



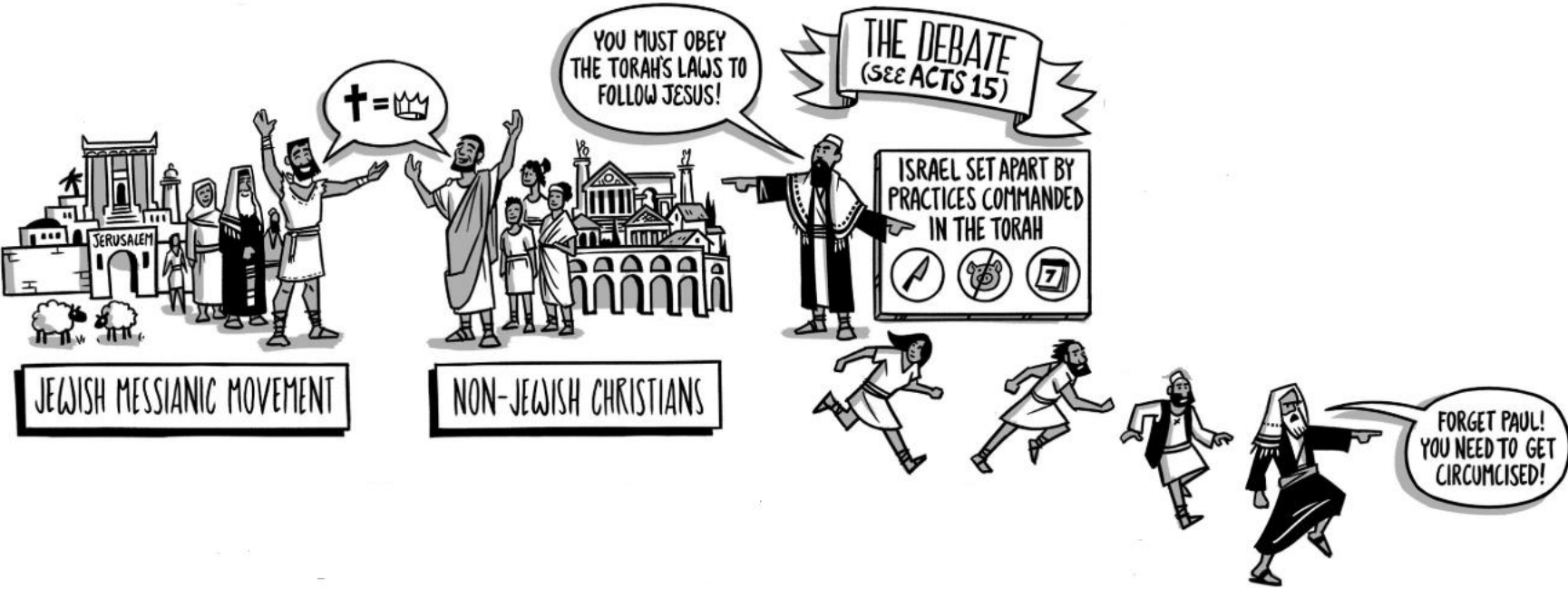
**CHRIST**  
has set you  
**FREE**

**Freedom from slavery, Freedom for sonship**

**Galatians 3:25-4:7**



# Jewish beginnings of Christianity brought into non-Jewish faith communities



# How to control human behaviour?

1. Rules & Punishment
2. Reform the heart
  - transfusion of the Spirit

# Paul's Appeal:

1. Do not confuse ritual with maturity in Christ
2. Do not trade the power and freedom of God's Spirit for duty
3. Do not deny the gospel of Christ

<sup>NET</sup> **Galatians 5:1**

For freedom Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery.

# Galatians 3:25-4:7

1. Role of rules & rituals in the life of faith?
2. Slide from grace to religious rule-keeping?
3. Nature of the God-human relationship?

