

'Who is Jesus?'

John 1.1

New Apt / ONE ESSENTIAL ITEM > KITCHEN CLOCK
 GREAT PROBLEM FINDING CLOCK THAT WORKS / now 4th One
 Clocks from India, China, Italy, now from United Arab Emirates
 ONE THING WE HAVE LEARNED > NOT ALL CLOCKS THE SAME

EVERY MAJOR RELIGION HAS SOME PLACE FOR JESUS
 Brahmin / Buddha / Prophet / Rabbi / Teacher / Zen Master / Demiurge
 Human / Divine / Spirit of Divine / god with small g / Human & Divine
 RAMSTORE > Baskin Robbins 31 Flavors of Ice Cream // JESUS

CAN BE CONFUSING EVEN TO CHRISTIANS > Church in Corinth
 Paul the Apostle / their Spiritual Father "I am afraid that...your minds may
 somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. For if
 someone comes to you and preaches a Jesus other than the Jesus we
 preached...you put up with it easily enough" 2 Corinth 11.2-4

NOT ALL CLOCKS ARE THE SAME / NOT EVERY JESUS IS JESUS

New ADVENT Sermon Series / John 1.1-18 – The Jesus of the Bible

ADVENT – Latin wd "Come"/ Jesus BIRTH DATE?? / Celebrate Now
 Focus on Him ONCE CAME / NOW COMES / & WILL COME AGAIN

Author of this Book / JOHN, son of Zebedee / Disciple and APOSTLE
 4th Gospel / written after Matthew, Mark, Luke / between 60 and 90 AD

GOSPEL – more than biography / testimony of faith / GOOD NEWS

Evangelistic PURPOSE – 20.31 "written that you may believe that Jesus is the
 Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name"

1.1-18 / Overture before a Great Symphony

THEMES INTRODUCED – Word, Life, Light, Faith, Grace, & Truth

ALEXANDER MacLAREN "The other (three) gospels begin with Bethlehem;
 John begins with the bosom of the Father. Luke dates his narrative by Roman
 emperors and Jewish High Priests; John dates his "in the beginning." Matthew
 and Luke take us to the cradle and manger, Mark takes us to the prophecies of
 old, but John takes us back into the mists of eternity."

Jesus is God > ONE OF MAIN THEMES OF JOHN'S GOSPEL
TRUTH WE TIP TOE AROUND / John BOLDLY STOMPS / SHOUTS

1. The Deity of Christ

a. Resides with God – “In the beginning was the Word”

OT starts with the Beginning of the World

Gen 1.1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”

JOHN ECHOES GEN 1 / STRETCHES BACK BEFORE BEGINNING

1 John 1.1,2 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us”

GOD WAS WITH JESUS AND HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE JESUS

GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IS GOD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

God is always Holy and Just always Loving and Forgiving

GOD HAS ALWAYS HATED SIN/ ALWAYS had MERCY on SINNERS

b. Reveals God – “the Word” JESUS THE WORD REVEALS GOD

WORDS REVEAL THOUGHTS & IDEAS / JESUS REVEALS GOD

1.18 “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known”

14.8 Philip asked J. “Lord show us the Father & that will be enough for us”

Jesus answered “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me, HAS SEEN THE FATHER

APART FROM JESUS > CANNOT KNOW GOD

APART FROM SCRIPTURE > CANNOT KNOW JESUS

POWER OF CREATIVE WORD > God Spoke > AND IT WAS SO

Psalm 33 “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made”

Psa 29 “The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic”

JOHN'S WORD FOR WORD > Greek word "Logos"

Slightly different meaning for Hebrews and Greeks

HEREWS > Once a WORD IS SPOKEN A DEED IS DONE / No Returning

Twin Sons of Isaac and Rebekah / Jacob and Esau

Elderly Isaac ONE LAST SHASHLIK STICK > sends Esau to get some Meat

Jacob> Dressed like Esau> Best Shashlik> STEALS BLESSING FROM ESAU

Esau / Did not Shop at Ramstore / Went all the way to Village to Get Meat

CAME BACK TOO LATE / DAD NOT HUNGRY / BLESSING SPOKEN

"Bless me – me too, my father! But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."

ONCE WORD WAS SPOKEN / BLESSING GIVEN / NO TAKING BACK

Be Careful What YOU SAY / May be Forgiveness / NEVER IS FORGETTING

LOGOS FOR THE GREEKS > Important Philosophical Concept

Heraclitus > lived in Ephesus in 6th C BC / where John lived as he wrote??

