

# CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

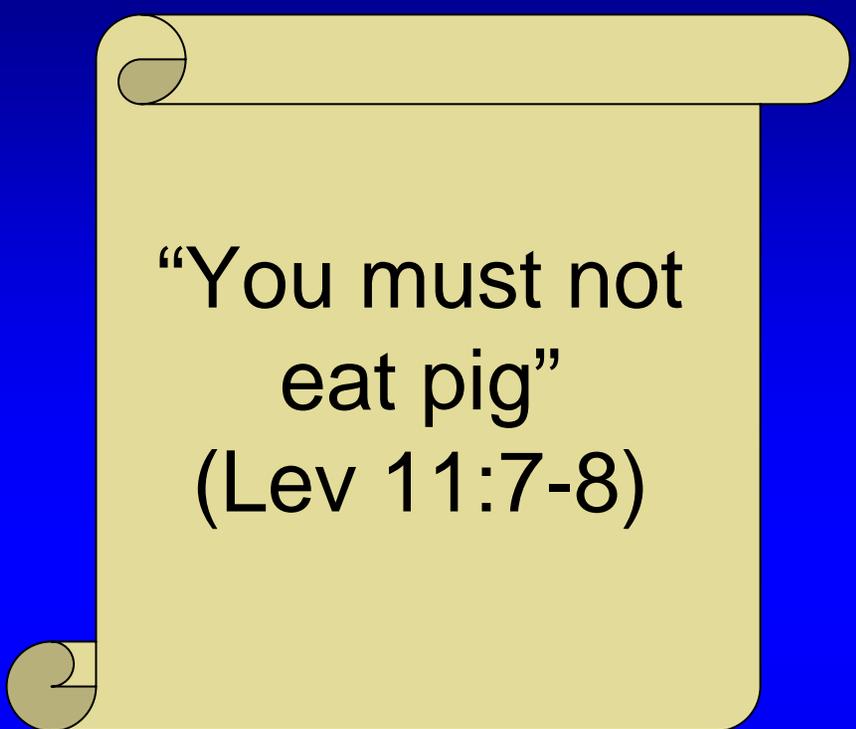
## Alexandria and Early Biblical Understanding

### Lesson 15

*Biblical-Literacy.com*

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“You must not  
eat pig”  
(Lev 11:7-8)



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“You must not  
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(Lev 11:7-8)

To Eat?



“You must not  
eat pig”  
(Lev 11:7-8)

To Eat?

Or Not to Eat?

# What to do with difficult passages?



# What to do with difficult passages?



**“Oh, That’s the Old Testament!”**

# What to do with difficult passages?



**“We know better than Paul!”**

# What to do with difficult passages?



**“That’s symbolic!”**

# What to do with difficult passages?



**“The Bible has its share of errors”**

# Consider creation



# Consider creation



Literally true?

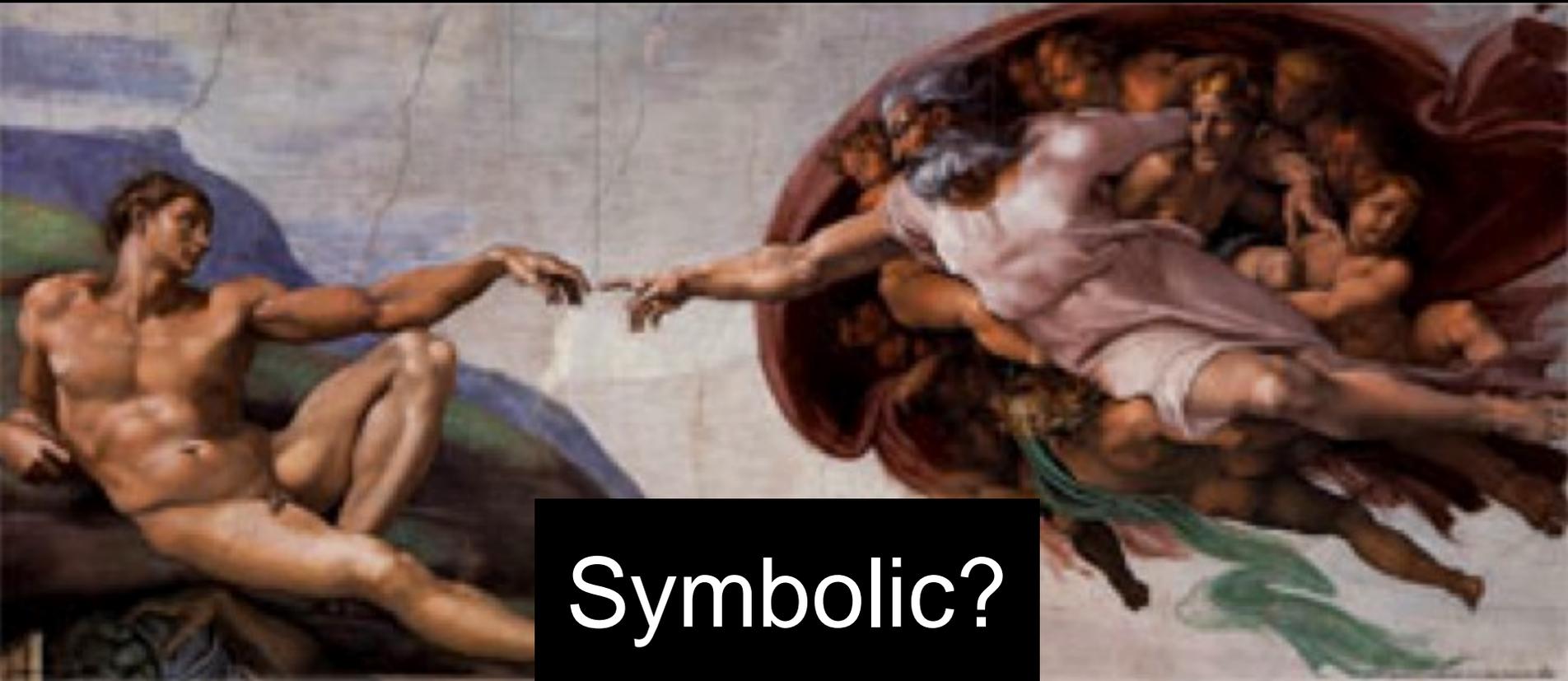
# Consider creation



Literally true?

Wrong?

