

CHURCH HISTORY LITERACY

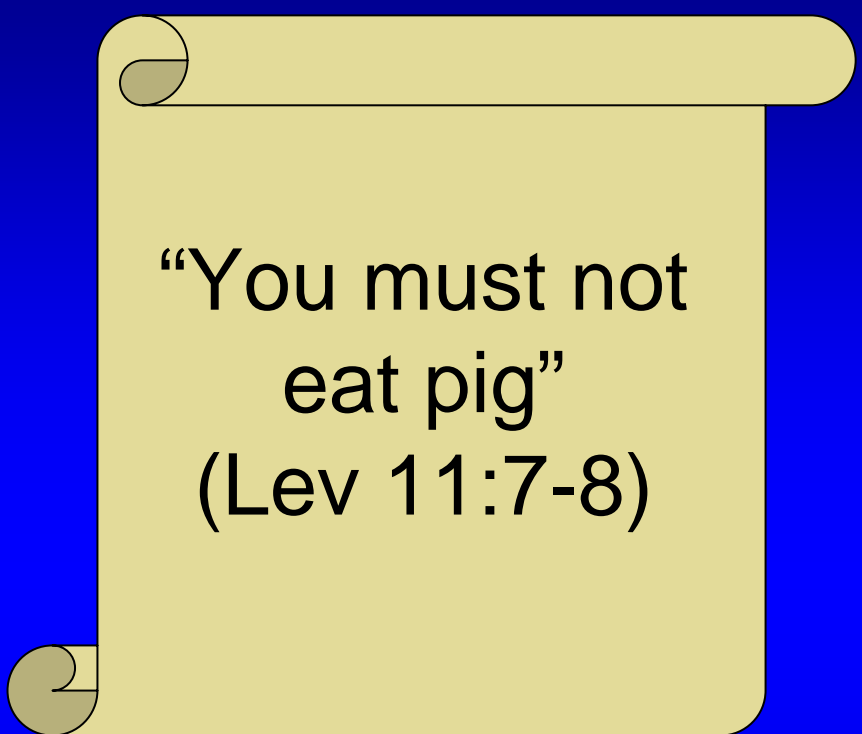
Alexandria and Early Biblical Understanding

Lesson 15

Biblical-Literacy.com

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“You must not
eat pig”
(Lev 11:7-8)



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(Lev 11:7-8)



“You must not
eat pig”
(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?

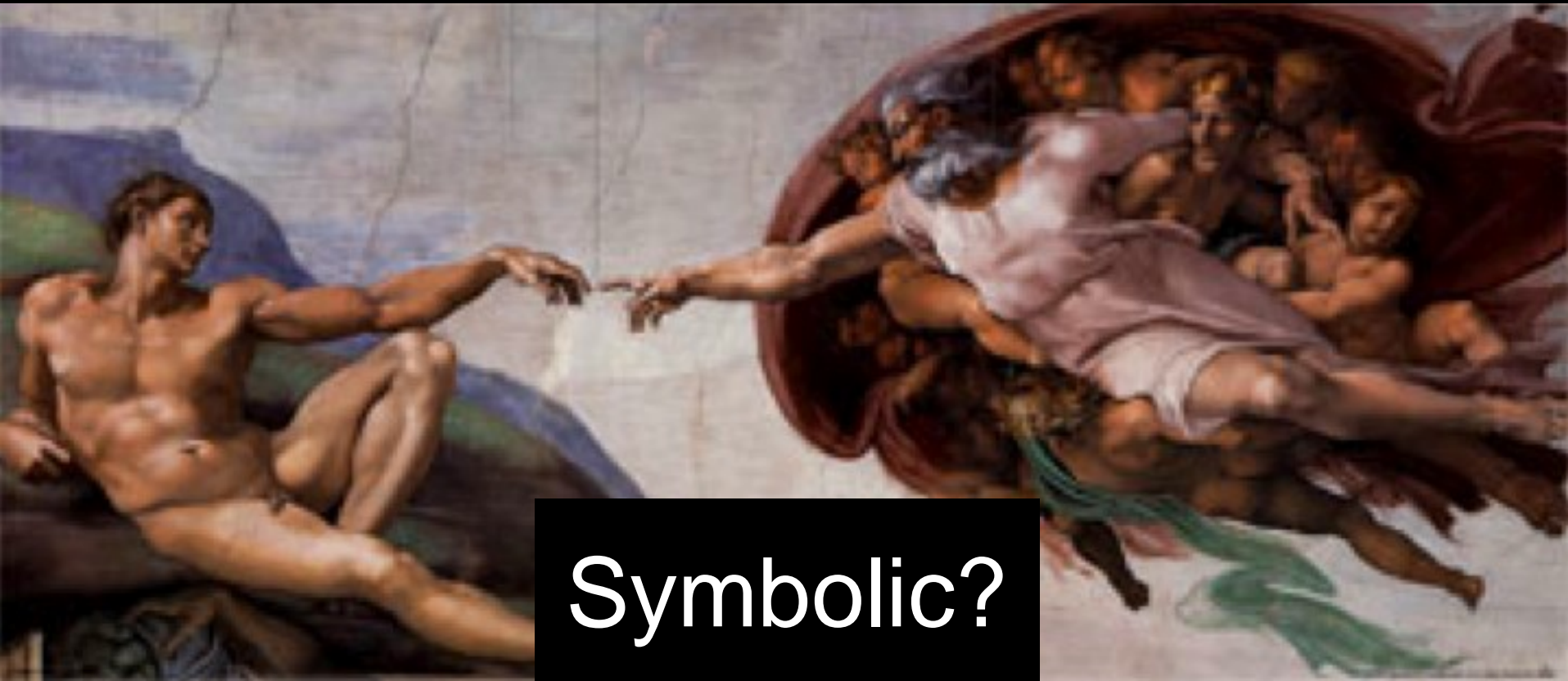
Consider creation



Literally true?

Wrong?