"It is impossible to step into the same river twice"

World in CONSTANT CHANGE / LOGOS only thing DOES NOT CHANGE

PLATO "It may be that some day there will come forth from God a Word, a Logos, who will reveal all mysteries and make everything plain"

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME > GOD SENT THE WORLD HIS LOGOS

ULTIMATE PRINCIPLE IS AN ETERNAL PERSON > God in Human Flesh

c. Relates with God "the Word was with God" INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP

v. 18 "at the Father's side" / In Bosom of Father / EVER SO CLOSE

BRUCE MILNE "It is as if God has reached into his very being and plucked out his own heart in sending Christ to us"

JOHN > CLEAR DIVISIONS BETWEEN MEMBERS OF TRINITY

NO MODALISM > One God and One Person/ Changes Mode/ Appearance

First wears mask of Father / then mask as Son / now mask as Holy Spirit

BIBLE TEACHES ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS // wd. Trinity coined

JESUS HAS BEEN WITH THE FATHER FROM ETERNITY

LAST NIGHT ON EARTH JESUS PRAYED “And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began” 17.5

JESUS IS BOTH FULLY GOD AND GOD THE SON

DECREED IN GOD’S ETERNAL TODAY / Messianic Psalm of Messiah
 “I will proclaim the decree of the Lord; He said to me, “You are my Son; today I have become your Father”
 Psalm 2.7

SONSHIP NOT SUBORDINATION > POSITION WITHIN GODHEAD
 ETERNALLY BEGOTTEN SON / SON WITH NO BEGINNING OR END

BEGOTTEN / THE ONLY ONE / THE UNIQUE ONE

W.E. BEST “Jesus is both the Word and the Son. These two metaphors supplement and protect each other. To think of Christ merely as the Word sounds impersonal...as merely the Son sounds like a created being”

JESUS IS BOTH PERSONAL AND UNCREATED

d. Remains God – “the Word was God” HE IS FULLY GOD

SOME THEOLOGIANS AFRAID TO MAKE THIS CLEAR, BOLD statement

BULTMAN demythologized Jesus

ROBINSON God’s representative to man

TILLICH the Bearer of the New Being

PANNENBURG the man of the future

KUNG the Advocate and Deputy of God

SCHOONENBURG the embodiment of God’s presence

GOULDER the man of universal destiny

LAMPE supreme exemplar of perfect and unbroken response to the Father

JOHN THE APOSTLE tells us Jesus is the I AM / Eternal, Self Existent God

WHEN JESUS HEALED on the SABBATH, JEWS PERSECUTED HIM

“My Father is always at his work to the very day, and I, too, am working.” For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God”
 John 5.17,18

JAMES BOICE “Everything that can be said about the Father can be said of the Son as well. Is the Father sovereign? So is Jesus. Is the Father omniscient? So is Jesus. Is he omnipresent? So is Jesus. In fact, in Jesus may be found all the wisdom, glory, power, love, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth of God.”

John 12.41 SHOWS JOHN’S CONCEPT OF DEITY OF JESUS
CANNOT BE ANY HIGHER POSITION

REFERS TO ISAIAH 6 / Glorious Picture of the Holy One of Israel

Jews > God DWELLED IN UNAPPROACHABLE & INVISIBLE GLORY
ISAIAH DID NOT SEE GOD / ONLY REFLECTION/ STILL AWESOME

Jews that > Isaiah’s VISION CLOSEST THING to Portrait of Living God

CONTEXT OF JOHN’S INCREDIBLE COMMENT ON ISAIAH 6
12.41 “Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus’ glory and spoke of Him”

MOST EXALTED VISION OF GOD IS PORTRAIT of Carpenter from Naz

Took Church 300 years to come to this Conclusion // NICENE CREED

Popular Teacher in Church of Egypt / Arius > great following of people
SPEAKING OF JESUS “there was when he was not”
JESUS NOT FULLY GOD / CREATED / HAD A BEGINNING

NESTORIANS / ARIANS WENT TO ARABIA & CENTRAL ASIA
Isa Muhammed describes in Quran is an Arian Jesus

Jesus of Arius / Jesus of Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons today
THERE REALLY IS NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN, even in Theology

Far less Popular Deacon in Egyptian Church / Athanasius / Not Good Orator
JESUS “He became what he was not and he continued to be what He was”
ETERNAL GOD WHO BECAME MAN

Arius > Jesus was of Similar Nature as Father / Athanasius > Same Nature
CHOICE EITHER JESUS WAS CREATOR GOD / or Just a CREATURE

Christian Emperor Constantine called Council in Nicea in 325 AD
1) settle theological debate 2) soothe factious supporters and stop civil war

RESULT > Nicene Creed “I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, co essential with the Father”

L. BOETTNER “to admit the Deity of Christ and to trust Him for salvation constitutes one a Christian and to reject His Deity marks one a non Christian”

2. The Demands of Christ

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS JESUS / THE CLAIMS HE MAKES?

