

DID PAUL EAT KOSHER?

- Romans 15, Paul's instructions become more general
- Chapter 14 was about the strong and the weak in faith
- Focused on ritual purity, using kosher eating as an example
- Paul has characterized himself as an adherent of The Law of Moses, and a Pharisee of Pharisees
- Paul includes himself as among the strong
- Both strong and weak had kosher eaters; issue was about how judgmental a Believer was towards someone who ate differently than himself



STRONG SHOULD BEND TOWARDS THE WEAK



- Strong need to help the weak stay in the fold
- New Believers are vulnerable
- Often they can be convinced that their faith isn't real or it is too hard
- The strong should not ask the weak to quickly begin to obey rules that are strange to them
- Job of the strong is to nurture the weak, not to browbeat them

ROMANS CHAPTER 15

- Romans 15:3 = Psalms 69:10
- David took the insults meant for the Father
- Yeshua did the same
- Paul quotes **ONLY** the Old Testament (no New Testament existed yet)
- Bible consists of 2 pieces: The Scriptures and the New Testament

SCRIPTURES

NEW
TESTAMENT



OUR FATHER

"PRAY LIKE THIS: OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN!"



- God Himself gives us encouragement and hope
- The strong glorifies the Father when they bear insults against Him, and when helping the weak
- Yeshua's goal, as should be ours, is to glorify the Father
- Matthew 6:9 – 10
- Matthew 12:31 – 32
- The OT God is also the NT God
- Pray to the Father, in the name of Yeshua