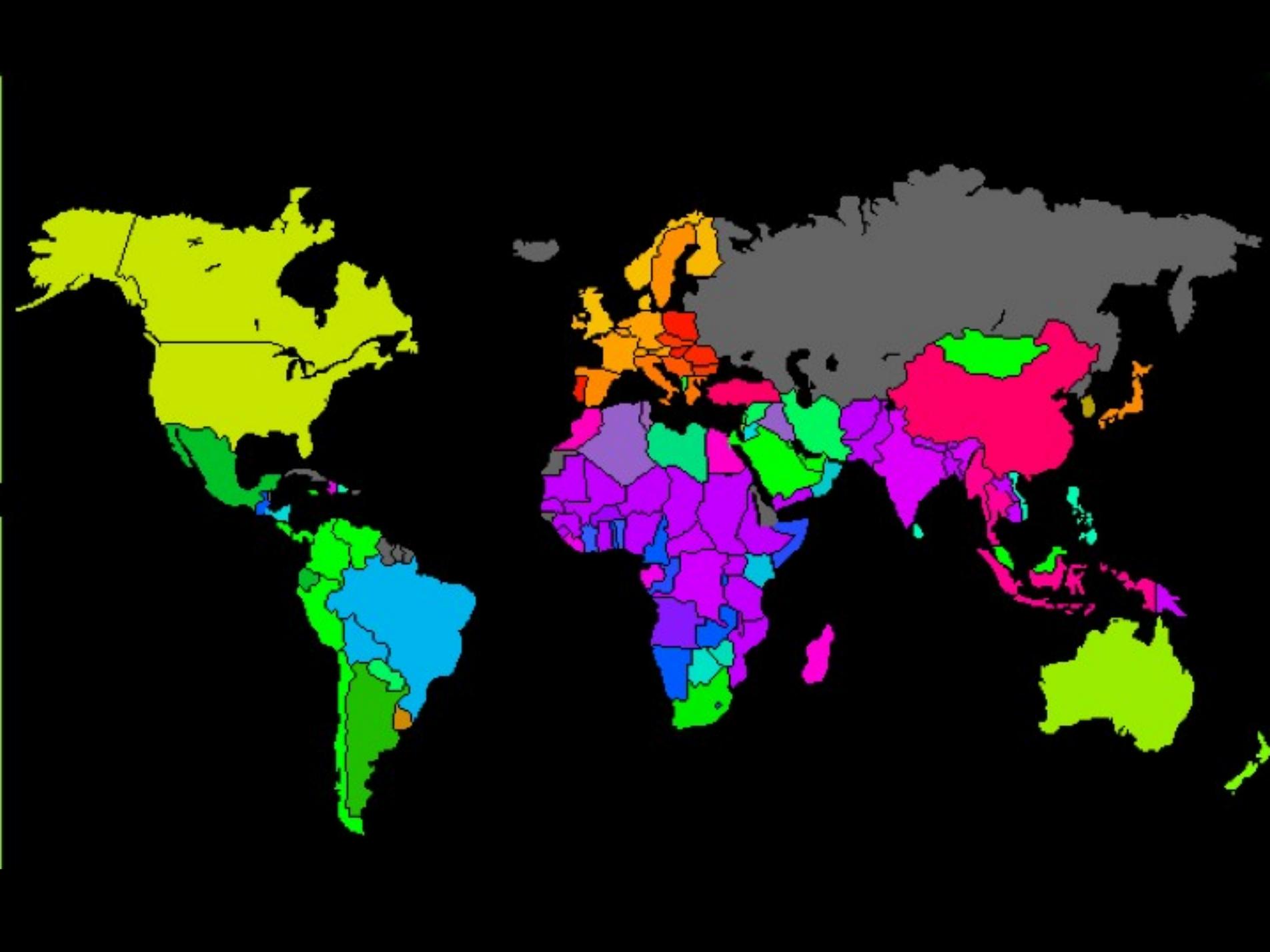
# Consider creation

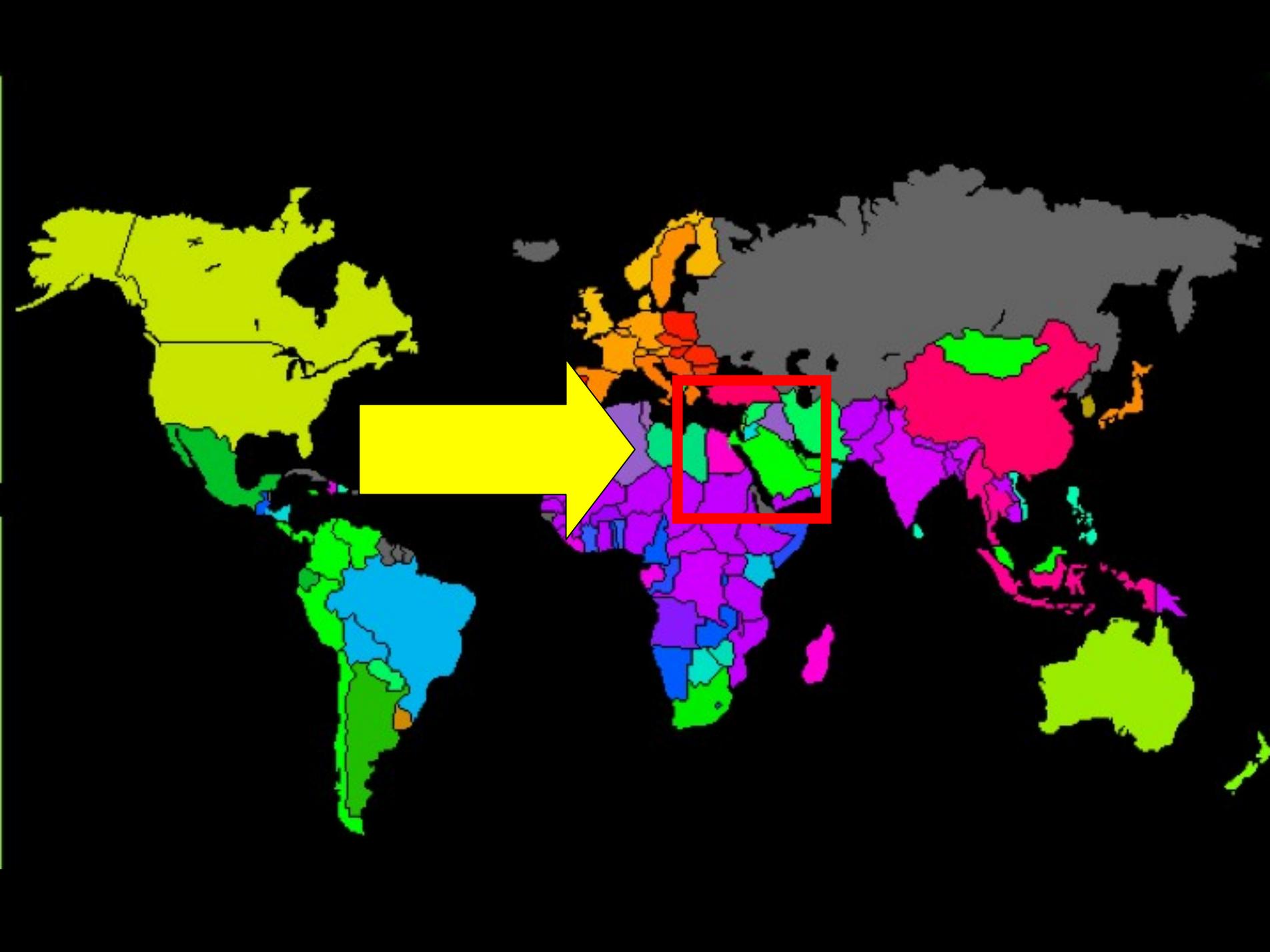


Symbolic?

Literally true?

Wrong?



