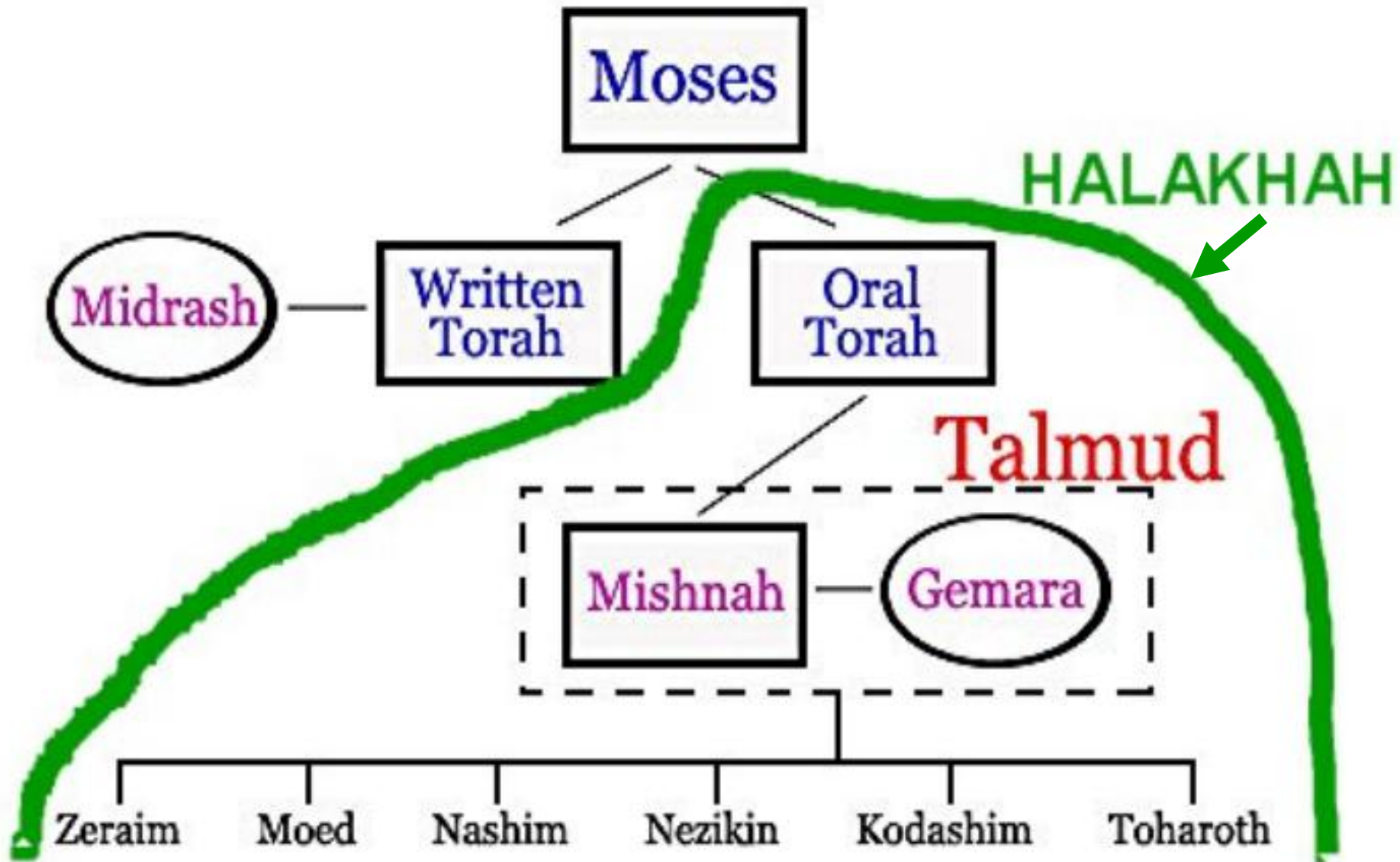


# PAUL USING TALMUD STYLE





# The Dead Sea Scrolls

WORDS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



## PAUL AND JEWISH IDIOM

- Deciphering of DS Scrolls is going to change the reading of the NT, especially letters of Paul
- Church not likely to welcome it
- Un-circumcision is not a real word... An oxymoron
- Uncircumcised = gentile
- Uncircumcision = Jew who has circumcision reversed
- How is that possible?