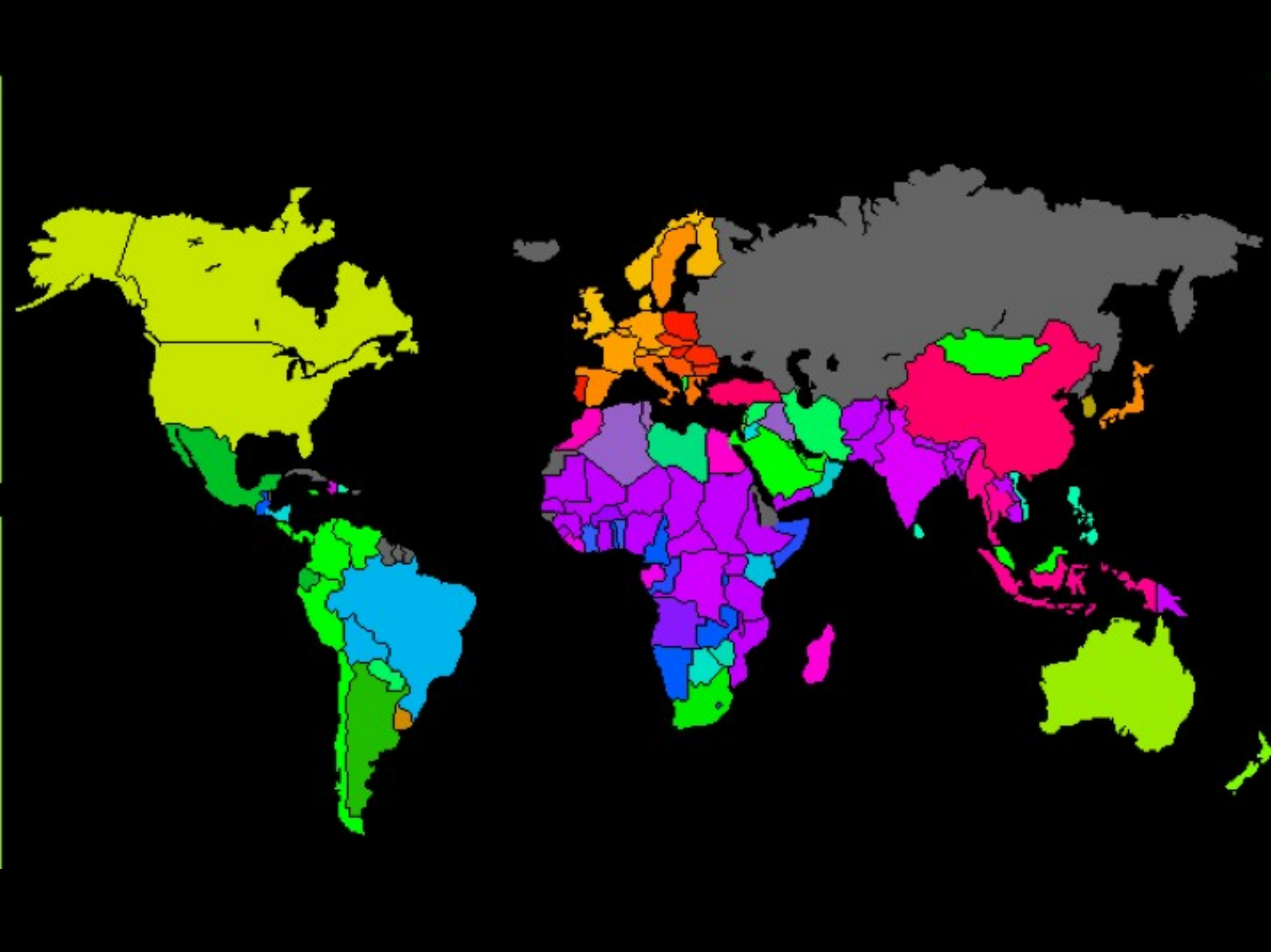
Consider creation

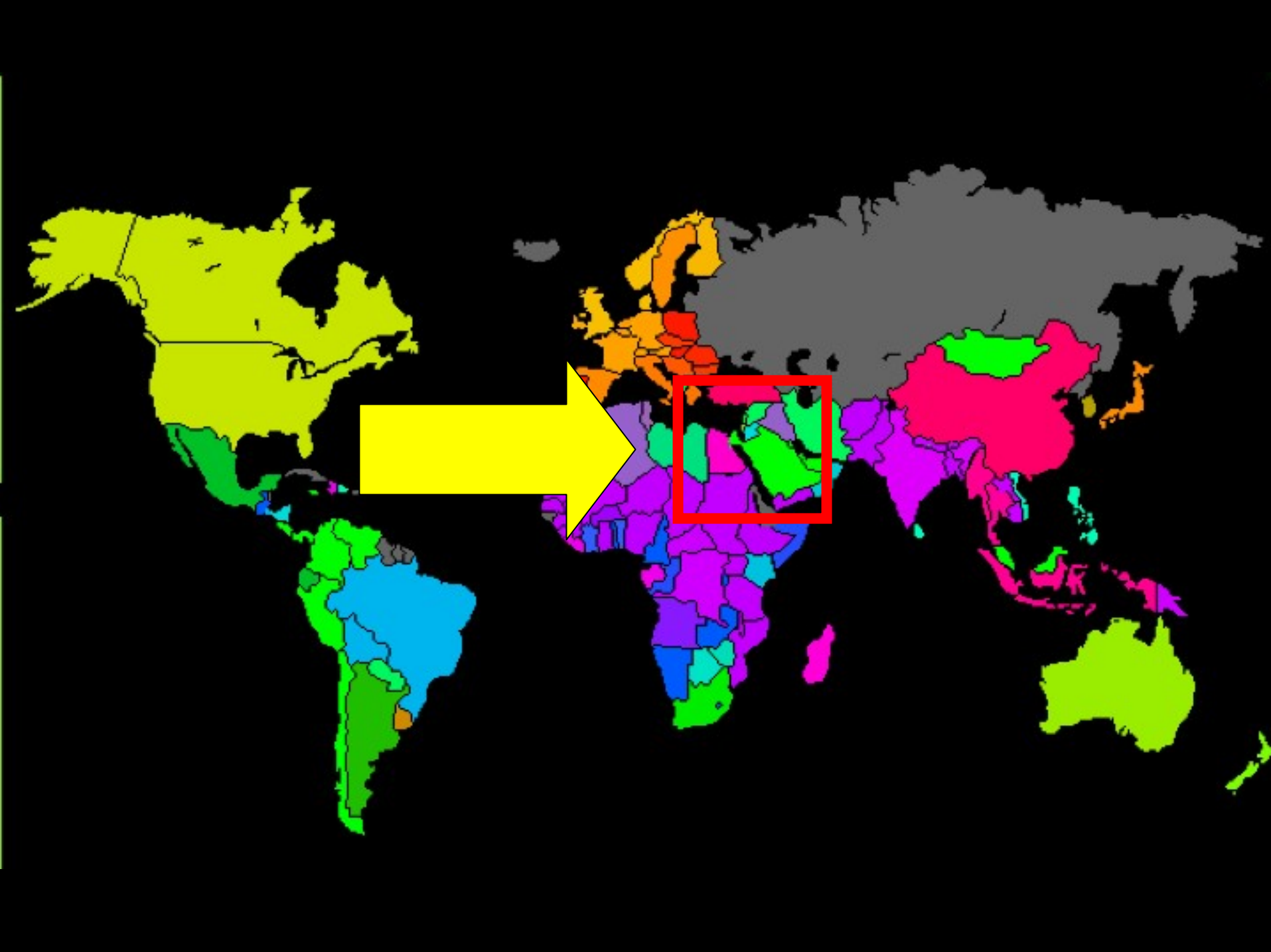


Symbolic?

Literally true?

Wrong?

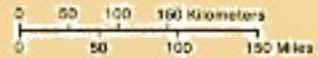






Egypt

- International boundary
- ★ National capital
- Railroad
- Road



Egypt

- International boundary
- ★ National capital
- Railroad
- Road

0 50 100 150 Kilometers
0 50 100 150 Miles

Alexandria!





Egypt

- International boundary
- ★ National capital
- Railroad
- Road

0 50 100 150 Kilometers
0 50 100 150 Miles

Alexandria!

Alexandria's history



Alexandria!

