

Evangelism

Week 2: The Law

Jan 15th Worship Center, 10:45am

The theme of the Bible in one sentence...

Man must *believe*
what God has *said.*

Therefore the aim of humanity should be to...

***Hear, understand & believe
what God has *said.****



**Our job in evangelism is
to tell others what it is that God has said.**



Over the next few weeks we want to discuss, *what parts* or *how much* of what God has said do people need to have *heard, understood* and *believed*.

A true presentation of the gospel includes:

- **God**
- **Law**
- **Gospel**

**Last week we looked at
the first part,
*God.***

**And we determined that of all of
God's attributes & characteristics;
the most important ones to
be heard, understood & believed
in the sin-salvation narrative are...**

**God as
the Author & the Authority,
the Righteous & the Requirement,
the Judge & the Justifier.**

**Today we want to
unpack the second part,**

Law.

When we say the **Law** we mean the *visible display* that God is in fact the Righteous & Requirement...



Without the **Law**, people are **unable** to **visualize** that there is a standard to be met and that the standard is **absolute perfection**.



**YOU MUST
BE THIS**

PERFECT

TO BE



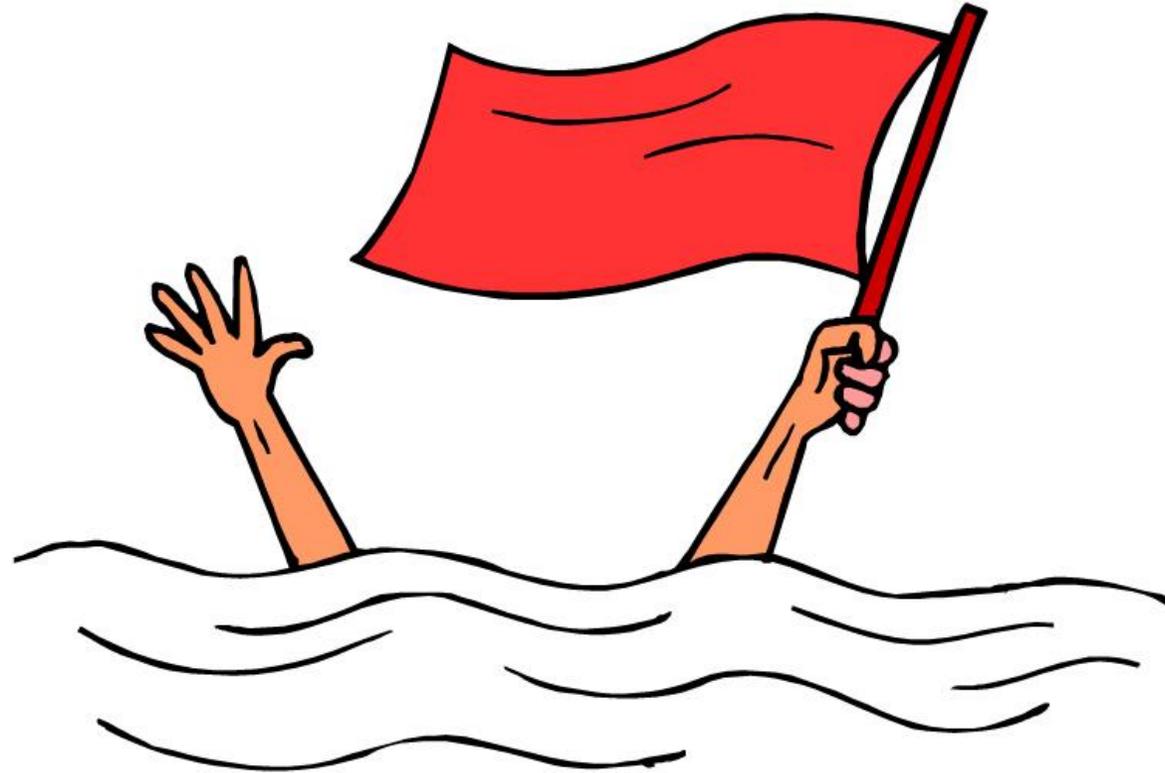
The **Law** is a
small reflection of the
perfectly holy character of God.

The reason it is wrong to lie, cheat, and steal, etc.
is because **God's character** is in
direct opposition to these things.

The **Law** then becomes the ***demand*** of what we must be (*holy, perfect*) in order to be ***acceptable***. Therefore, the Law becomes the visible standard of righteousness.



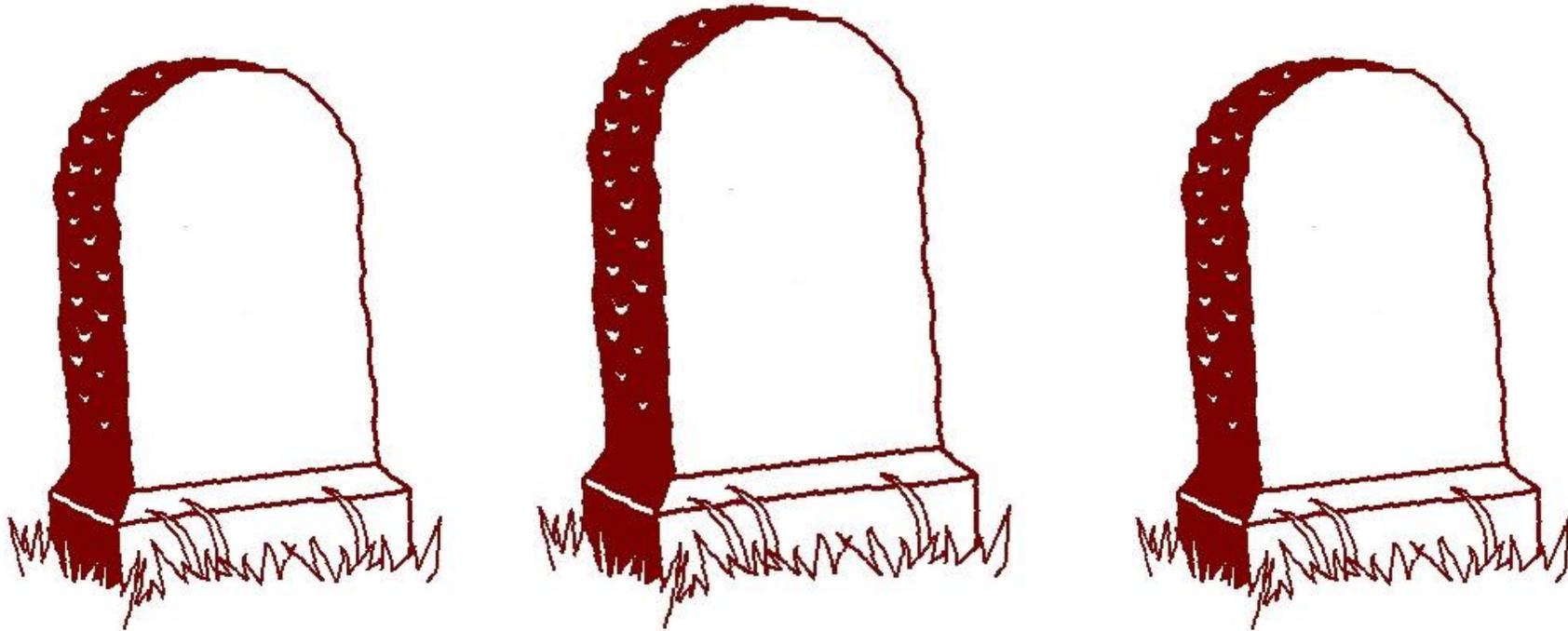
The **Law** is also the **declaration** that we are **incapable** of being what we need to be. The law shows that we are sinful, separated from God and unable to meet the standard.

