



Covenant Law and Sabbath

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Objectives

- ❖ To explain the concept of covenant and how it works
- ❖ To show that the ten commandments are part of the Sinaitic Covenant and not a stand-alone entity
- ❖ To demonstrate some of the characteristics of Torah (covenant)
- ❖ To show that the entire covenant points to Jesus and must be kept as it emanates from Jesus

Method of Bible Study

- ❖ We must first understand what the Bible MEANT before we can understand what it MEANS
- ❖ The primary cultural and historical contexts must first be understood independently of any modern application or significance

Covenantal Context of Laws

Biblical laws did not occur in a vacuum. There was always
a context

The context of laws in scripture is always covenant

What is a Covenant in the Ancient understanding of the Term?

- ❖ Covenant : An agreement between two parties

God's Covenant was of the Suzerainty Model

1. Initiated by the benevolent act of a superior (Suzerain) toward an inferior (Vassal)
2. Stipulations or laws emerged from God's mighty act of salvation
3. Reward for obedience and punishment for disobedience
4. A covenant sign or seal
5. Depository in the temple

Five Major Covenants in Salvation History

- The Edenic Covenant (Gen 1-2)
- The Noahic Covenant (Gen 6-9)
- The Abrahamic Covenant (Gen 12-15;18)
- The Sinaitic Covenant (Old Covenant) (Exo 19, 20)
- The Covenant at the Cross (New Covenant) (Matt 27:26-28)

Laws Flowed From Each Covenant

- ❖ Laws described how one ought to behave within the covenant under which one is governed

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-31; 2:15)

Edenic
(mighty act-
creation)

LAWS

1. Dress the garden
2. Reproduce
3. Sway dominion over the animal kingdom
4. Refrain from eating of the tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

Noahic Covenant (Gen 9:1-8)

Noah
(mighty act
Flood)

LAWS

- i. Reproduce
- ii. eat plant food
- iii. sway dominion over the animal kingdom
- iv. eat animal food
- v. Observe the bow as a covenant sign

Continuation-Discontinuation With Edenic Covenant (Gen 9:1-8)

Continuation with Eden:

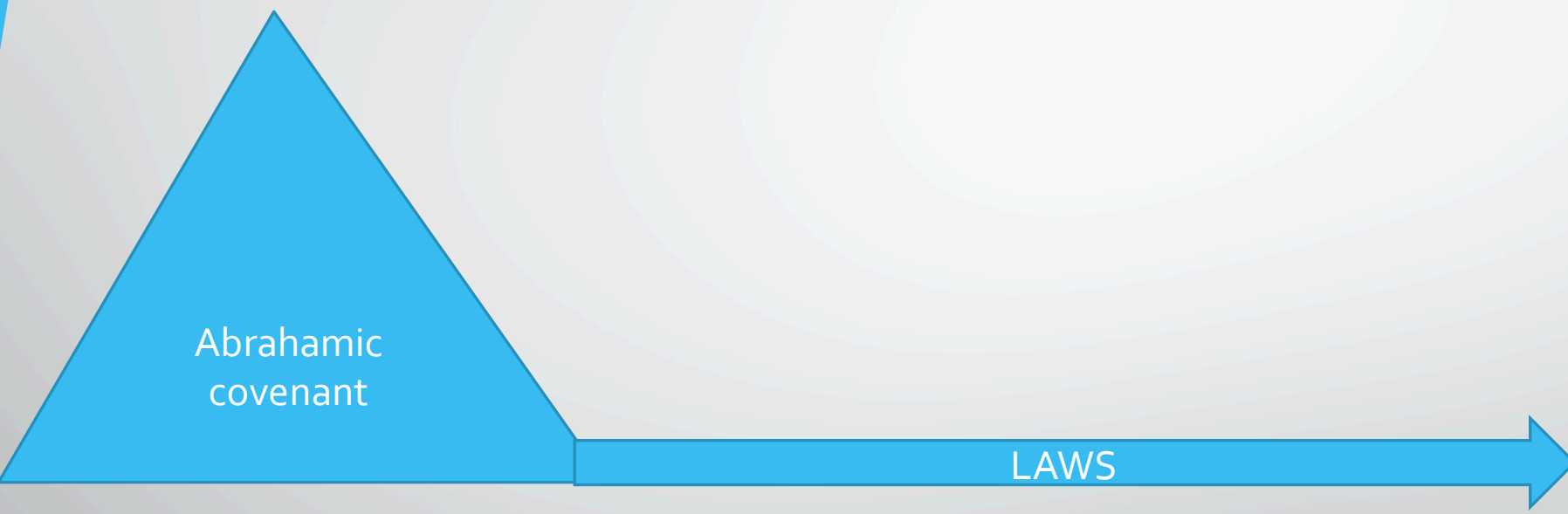
- i. Reproduce
- ii. Eat plant food
- iii. Sway dominion over the animal kingdom

Discontinuation:

Additional element:

- i. Eat animal food
- ii. bow as covenant sign

Abrahamic Covenant: A Promise Covenant (Gen (Gen 12-15; 18)///



Abrahamic
covenant

LAWS

The Sinaitic Covenant



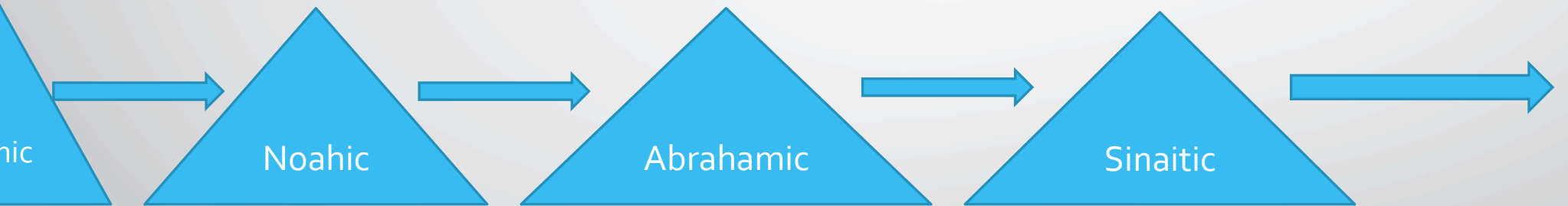
Sinaitic
(Exodus)



LAWS

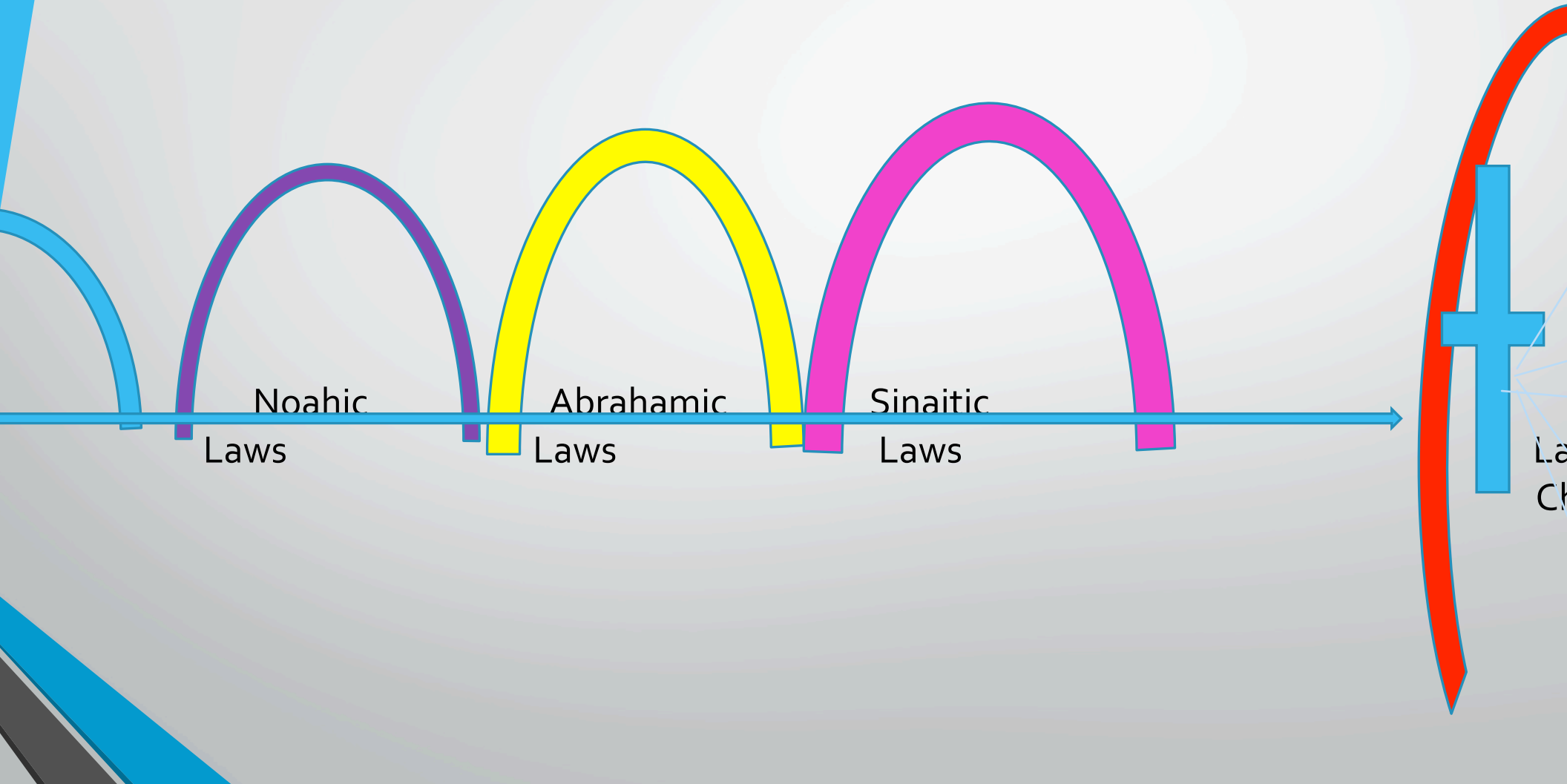
All laws in Exo, Lev, Num. & Deut (*Torah*)

All Covenants Fulfilled in Jesus (John 5:39,40)



- One is only obligated to keep the laws as they occur within the covenant under which one is governed
- The fact that “X” law was obligatory under “X” covenant does not mean that, that law is necessarily obligatory under another covenant

Covenants : Basis for Laws



Laws Obligatory Based on Their Umbrella Covenant

Edenic Covenant (Gen 1:28-31; 2:15)