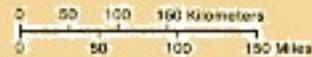






# Egypt

- International boundary
- ★ National capital
- Railroad
- Road



# Egypt

- International boundary
- ★ National capital
- Railroad
- Road

0 50 100 150 Kilometers  
0 50 100 150 Miles

**Alexandria!**





**Alexandria!**

**Alexandria's history**





**Alexandria!**

**Alexandria's history**

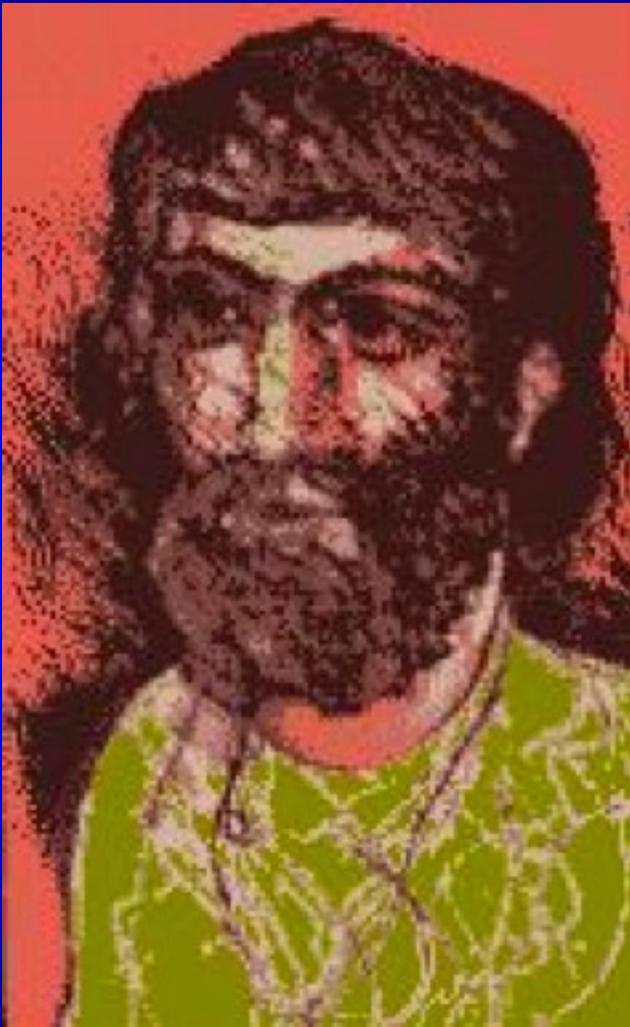
**The Epistle of Barnabas**



**Alexandria Catechetical School (Seminary!)**

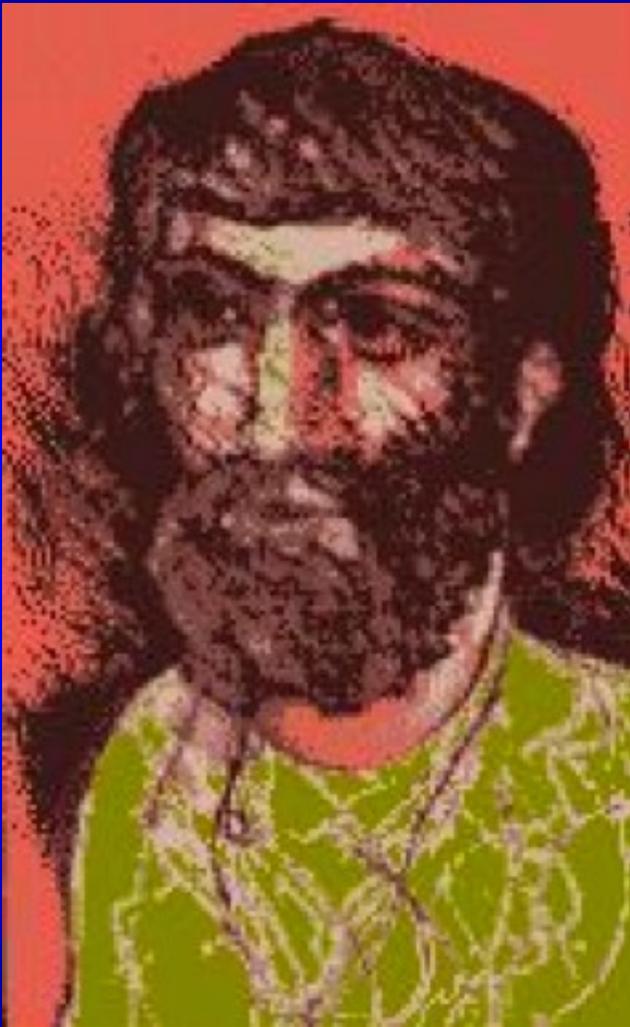






# Philo of Alexandria

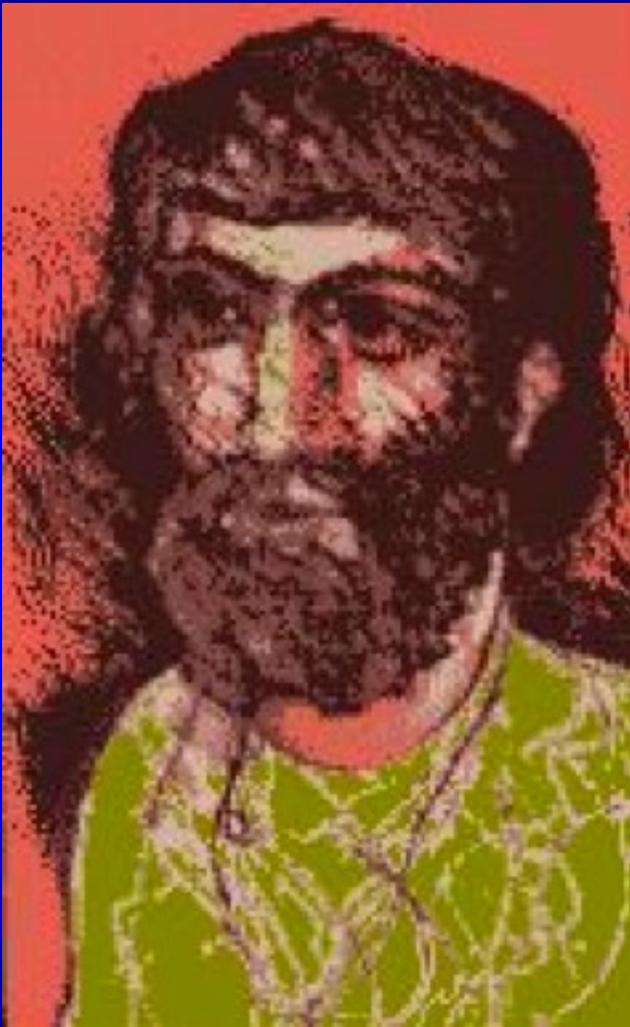
(15 B.C. - 50 A.D.)



# Philo of Alexandria

(15 B.C. - 50 A.D.)