C.S. LEWIS “You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool; you can spit on him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to

a. Finality of Christ THERE IS NO WHERE TO GO BEYOND JESUS

AGE OF PLURALISM / Tone Down our Distinctives / COMMON CENTER

BE OPEN TO ANY THOUGHT, LIFESTYLE, OR RELIGION
CONVICTIONS ARE SIGN OF INTOLERANCE, EVEN BIGOTRY

Heb 1.1,2 “In the past God spoke to our forefathers thru the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by His Son

HE IS THE FINAL WORD FROM GOD / FULLNESS OF WORD
HE IS THE PROPHET GREATER THAN MOSES / leads us into All Truth

MANY RELIGIONS CLAIM ADMIRATION for JESUS> but More Needed

Jesus is a Prophet / but Muhammed has the Last Word in his Quran

Jesus is a Savior / but Joseph Smith has the Last Word in Book of Mormon

Jesus is a god / but the Jehovah’s Witness teachings in Watchtower are Final

X is Divine Principle/ but Mary Baker Eddy’s Christian Science is Necessary

SUCH groups PAY LIP SERVICE TO JESUS / but really slap Him in the face
LIKE PAINTING MOUSTACHE ON MONA LISA / defacing a Masterpiece

YOU MAY LOSE INTEREST IN YOUR JOB, YOUR CHURCH, OR LIFE
BUT PITY YOU IF YOU LOSE INTEREST IN JESUS

ONE POINT MANY FOLLOWERS LEFT JESUS, and he asked DISCIPLES
“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord,
whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. 6.67,68

BIBLE ENDS WITH A SOLEMN WARNING Revel 22.18
“I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book. If anyone
adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book”

WARNING MOTIVATED BY GOD’S LOVE / No one else has Words of Life

b. Mystery of Christ IN JESUS WE KNOW GOD / NOT EXHAUSTIVELY

WE HAVE BARELY TOUCHED THE HEM OF HIS KINGLY ROB

MARY, GOOD JEWISH MOTHER, TRIED TO FILL SON’S Palm Pilot
2.4 “Dear woman, why do you involve me? My time has not yet come”

JESUS TELLS NICODEMUS “The wind blows wherever it pleases.
You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is
going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit” 3.8

LAST VERSE OF THIS GOSPEL OF JOHN “Jesus did many other things as
well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole
world would not have room for the books that would be written” 21.25

JOHN wrote REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST / sees Him on White Horse
“He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself” 19.12

STUDY FOR A LIFETIME / all eternity not enough to figure Him all Out

BUT GOD DELIGHTS FOR US TO KNOW HIM MORE AND MORE
Paul prayed for “all the saints (THAT’S US) to grasp how wide and long and
high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses
knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”

BECAUSE JESUS IS AN INFINITE GOD / HE CAN SATISFY ALL OUR
NEEDS OUT OF HIS INEXHAUSTIBLE IMMENSITY

c. Centrality of Christ everything is from him and through him and to him

ONE TENET OF PLURALISM / All Religions are Equally Able to Help

BIG MUSHY GOD DWELLS ON TOP OF HIS ETHERIAL MOUNTAIN

all roads will lead to him / every religion has a different road

NARROW MINDED MAN LAID A ROADBLOCK ACROSS ALL PATHS
EXCEPT HIS OWN “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to
the Father except through me” John 14.6

Pilot flying from Almaty to Astana / Takes off and climbs to 30,000 feet
WELL LETS SEE / BEAUTIFUL DAY IN SKY / WHICH WAY TODAY?

“any way can get me to Astana”

NOT MUCH OF A PILOT, NAVIGATOR, OR THEOLOGIAN

CHARLES LAMB “If Shakespeare were to come into this room we should all
rise up to meet him, but if Jesus were to come in, we should all fall down and
try to kiss the hem of his garment”

NOT FANCIFUL IMAGINATION > one day every knee bow, tongue confess

d. Supremacy of Christ HE ALONE IS WORTHY TO SAVE

AS SINLESS SON OF GOD / HE CAN DIE FOR OTHERS / HE’S WORTHY

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven
given to men by which we must be saved” Acts 4.12

Bp Moule “A Savior not quite God is like a bridge broken at the further end”

BRUCE MILNE “If Jesus Christ shares the nature of God, we are called to
worship Him without cessation, obey him without hesitation, love him without
reservation, and serve him without interruption. To Him be all glory forever”

C.T. Studd > Cricket playing M to China, India, and Africa / “If Jesus Christ is
God, and He died for me, then no sacrifice I can make can be too great for him”

Apostle John presents Gospel like Student should write Well Written Essay
Opening Thesis > Jesus is God
20 chapters of proofs and examples
Closing Summary > Risen Jesus with Doubting Disciple named Thomas

Thomas > Historic Affirmation / calls Jesus “My Lord and My God”

Will Jesus the devout Monotheistic Rabbi Rebuke Thomas? JUST OPPOSITE
BLESSED!! –seen and believed – MORE BLESSED Not Seen & Believe

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THIS BLESSING??

BELIEVING BY FAITH IN WORD of Jesus God’s Son

Christmas Season > Gifts, given and Received //

HOLIDAY SEASON > Don’t buy a broken clock / Don’t believe a false Jesus

BEST GIFT > God Gives Son for You

“To all who receive him, to those who believe in his name, God gives the right
to become children of God” 1.12