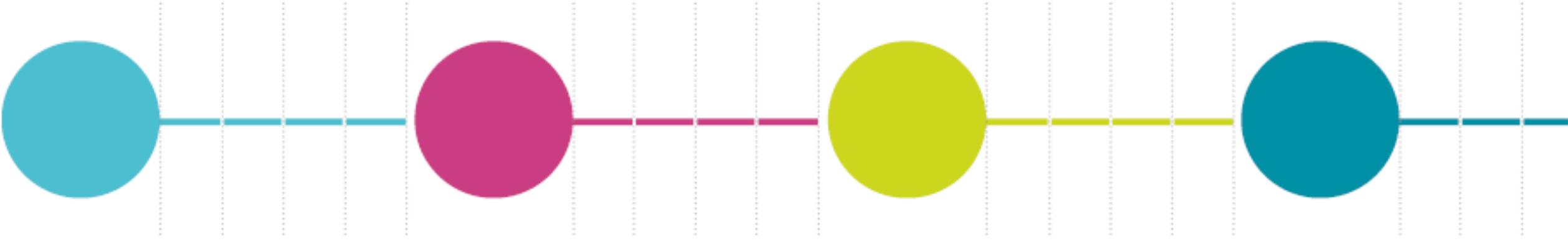


The **Law demonstrates** that we are utterly and entirely **unable** in our own strength, power, wisdom and goodness to meet the standard and escape the punishment.

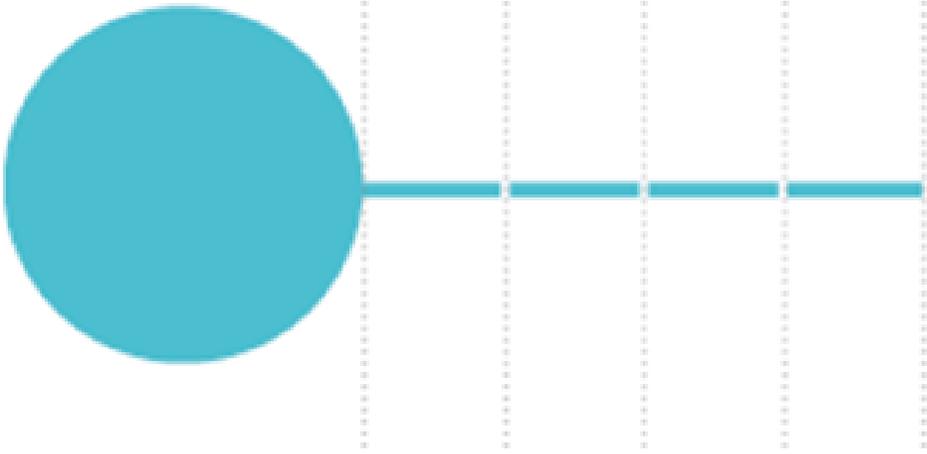


The **Law** shows that the penalty for failing to meet the righteous and holy demands of God is the punishment of physical, spiritual & eternal *death*.





The chronology & purpose of the Law in the Old Testament!



Who is God?

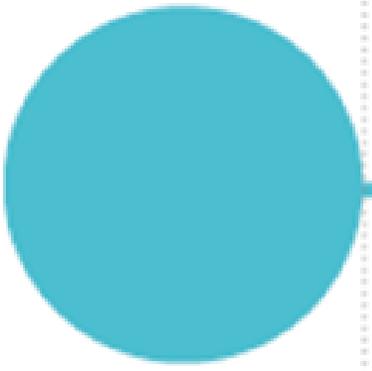
Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me,

‘What is his name?’

Then what shall I tell them?”

Exodus 3:13

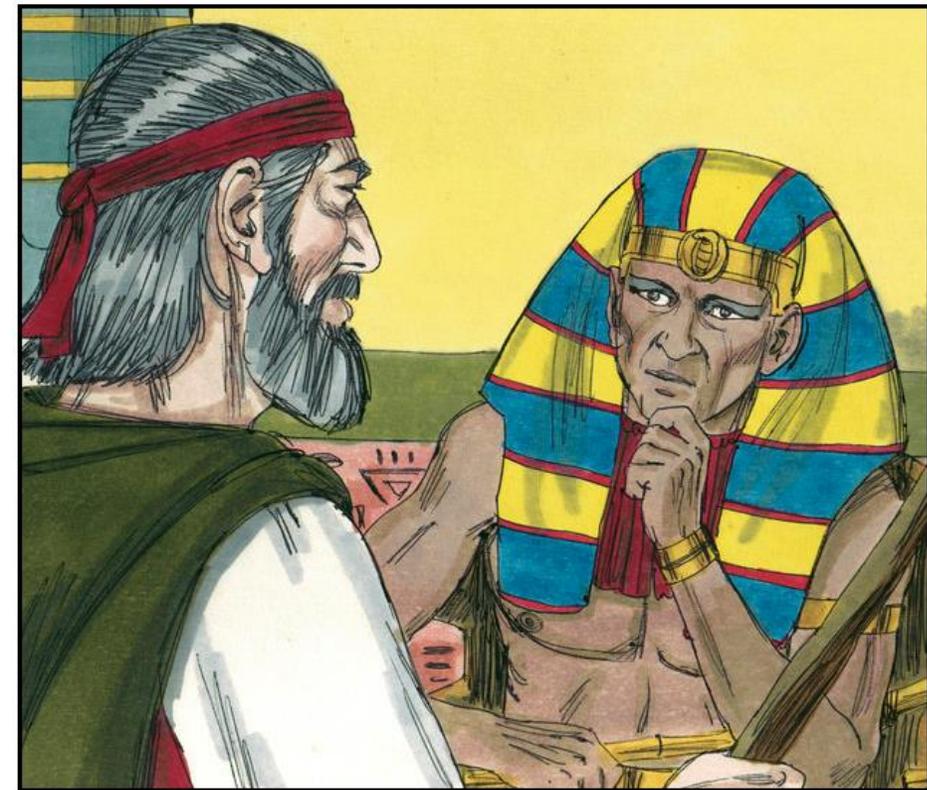


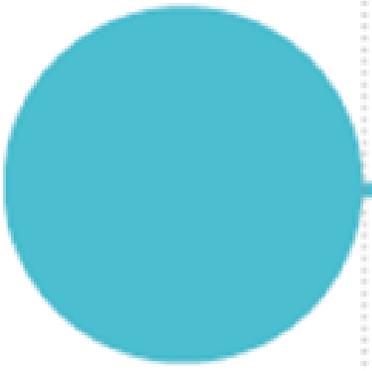


Who is God?

Pharaoh said,
“**Who is the LORD**, that I
should obey him and let Israel
go? **I do not know the LORD**
and I will not let Israel go.”