Merging Old  
Testament with  
Greek  
Philosophy



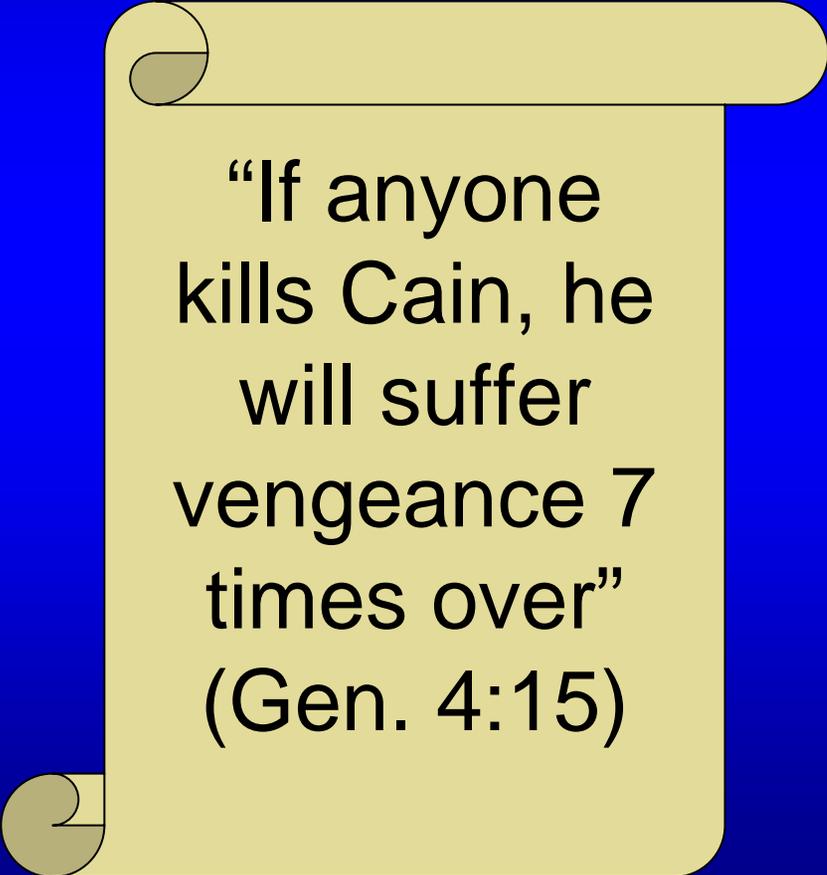
# Philo of Alexandria

(15 B.C. - 50 A.D.)

Read Old  
Testament as a  
collection of  
allegories

# Sample: Vengeance of Cain

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“If anyone  
kills Cain, he  
will suffer  
vengeance 7  
times over”  
(Gen. 4:15)

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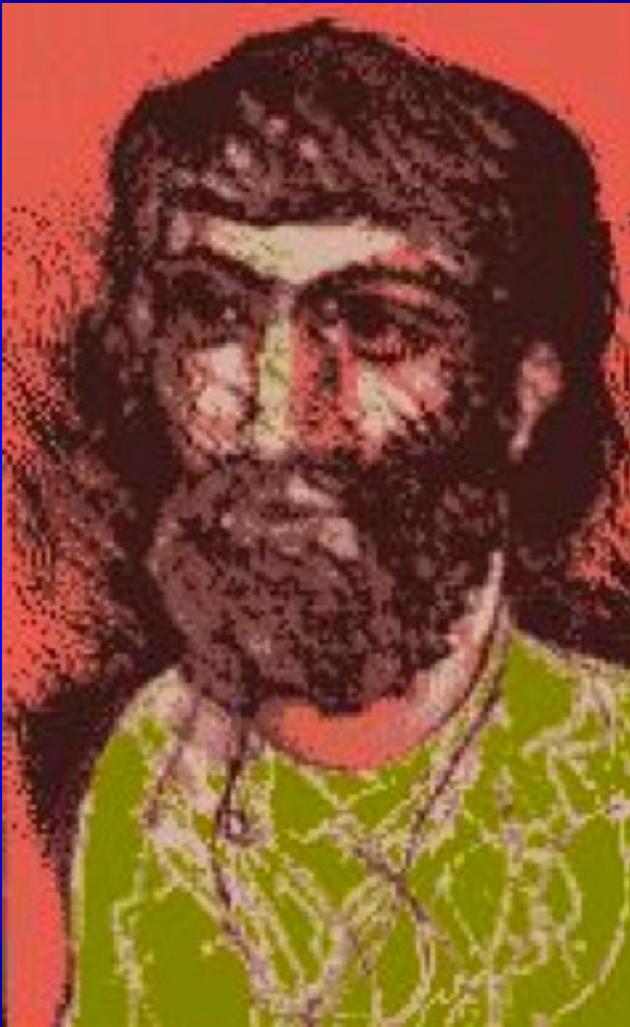
“Cain” = the mind

# Sample: Vengeance of Cain

“If anyone  
kills Cain, he  
will suffer  
vengeance 7  
times over”  
(Gen. 4:15)

“Cain” = the mind

“7” = 5 senses plus  
speaking and  
procreation

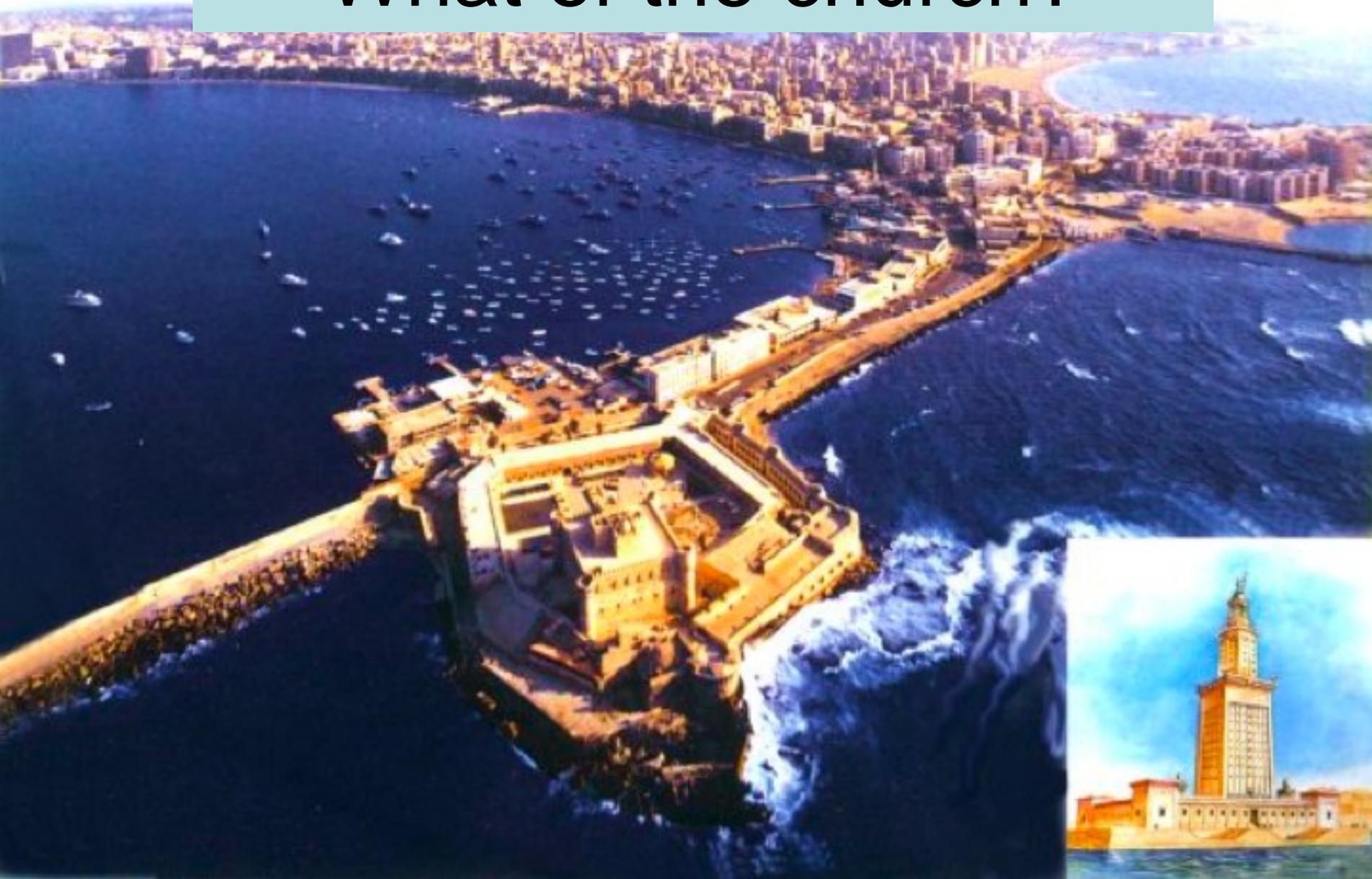


# Philo of Alexandria

(15 B.C. - 50 A.D.)