1. Eat only vegetables
2. Go naked

Noahic Covenant (Gen 9:1-8)

1. Eat meat
2. Wear clothe

Laws Obligatory Based on their Umbrella Covenant

Abrahamic Covent

1. Abraham allowed to marry his sister (Gen 12:12-13)
2. Abraham instructed to give birthright to 2nd child, & not to the first Child; i.e., allowed to deny the child of the un-favored wife (Gen. 21:9-14; 25:5, 6)

Sinaitic Covenant

1. Sin to marry one's sister (18: 6, 9 and 20:17)
2. Birthright must only go to the first Child, even if he is the child of the un-favored wife (Deut 21:15-17)

The Sinaitic Covenant



Sinaitic
Covenant

LAWS

The Most Elaborate System of law in OT

- Sinaitic Covenant Contains the Most Elaborate System of Laws in the OT
- Called the Torah

The *Torah*

- The word Torah means teachings or instructions
- Sometimes used to refer to the first five books of the OT
- Sometimes to the entire OT
- Other times refers to the Sinaitic Covenant



CHARASTICS OF SINAITIC COVENANT

Initiated by God At Mt. Sinai

- Exo 19: 5: Now then if you will indeed obey My voice and keep my covenant then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine

No Moral Ceremonial Distinctions of Its Laws

- The laws were all moral in that, not to obey God in whatever he said would be wrong and immoral
- Ancient peoples did not think in these moral, ceremonial, civil distinctions

No Moral Ceremonial Distinctions in OT Laws

- From a later perspective, one can make any classification of any biblical data. The issue is, did the Bible writers make such classifications and hence made points from a moral –ceremonial platform
- Ans. NO! NO! NO! A thousand times NO!

No Moral Ceremonial Distinctions in OT Laws

- The concept of Moral ceremonial distinctions is a post-biblical concept
- Gnostic and Marcionite Christians were using Paul's contrast between law and gospel, faith and works, to teach that the OT was no longer important. Church fathers countered by teaching that when Paul spoke negatively of the law, he meant ceremonial law, and when he spoke positively of the law, he meant moral law. However, such distinctions cannot be found in Paul. (See Dunn, *Unity in Diversity*, 291).

Moral law in “Ceremonial” Section of Torah

- Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman (Lev 18:7)
- Do not have sexual relations with your son’s daughter or your daughter’s daughter (Lev 18:10)
- Love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord (Lev 19:18)

Ten Commandments a Part of the Sinaitic or Old Covenant

- So he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights, he did not eat bread or drink water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments (Exo 34:28).

Ten Commandments a Part of the Old Covenant

- So he declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform that is, the Ten Commandments; and he wrote them on two tablets of stone (Deut 4:13).

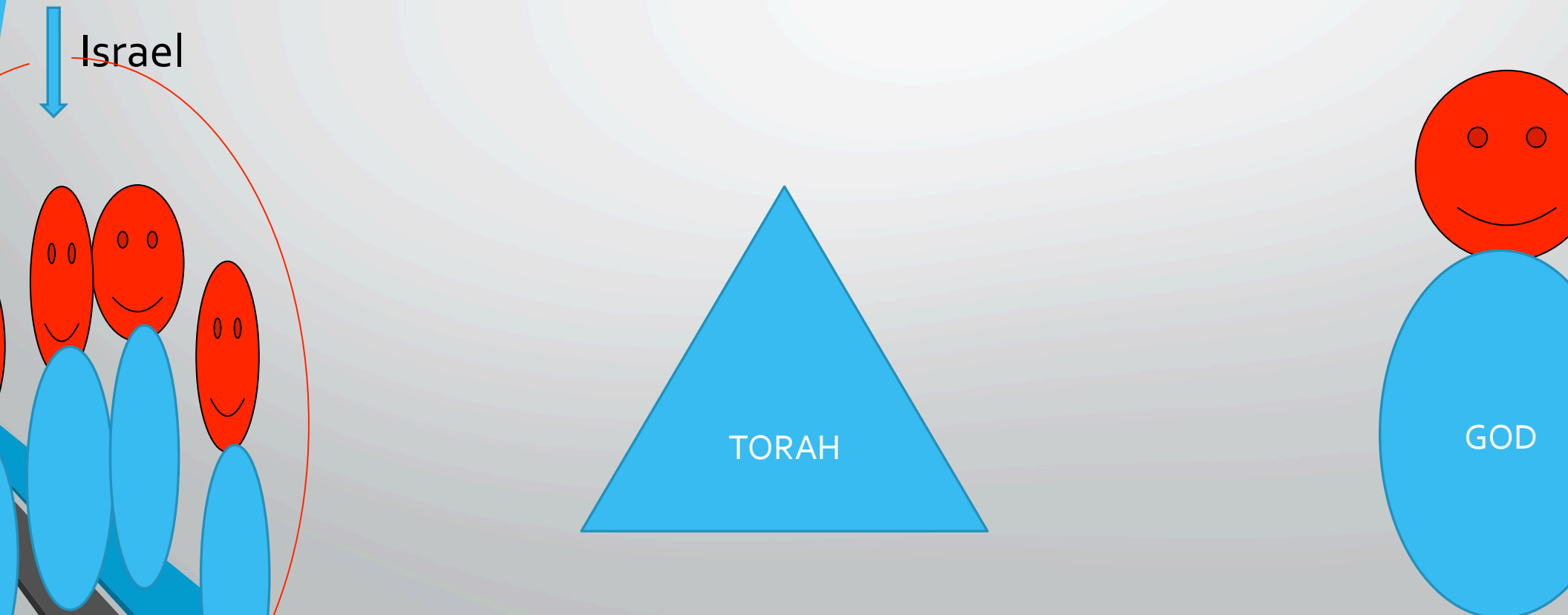
Ten Commandments Part of the Old Covenant

