

1/21/19

OT #4

John 1

GT

Logos - "the Word"

"ground," "plea," "opinion," "expectation," "word," "speech," "reason," "account," "proportion," "discourse"

Logos is the logic behind an argument

The Stoics identified it with the divine animating principle pervading the Universe
Not a word in the grammatical sense

Philo "...the shadow of God is His Word which He used like an instrument when he was making the world."

"In the beginning..." "and God said..."

Logos - the life force that makes God's creations breathe, move, and exist is intricately connected with & dependent on the Word of God.

Jewish Thought - Philo - God is unknowable - beyond all human comprehension

God is known through his two aspects: kingliness and creativity

Both aspects can be recognized in two ways:

through the universe that God created

through the Torah, in which God speaks to humans

metaphor: God seated in his chariot, giving directions to the charioteer (Logos) to drive the two horses (kingliness and creativity)

John's first chapter is where he introduces the elements he will use later in the book, but in "seed" form.

eg. baptism of Jesus → water

water into wine - Jesus at a well, water of life, drink blood, water gushes out of his

belief glory

testimony - witness - court case

community of love

John's narrative is deliberately limited. (John 20:30-31 - other signs might have been chosen, but I picked these)

This has the effect of allowing every element of the story to point to the atonement and the story has a retrospective nature - understanding the end is a necessary key to getting the rest of the elements - they are intentionally puzzling

"In the beginning..." What I'm about to share is as important as the Book of Genesis. Extremely bold claim - "Fourscore & seven years ago..."
- another story of creation

John 1:1 The word is that God from Genesis 1:1, and simultaneously distinct from that God. He is creating a space in your brain for a new idea. Setting up the time when Jesus becomes a human. Setting up that Jesus and the Father are one (John 17). Redefining what even the word "God" means.

Proverbs 8 → Wisdom is personified as being with God when He created the world
In Genesis, God speaking is the means by which he brings order to chaos
Psalm 33 → praise God for his Word. Every act of God is a manifestation of his covenant love. Ruach (spirit/breath) is tied to God is tied to the Word.

- Spirit/word/breathing thread - ch. 4, 7, and after resurrection, breathes on disciples
- Light is equated with Life. Darkness is attempting to engulf the Light.
Light is invading the Darkness.

Light = Life, Light opposed to Darkness. Implication: death = darkness.
OPENING PARAGRAPH is a riddle, that takes on additional significance as we gain understanding into the book of John. We aren't meant to get it @ first reading.

Ch. 20:30 begin w/ purpose of Book. (& 21:24-25) Invites ppl to meet & trust Jesus
Does John intentionally misspell the name of Betaniah (Bethany) to draw a parallel to healing of Lazarus? Baptism starts Jesus' ministry, Laz starts final persecution.
- This tells us location details might have a thematic motivation. (another ex: Cana → water to wine)
Cana begins a section, which also ends there. 4 stories of Jesus interacting w/ trad. Jewish institutions

The portraits pick up key themes from the introduction.

v. 7 testify about the light, bear witness - but every person is illuminated by Jesus - bold claim
- believe/trust is the purpose of the witness | ppl who don't believe - choose darkness/death
those who do believe are the family of God (seed) - how does God create new humans? ^{shining light into dark}
Genesis - two seeds - one line who see God revealing himself (light) - others receive enmity - serpent
John ch. 8 - becoming/not becoming ch. of God. light/darkness, slavery, who is Abraham's seed? ^{seed}
- You aren't Abraham's seed, you're the devil's seed, since you want to kill me
v. 14 The word "tabernacled" skene skenaho among us. He became a temple where God's glory dwelt
what is the point of "full of grace and truth?" - Exodus 34:6-7 Yohwh is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, full of goodness & truth. Goodness/mercy/lovingkindness/covenant love
this is golden calf narrative - I know humans are faithless, so I need a way to cover it. what we need is a human who will keep our side of the covenant on our behalf.

- the stories that will follow take a similar form - Jesus says something, people don't understand it, this leads to confusion, or conflict - this leads to conversations about the concepts exposed in the intro
- John calls Jesus the lamb - Genesis 22 - the sacrifice of Isaac, Passover lamb, substitute for claim on firstborn
 - substitute for claim on firstborn
 - evokes the blood images

entire tribe is substitute for firstborn

v. 18 we see God through Jesus, that is the role of the Word

v. 37 John testified and people follow Jesus
→ light

leads to more people following light → then they are witnesses → follow light
light by its nature create witnesses, witnesses = testimony/testify

v. 45 Nathaniel

v. 46 come and see → witness the Light

v. 47 Israelite = Jacob | Jacob - deceits
Zephaniah brought forth the idea that Israelites follow Jacob's pattern of deceit. A "new Israel" is necessary and God will bring it to pass.
tricks Esau out of birthright

Israelite but in whom is no guile (seed of Light vs. dark)

v. 48 i saw you under the fig tree

★ Mich/Zechanish - every Israelite will sit under their own vine & fig tree
Truly, truly - Amayn, Amayn אמן

v. 51 angels ascending/descending - Jacob's ladder - tied in w/ Jacob vs. Esau
from fig tree to Jacob runs to sleep on a rock because of his treachery

He has a vision of shared space
↳ he sees the temple, symbolically
↳ BUT he puts himself in the place of the temple
↳ BUT he calls himself the Son of Man from Daniel 7 → # mortal-looking man who is mistreated by the Beast and ends up triumphant

excited Son of Man, forming the new seed, the new family, and the moment it happens is when his defeated/killed