Interaction with  
Church

# What of the church?

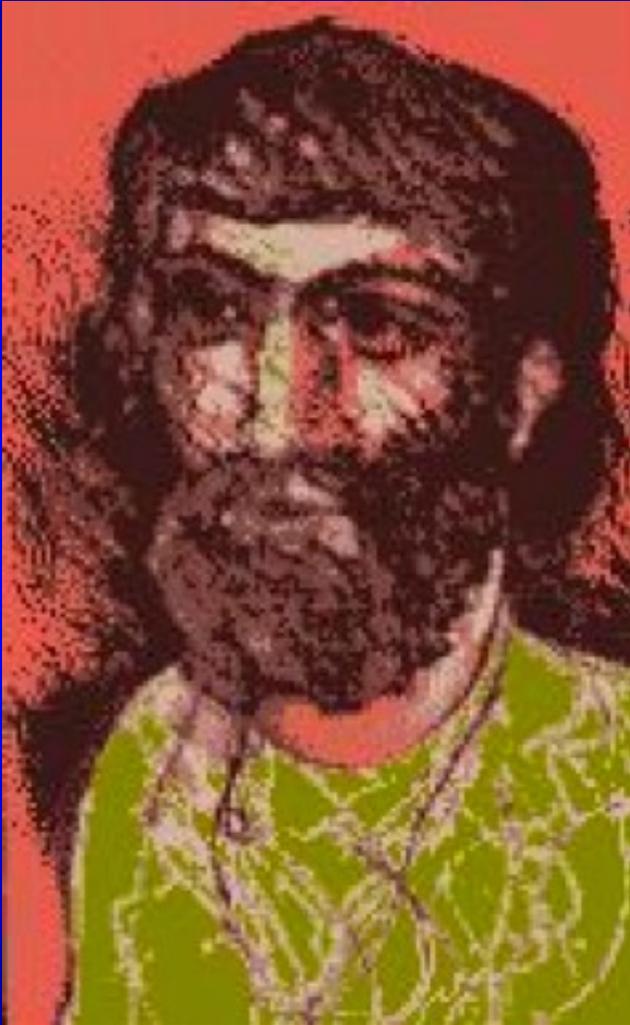


# What of the church?

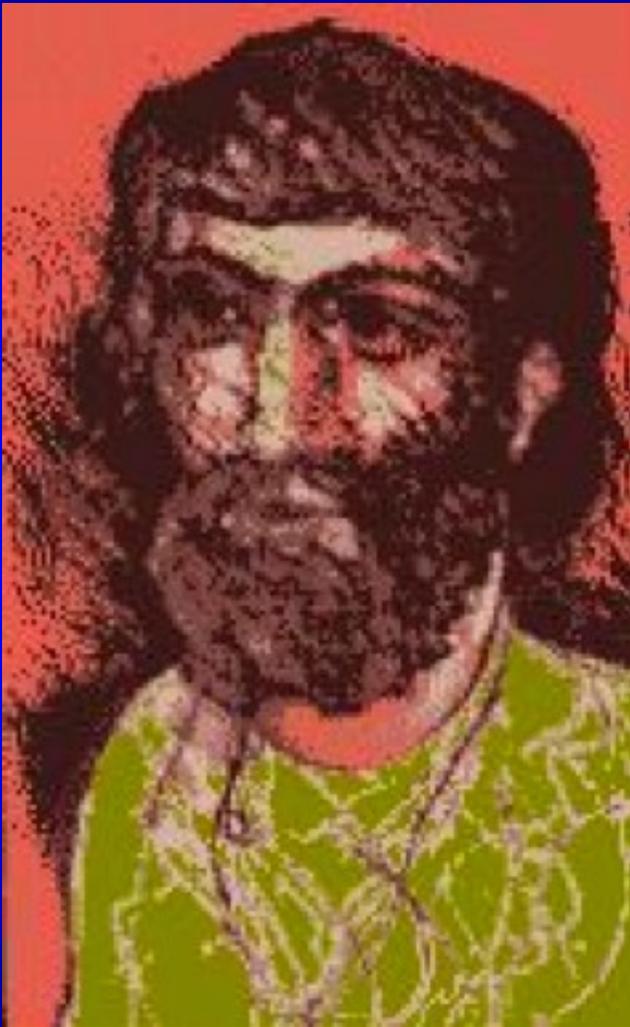
“Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

(Acts 18:24-25)

# The Epistle of Barnabas (70 - 79 A.D.)



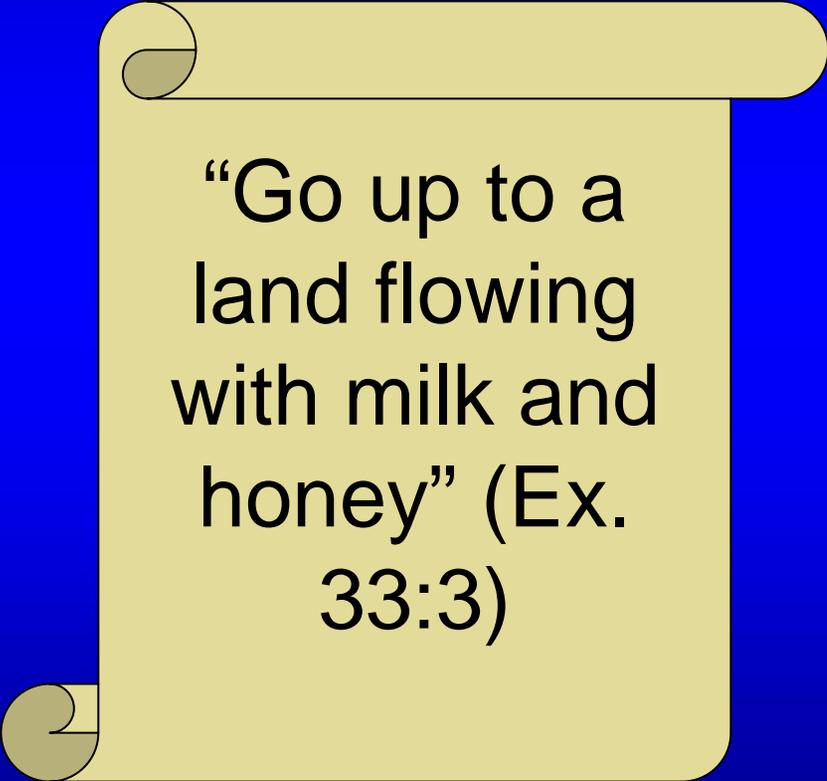
# The Epistle of Barnabas (70 - 79 A.D.)