- When I went up to the mountain to receive the **tablets of stone**, the tablets of the **covenant** which the Lord has made with you, then I remained on the mount forty days and nights... Deut 9:9. See also Exo 40:20; Deut 29:1, 9; 9:9, 11, 15; Deut 9:15; 1Kings 8:9,21; (Exo 31:18; 32:15; 34:28; Deut 4:13; 5:3

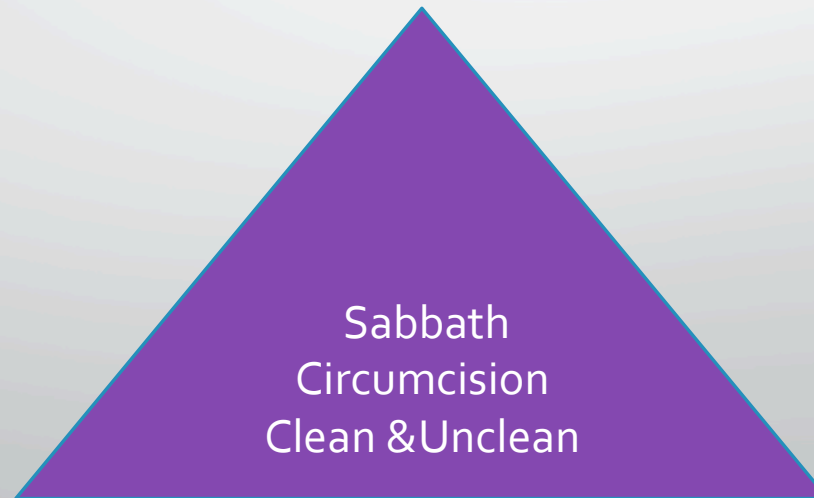
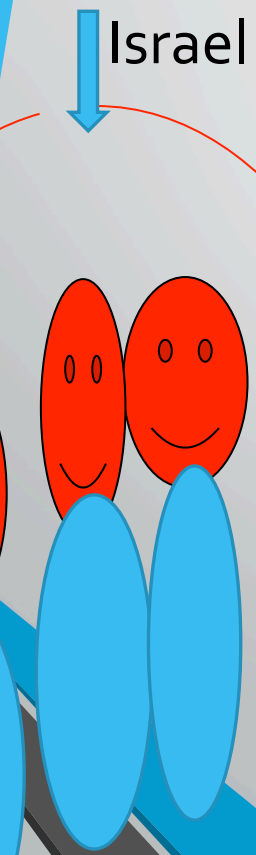
KEY FUNCTION OF THE LAWS OF THE SINAITIC COVENANT

- To Distinguish Israel as God's Special People

TORAH- DISTINGUISHED OR SEPARATED ISRAEL FROM ALL OTHER NATIONS



TORAH- DISTINGUISHED-SEPARATED ISRAEL FROM ALL OTHER NATIONS



SPECIFIC LAWS THAT SEPARATED

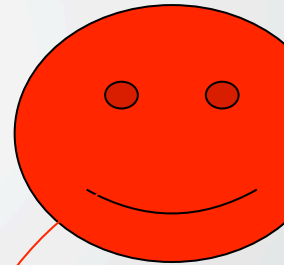
- You (Israel) shall surely observe My Sabbaths for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the Lord who sanctifies you.

Ezk 20:12 : I gave them My Sabbaths to be a sign between Me and them...

Ezk 20:20 : Sanctify My Sabbaths; and they shall be a sign between me and you....