# Role of Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

## Promises to Abraham:

<sup>NAU</sup> **Genesis 12:2-3, 22:18, 12:7**

I will make you a great nation,

I will make your name great;

I will bless those who bless you,

The one who curses you I will curse.

In you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

...

In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed

...

To your descendants I will give this land...

# Role of Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

## **Galatians 3:6**

Abraham BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.

## <sup>NAU</sup> **Genesis 15:5-6, 18a**

<sup>5</sup> And He took him outside and said, "Now look toward the heavens, and count the stars, if you are able to count them." And He said to him, "So shall your descendants be."

<sup>6</sup> Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram...





**Covenant  
with Abram  
Gen 15**

# Role of Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

Promises to Abraham:

- ✓ Descendants
- ✓ Blessings and Curses
- ✓ Land

In your seed all nations will be blessed

<sup>NIV</sup> **Galatians 3:16** The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.



"The Israelites At Mount Sinai"  
By Jean-Léon Gérôme (1824–1904)

# Role of Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

NAU **Galatians 3:19a, 22-24**

<sup>19</sup> Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions...

...

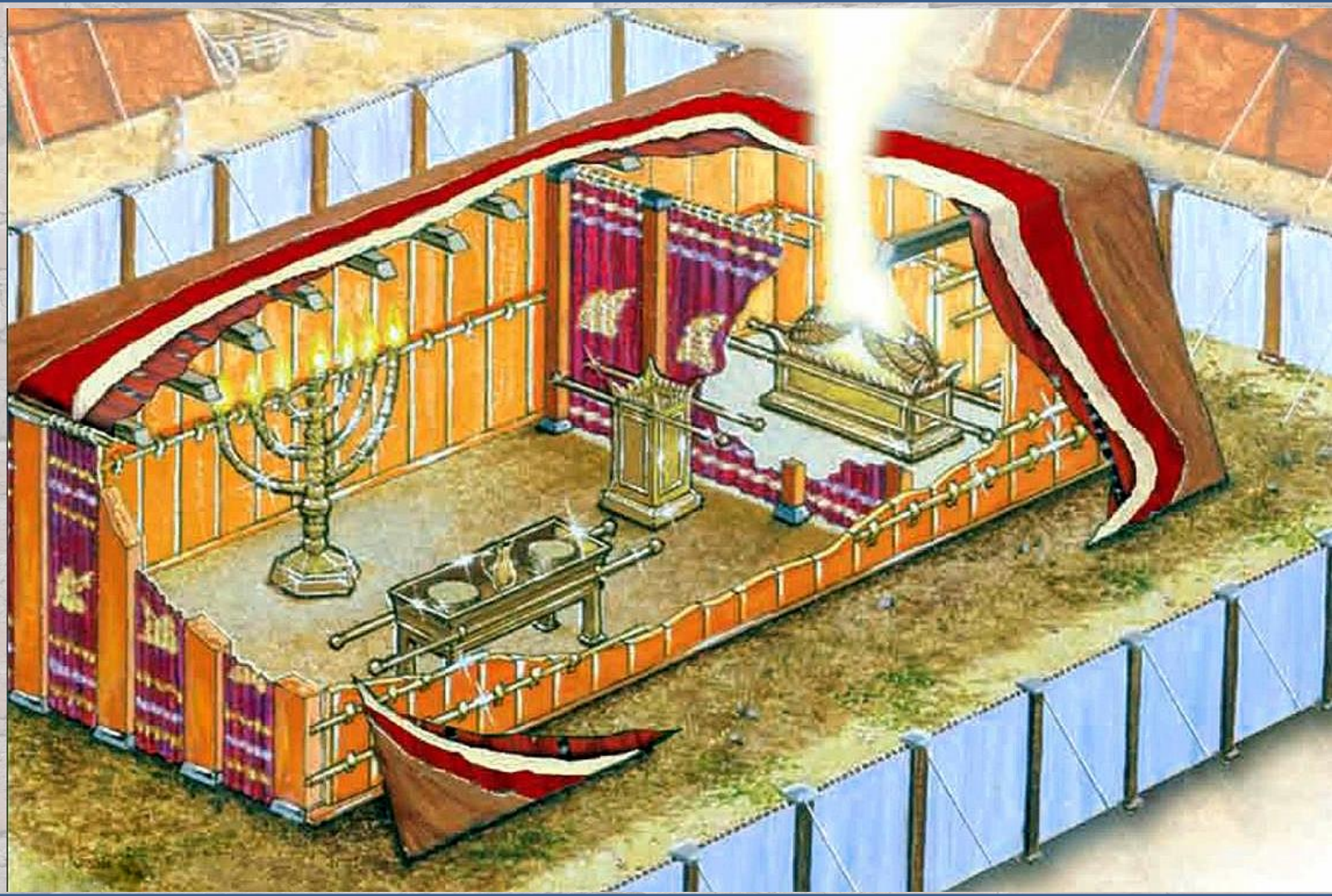
<sup>23</sup> But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed.