Read Old  
Testament as a  
collection of  
allegories

# Sample: The Promised Land

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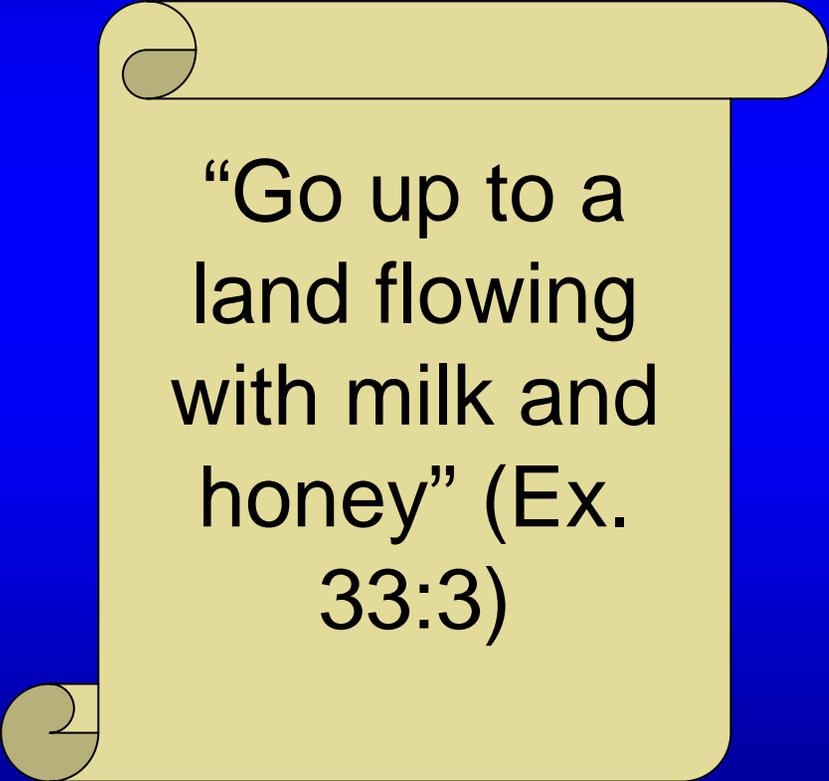
“Go up to a  
land flowing  
with milk and  
honey” (Ex.  
33:3)

# Sample: The Promised Land

“Go up to a  
land flowing  
with milk and  
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33:3)

Promised Land =  
Christians

# Sample: The Promised Land



“Go up to a  
land flowing  
with milk and  
honey” (Ex.  
33:3)

Promised Land =  
Christians

“Milk and honey” =  
Faith as food

# Sample: The Day of Atonement

# Sample: The Day of Atonement



Scapegoat  
process of  
*yom kippur*  
(Lev. 23)

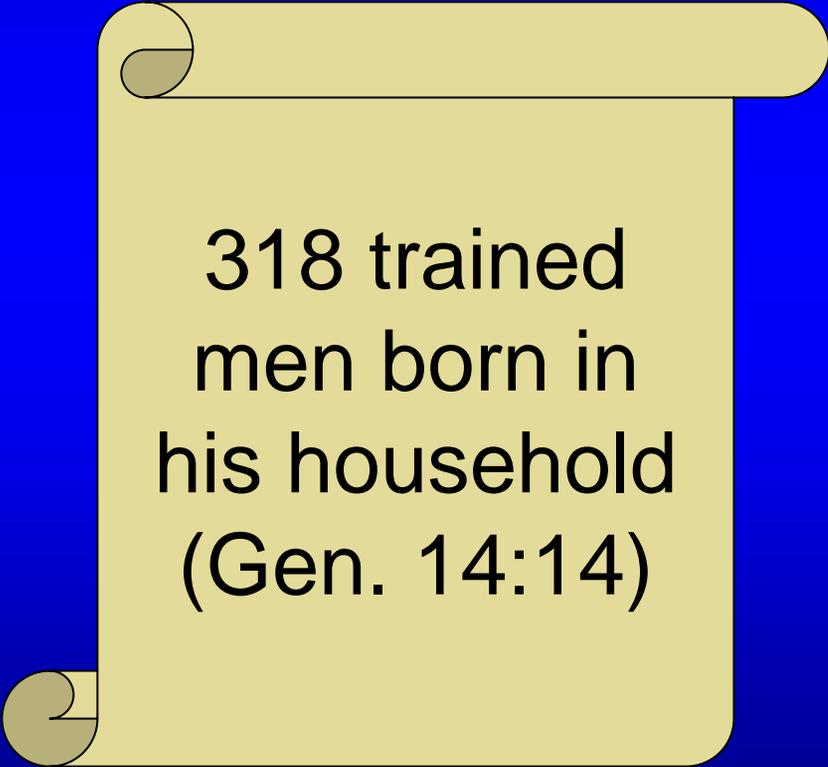
# Sample: The Day of Atonement

Scapegoat  
process of  
*yom kippur*  
(Lev. 23)

Jesus = Scapegoat

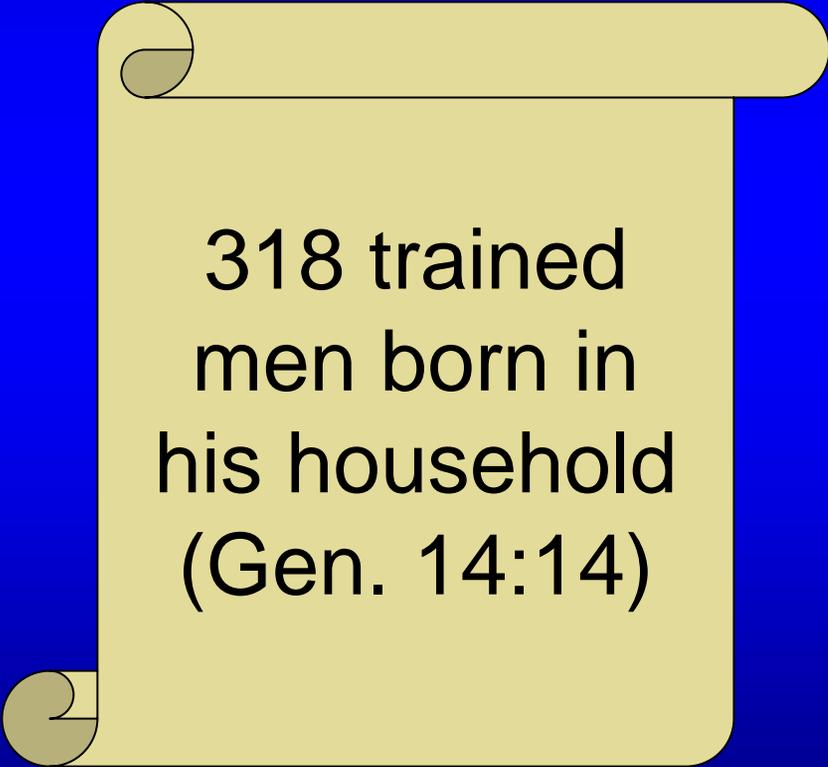
# Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

# Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household



318 trained  
men born in  
his household  
(Gen. 14:14)

# Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household



318 trained  
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“10 and 8 plus  
300”

# Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

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"10 and 8 plus  
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"10" = "I"  
(our "J")

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"8" = "H"  
(our "E")

