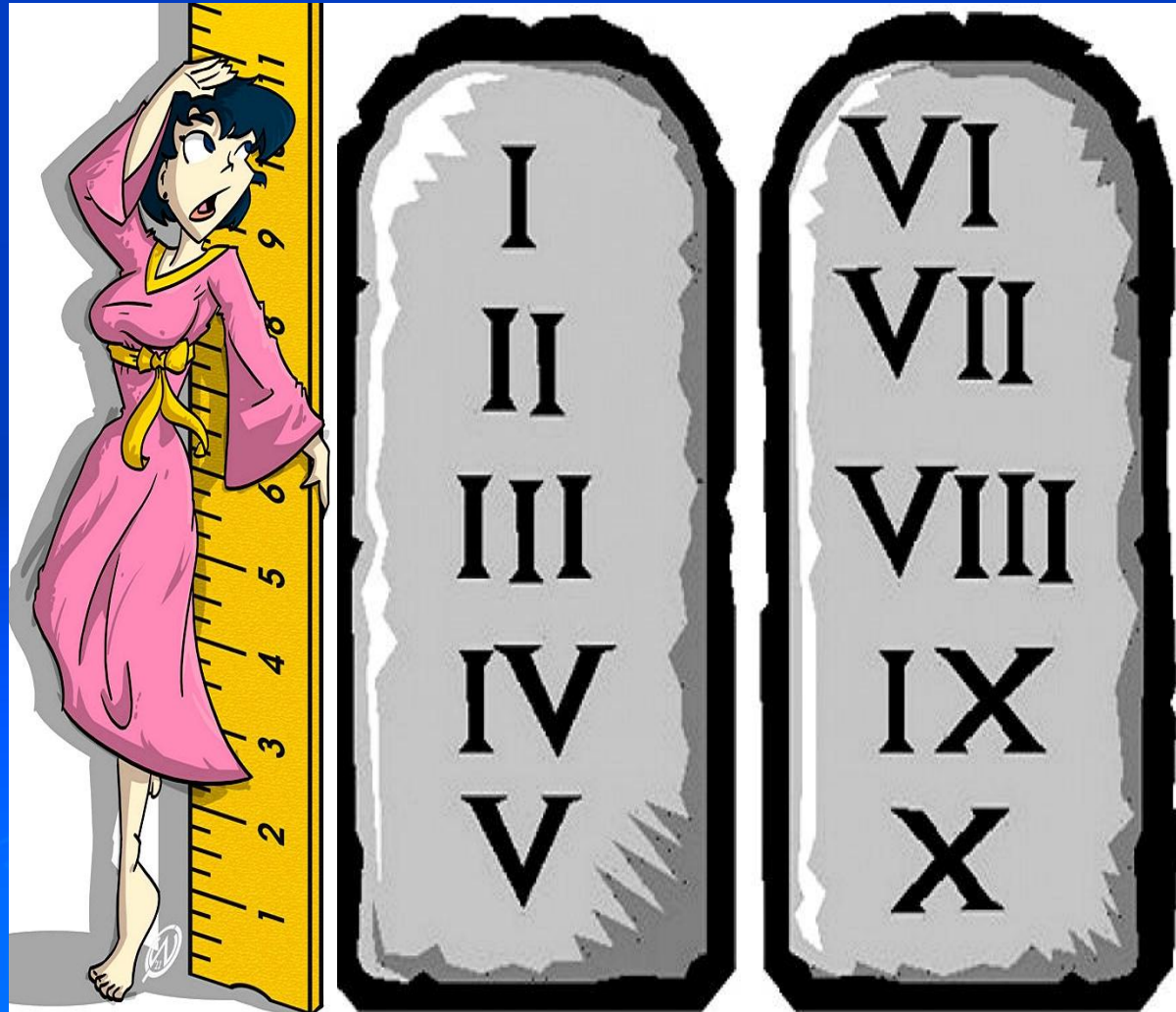
# TRANSITION

- Neh. 9:22 – 28
- Leadership given to Joshua
- Israel receives EXTRA land of the east side of the Jordan River
- Israel receiving “kingdoms and peoples” = fulfillment of Abrahamic Covenant
- Gen. 15:1
- Israel given already built houses, cisterns, orchards, vineyards, olive groves
- God pattern: John 14:1 - 4



# THE TORAH IS OUR MEASURING STICK FOR SIN

- Things went well, then Israel veered away from God's commandments
- James 1:21-25
- If we stop looking into God's Word, we'll forget who we are in Christ
- THEN....we'll look into a foggy mirror of human intellect, traditions, and beliefs and think that THIS is what we look like !