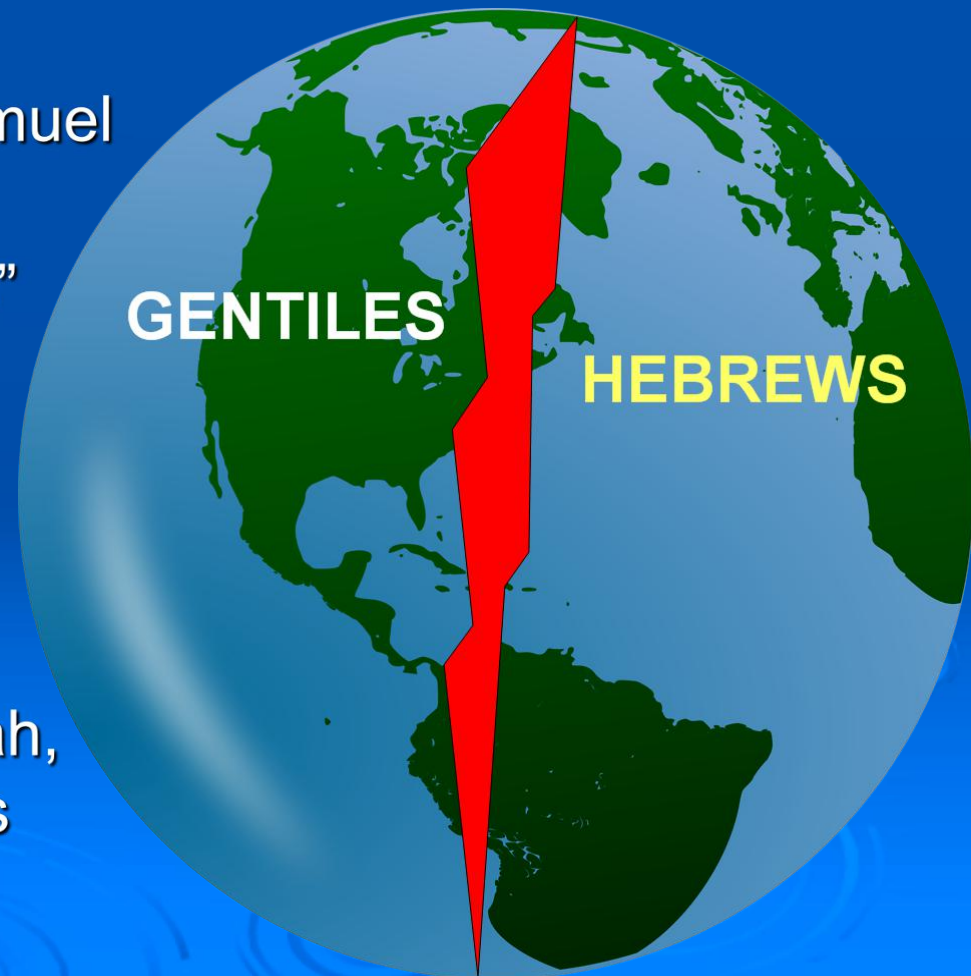
THE JEWISH MESSIAH

- Vs. 7 is the conclusion we should draw on Romans 14:1 to 15:8
- Believers are to welcome all Believers whether weak or strong
- Whatever benefits gentiles receive from Yeshua, it is due to the covenants with the Patriarchs
- No such thing as a gentile Messiah
- If Christ is not the Jewish Messiah and the fulfillment of the covenant promises, then Christians have NO Messiah!



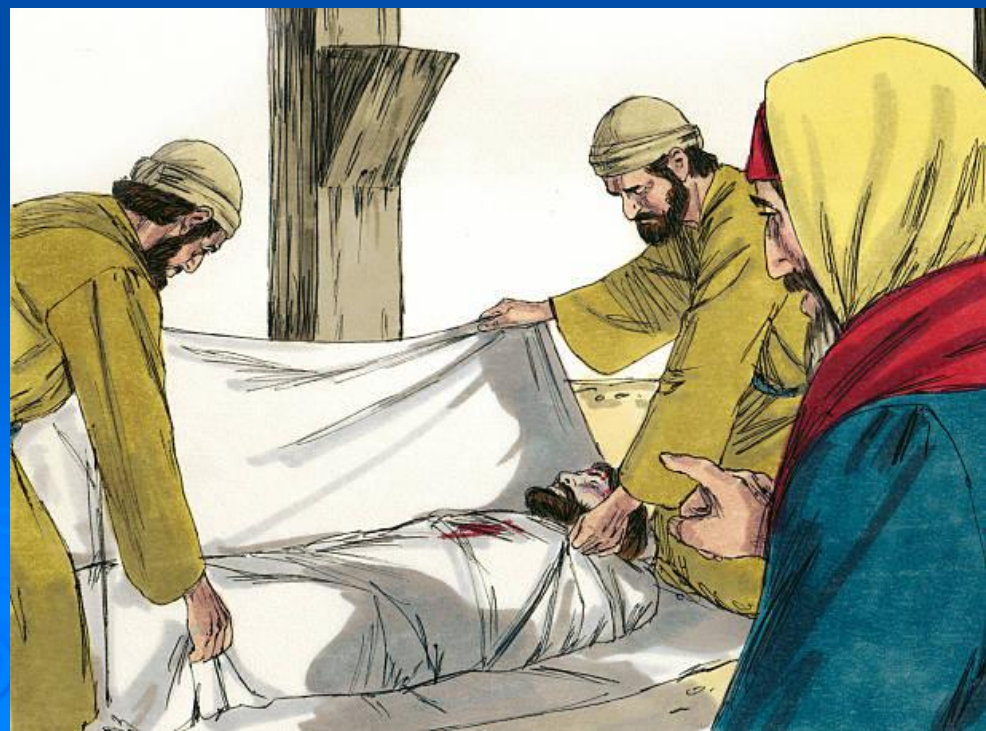
GOD DIVIDED THE WORLD

- Father's mercy through Yeshua was to cause gentiles to want what the Jews had received
- Paul uses 4 OT passages to make his case:
- Psalm 18:50, taken from 2Samuel 22:50
- Words "Nations" and "gentiles" are both *goyim* in Hebrew
- Romans 15:10 = Deut.32
- Romans 15:11 = Psalm 117
- Romans 15:12 = Isaiah 11
- Passages taken from the Torah, the Prophets, and the Writings
- ***Torah, Ketuvim, Nevi'im***