Alexandria's history

The Epistle of Barnabas





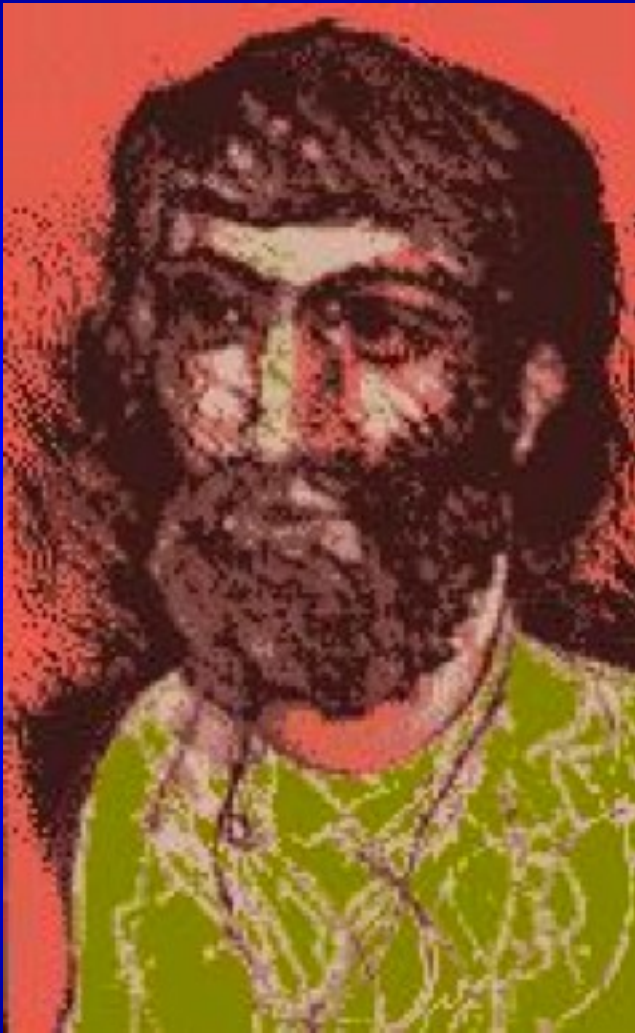
Alexandria!

Alexandria's history

The Epistle of Barnabas

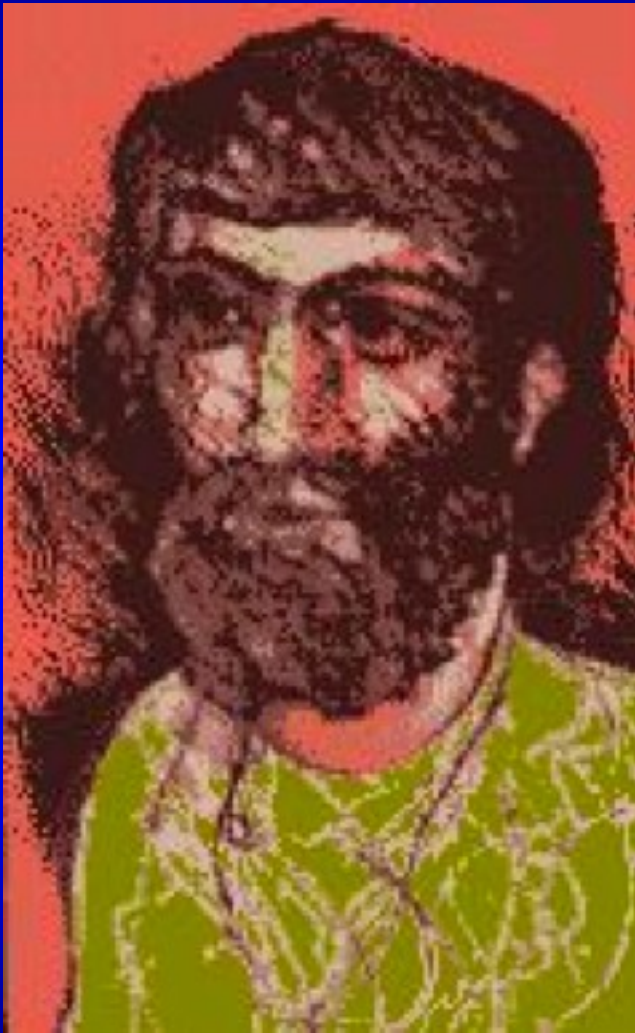
**Alexandria Catechetical
School (Seminary!)**





Philo of Alexandria

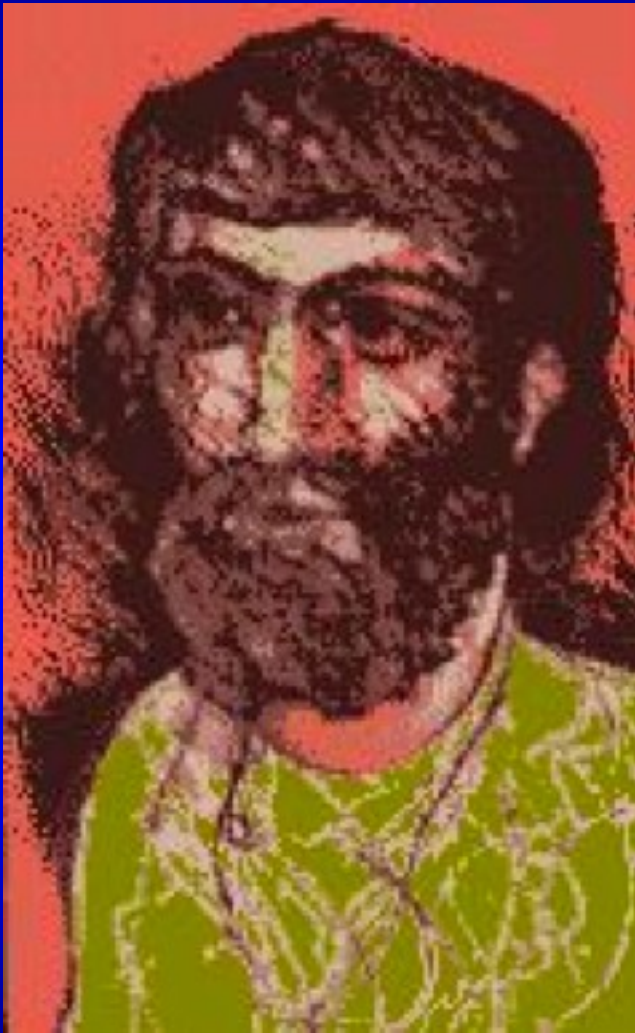
(15 B.C. - 50 A.D.)



