**Discovery - Topics & Content:**

**Week 5: Tuesday Nov 8, 2016**

**Session 5 A:** Discovering Why people still read the Bible in the 21st C.

***Intro & Review:***

* We’ve been looking at evidences that show the Bible to be trustworthy:

-External evidences from creation & ‘science’.

-Internal evidences from the Bible: God’s signature.

* For example, this clip answers the question:

-Where did God come from if He was before the beginning?

* Then we have seen patterns **within the Bible** that point to God as the ‘pattern maker’ who wants to tell a story:

-Another example: The 10-person genealogy from Adam to Noah in **Genesis 5:1-32** reveals the gospel message as follows:

[Adam] אדמה Mankind’s

[Seth] שת appointed

[Enos] אנוש mortal

[Cainan] קינן sorrow

[Mahalaleel] מהללאל but the praise of God

[Jared] ירד shall descend

[Enoch] חנוך teaching

[Methuselah] מתושלח his death shall bring

[Lamech] למך powerful

[Noah] נח rest, comfort

* Summarized in more easily readable English:

*“Man has been appointed to mortal sorrow, but the blessed God will come down teaching so that His death will bring to the despairing rest.”*

**Give God a Chance**

*Still More on Creation*

**Take only one aspect of life: “Irreducible Complexity’:**

* Science shows that a unicellular amoeba is hugely complex: evidence by DNA discovered in 1953 by Watson & Krick.

-Chemicals that encode instructions for building & replicating all life forms.

* The genetic alphabet has only 4 letters representing 4 nitrogen bases: A,T,C,G.

-The order of these determines the genetic makeup of a living being.

* The nucleus of a single celled amoeba contains enough DNA info to fill 1 000 complete sets of the Encyclopedia Britannica!

-All specified information serves a purpose to define that form of life.

* In Darwin’s day (1859) they knew none of this detail & he even admitted that his theory would break down if any complex systems could be found that could not possibly formed by numerous successive slight modifications.
* Today we now know through Biophysicist Michael Behe that ‘irreducible complexity’ means that a living system is composed of several well matched, interacting parts that are **all** essential to the basic function **at the same time**.

-Take one or more of these away & the whole system will not function.

**EG: Picture of Car engine**: take the spark plug away & the whole engine will not work.

* Darwinian evolution requires that over a long time: intermediate states that supposedly develop would in fact be non-functioning!
* **The human cell:** just one human cell has 3000 million pairs of DNA letters that **must work perfectly together** for human life**.**

-Irreducible complexity shows ‘slow evolution’ to be highly unlikely!

**What’s in a name?**

* A name in the Bible most often signifies the essence of a person’s nature and character.

**Exodus 3:13-14**

*Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"*

*And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”*

1. **‘Elohim’ & ‘Jehovah’ in first books of the Bible**:

* **Two different names for God-*Elohim* and *Yahweh* exist in Genesis 1 & 2.**

-Genesis 1 God is exclusively referred to by the name *Elohim*.

‘From However Genesis 2:4, He is called the compound name *Yahweh-Elohim*.

* **Why are there two different names for God?**

-Does this mean the account refers to two separate gods or are there two different authors writing two separate, contradictory accounts of creation?

* Remember, the Bible teaches that **God is one God.**

**Deuteronomy 6:4**

*Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!*

* Two separate names describe different characteristics of the one God.

-Elohim: God’s awesome power in creation.

-Yahweh-Elohim: God’s personal covenant relationship with man.

-(Yahweh in Hebrew is ‘YHWH’ – no vowels and is often for ease rendered ‘Jehovah’ in our Bibles).

* Rest of Scripture consistently shows these 2 aspects of God’s dealings with mankind.

1. **Noah and God’s names:**

* God’s name used in two different ways:

-‘God’ the creator (‘Elohim’)commanded the animals to enter the ark

-‘God’ or covenant protector (‘Yahweh’) shut Noah and His family into the safety of the ark or vessel of mercy.

**Genesis 7:16**

*So those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as* ***God*** *(Elohim) had commanded him; and the* ***Lord*** *(Yahweh / Jehovah) shut him in.*

*(Emphasis added).*

1. **Abraham & Sarah:**

* Abraham’s significance – He is called the ‘father’ of our faith. (Romans 4:16)
* The first Jewish Patriarch: Abraham, Isaac & Jacob - Father, Son & Holy Spirit.
* Married to Sarah and had a ‘supernatural’ baby (Isaac) @ 100 & 90 respectively. (Genesis 17:15-21)

-Jesus is our supernaturally born Isaac.

* ‘YHVH Elohim’ visited Abram 5 X and on the 5th time gave Abram his new name.

-This is the first mention of any human receiving a new name in Scripture.

* From ‘Abram’ (exalted father) to ‘Abra **h** am’ (father of many) – Genesis 17:5
* From ‘Sarai’ (chief, governor) to ‘Sara **h**’ (princess) – Genesis 17:15

-‘H’ stands for ‘Heh’ (or # 5 - grace) was inserted and added to change them. (FYI - In Hebrew ‘Heh’ a window or eternity).

-Like the introduction of grace transforms us.

1. **A New Testament example of the importance of names conveying a message:**

* ‘Barabbas’ & ‘Jesus’ before Pilate at the trial: (John 18:39-40)
* ‘Jesus Christ’, the ‘son of God - His ‘Father’ (not Joseph but God)

and ‘Barabbas’: whose given name was **also** ‘Jesus’, the ‘son of his father’.

-From the ‘Aramaic’ language of the day: ‘abba’ = ‘father’.

-Satan way **Vs** God’s way: Insurrection & rebellion **Vs** love & forgiveness.