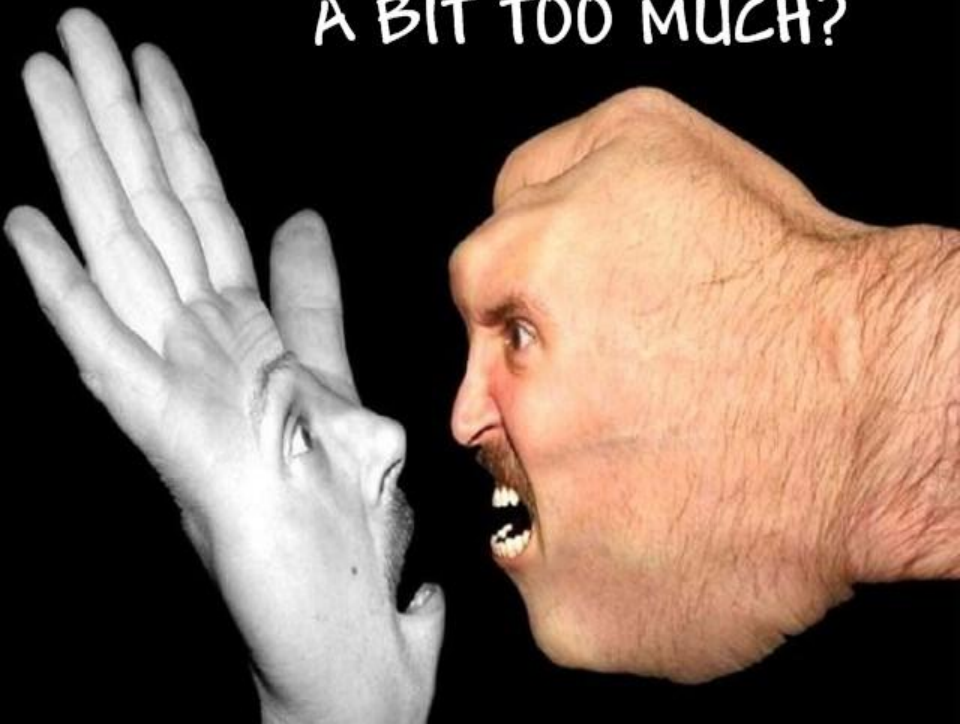


THE MYSTERY OF DEATH

- Vs. 13 is a typical Jewish style blessing
- Hope = hope for resurrection from the dead
- Resurrection was a hot topic in Paul's era
- The hope is in the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome death
- Redemption and hope for resurrection by the power of God was not a new Christian concept
- Dead Sea Scrolls 1QS



A BIT TOO MUCH?



PAUL SOFTENS HIS TONE

- After the strength of his words, and his list of *Halakhot*, Paul feels he needs to back off
- He says the Rome congregation is full of goodness and knowledge
- He did NOT create a systematic theology in his letter !!
- Paul had heard of some things that the Rome Believers needed to be reminded



WHY DOES PAUL THINK HE HAS AUTHORITY ?



- Paul not involved in creating congregation at Rome
- Paul says it is the “grace” that Christ gave him as the Apostle to the Gentiles
- Other evangelist Jews to the gentiles also existed
- Paul therefore felt he was the chief evangelist to the gentiles
- James, Jesus’ brother, head of Believers in Jerusalem...almost entirely Jews

PAUL'S PRIESTLY DUTY

- Teaching Torah the primary duty of Levite Priests
- In Paul's era the synagogue was where teaching took place
- Using metaphor of Temple and priests, Paul says gentiles are made holy by the Holy Spirit
- Now gentiles are a suitable offering to God
- Paul says he took the Gospel to Illyricum