Philo of Alexandria

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

Merging Old
Testament with
Greek
Philosophy



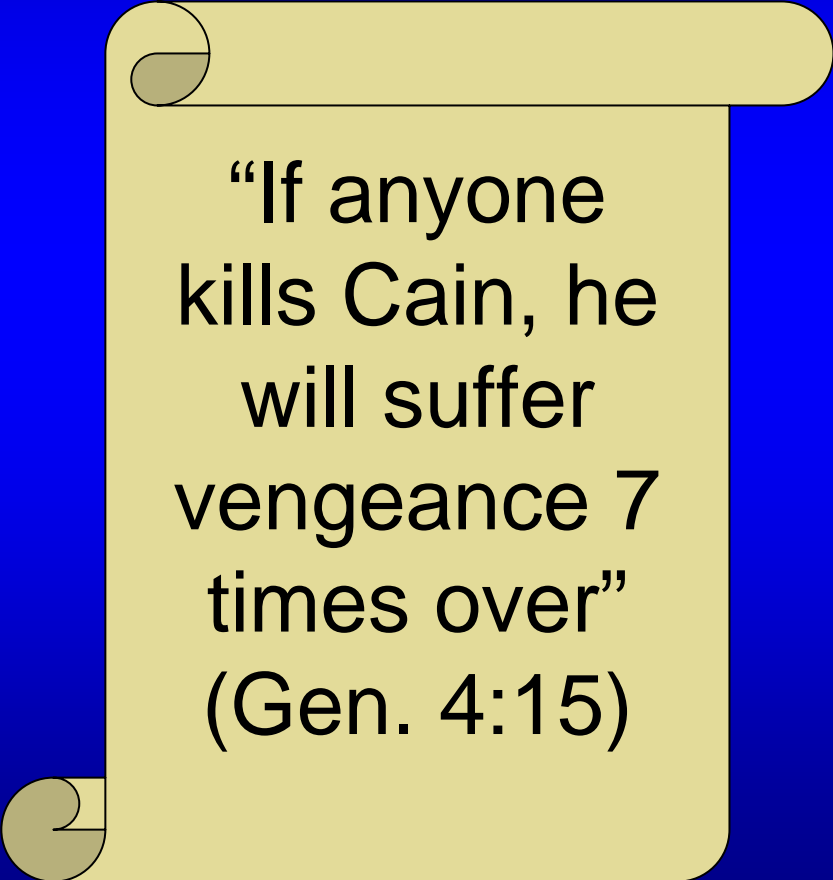
Philo of Alexandria

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

Read Old Testament as a collection of allegories

Sample: Vengeance of Cain

Sample: Vengeance of Cain



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

Sample: Vengeance of Cain

“If anyone
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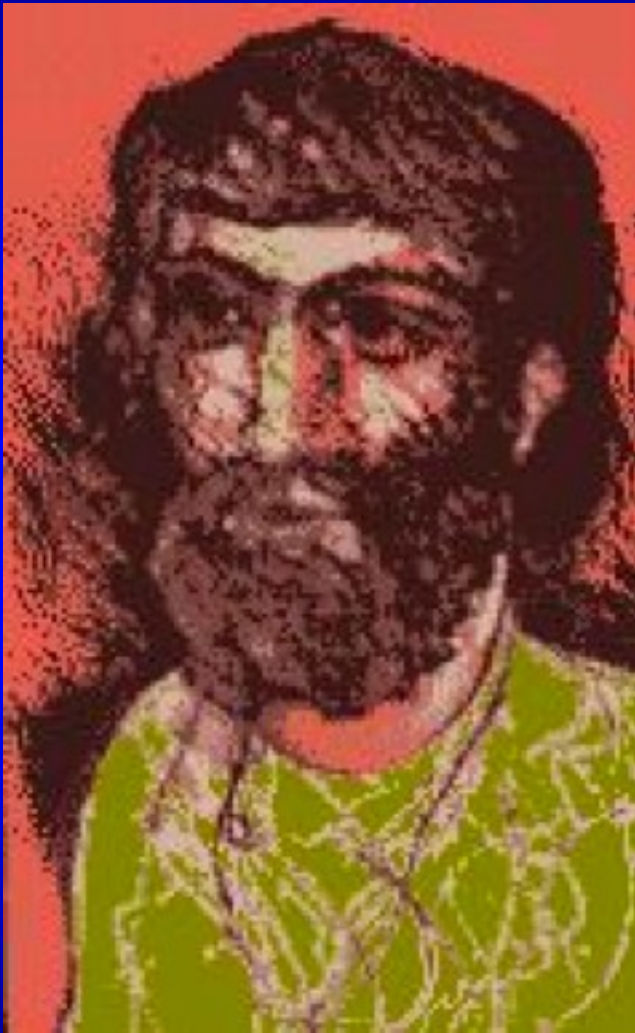
“Cain” = the mind