# THE PRIDE OF CIRCUMCISION

- Circumcision the most emphatic indication of Jewishness
- Gentiles seen as evil, not righteous, worthy only of God's wrath
- Jews saw themselves as good, righteous, worthy of God's blessing and mercy
- Paul says that circumcision is bringing these Jews a false sense of security
- Paul's Jewish readers would have been offended





# FROM 12 TRIBES TO ONE NATION

- Terms Hebrew and Israelite not used much in the NT era
- *Y'hudi* = Jew
- 12 tribes fought for dominance. This was normal for tribal societies
- After 10 tribes exiled, only 2 remained, with Judah dominant
- “Jew” used like “American”
- Jew a national term mostly, but with a national religion

## TRIBALISM



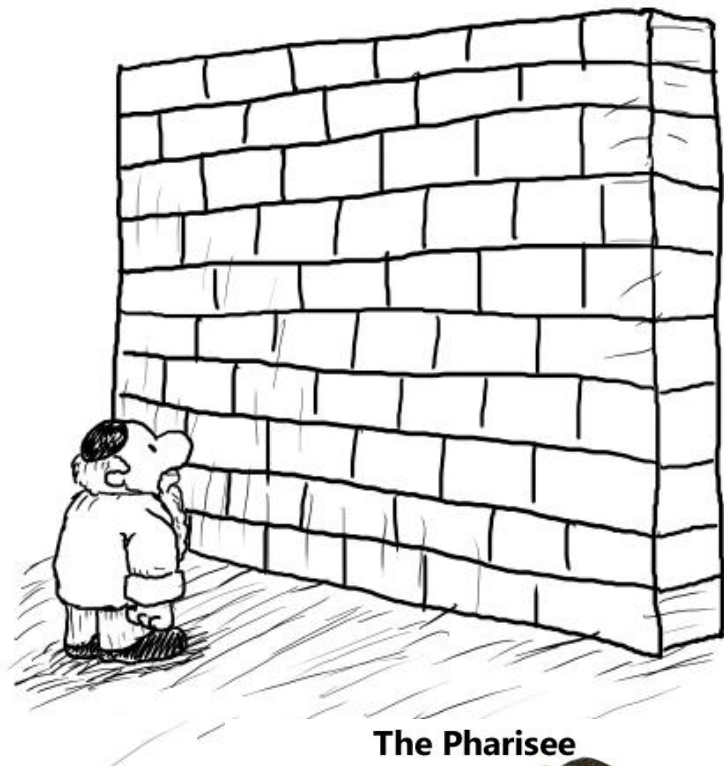
## NATIONALISM





# CIRCUMCISION AS A WALL OF DIVISION

- Paul intended on adjusting some bad Jewish attitudes
- If Jewish pride made them think they are righteous, what is the need for the Gospel?
- Pharisees were the teachers of “the Law”, but the “law” they taught was *Halakhah*, not the true Law of Moses
- Mark 7:1 - 14



The Pharisee



# 613 laws

- Because of bad attitudes, Jewish Believers seem to have nothing gentiles want!
- Matthew 22:36 – 40
- Love God and Love Neighbor is taken from the Torah; it is not a NT innovation!
- All the Law rests upon the pillars of Loving God and Loving our Fellow Man

Do not worship any other gods

Do not make any idols

Do not misuse God's name

Keep the sabbath holy

Honour your father & mother

Do not murder

Do not commit adultery

Do not steal

Do not lie

Do not covet

LOVE

GOD

LOVE  
FELLOW  
MAN



# BULL'S EYE OF JEWISH PRIDE



**CIRCUMCISION**

- Paul says that the Jews lean on their circumcision as proof of their righteousness
- NO ONE can be truly “Torah observant”
- Always is according to some group’s standard
- Is mostly *Halakhah*, plus preference, and not much Torah
- NEVER in Israel’s history could all the Law be done due to varying circumstances
- YES! Believers are to do the Law (of Moses) wherever it is possible to do it
- The LAW does not save us!
- The LAW shows us how to live a redeemed life

# WHAT IS A TRUE JEW ?



- Vs. 25, Paul backtracks and says that circumcision DOES have value IF you do what the Law says
- Circumcision an outward sign of our inward condition
- A “real” or “true” Jew is a spiritual measure, not a physical measure
- Gentiles can be “true Jews” according to Paul’s definition
- But that does not change gentiles to physical Jews, or give gentiles rights as though they were Jews



- “True Israelite” would have better expressed Paul’s underlying thought than “True Jew”
- “Israel” embodies God’s ideal of a people set-apart for Him
- Should not be a chapter break between Romans 2 and 3
- The glaring question: What is the point of being a Jew?

# The Israel of God



**THE GLARING  
QUESTION**

# ROMANS CHAPTER 3:

## *“Then what advantage has the Jew?”*

- What he means is: considering what has been said, then does a Jew have ANY advantage over a gentile?
- If we read no further, then the answer seems to be “None whatsoever”
- Charles Cranfield: *“...the question is of the credibility of God...”*
- Paul next asks: “So what is the value of Circumcision?”
- Answer: “Much in every way !”