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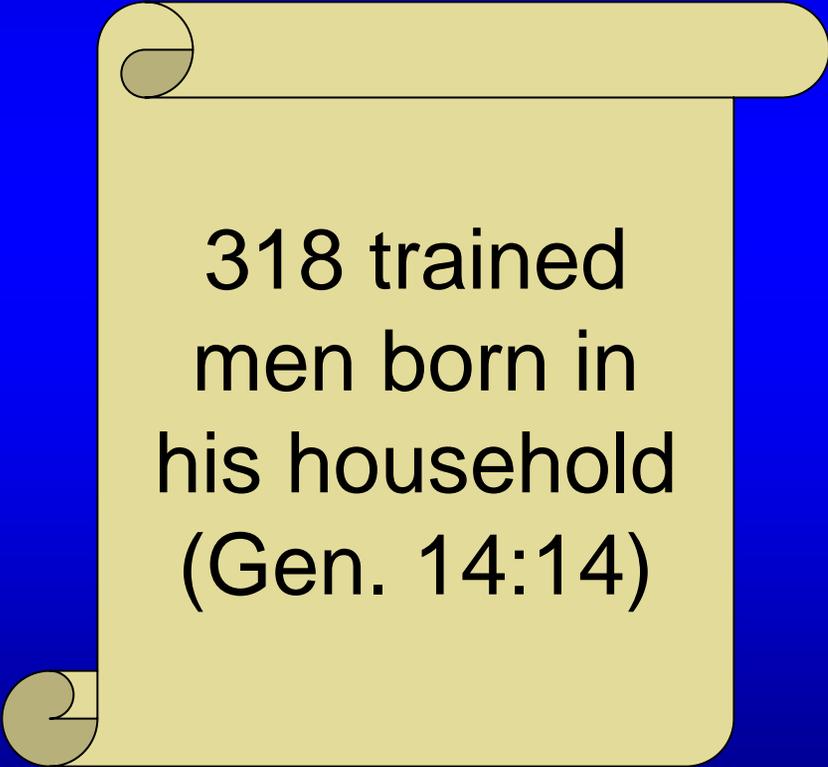
"10 and 8 plus  
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"10" = "I"  
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"Je" = Jesus

# Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household



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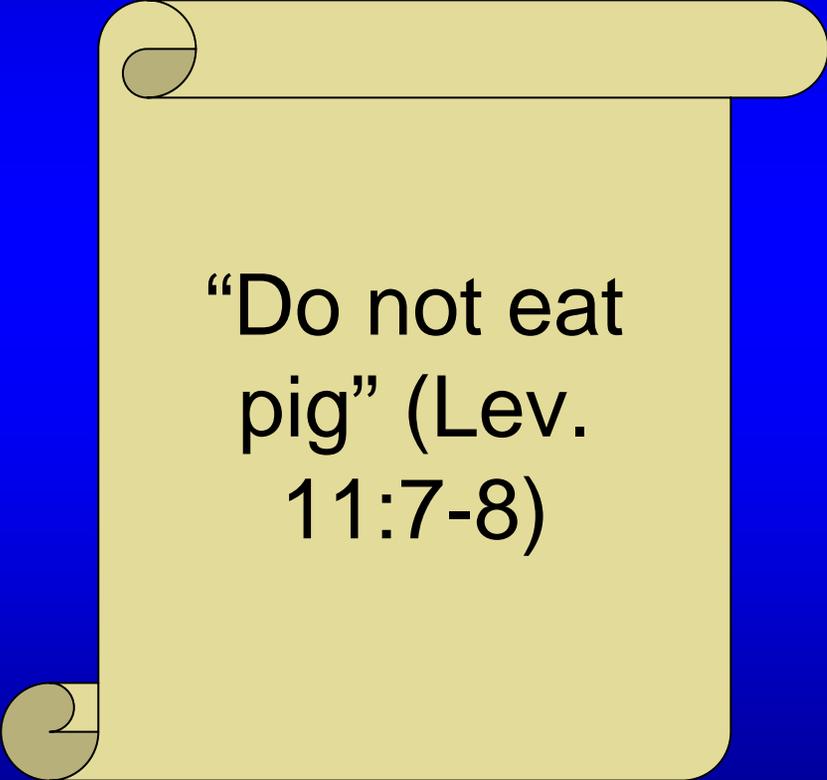
“10 and 8 plus  
300”

“Je” = Jesus

“300” = T

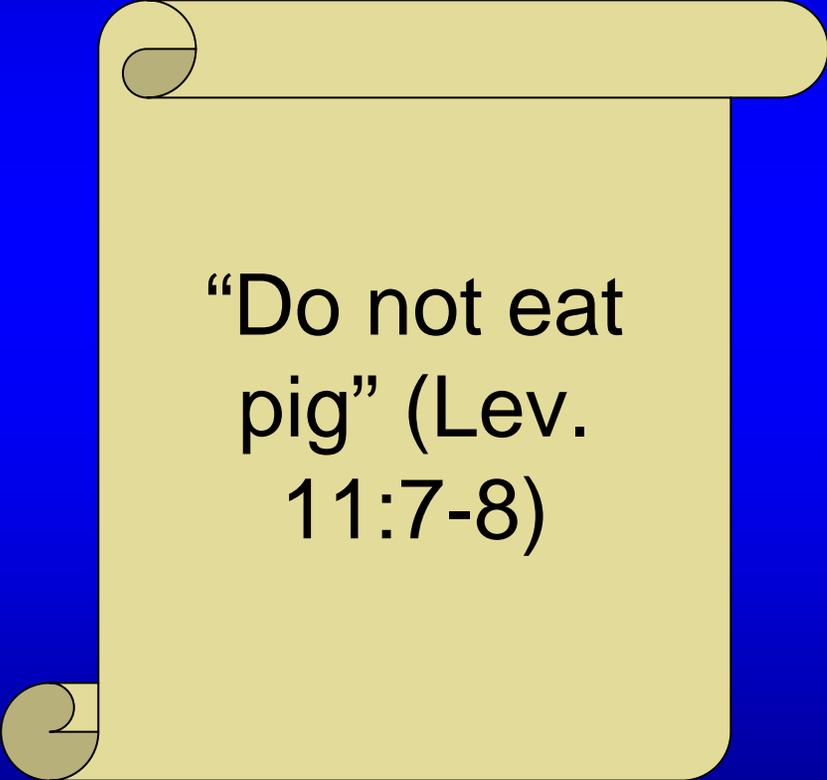
# Sample: Dietary Laws

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“Do not eat  
pig” (Lev.  
11:7-8)

# Sample: Dietary Laws



“Do not eat  
pig” (Lev.  
11:7-8)

“Moses spoke  
spiritually”