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

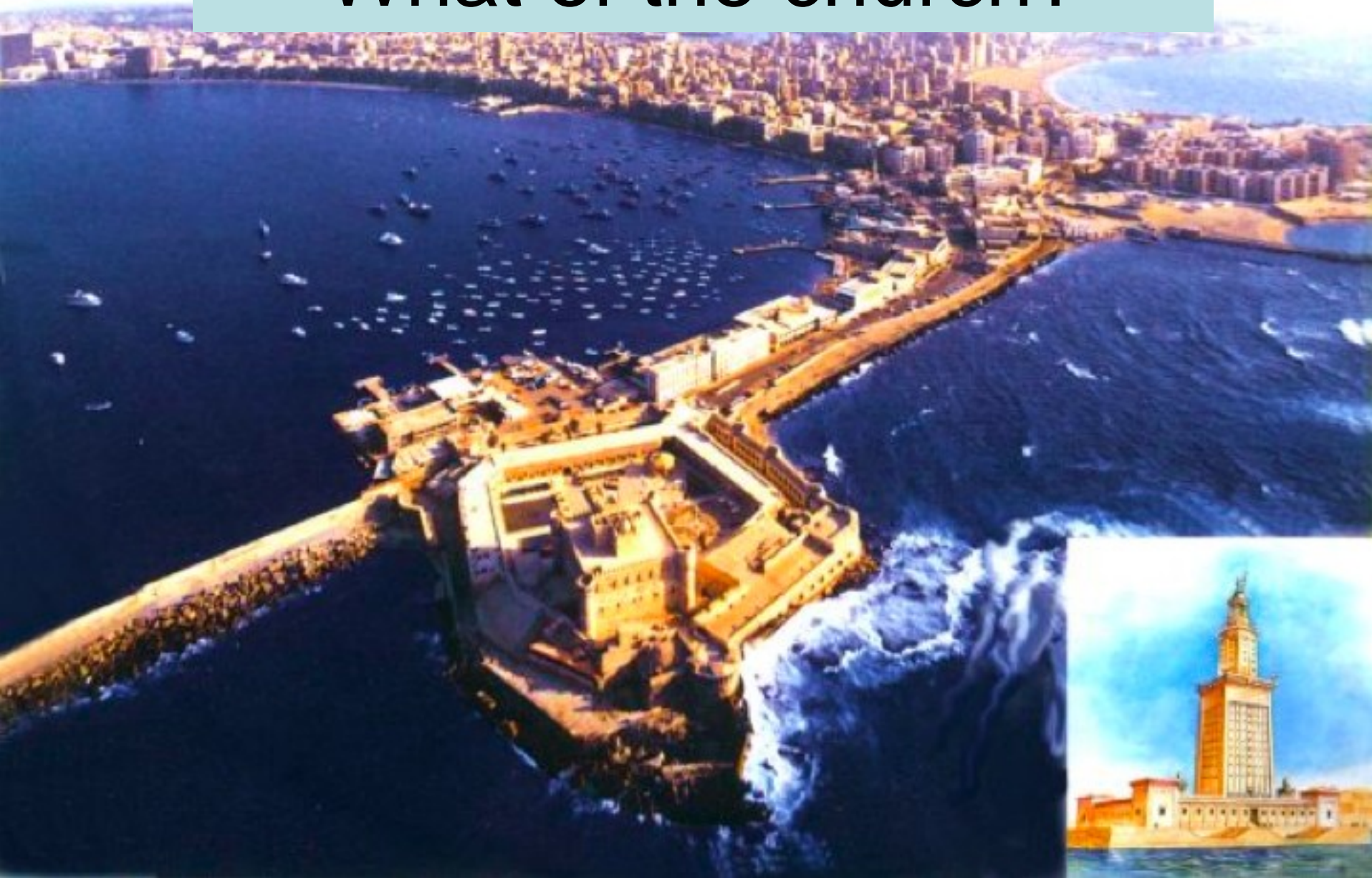


Philo of Alexandria

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

Interaction with
Church

What of the church?

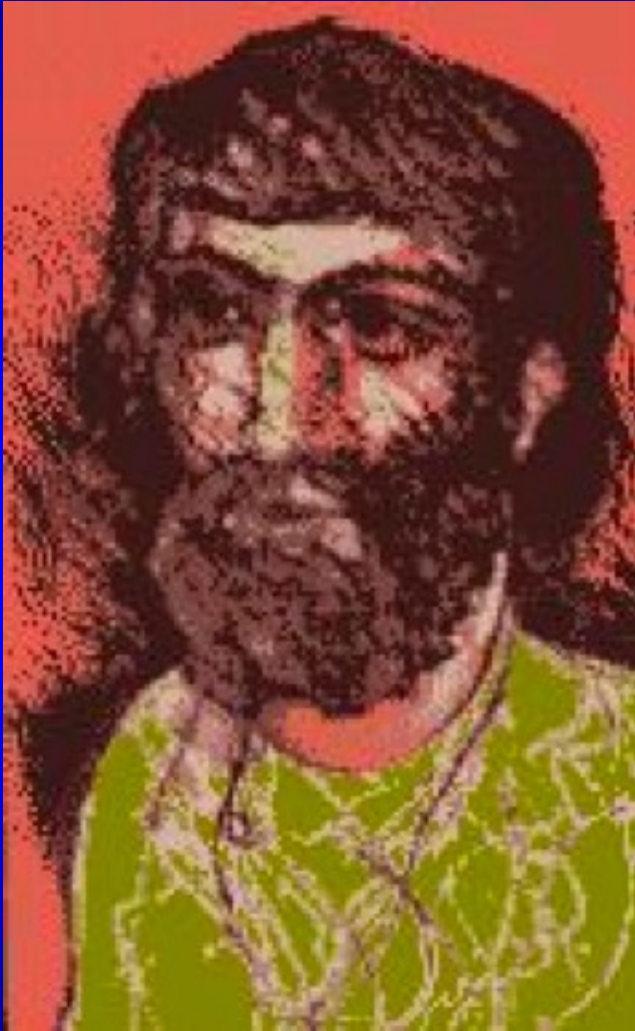


What of the church?

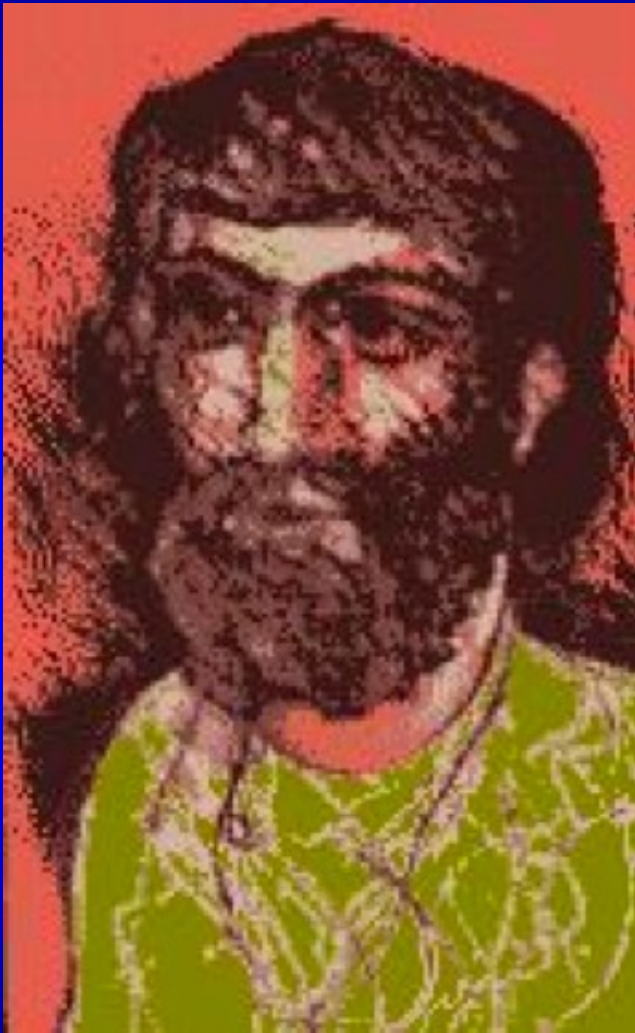
“Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of scriptures. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.”

(Acts 18:24-25)

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



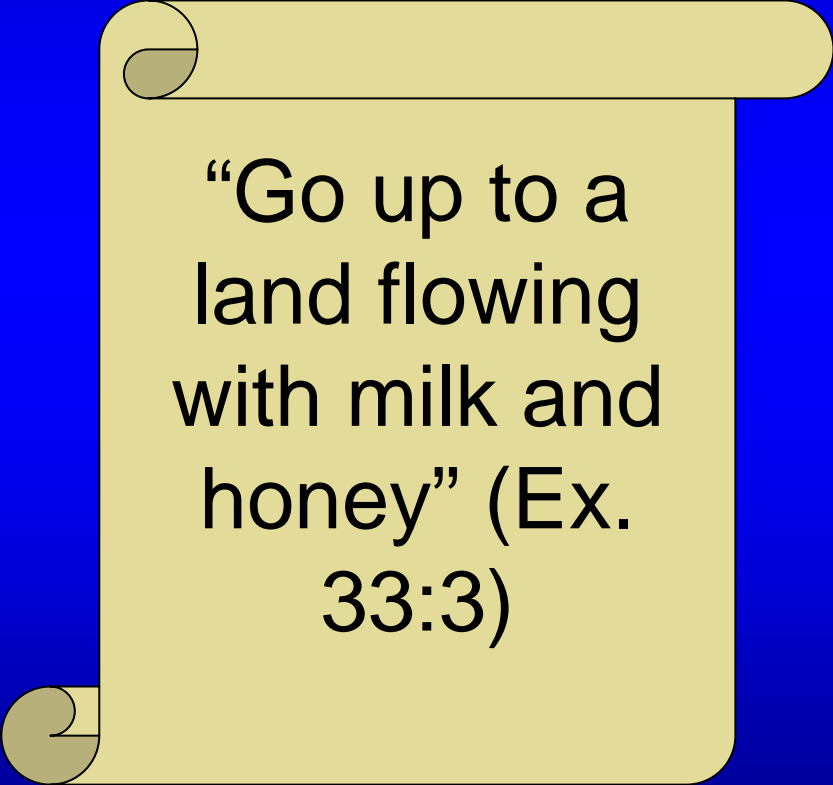
The Epistle of Barnabas (70 - 79 A.D.)