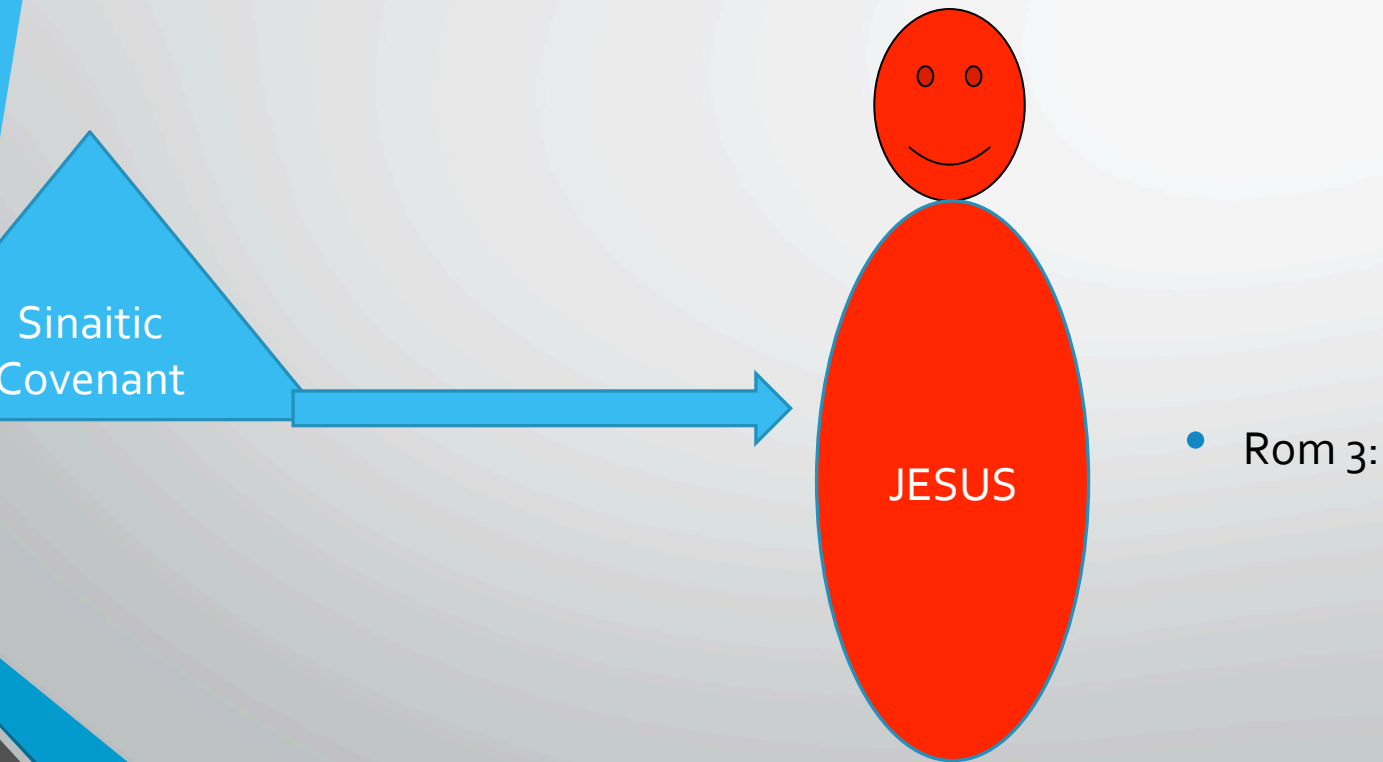
Sinaitic Covenant/Torah Fulfilled in Jesus