<sup>24</sup> Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith.

# The Law:

1. Kept the behaviour within boundaries
2. The discipline of a strict teacher
3. Led the people to Christ





# Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

## **Galatians 3:21b**

if a law had been given which was able to impart life,  
then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.



"The Israelites At Mount Sinai"  
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## **NIV James 2:10**

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



# Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

## **Galatians 3**

<sup>21</sup> Is the Law then contrary to the promises of God? May it never be! For if a law had been given which was able to impart life, then righteousness would indeed have been based on law.

<sup>17</sup> What I am saying is this: the Law, which came four hundred and thirty years later, does not invalidate a covenant previously ratified by God, so as to nullify the promise.

<sup>22</sup> But the Scripture has shut up everyone under sin, so that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

<sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

<sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

# Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

NET **Galatians 5:1**

For freedom Christ has set us free.

Stand firm, then, and do not be subject again to the yoke of slavery.

# The Temple Menorah



# Over 45kg of 24 carat gold



Value over  
\$3 million

# Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith



# Rule & Ritual in Life of Faith

1. Contain behaviour
2. Tutor that leads to Christ
3. Cannot earn favour with God

# From Grace to Rule-Keeping

Doing as **earning**



1. How am I serving God?
2. Why am I doing it?
3. What am I hoping for in return?

# How to control human behaviour?

1. Role of rules & rituals in the life of faith?
2. Slide from grace to religious rule-keeping?
3. The nature of the God-human relationship?



# God-Human Relationship

NAU **Galatians 4:1**

<sup>1</sup> Now I say, as long as the heir is a child, he does not differ at all from a slave although he is owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by the father.

<sup>3</sup> So also we, while we were children, were held in bondage under the elemental things of the world.

<sup>4</sup> But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

<sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

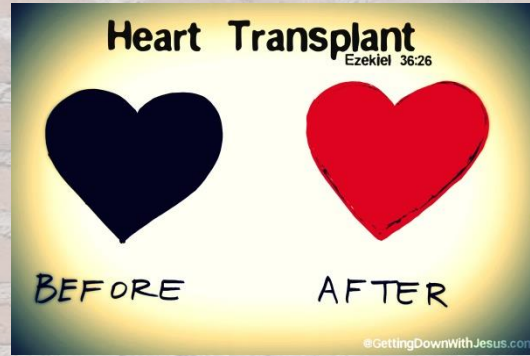
<sup>7</sup> Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

# God-Human Relationship

1. You are accepted as a son/daughter of the King
2. You are loved and valued
3. You have nothing more to earn
4. You are not alone - God is with you and for you.
5. My Spirit will cause you to walk in My ways

<sup>NIV</sup> **Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13** ... he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus...work out your salvation with fear and trembling for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

# Living out the gospel of Christ



1. Surrender in faith to Jesus
2. Confess
3. Declare a change of ownership
4. Hear his voice and do all that he tells you



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**Galatians 3:25-4:7**