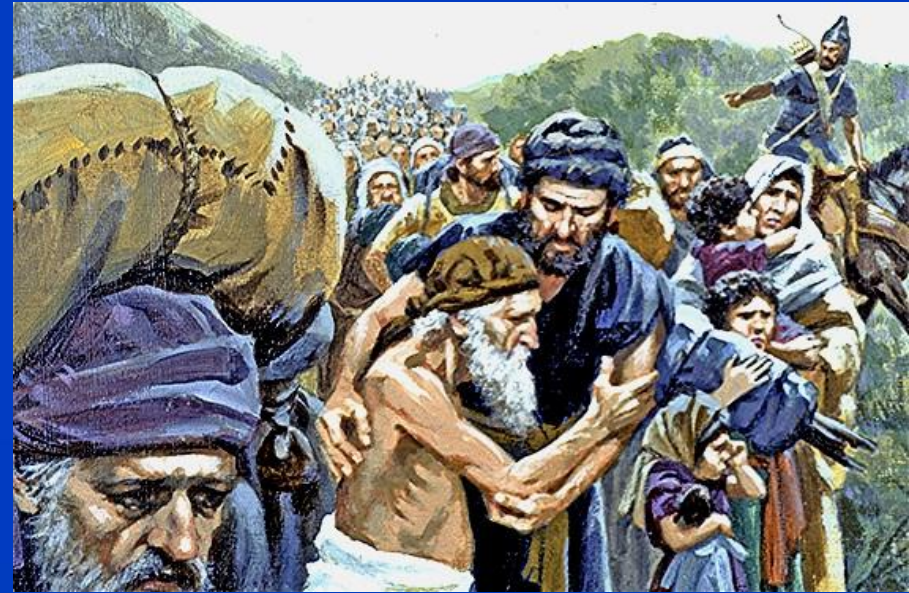
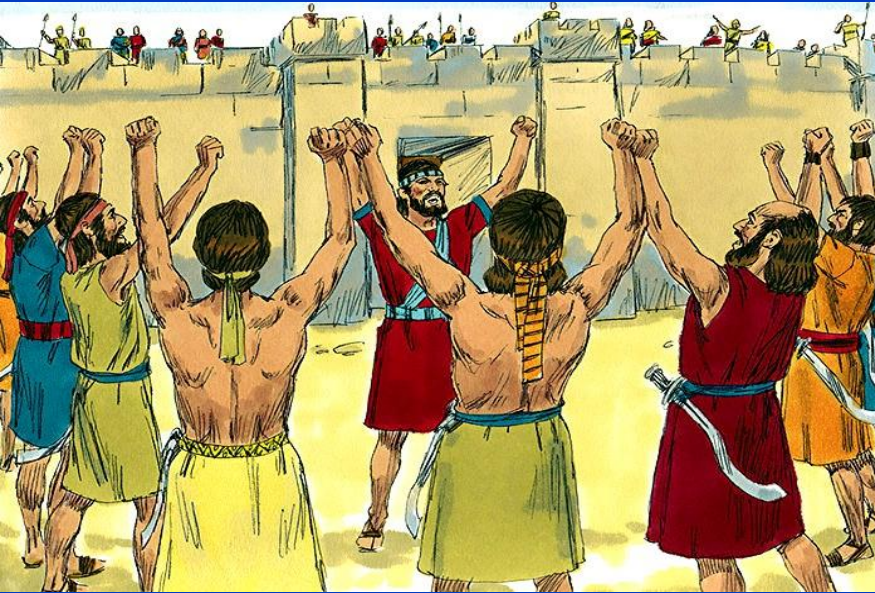
# TURNING YOUR BACK ON THE TORAH

- Vs. 26 God sent Prophets but the people killed them
- People hated hearing they were wrong, evil, ready for judgment
- People don't want to change, they want their circumstances to be improved !
- God improved the Jews' circumstances but they went right back to wickedness