Sinaitic
Covenant

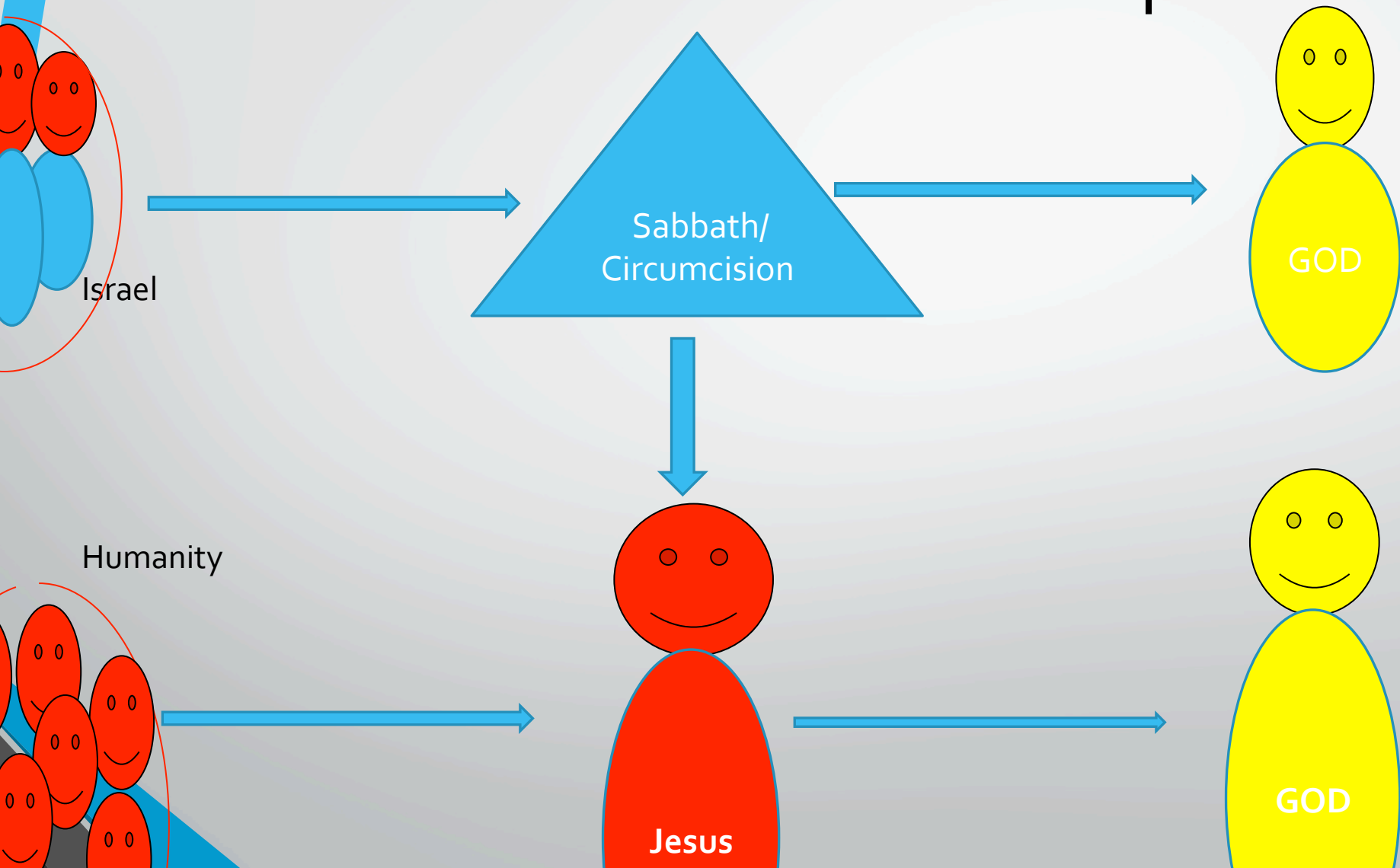


A Person
(Jesus)

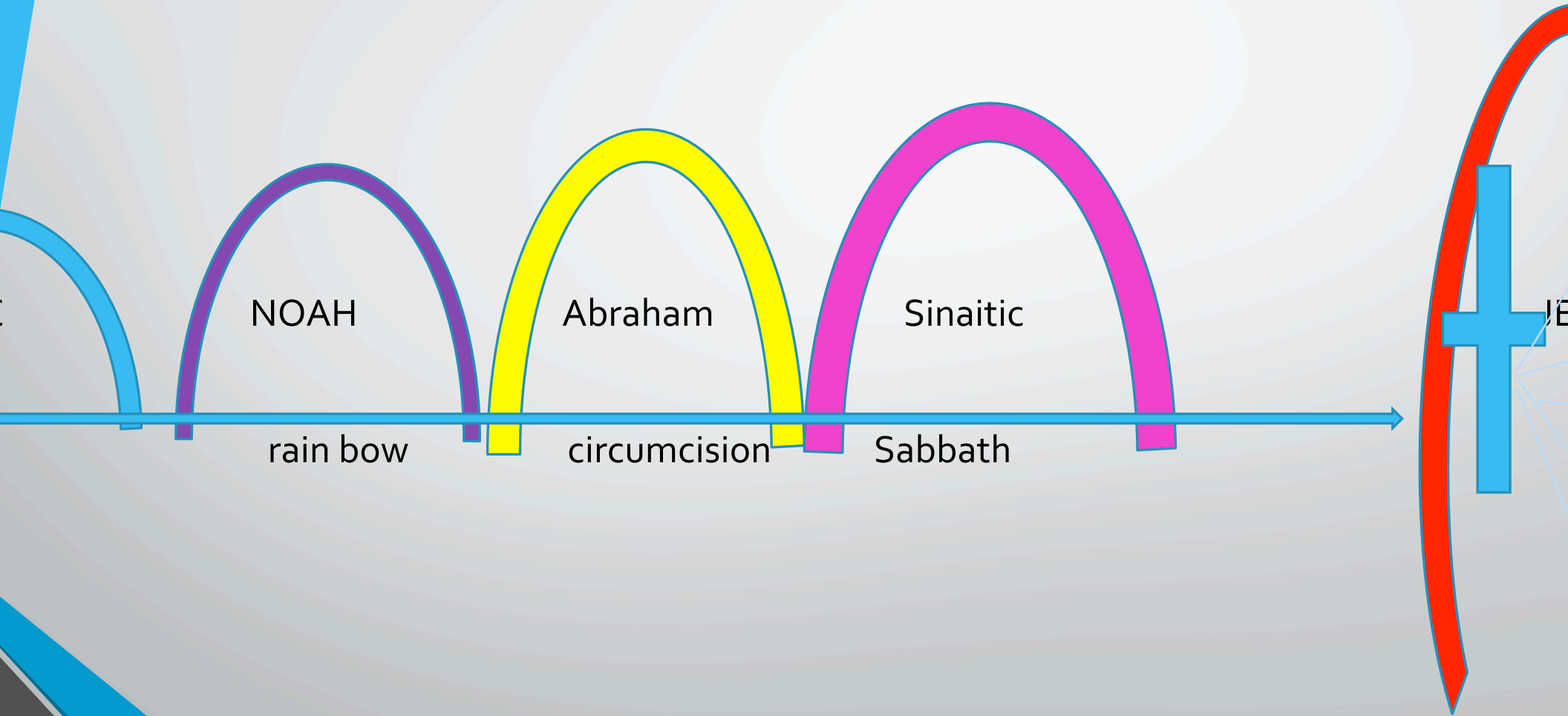
SINATIC COVENANT FULFILLED IN JESUS: THE NEW COVENANT