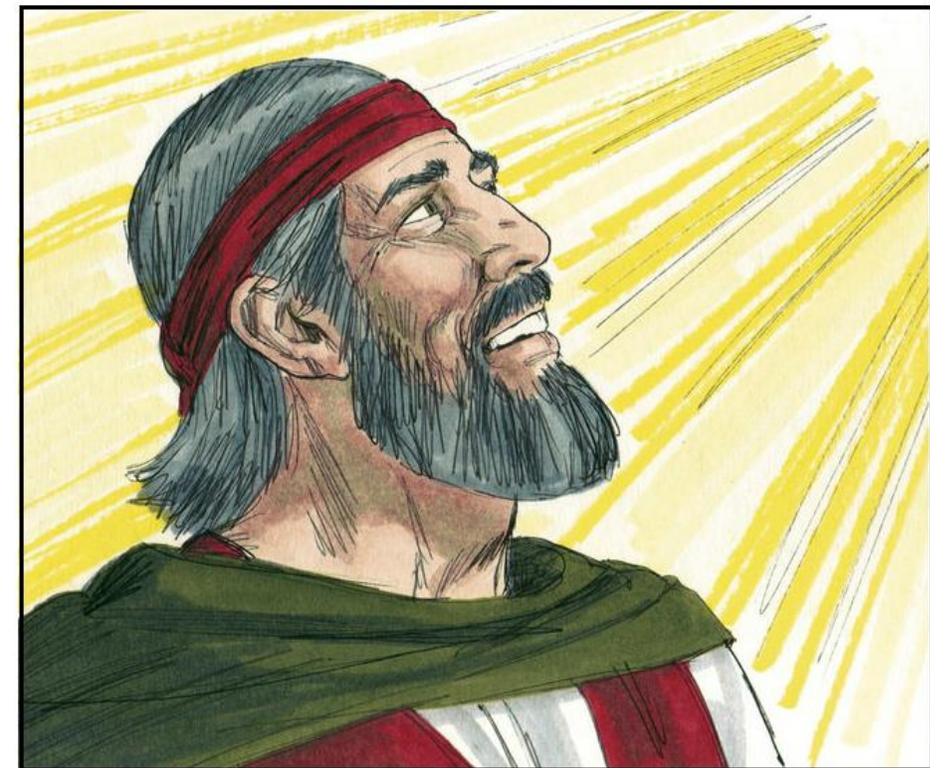
Exodus 5:2

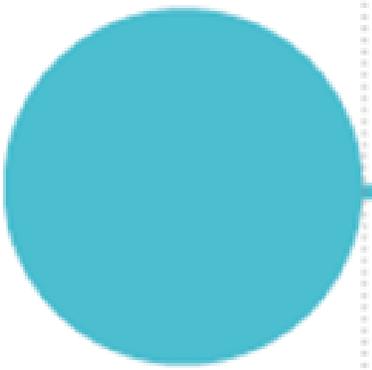




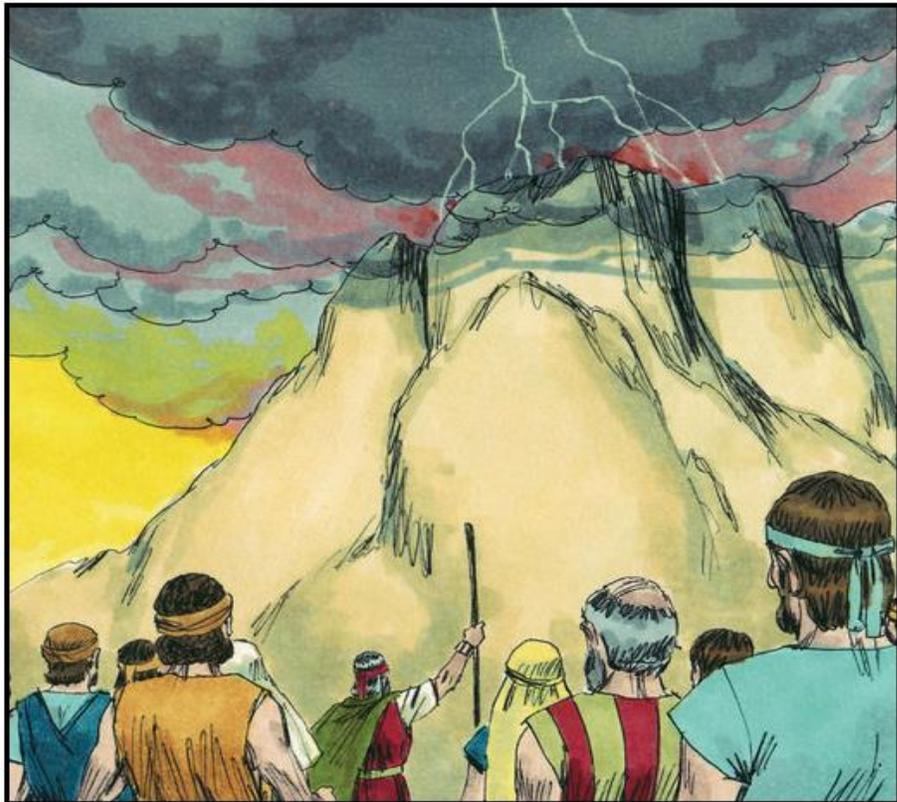
Who is God?

And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he will pursue them. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and **they will know that I am the LORD.**" Exodus 14:4

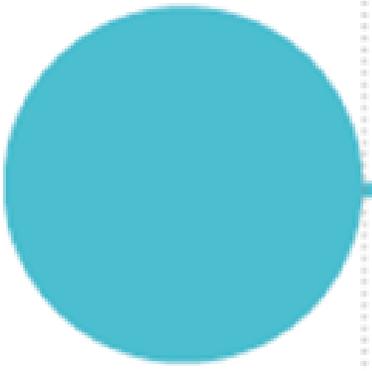




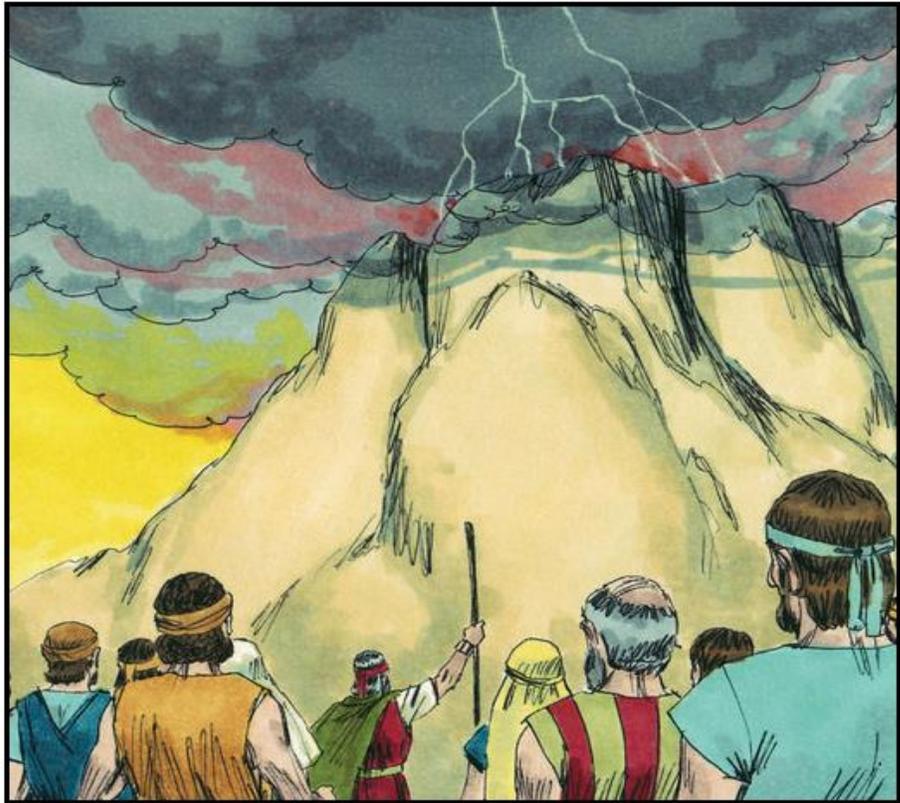
God is above all!