Read Old
Testament as a
collection of
allegories

Sample: The Promised Land

Sample: The Promised Land



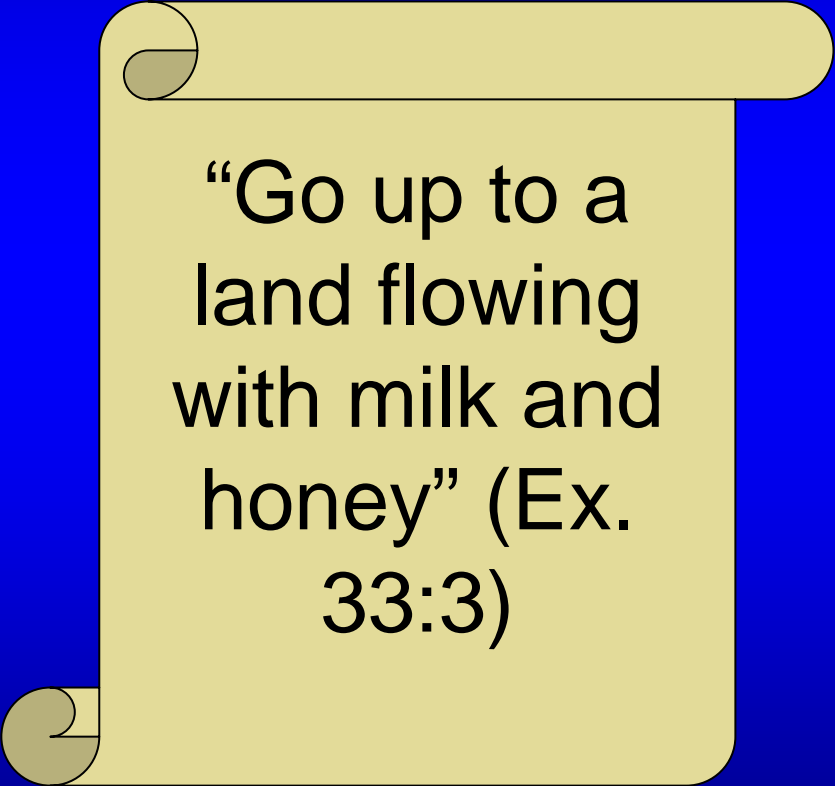
“Go up to a
land flowing
with milk and
honey” (Ex.
33:3)

Sample: The Promised Land

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

Promised Land =
Christians

Sample: The Promised Land



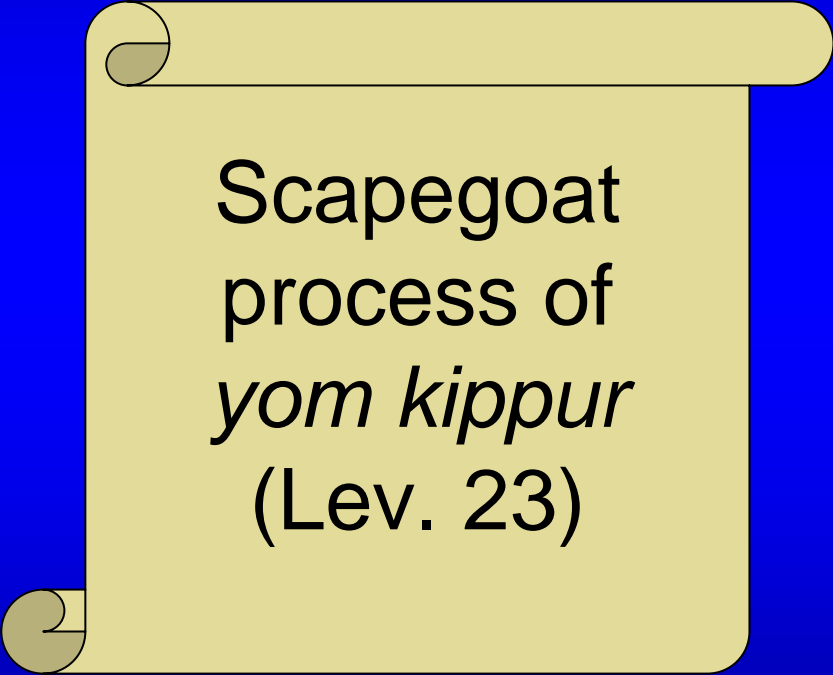
“Go up to a
land flowing
with milk and
honey” (Ex.
33:3)

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)

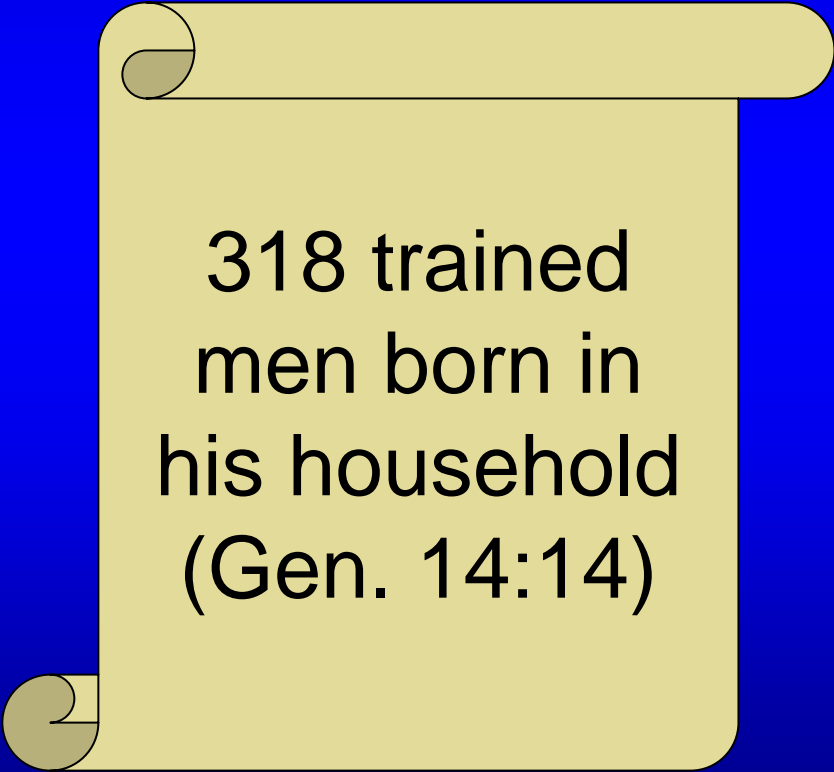
Sample: The Day of Atonement

Scapegoat
process of
yom kippur
(Lev. 23)

