



the good news according to

# MATTHEW

**Chapter 19:1-12**

**A Controversial Trap**

**<sup>1</sup> When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went down to the region of Judea east of the Jordan River. <sup>2</sup> Large crowds followed him there, and he healed their sick. <sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees came and tried to trap him with this question: “Should a man be allowed to divorce his wife for just any reason?”**

**4 “Haven’t you read the Scriptures?” Jesus replied. “They record that from the beginning ‘God made them male and female.’”<sup>5</sup> And he said, “This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’<sup>6</sup> Since they are no longer two but one, let no one split apart what God has joined together.”**

**7 “Then why did Moses say in the law that a man could give his wife a written notice of divorce and send her away?” they asked. 8 Jesus replied, “Moses permitted divorce only as a concession to your hard hearts, but it was not what God had originally intended. 9 And I tell you this, whoever divorces his wife and marries someone else commits adultery—unless his wife has been unfaithful.”**



IT'S A  
TRAP!

**<sup>1</sup> Suppose a man marries a woman but she does not please him. Having discovered something wrong with her, he writes a document of divorce, hands it to her, and sends her away from his house.**

# Rabbi Hillel

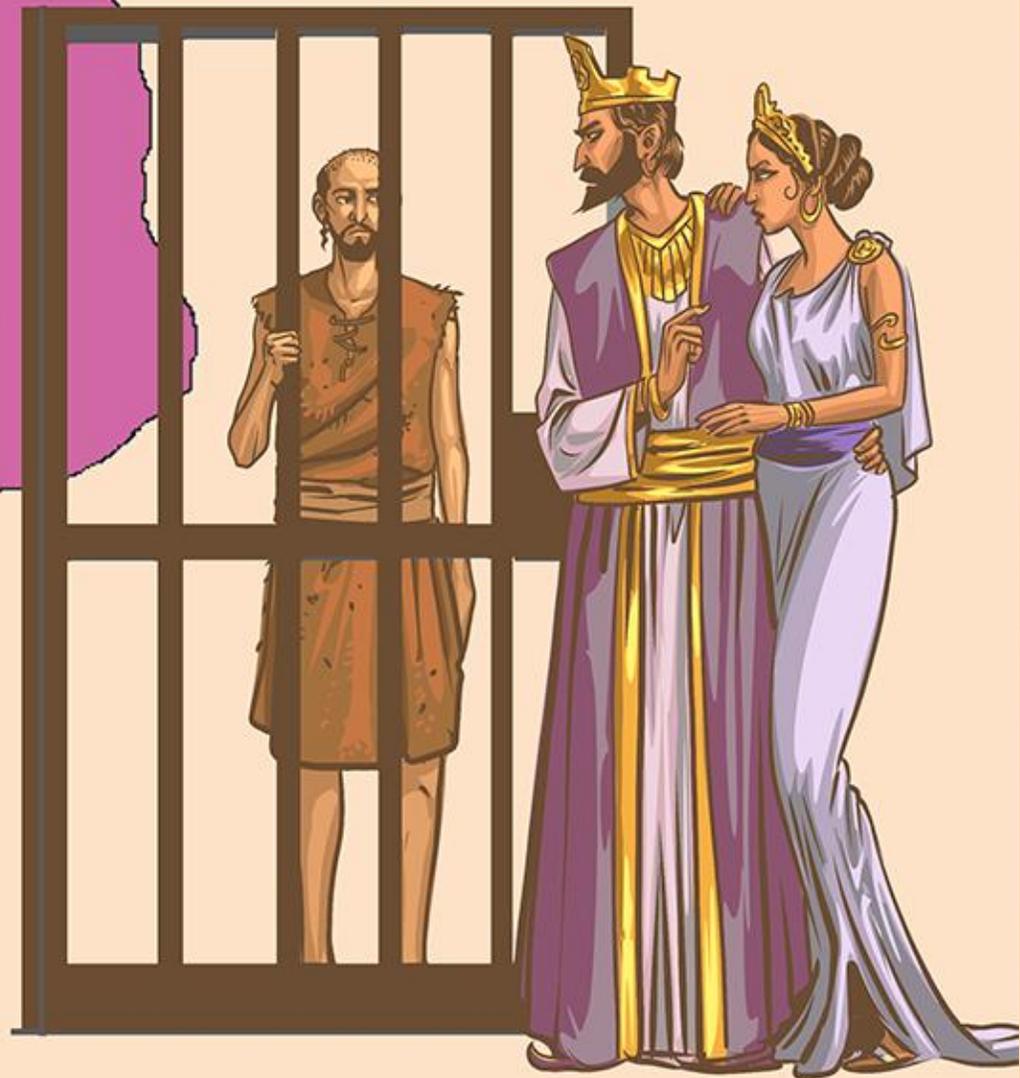
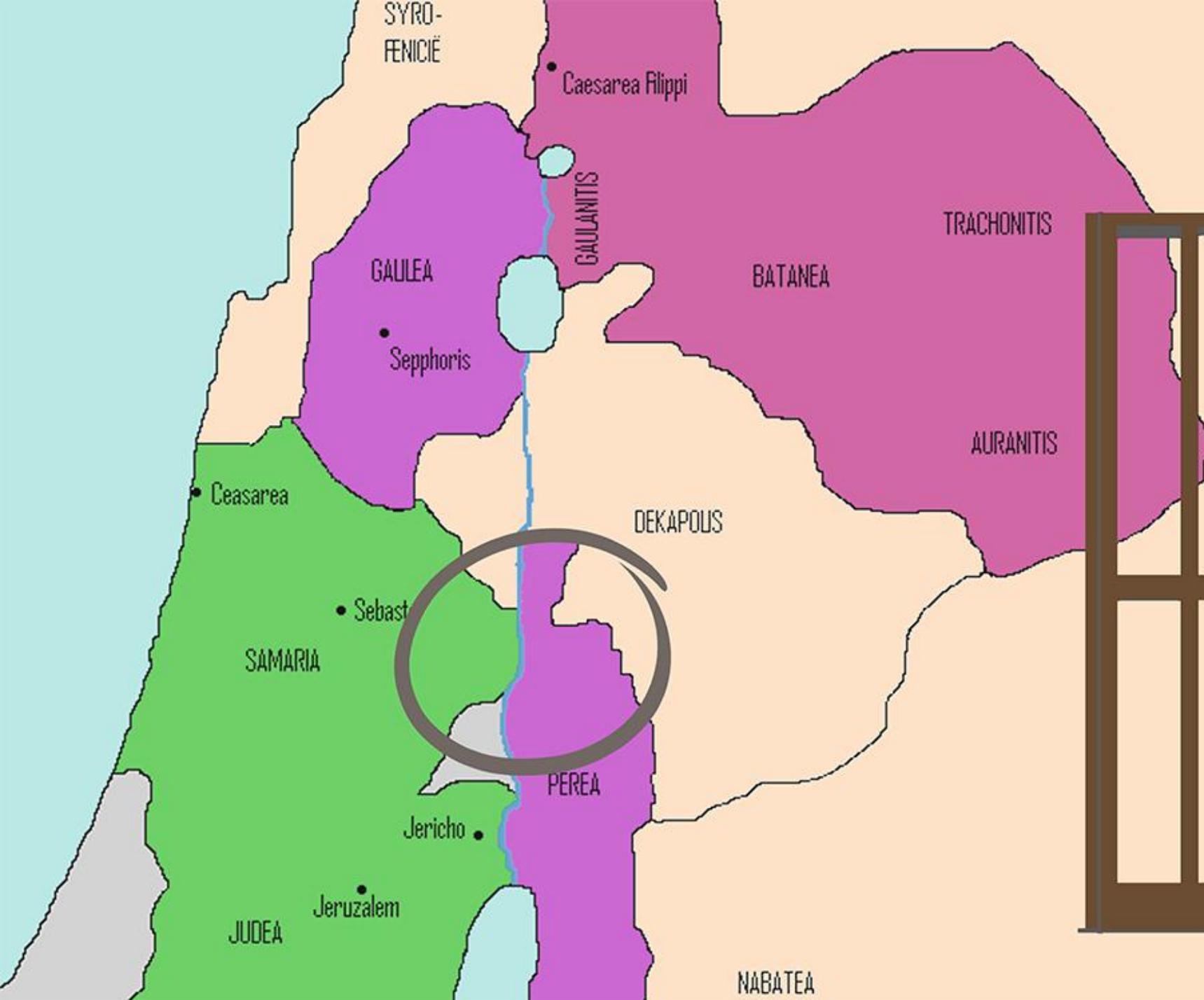


# Rabbi Hillel



# Rabbi Shammai





Political/Cultural  
controversies  
can distract  
from the  
**GOSPEL**  
mission



**18 ...God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. 19 For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation. 20 So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!"**

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**<sup>10</sup> Jesus' disciples then said to him, "If this is the case, it is better not to marry!" <sup>11</sup> "Not everyone can accept this statement," Jesus said. "Only those whom God helps. <sup>12</sup> Some are born as eunuchs, some have been made eunuchs by others, and some choose not to marry for the sake of the Kingdom of Heaven. Let anyone accept this who can."**



Jesus wasn't  
**COMPELLED**  
**TO EXPRESS**  
all his views  
**PUBLICLY**



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