# FROM THIS TO THIS



- Neh. 9:29 – 31
- Obeying the rulings of Torah is life, disobedience is death
- God warned them THROUGH HIS SPIRIT for years
- Vs. 22 “..You gave them kingdoms and peoples”
- Vs. 30 “..therefore You handed them over to peoples of the lands...”
- A reversal because Israel did not walk with God

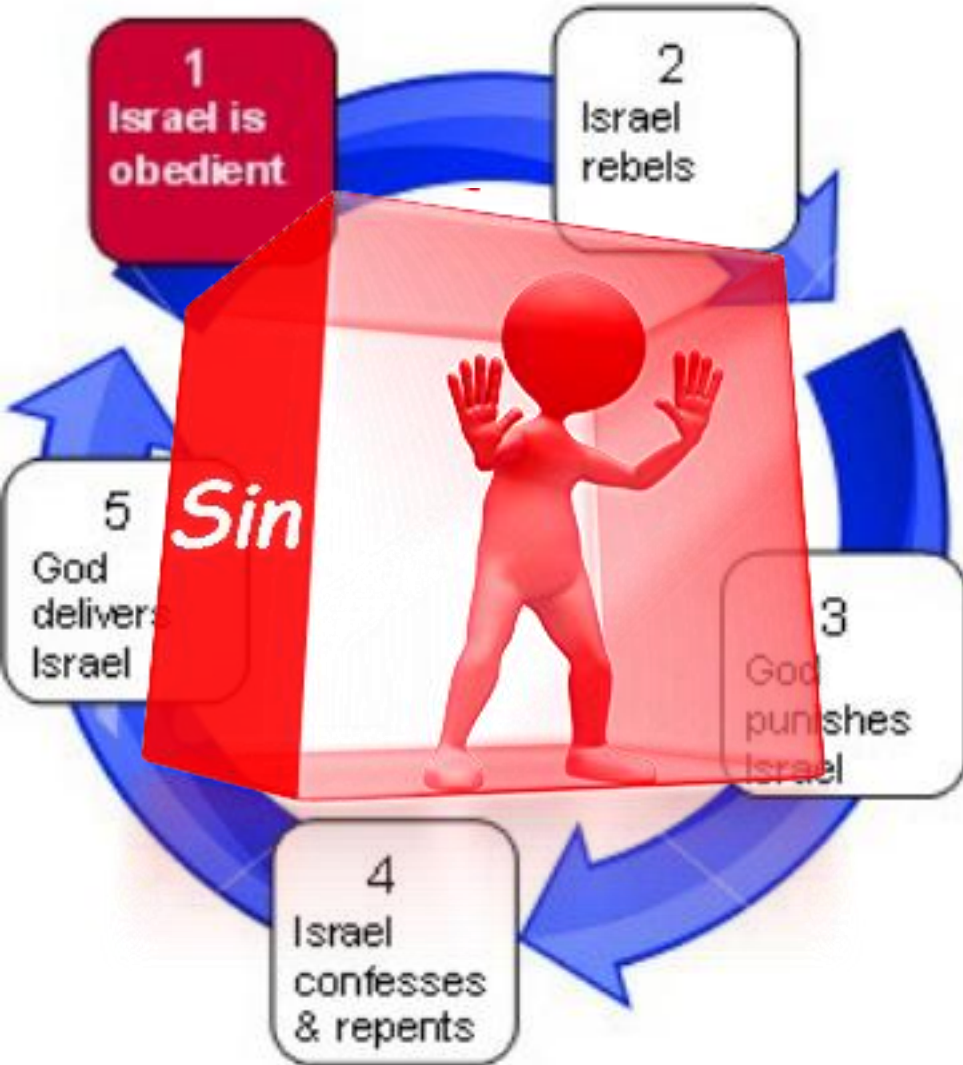
# GOD'S CHARACTER



COVENANT  
and  
GRACE

- Neh. 9:32 – end
- Only CJB says grace
- Others say mercy, loving-kindness, unmerited favor, divine assistance
- These (plus more) DEFINE grace
- God's grace present throughout the OT
- Sacrificial system was about grace
- Deliverance from Egypt was about grace

# HOPELESSLY TRAPPED?



- Jews admit their suffering is just
- It is their own wickedness that has caused God's judgment
- Back in their own land as slaves
- Hyperbole They are not "slaves" but also not exactly free
- Everything that was their inheritance now goes to a Persian King
- Romans 7:14 - 25