

Christ The Rock Church

Sunday, September 01, 2024

Gospel of John
In the Beginning

Questions . . .

How does this gospel
“fit” into N.T. and the
bible overall?

My Bias's (Hermeneutical Approach)

History: culture, background, situation

Context: what comes before/after the
verse, chapter, book, entire Bible

Grammar: Hebrew, Greek, English

Parallel Passages: scripture its own commentary

Word Studies: (light, water, bread, etc.)

Genre: (history, poetry, prophecy, etc.)

Historical Context

Historical Context

End of first Century (90-95 AD)

60 years after Christ

Eyewitnesses mostly dead

False doctrine infiltrating

Important Questions

Mat 16:13-15 -- When Jesus had come to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They said, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God!"

Historical Context

Plan 'A': Satan's greatest trick

Satan's Plan 'B': confuse the truth
with false god(s)

(Mystery Religions, Greek
Pantheism, Hinduism, Buddhism)

World Religions by Size

- 1) Christianity: 2.4 billion, 30 % world population
- 2) Islam: 2 billion, 25 % world population
- 3) Hinduism: 1.1 billion, 14 % world population.
- 4) Buddhism: 700 million, or 8% world pop.
- 5) Sikhism: 25 million worldwide
- 6) Shinto (Japan): 3 million worldwide

World Religions by Size

- 1) Christianity: (Catholic, Lutheran, etc.)
- 2) Islam: 5 Pillars, good must outweigh the bad
- 3) Hinduism: Reincarnation by karma
- 4) Buddhism: goal of enlightenment
- 5) Sikhism: resist negative behaviors, treat others
- 6) Shinto (Japan): 'kami': wind, rivers, trees, etc.

Roman Catholic Church

- 1) 1.3 Billion worldwide
- 2) Levels of knowledge & access to God
 - Pope the Vicar of Christ
 - Priest must teach you
 - saints (Mary, etc.) must intercede for you
 - church membership secures you
 - sacraments add to your salvation (Baptism, Eucharist)
 - church tradition equal with scripture

Islam (5 Pillars)

- 1) **Shahaadah: profession of Faith**
- 2) **Salaat: daily prayer**
- 3) **Zakat: giving alms**
- 4) **Sawm: fasting (Ramadan)**
- 5) **Hajj: Mecca**

Your 'good' should outweigh your 'bad'

Hinduism

- 1) Brahma: universal soul (the creator)
- 2) Vishnu: preserver Shiva: destroyer
- 3) Atman: individual soul (death & rebirth) karma
- 4) Human life is divided into four stages, and there are defined rites and rituals for each stage from birth till death (again with the levels)
- 5) The Veda's (knowledge) are sacred

Buddhism

- 1) Siddhartha Guatama (600 BC) became 'The Buddha' by achieving enlightenment.
- 2) 4 Noble Truths lead to the 8-fold path
- 3) Ultimate goal is 'enlightenment' ('bodhi': means the knowledge or wisdom, or awakened intellect, of a Buddha.)

(Gnostic levels of spiritual achievement
through knowledge)

Shinto

- 1) Shinto ceremonies/practices create harmony between humans, nature (**animism**) and kami (divine beings or spirits). (**Gnostic** 'levels')
- 2) Japanese Emperor a descendant of the sun goddess (like the Roman Emperors)
- 3) No doctrine of sin/salvation. Focus on purity, rituals and honoring the **kami** (human 'goodness' = spiritual achievement)
- 4) Worship the created thing rather than the creator

Jehovah Witness (Watchtower)

- 1) Founder: Taze Russel (1870), home Bible study
- 2) Judge Rutherford (1917), Watchtower Society
 - Bible corrupt (New World Translation)
 - Jesus is Michael the Archangel
 - no immortal soul, no hell.

Jehovah Witness (Watchtower)

- no literal return of Christ, no Trinity, no worldwide judgement.
- Salvation by good works/obedience.
- No substitutionary atonement by Christ,
- just a ransom payment.