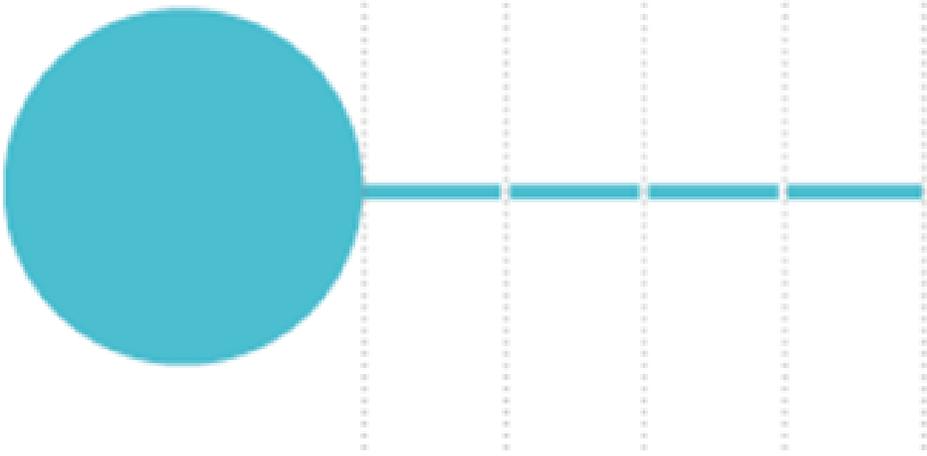
...on that day the LORD will
come down on top
Mount Sinai in the sight of
all the people. Exodus 19:11



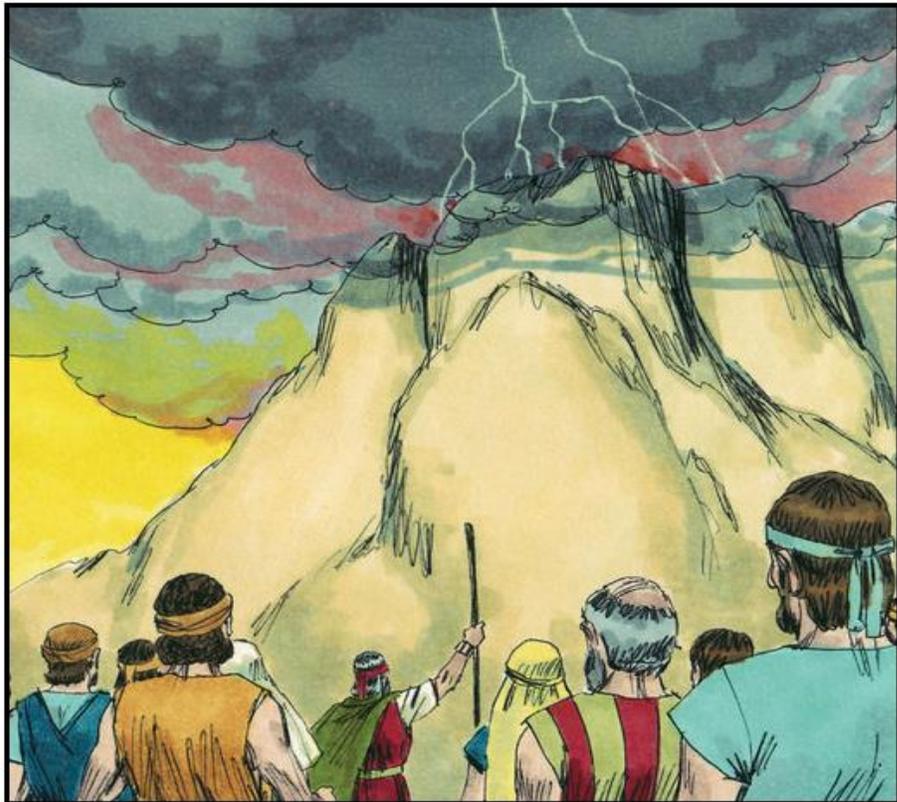
God is separate!



...the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. **Put limits for the people around the mountain** and tell them, ‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it...Exodus 19:11-12



God is Holy!

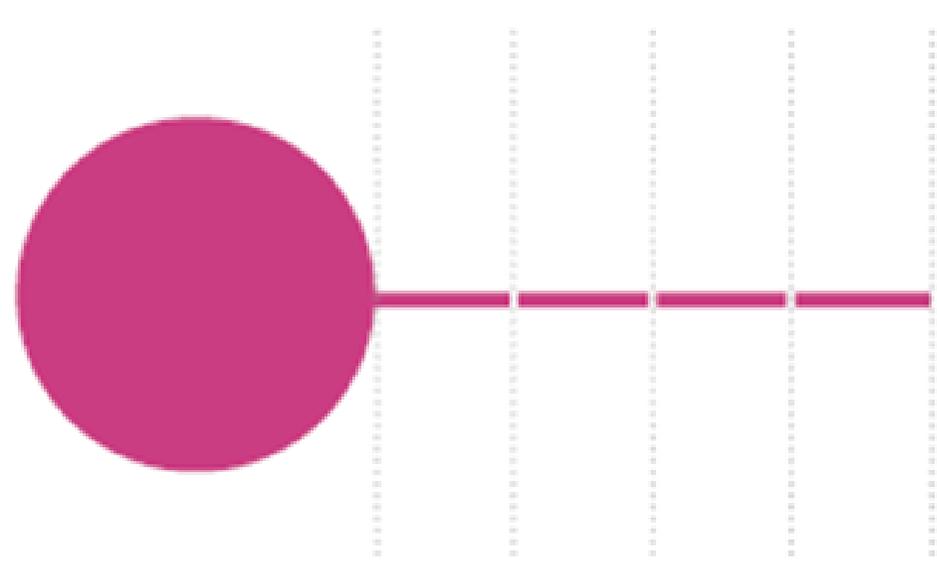
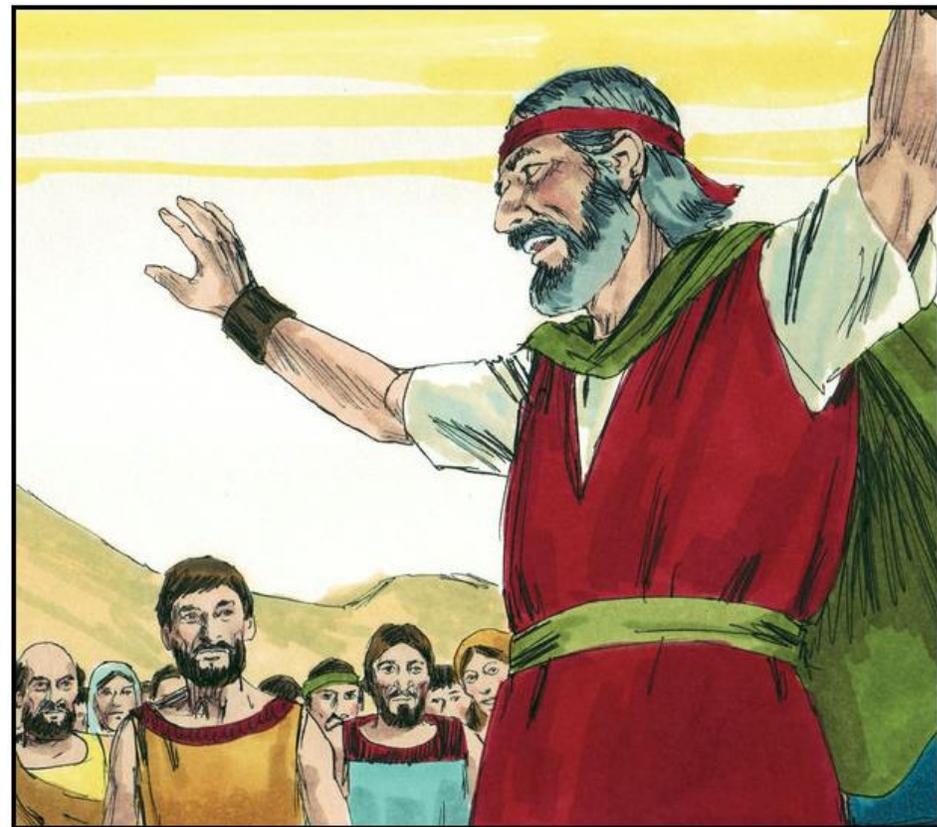


