

Scripture Topic 5: The Primeval History

Name:
Period:

Date:

The Three Major Shifts in Western Thought		
Name: Dates:	Name: Dates:	Name: Dates:
What brought it into being?	What brought it into being?	What brought it into being?
What is "Truth"? How do we know it?	What is "Truth"? How do we know it?	What is "Truth"? How do we know it?
How is history understood?	How is history understood?	How is history understood?

A.

Jesus Christ is the incarnated son of God, whose redemptive death on the cross has given humankind the opportunity to do what we could not do otherwise: To be seen as sinless in God's eyes, and to be back in the state of righteousness with our creator that we were once in, before we fell away in disobedience. As a result, if we only choose to believe that Jesus is who he claimed to be and to follow his teachings, we have accepted God's love poured out through the sacrifice of His son on the cross; our death will only be a death to this world, and it will open the door to a life that is everlasting and lived fully in the presence of God, from whom we will no longer be hidden in shame. For those who accept this love, the suffering we experience in this world is no longer meaningless, as it indicates that we are not "of this world" but are foreign to it and no longer subject to it because we are at odds with the powers that rule it and that enslave those who still live in darkness. More importantly, those sufferings are a mere blink of an eye compared to the eternity of joy that awaits.

B.

Although it cannot be confirmed, sources indicate that eyewitnesses in Palestine reported seeing a man raised from the dead whom other eyewitnesses had previously reported crucified by the Romans, and there has been some speculation that this allegedly resurrected man may have claimed to be the purported messiah spoken of in certain writings considered to be true by members of the religion of Judaism. Some who have heard the story of this man's supposed resuscitation have gone further and suggested that this man -reportedly named "Jesus"- is actually the "Yahweh" spoken of in the Jewish scriptures. Those who accept this belief also embrace other rather esoteric and unverifiable beliefs about a life after physical death and some sort of judgment day, and they apparently encourage the complacent acceptance of physical suffering. None of this can be confirmed, of course, because none of these witnesses are still around, nevertheless we have been told that this information comes from a supposedly reliable source who at this time has only been identified as the "holy spirit."

1. Read A and B above. Do they describe the same thing? What evidence leads you to your conclusion?

2. Which one is more accurate, and why do you think so?

3. Aside from the issue of accuracy, explain what is essentially different about the content of each passage.