Mormonism (LDS)

- 1) Founder: Jospeh Smith (thru Divine revelation)
- 2) Bible corrupt (Book of Mormon, etc.)
- 3) All churches & creeds and abomination
- 4) God not always Supreme Being over the universe (attained that status by right living and effort). Adam was 'god', the father of Jesus thru physical relations with Mary, and

Mormonism (LDS)

followers achieve different levels in the afterlife based on their human efforts on the Earth.

(Gnosticism: levels of spirituality based on works and ‘knowledge’)

Historical Context

Satan deceives (no god or Satan)

Satan confuses (multiple counterfeits)

Many ways to get to God (world religions)

You can earn it (works-righteousness)

Live your best existence now

Who is Jesus by World Religions

- 1) Christianity: only way to eternal life
- 2) Islam: a prophet, will return, beneath Muhammad
- 3) Hinduism: upon his death, he became enlightened and merged with the Godhead
- 4) Buddhism: a Buddha who achieved enlightenment
- 5) Sikhism: an enlightened Guru like Nanak
- 6) Shinto: example of 'kami': purity/way of the Earth

John's Gospel

Jesus existed before creation (1:1)

Jesus is fully God yet distinct (1:2)

Jesus is creator of all things (1:3)

Jesus is The Way, Truth, Life (1:4)

Jesus defeats all evil (1:5)

Word Studies & Parallel Passages

In the Beginning

John 1:1 -- In the beginning
was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was
God.

In the Beginning

Genesis 1:1-2 -- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

The Beginning of What?

Origin: Where did everything come from?

Meaning: Why is the world the way it is?

Purpose: Why am I here?

Destiny: Where am I going?

Gnostic Theological/Philosophical Systems of Thought in the Early 2nd Century

- 1) Matter is evil – the spirit good
- 2) series of angelic levels (*aeons*)
between a high, good god and a
lesser god who was able to form
matter (Yahweh).

Gnostic Theological/Philosophical Systems of Thought in the Early 2nd Century

1. Salvation came by

1. secret knowledge or passwords which allowed a person to pass through these **angelic levels** on their way to union with God
2. a **divine spark** in all humans, which they are not aware of until they receive secret knowledge (Eastern Mysticism)

A Biblical Worldview

Acts 17:24-31

Worldview -- *Acts 17:24-31*

Creator God (17:24-25)

Sovereign God (17:26)

Personal/relational God (17:27)

Sustainer God (17:28)

Worldview -- Acts 17:24-31

Transcendent God (17:29)

Merciful God (17:30)

Just God (17:31)

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Gen. 1:1 – In the beginning God created

1 John 1:1 – That which was from the beginning ...

Hebrew and Greek
background of *logos* (word)

The Word (*'logos'*) O.T.

the power of the **spoken word** (Isa. 55:11;
Ps. 33:6; 107:20; 147:15,18),
as in Creation (Gen. 1:3,6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24,
26,29) and
the Patriarchal blessing (Gen. 27:1ff; 49:1)

The Word (*logos*) O.T.

Proverbs 8:12-23 personifies
"Wisdom" as God's first
creation and agent of all
creation (cf. Ps. 33:6)

The Word ('*logos*') - N.T.

Greek background

1. **Heracleitus** (500 BC) – the world was in flux; the impersonal divine and changing *logos* held it together and guided the changing process,

The Word ('*logos*') - N.T.

2. **Plato** – the impersonal and unchanging *logos* kept the planets on course and determined the seasons
3. **Stoics** – the *logos* was the "world reason" or manager, but impersonal (much like 'science'/physics today)

The Word (*logos*) - N.T.

4. **Philo** – he personified the concept of *logos* as "High Priest that set the soul of man before God," or "the bridge between man and God," or "the tiller by which the Pilot of the universe steers all things“.

