

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Christology

The Life of Jesus

Chronology

Situation

- Broken Israel
- Roman domination
- God seems to have abandoned the people
- Zealots, Pharisees, Sadducees, Essenes

THE GOSPELS

- Matthew: Fulfillment of the promises of Israel
- Luke: Fulfillment of Israel and an overcoming of the Romans
- Mark: begins in the wilderness preparing the way
- John: begins at creation

KINGDOM OF GOD

- What is the kingdom that he preaches?
 - Communal or individual?
 - Ethical, existential, or relational?
 - Lordship of the Father
 - How are competing religious claims properly honored?
 - How is God's presence, God's reign, God's action established in the world?
 - The yoke of God
 - The problem of worldview, preformed opinion and biblical interpretation
 - Misunderstanding dominates in Mark
- Meaning
 - Renewal of creation
 - New home for those who seek God
 - New Israel: calling of the Twelve
 - New law
 - New covenant

MINISTRY: HOW THE KINGDOM IS BROUGHT ABOUT

- What does he do?
 - Healings
 - Faith; i.e., trusting and relying truly on God, causes the kingdom to erupt in our midst, bringing healing and life
 - Healing and forgiveness
 - Combat with the powers of evil
 - Table fellowship
 - Feeding of the Five Thousand / Feeding of the Four Thousand
 - Jesus and women
- What does he say?
 - Teaching
 - Eschatological Sayings

- Reinterpreting the law
- The Sermon on the Mount
 - Beatitudes
 - The New Law
 - Fulfillment of the old
 - Prayer
 - The Sabbath
 - Honoring the Sabbath is living in the kingdom
 - Jesus is the Servant foretold by Isaiah
 - The demons are driven forth by the power and presence of God
 - People can be judged by their fruits
 - Sign of Jonah
 - The true family of Jesus: those who do the will of the Father
- The Parables
- Commissioning: Enacting the Kingdom
 - Seeking what truly brings happiness
 - Fasting: new freedom in regard to the law
 - The dead come back to life
 - The blind see
 - The mute talk
 - The need for co-workers
- The Twelve
 - Reconstitution of Israel
 - The mission of the Twelve
 - Rely on God
 - Spread the news
 - Suffering awaits

IDENTITY

- How is Jesus received?
 - Misunderstanding
 - Understanding
 - Canaanite Woman: Gentiles understand
 - Peter's declaration and misunderstanding
 - Daniel 7 and Isaiah 53
 - The cross is an obstacle to understanding
 - Transfiguration
 - Disciples could not exorcise
 - Greatness is found in being least
- Who is he?
 - Peter's confession
 - Transfiguration
 - Son of Man
 - The Son of the Father
 - Last Prophet/Elijah
 - Messiah
 - Son of David
 - New Moses

- The Son and the Father
 - No one knows the Father but the Son
 - The Son reveals the Father

INTENTIONALITY

- What was Jesus up to?
 - Israel and the kingdom
 - Forgiveness and salvation
 - Cleansing of the temple
- Complex issues
 - Knowledge of Jesus
 - Consciousness of Jesus
 - Beatific vision of Jesus
 - Grace of Jesus
 - Faith of Jesus

WHY DOES HE GET INTO TROUBLE?

- Forgiveness of sins
- Messiah
- Cleansing of the temple
- Entrance into Jerusalem

THE DEATH OF JESUS

The Cross

- The Account of the Death of Jesus
 - Historical considerations
 - Jesus' opponents
 - Jesus' trial
- God's approach
 - Did Jesus have to die?
 - Did God kill Jesus?
 - Was Jesus' death part of God's plan?
- Jesus' own approach
 - Logistics
 - Did he foresee his death?
 - Did he arrange his death?
 - Did he avoid his death?
- Did he have any theological understanding of his upcoming death?: Opinions
 - Doesn't matter
 - No significance
 - Deep theological significance
 - Opening the kingdom
 - Suffering servant
- Theological significance
 - How did Jesus understand the upcoming danger to Israel?
 - How did Jesus understand the upcoming danger to himself?
 - How did Jesus understand his own role in Israel's salvation
- Last Supper as interpretive key
 - Death as bringing new covenant
 - Death as invoking the kingdom

THE RESURRECTION

- The expectation
- Paul's description
- The Gospel descriptions of the resurrection
- New Testament accounts
 - Kerygma
 - Antitheses of death and resurrection
 - Christ is Risen!
 - 1 Cor 15:3-8
 - Third day: factual and eschatological (Hos 6:2)
- Church founding/sending
 - Leaders are the ones to whom Christ appeared
- Empty tomb
 - Original ending of Mark
 - Witness of the women
 - Proclamation of the resurrection
- Sayings of the Risen Lord
- Appearance narratives
 - Synoptic accounts
 - Paul
- Problems

WHAT HAPPENED?

- Are the empty tomb and the appearances connected?
 - How much is elaborated?
 - Why did they not recognize him at first?
 - Why did only few receive appearances?
 - Why did some still doubt?
 - What was the objective reality? What is objective reality?
- The Challenge: "Resurrection" as metaphor
 - Old arguments
 - Stealing the body
 - No real death of Jesus
 - Myth that is accepted as history
 - Psychopathological origins: belief in the resurrection caused the appearances
 - New arguments
 - Transcendent (non-bodily) reality
 - Resurrection in the faith of the disciples
 - Resurrection is the understanding of the cross (Bultmann)
 - Faith-motivated experiences of grace and forgiveness (Schillebeeckx)
 - Faith based in reality (Haight)
 - The living Jesus was part of their experience
 - God gave the disciples the ability to see the risen Christ (cf. Transfiguration)
- The Response: Centrality of the resurrection for Christian faith
 - There is no Christianity without the Resurrection
 - The saving value of the death of Christ is understood in the resurrection
 - Connection between creation and resurrection
 - Consistency with Old Testament expectations
 - Answer to our current existence
 - Realistic hope

INTERPRETATION

Perspectives: 1-2 Thessalonians, Romans, Galatians, Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1-2 Peter, 1-13 John, Jude, Hebrews

IMPLICATIONS

- The Body
 - The importance of the body
 - The transformation of the body
 - Acts 2:1-36, Pentecost
 - I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh
 - Removal of limitation
 - Change in the body
 - Permeation by God's presence
- Destiny of all creation
 - Communion
 - Reinterpreting death
 - We have been baptized into his death
 - We will rise again
 - We now live in Christ Jesus
- Summary
 - Dawning of the Last Day
 - Christ is the first fruits of the resurrection (1 Cor 15)
 - The current reality for Christians is both the presence of the kingdom and its absence.
 - The day of salvation
 - Living in the risen Christ is living in his healing presence, in all senses of the term
 - The Spirit is at work within, renewing your mortal body (Rom 8.10-11)
 - Resurrection as the answer to human longing
 - All acts are made out of a desire for happiness
 - Happiness implies a continued existence
 - Happiness requires union with the source of good
- The problem of death
 - The sum of all evil
 - The sum of all sin
 - Ultimate rejection by the world
- The End of the World
 - The consummation of history (liberation) and a continual critique of the present
 - The current situation
 - Pentecost & the meaning of the Church
 - Living in the resurrection
 - The struggle against evil
 - Opening creation to the living presence of Christ
 - Christ's Victory
 - Second Coming / Parousia
 - Judgment
 - The Book of Revelation
 - The New Creation
- Waiting
 - Standing vigilant
 - The attitude of Christ
 - False attitudes

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