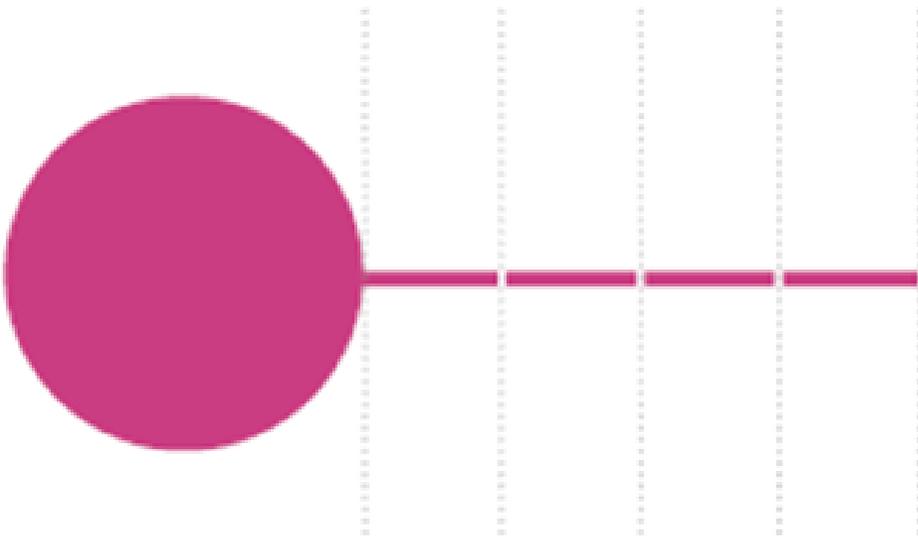
Moses said to the LORD, “The people cannot come up Mount Sinai, because you yourself warned us, ‘Put limits around the mountain and **set it apart as holy.**’” Exodus 19:23

What does God require?

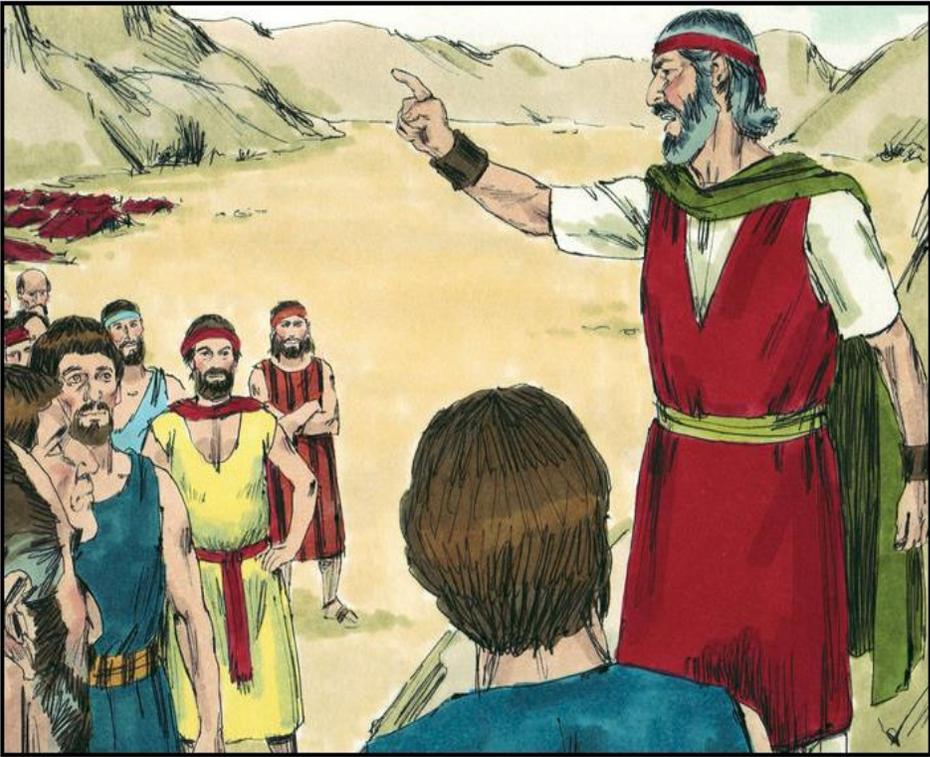
Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. **Now if you...**

Exodus 19:3





Full obedience!