The Word (*logos*)

Originally: the universal principle through which all things are interrelated, and all natural events occur. Between all things there is a hidden connection, so that those that are apparently “tearing apart” are actually “being brought together.” (Good/evil)

The Word (*logos*)

‘Logos’ used by The Holy Spirit thru
the New Testament writers:

Luke: Acts 1:1 (‘treatise’ – *logos*)

Used 330 times in Bible with three
main ideas of expression

Acts 1:1

The former **treatise** (*logos*) have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach

Three Uses of (*logos*) in N.T.

In respect to speech

A word (James 3:2), a saying (Matt. 19:22), a discourse (2 Cor. 10:10), doctrine (1 Tim. 6:3), narrative (Acts 1:1), or a report (John 21:23).

Three Uses of (*logos*) in N.T.

In respect to the mind

The mind's ability to reason thru
illumination of the Divine Word
(Bible) [**Hebrew 4:12**]

Hebrew 4:12

For the **word** (*logos*) of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of **soul and spirit**, of both **joints and marrow**, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

1 Cor. 14:15

What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.

Three Uses of ('*logos*') in N.T.

In respect to a Person (Jesus)

The material embodiment of all wisdom, grace and divine truth.

(Jn. 1:1; 1:14, 1 Jn. 1:1; 5:7; Rev. 19:13; Eph. 1:8; 1 Cor. 1:30; Col. 2:3)

was the Word

Logos: the concept or idea

Rhema: expression of that idea in intelligent, grammatical form in written & spoken word

Genesis 1: God created by spoken word (*rhema*) after conceiving of the universe in His mind (*logos*)

Is. 55:11 — My word (*logos-LXX*) not return void

John 1:1 – was the Word

Logos: Logos is the Greek term translated as “word,” “speech,” “principle,” or “thought.” In Greek philosophy, it also referred to a universal, divine reason or the mind of God.

Grammatical Context

Word was God

-- Bible written in Hebrew, Chaldean, Greek

-- Language has **rules** to interpret

(dangling participle)

-- You don't have to memorize **the rules**, but,

-- Be aware, there **ARE rules** required to make proper interpretation.

Hermeneutics: follow **the rules** (grammar)

Sharpe's' Rule

The Granville Sharp Rule was first noted in
1798 in his book,

*Remarks on the Uses of the Definitive Article in
the Greek Text of the New Testament:
Containing Many New Proofs of the Divinity of
Christ, from Passages Which Are Wrongly
Translated in the Common English Version.*

Sharpe's' Rule and the J.W.'s

when two singular common nouns are used to describe a person, and those two nouns are joined by an additive conjunction, and the definite article precedes the first noun but not the second, then both nouns refer to the same person.

Sharpe's' Rule

Was 'God',

Or,

Was 'a' god

New World Translation (Jehovah's Witnesses)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word
was with God, and the Word was **a** god.

Who Is Jesus

- Jesus is eternal (“In **the beginning** was the Word”)
- Jesus was with God prior to coming to earth (“the Word was **with** God”)
- Jesus is God (“the Word **was** God.”)

-Jesus is Creator

(“All things were made through him”)

-Jesus is the Giver of Life

(“In him was life”)

-Jesus became human to tabernacle

(“Word became flesh/**dwelt** among us”)

Jesus is Savior (Acts 4:12)

Jesus is Lord (Rev. 19:11-16)

Jesus is God (John 20:28)

GOSPEL JOHN

In the beginning (1:1,2)

Word (logos) (1:1)

Life (zōē) (1:4)

Light in Jesus (1:4)

Light revealed (1:4)

Darkness (1:5)

FIRST JOHN

From the beginning (1:1)

Word (logos) (1:1)

Life (zōē) (1:1,2)

Light in God (1:5)

Light revealed (1:5)

Darkness (1:5)

GOSPEL JOHN

Witness to light (1:6-8)

**Humans brought to God
(1:7,12-13)**

Beheld His glory (1:14)

FIRST JOHN

Witness to light (1:3,5)

**Humans brought to God
(1:3)**

Beheld His glory (1:1-3)