Jesus = Scapegoat

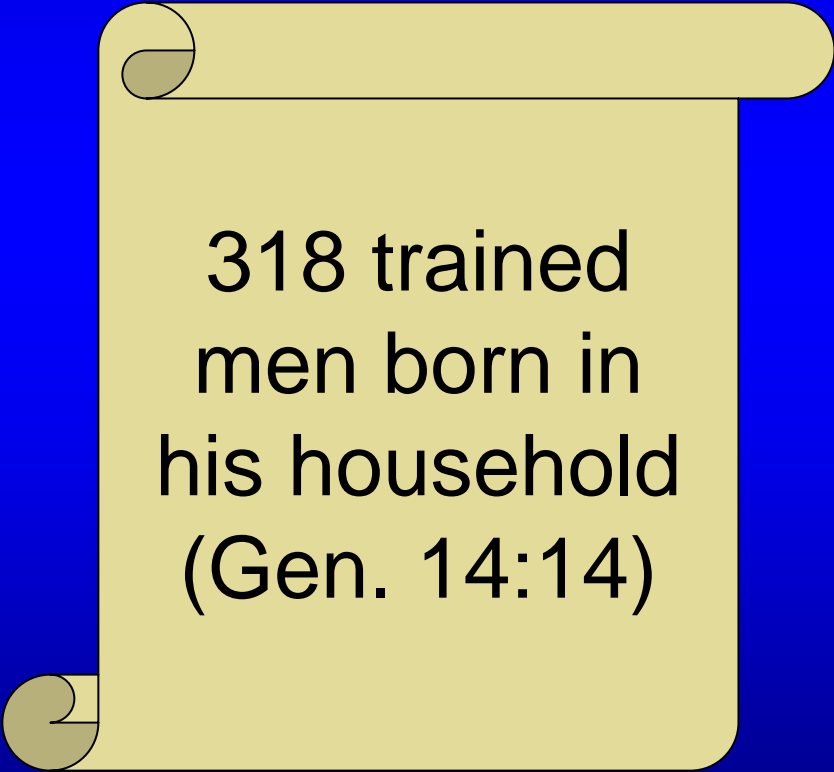
Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household



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

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household



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

“10 and 8 plus
300”

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

318 trained
men born in
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"10 and 8 plus
300"

"10" = "I"
(our "J")

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

318 trained
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"10 and 8 plus
300"

"10" = "I"
(our "J")

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

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

318 trained
men born in
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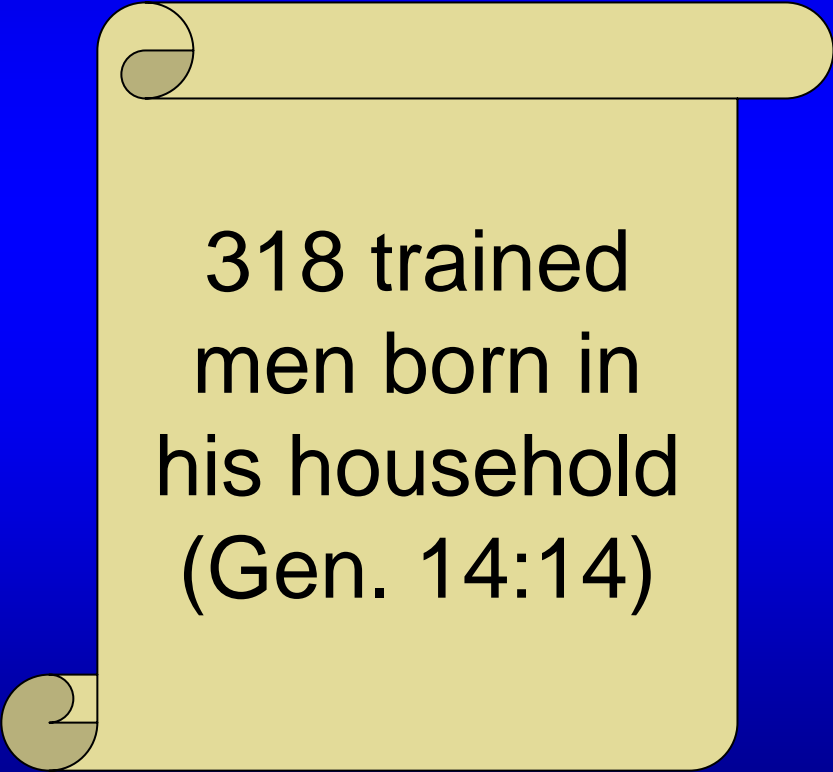
"10 and 8 plus
300"

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

"Je" = Jesus

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household



318 trained
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“10 and 8 plus
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“Je” = Jesus

Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

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Sample: Circumcising Abraham's household

318 trained
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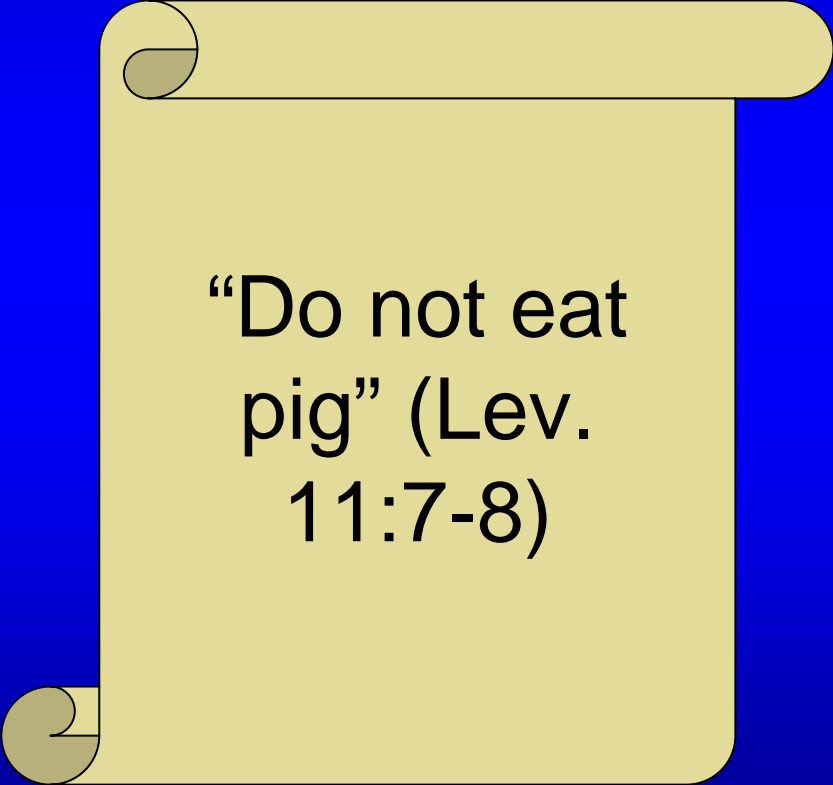
“10 and 8 plus
300”