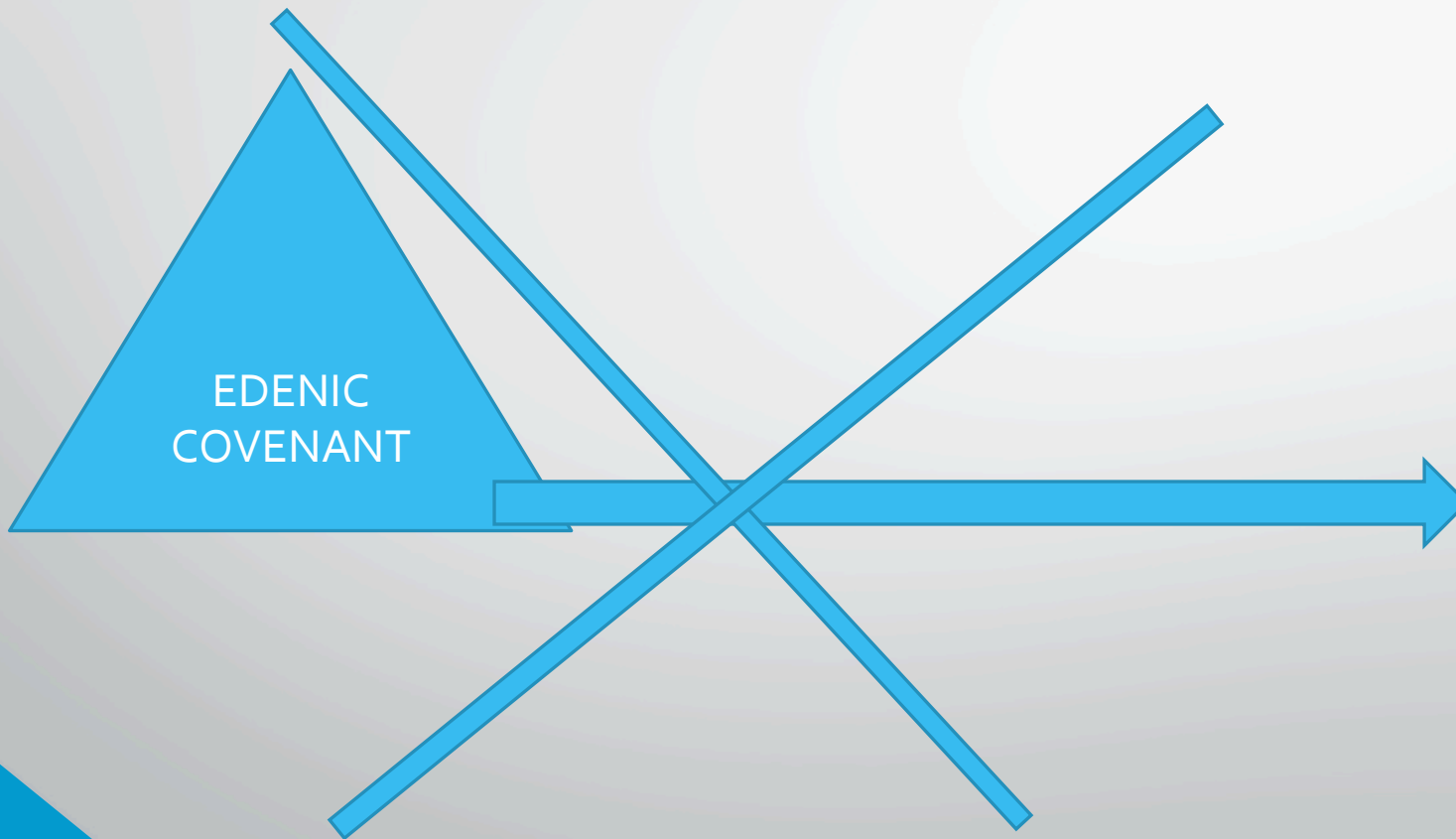
Jesus : The New Means of Separation



Covenants Basis for Laws

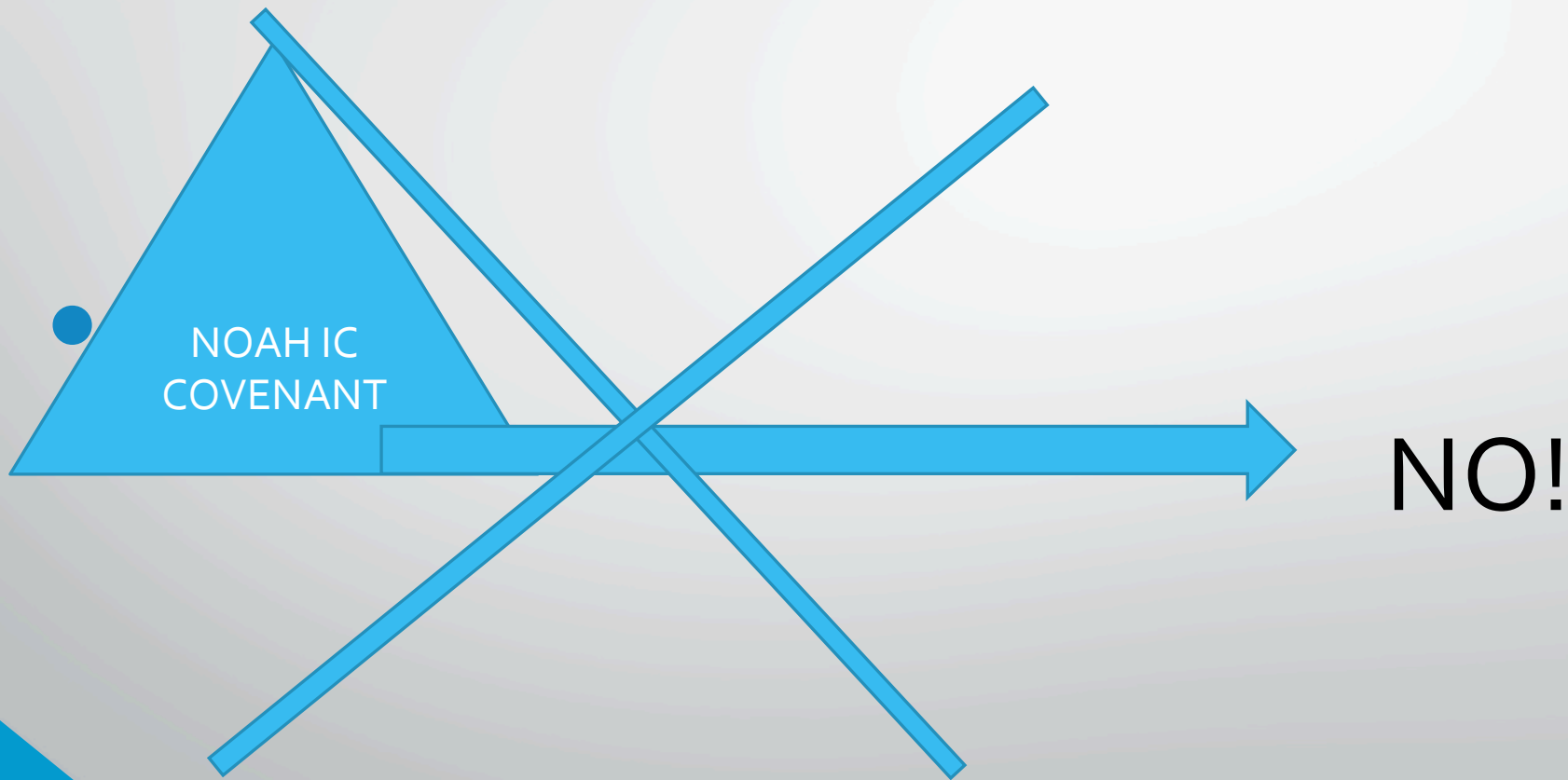


ARE WE OBLIGAED TO KEEP THE LAWS OF
EDENIC COVENANT?




NO!

ARE WE OBLIGAED TO KEEP THE LAWS OF NOAHIC COVENANT?



ARE WE OBLIGAED TO KEEP THE LAWS OF ABRAHAMIC COVENANT?



ABRAHAMIC
COVENANT

NO!

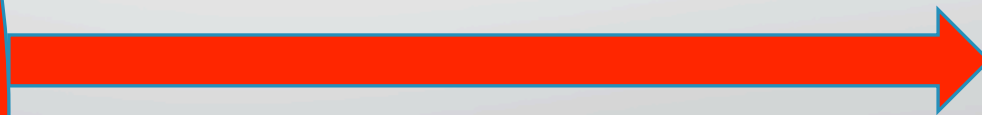
ARE WE OBLIGAED TO KEEP LAWS OF
SINAITC COVENANT?



SINAITC
COVENANT

NO!

ARE WE OBLIGAED TO KEEP LAWS AS THEY
FLOW OUT OF JESUS –THE NEW COVENANT



YES

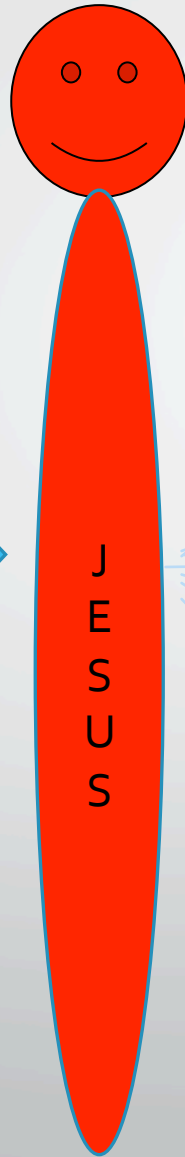
Torah or Old Covenant No Longer Obligatory (2Cor 3: 6-14)

- Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.
- But if the **ministry of death in letters engraved on stones**, came with glory so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how will the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?

Torah or Old Covenant No Longer Obligatory (2Cor 3: 6-14)

- For if the ministry of **condemnation has glory**, much more does the **ministry of righteousness** abound in glory. For indeed what had glory, in this case has no glory because of the glory that surpasses it.
- For if that which fades away was with glory, much more that which remains in glory...14 for until this very day at the reading of the old covenant the same veil lies over their hearts, but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

13
Lev 1:1-6
ed Gen 17.10
ut 18:1
xo 25:8
Exo 20:14; Deut 21:15
Exo 20:8-11



- anger/hate (Matt 5:21; 1John 3:15)
- bodily sacrifice (Rom 12:1-3; Gal 2:20)
- circumcision of the heart (Col 2:11; Rom 2:29)
- priest=Jesus/believer (Heb 8:1; 1Pt. 2:9)
- temple=Jesus/believer, (Jo 15.1-5; 1Cor 3:16)
- Adultery =lust (Matt 5:27-28)
- Sabbath = rest in Jesus (Matt 11:28; Heb 4:9-11)

QUESTION?

- DOES THE SABBATH FLOW FROM JESUS AS ONE DAY OUT OF SEVEN OR SEVEN DAYS OUT OF SEVEN?
- IS JESUS ALL- SUFFICIENT AS THE ENTITY THAT SEPARATES OR SANCTIFIES?



THE END