Consider the promises to  
Israel

# Consider the promises to Israel



Multiple  
promises to  
Israel

# Consider the promises to Israel



Multiple  
promises to  
Israel



“Replacement  
theology” : The  
church is the real  
Israel

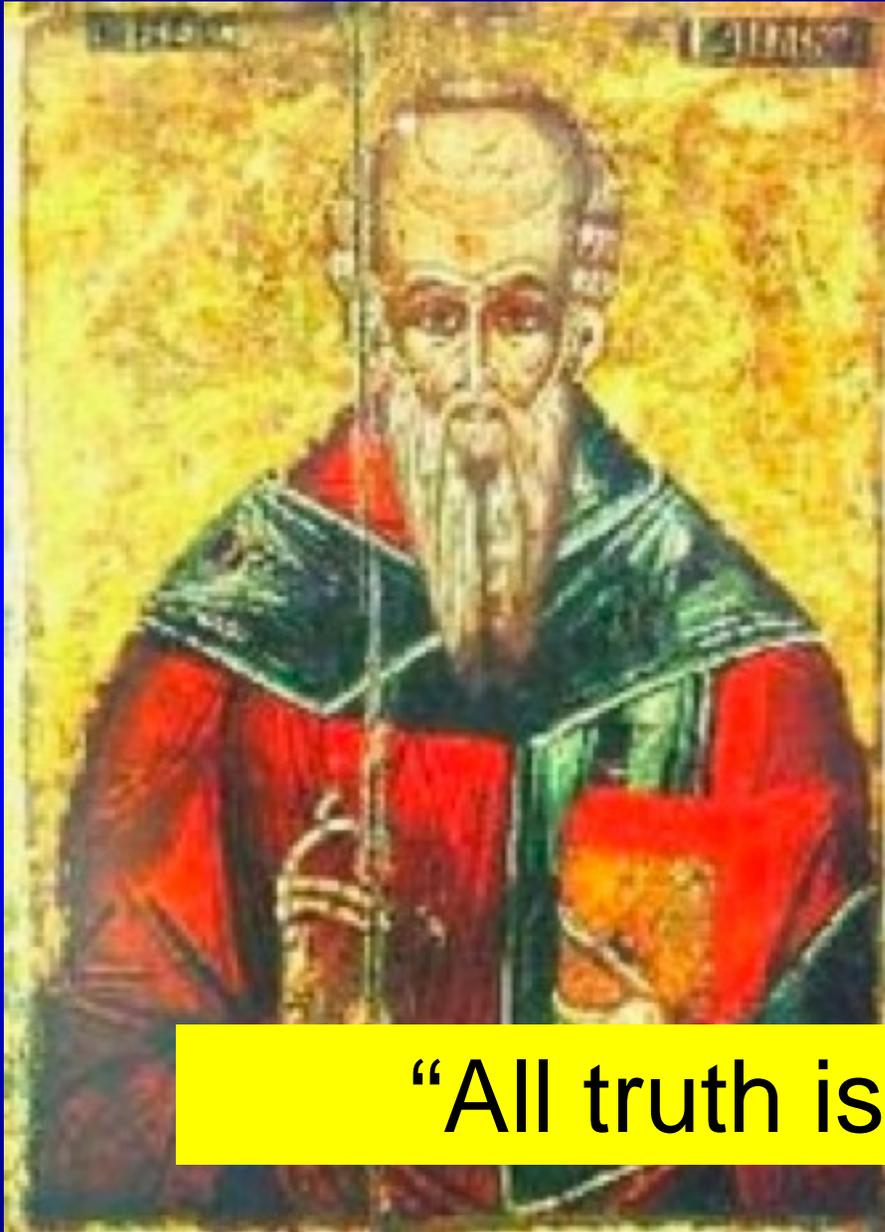


Clement of  
Alexandria



# Clement of Alexandria

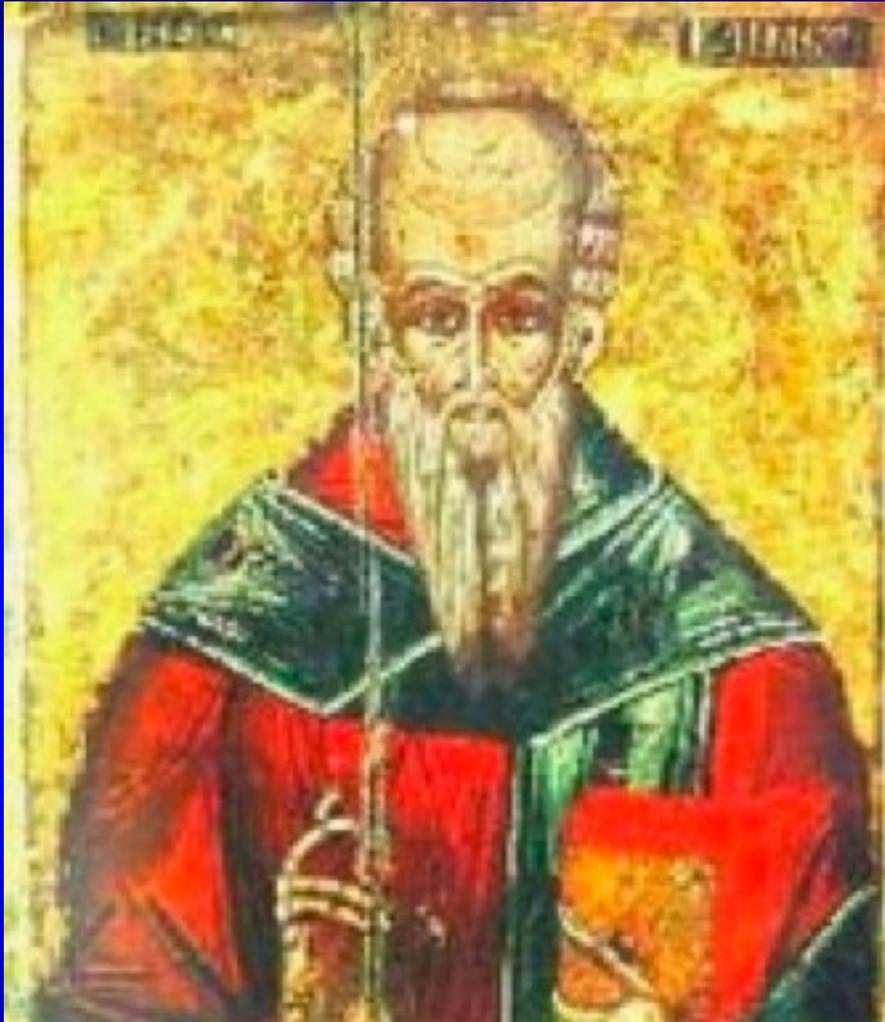
Seminary head  
200 A.D.



# Clement of Alexandria

Seminary head  
200 A.D.

“All truth is God’s truth”



# Clement of Alexandria

Seminary head  
200 A.D.

Interpreted Old Testament scriptures  
consistent with philosophy



# Origen of Alexandria



# Origen of Alexandria

185 - 254



# Origen of Alexandria

185 - 254

Incredible Life



# Origen of Alexandria

185 - 254

Incredible Life



# Origen of Alexandria

3 layers of  
scripture



# Origen of Alexandria

3 layers of  
scripture

1: Body = Literal



# Origen of Alexandria

3 layers of  
scripture

2: Soul = Moral/ethical



# Origen of Alexandria

3 layers of  
scripture

3: Spirit = Christ /  
relationship to God

Sample: Midwives and homes

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“Because the  
mid-wives  
feared God,  
they made  
houses for  
themselves”  
(Ex. 1:21)

# Sample: Midwives and homes

“Because the  
mid-wives  
feared God,  
they made  
houses for  
themselves”  
(Ex. 1:21)

“Midwives” =  
Christians

# Sample: Midwives and homes

“Because the mid-wives feared God, they made houses for themselves”  
(Ex. 1:21)

“Midwives” =  
Christians

“houses” =  
churches / houses  
of prayer

# Sample: Midwives and homes

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(Ex. 1:21)

# Sample: Midwives and homes

“Because the  
mid-wives  
feared God,  
they made  
houses for  
themselves”  
(Ex. 1:21)

“Because the  
mid-wives  
feared God,  
he gave them  
families for  
their own”  
(Ex. 1:21)

# The dicey issue

# The dicey issue

Certain things  
are clear



The dicey  
issue

Certain things  
are clear

The dicey  
issue

Others are not

“If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized for them?” (1 Cor. 15:29)

The dicey  
issue

Others are not

So what do we do?

So what do we do?

A/k/a Points for home!

# So what do we do?

## A/k/a Points for home!

- Study to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)

# So what do we do?

## A/k/a Points for home!

- Study to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Study sensibly!

# So what do we do?

## A/k/a Points for home!

- Study to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15)
- Study sensibly!
- Study in faith.