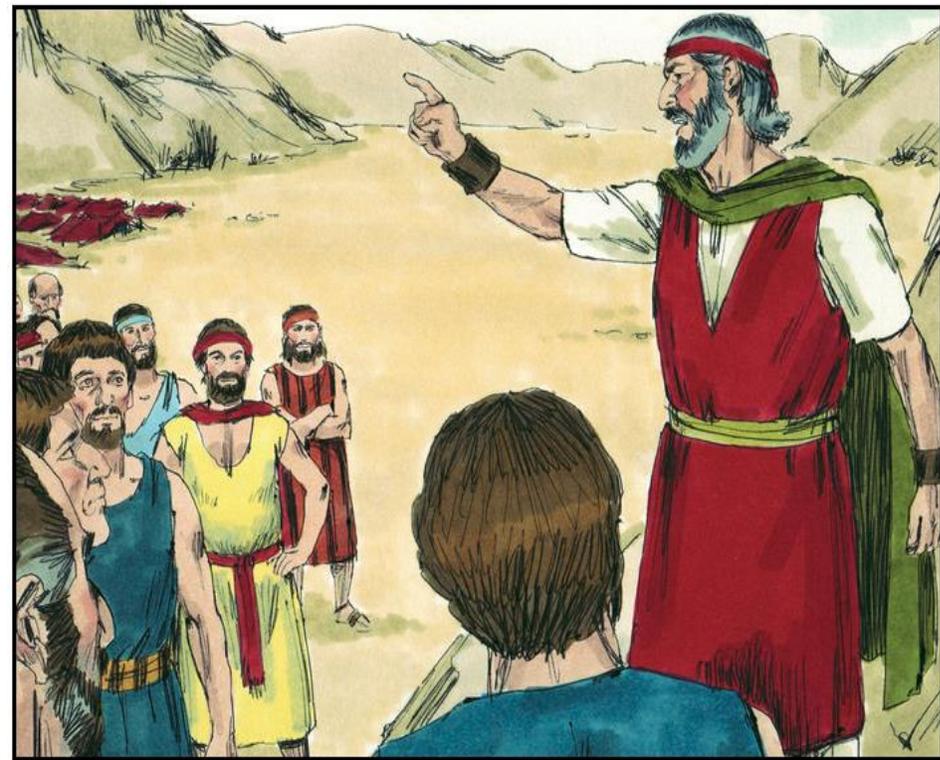
Now if you **obey me fully** and **keep my covenant**, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession.

Exodus 19:5, 8

Total holiness!

‘For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall **be holy, for I am holy.**’”

Leviticus 11:45



Moral perfection!

“You shall **not commit adultery**. You shall **not steal**. You shall not give **false testimony** against your neighbor. You shall **not covet** your neighbor’s house....”

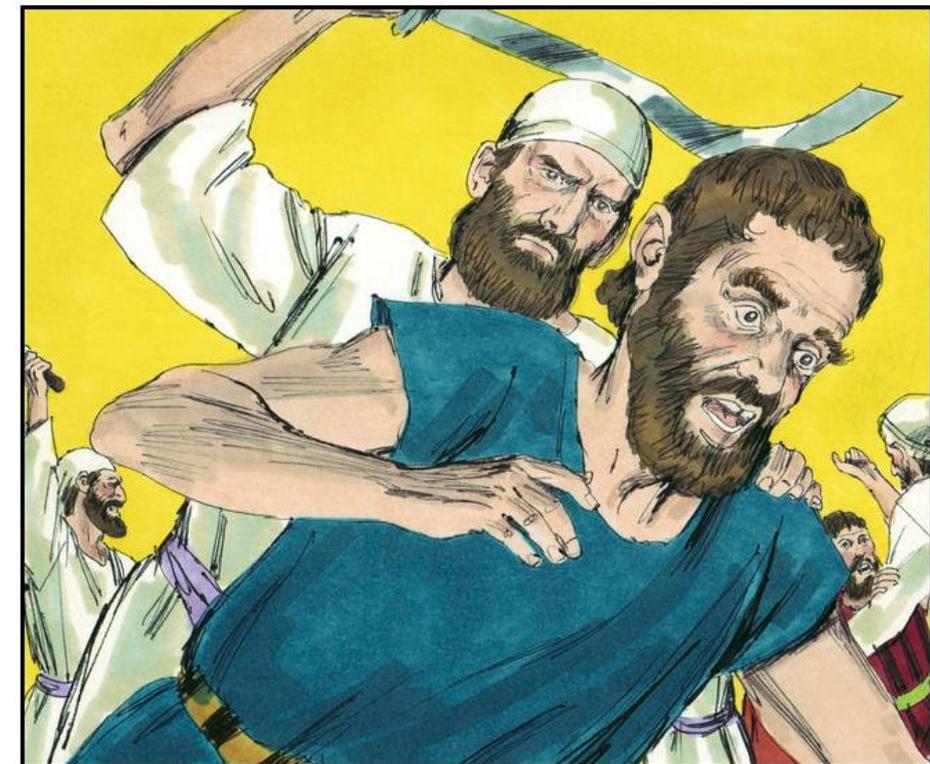
Exodus 20:14-17



What is the penalty?

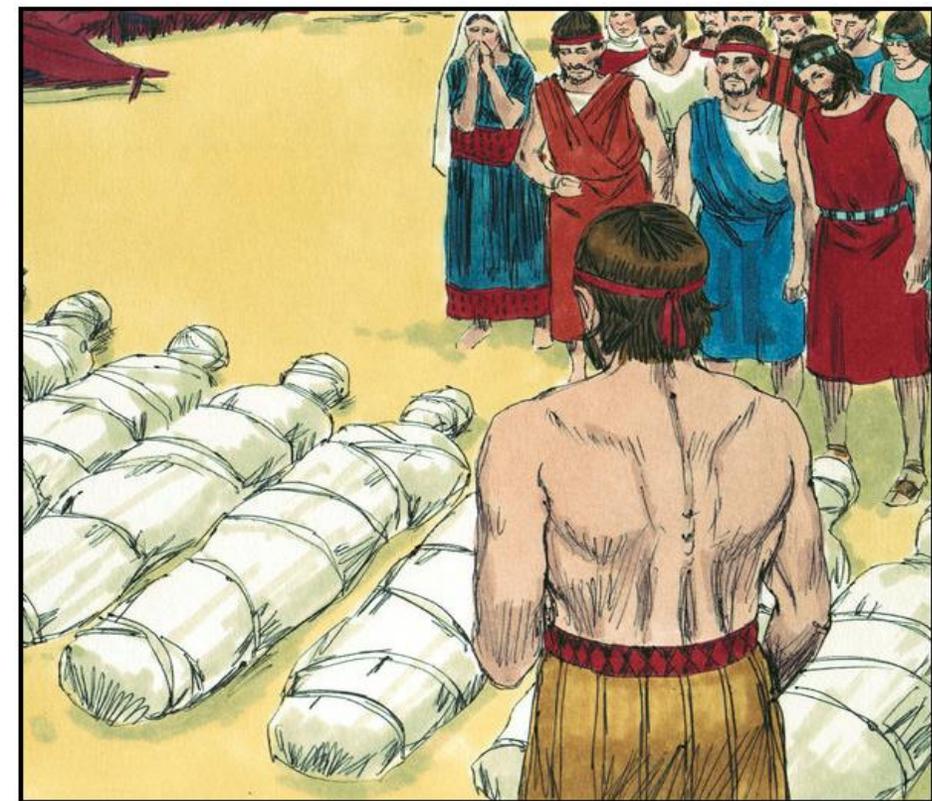
‘Be careful that you do not approach the mountain or touch the foot of it. Whoever touches the mountain is **to be put to death**. They are to be stoned or shot with arrows; not a hand is to be laid on them.