“Je” = Jesus

“300” = T

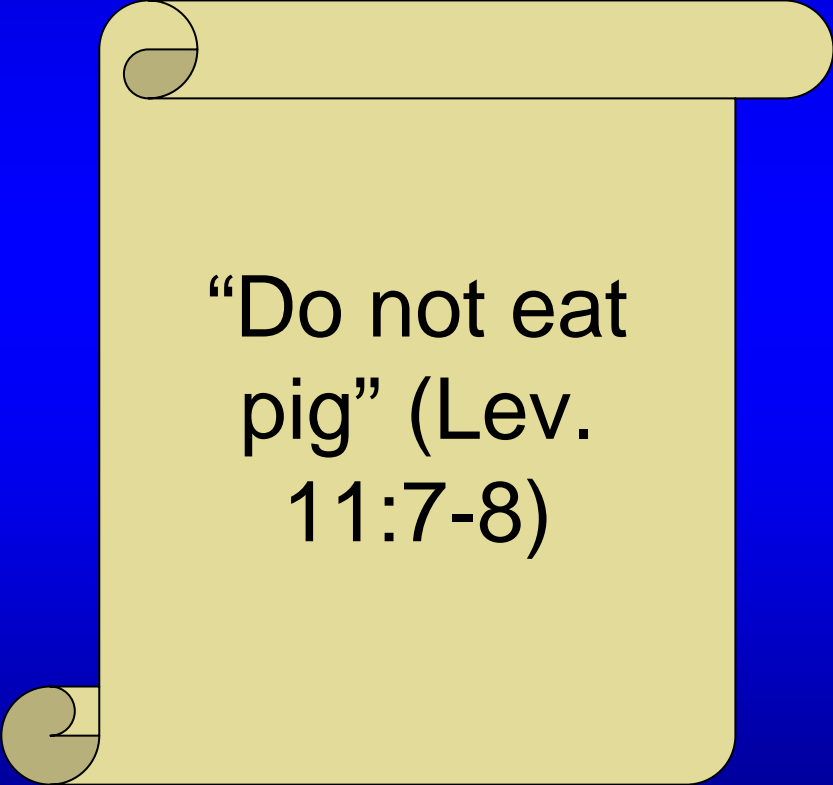
Sample: Dietary Laws

Sample: Dietary Laws



“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

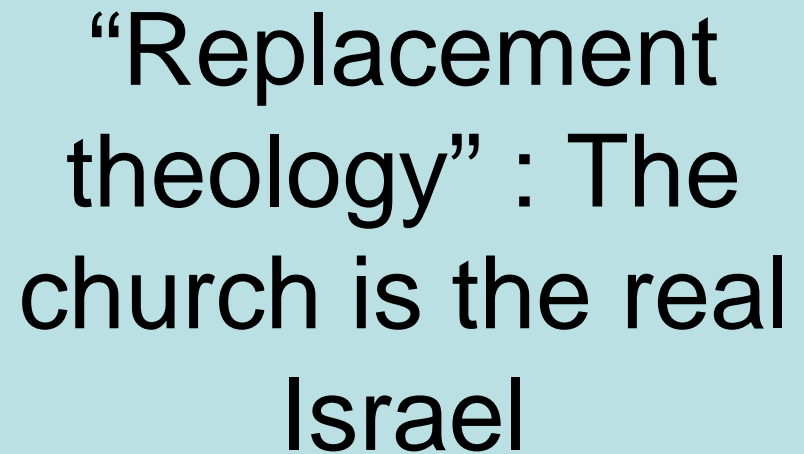


Multiple
promises to
Israel

Consider the promises to Israel



Multiple
promises to
Israel



“Replacement
theology” : The
church is the real
Israel

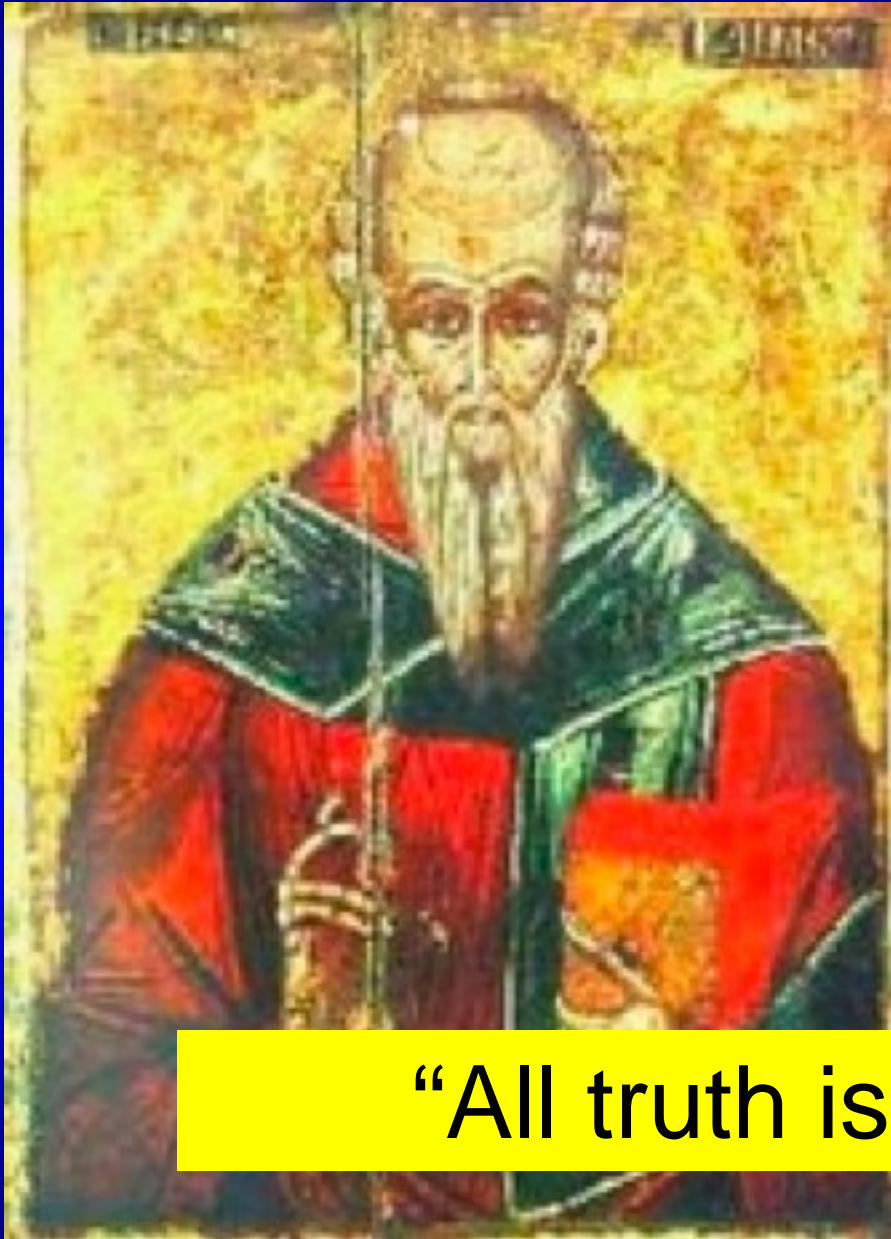


Clement of
Alexandria



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

Sample: Midwives and homes

“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

“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)

“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.