No person or animal **shall be permitted to live.**’ Exodus 19:12-13

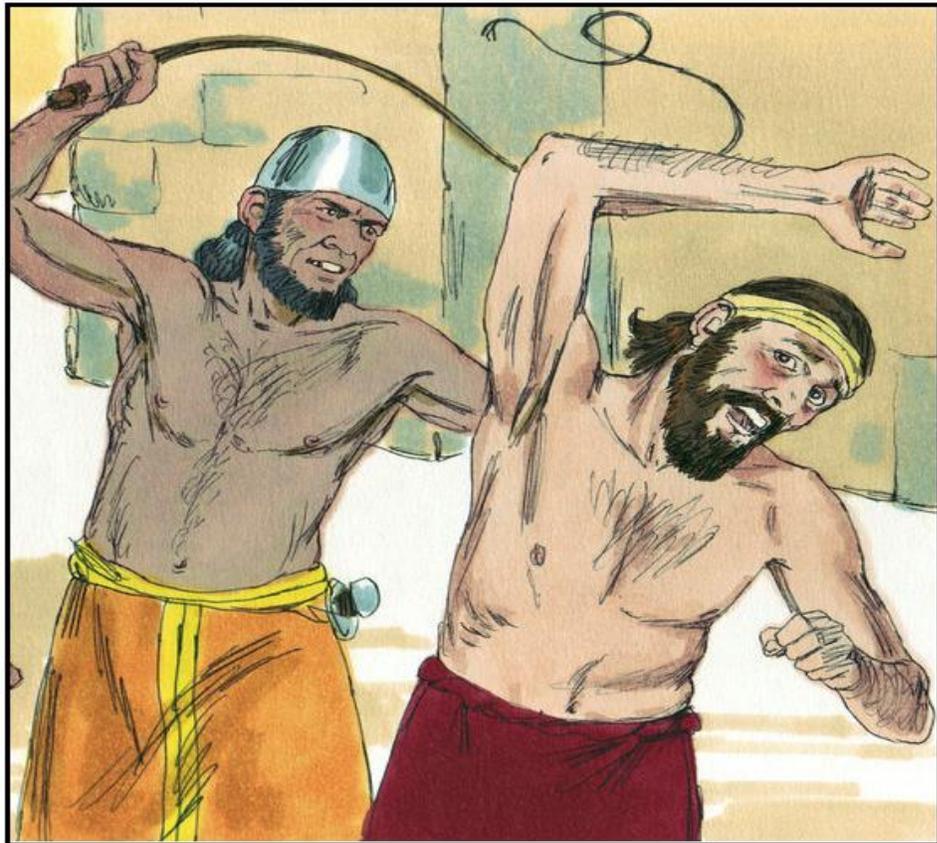


What is the penalty?

“Anyone who attacks their father or mother is **to be put to death**. Anyone who kidnaps someone is **to be put to death**, whether the victim has been sold or is still in the kidnapper’s possession. Anyone who curses their father or mother is **to be put to death**.” Exodus 21:15-17

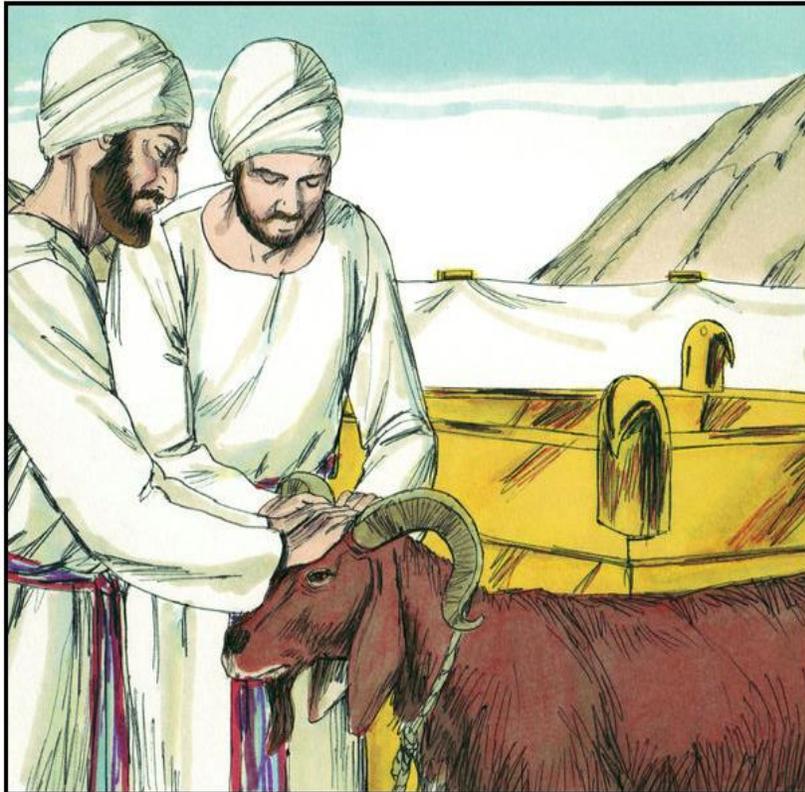


What is the penalty?



“...then it shall be if the wicked man **deserves to be beaten**, the judge shall then make him lie down and be beaten in his presence with **the number of stripes according to his guilt**. He may beat him **forty times but no more...**” Deuteronomy 25:2-3

What is the way of escape?

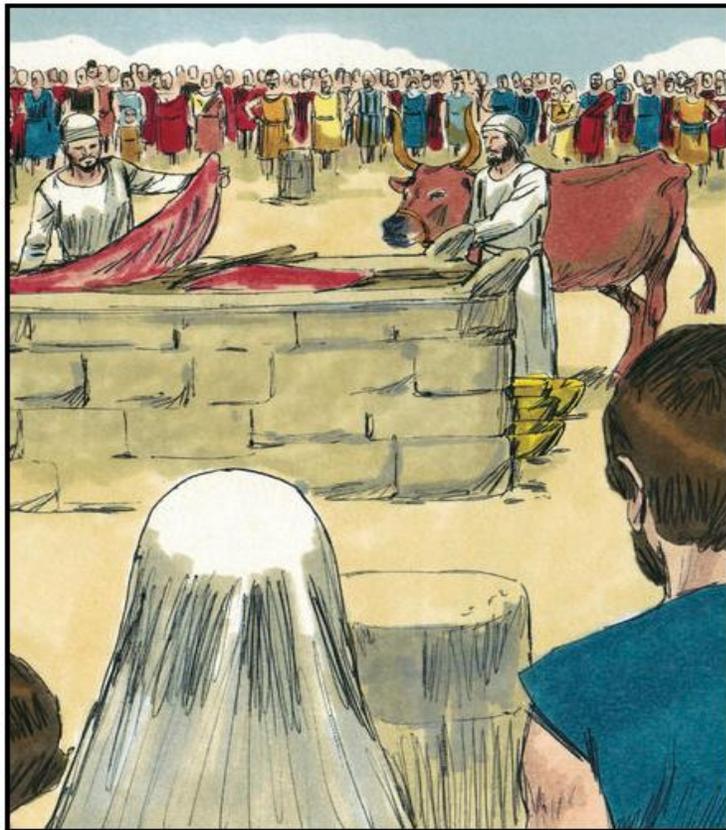


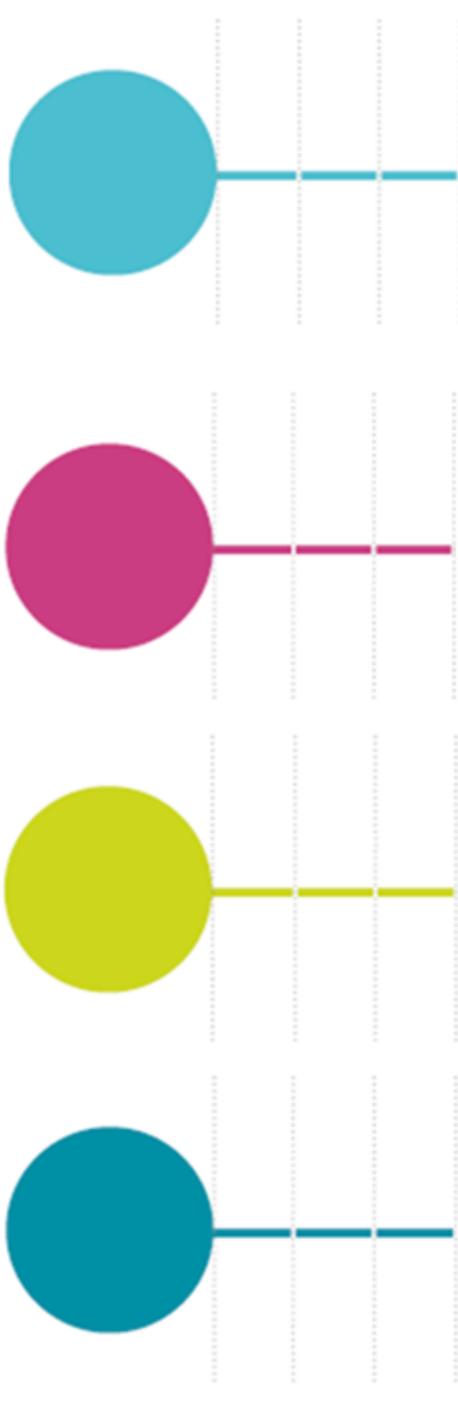
Aaron shall then **slaughter the goat for the sin** offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain...He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place **because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites**, whatever their sins have been.

Leviticus 16:15-16

What is the way of escape?

Then he shall come out to the altar...and make atonement...He shall **take some of the bull's blood and some of the goat's blood**...He shall **sprinkle some of the blood on the altar**...This is to be a lasting ordinance for you...on this day atonement will be made for you, to cleanse you. Then, before the LORD, you will be clean from all your sins. Lev 16:18-19, 29-30



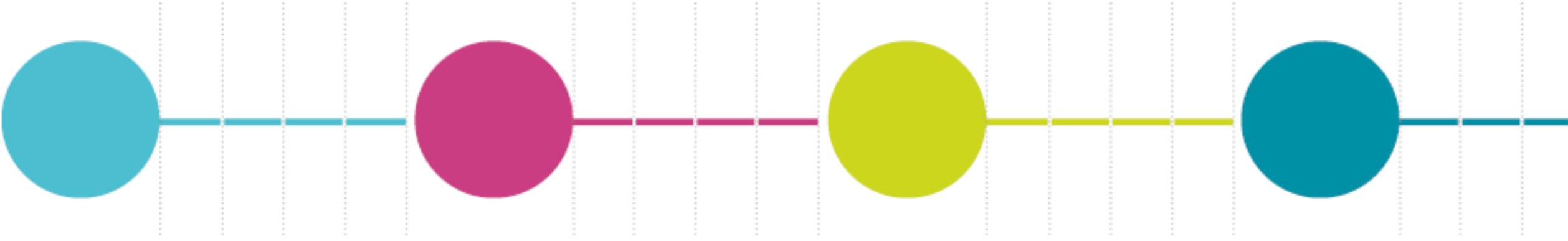


God is absolutely holy, separate, high & lifted up & utterly beyond us.

God requires total obedience & complete holiness in everything always.

The punishment for lacking total obedience & holiness is death.

The way of escape is an acceptable, substitutionary blood sacrifice.



**The basic purpose of the Law
in the New Testament!**

For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is **those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.** Romans 12:13

God requires total obedience & complete holiness in everything always, in regards to the law, if you are to be counted righteous.

For whoever keeps the whole law and **yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.**

James 2:10

God requires total obedience & complete holiness in everything always, and therefore breaking the law in one single tiny area means total guilt.

**Therefore no one will be declared righteous in
God's sight by the works of the law...**

Romans 3:20

**Since it is utterly impossible to be perfect, in
everything always...we can not obtain God's
standard of righteousness on our own.**

...through the law we become conscious of our sin.

I would not have known what sin was had it not been for the law. For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

Romans 3:20, 7:7

The law was not intended to help us try to be perfect...as if we could obtain it. It was given to show us (1) how truly sinful we are and (2) how we can never obtain it.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that **every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God.** Romans 3:19

The law was given to show everyone their sinfulness and silence every mouth that says “I am innocent”.

When Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law...**they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness,** and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them...Romans 2:14-16

In the end no one will be able to claim “I am innocent” or that “I did not know your law” because major parts of God’s righteous standard are written on our hearts.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. Romans 3:21-22

There is a way to have the righteousness of God, apart from the futility of trying to fulfill the law. This way is by being given the righteousness of Christ, through faith.

...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as **a sacrifice of atonement**, through **the shedding of his blood**—to be received by faith.

Romans 3:23-25

The way to be given the righteousness of God, is to believe that God put forward Christ as an acceptable, substitutionary blood sacrifice on our behalf.



summary

1

There are ***certains truths*** that an unbeliever must **hear, understand and believe** about **God-Man-Sin-Christ-Salvation** etc. in order to be able to have saving faith.



It appears that the *major truths* that someone must **hear, understand** and **believe** can be put in the categories of **God-Law-Gospel**.

3

It appears that the ***most significant truths*** that someone ***must know about God*** in order to understand the message of salvation is God as **Author, Authority, Righteous, Requirement, Judge & Justifier.**

4

People are not able to understand *how holy God is*, and *how we utterly fall short* of the righteous requirement of God without some *visible display of that standard...* which we are calling **the law.**

5

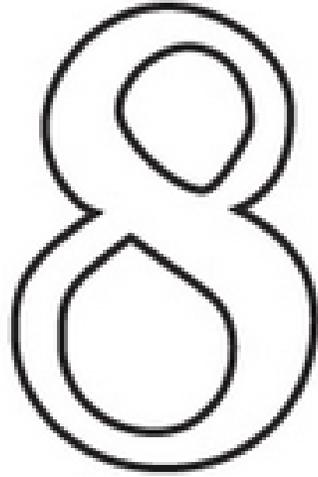
The law ***shows a small portion*** of (1) **who God is** & (2) **what God requires** in order to be counted as righteous & acceptable to him.

6

The law was ***not intended*** to help us become acceptable to God, because no one can obey it completely in everything always (which is what God demands).



The law shows us (1) ***how utterly sinful we are*** and (2) ***how totally incapable we are*** of being what we need to be in order to be acceptable to God.



The law proves that (1) ***we are all guilty*** and (2) ***all deserve the punishment*** for breaking the law, which is **physical, spiritual and eternal death.**

9

The law leads us to the end of ourselves and shows us that we are desperately lost and helpless to save ourselves. The law leaves us ***desperate for One who can meet the demands of the law.***

10

The law eventually shows us that ***there is One, (1) who has meet the righteous requirements*** of the law completely and has (2) ***paid the debt*** to God in full, via an acceptable, substitutionary blood sacrifice...and his name is Jesus!

**Next week want to
unpack the third part,
*Gospel.***