**Concluding Thought**

* A name represents the character of that person: who they are and what they do.
* The name: ‘Lord Jesus Christ’ is described as ‘above all names’:

-Jesus is Lord: a title for God: Philippian’s 2:11

-The name that is above all names: Philippians 2:9

-The only name by which we may be saved: Acts 4:12

**Discovery**

**Week 5: Tuesday Nov 8, 2016**

**Session 5 B:** Discovering who Jesus was (& is)

**(See slide of Jesus face & scripture)**

**Intro & Review:**

**Matthew** - The King (Lion) - Jews looked for kingdom / covenant fulfillment.

**Mark** - The Untiring Servant (Ox) - Roman-Gentiles mindset: practical get the job done.

**Luke** - The Perfect Man (Man) - Greek intellectual mindset: great human to follow.

**John** - The Heavenly Being (Eagle) - Believing audience looking for heavenly / eternal.

**Jesus in His Deity:**

*Was Jesus fully divine?... and what are the implications of this?*

* Christians believe that Jesus was born of a woman, lived and died, and then rose again from the dead.

-How can we then believe that He is fully God too.

-The miracle of the virgin birth.

-Then His divine miracles: healings, raising from the dead, multiplication…

-Jesus the ‘son of man’ (humanity is also the ‘son of God’ Deity).

* **Hypostatic Union:** ‘actual & concrete existence’ vs ‘conceptual’.

-The combination of divine & human natures in the single person of Christ.

**Isaiah 9:6**

*For unto us a* ***Child is born****, (humanity) Unto* ***us a Son is given****;(deity)*

*And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

* With Jesus presented as God in John’s Gospel this opens the teaching on the triunity: God in 3 persons.

-Father / Son / Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 3:16-17** *When He had been baptized,* ***Jesus*** *came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and Hesaw the* ***Spirit of God*** *descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17And suddenly a* ***voice came from heaven****, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

**John’s Gospel:**

*(Jesus the* ***heavenly eagle*** *son of God)*

**(See Picture of divine eagle)**

1. **Some interesting things about an Eagle: ‘creation bits’.**

* The eagle flies high (unlike the turkey) and sees things differently.

-Where others judge, He intercedes; where others reject, He accepts to bring healing; where others retaliate, He forgives … and so do we!

* The eagle spreads its wings to catch upward drafts to lift it above storms.

-Very little flapping: like a chicken.

-We ‘soar’ upwards on the wind drafts of the H.S. (Effortless).

**Ephesians 2:4-6** *But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and* ***made us sit together in the heavenly places*** *in Christ Jesus,…*

* The eagle has exceptionally keen eyesight that enables them to spot prey from great heights.

-This speaks of our ability to ‘see’ what God sees.

1. **Context & Purpose of the Gospel:**

* John wrote (90AD) to believers mostly in Asia Minor to strengthen their faith.
* Presents a portrait of Jesus as the ‘son of God’: thematic approach.

-John does not repeat ‘factual events’ like the other ‘Synoptics’ Gospels.

1. **Key topical themes John highlights:**
2. **God is personally knowable:**

**John 17:3** *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

-Miracles attest to His deity… and how this impacts us: ‘believing’.

**John 20:30-31** *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31* ***but these are written*** *that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

1. **Fatherhood of God:** uniquely protective, providing, purpose.

**John 14:9** *He who has seen Me has seen the Father*

**John 1:11-12** *He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12*

*But as many as* ***received*** *Him, to them* ***He gave the right*** *to become children of God, to t****hose who believe*** *in His name: …*

*-*As children of God we grow in a safe environment of grace & truth:

(No need to strive for what we already have!).

**John 1:14-17** *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,* ***full of grace and truth.******15*** *John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' "* ***16*** *And of* ***His fullness we have all received****, and grace for grace.* ***17*** *For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth* ***came*** *through Jesus Christ.*

-Much of our walk is awakening to who we really are in Christ.

1. **Eternal life:** big question for all mankind – where do we go from here.

(Only an eternal being can impart eternity to us: ‘like reproduces like’).

**John 3:16-*17*** *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

1. **Jesus, the divine ‘Son of God’ enjoys 7 divine names: ‘I am’**

**Exodus 3:12-14**

*And He said, "Certainly I will be with you, and this shall be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God at this mountain." 13*[*Then Moses*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/4872.htm)[*said*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/559.htm)[*to God,*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/430.htm)[*"Behold,*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/2009.htm)[*I am going*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/935.htm)[*to the sons*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/1121.htm)[*of Israel,*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/3478.htm)[*and I will say*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/559.htm)[*to them, 'The God*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/430.htm)[*of your fathers*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/1.htm)[*has sent*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/7971.htm)[*me to you.' Now they may say*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/559.htm)[*to me, 'What*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/4100.htm)[*is His name?'*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/8034.htm)[*What*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/4100.htm)[*shall I say*](http://biblehub.com/hebrew/559.htm)[*to them?"*](http://biblehub.com/strongs.htm) *14God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"…*

(Points to eternal preexistence: not only ‘I was’ & ‘will be’ but **‘I am’**).

1. I Am The Bread Of Life John 6:32-35
2. I Am The Light Of The World John 8:12
3. I Am The Door (Of The Sheep) John 10:1-10
4. I Am The Good Shepherd John 10:11-17
5. I Am The Resurrection And The Life John 11:25-27
6. I Am The Way The Truth And The Life John 14:1-6
7. I Am The True Vine John 15:1-5
8. **Jesus performs 7 ‘divine’ miracles:**

(‘Supernatural’ is just that: above & beyond the ‘natural’ processes).

1. Turning Water into Wine: John 2:1-11
2. Healing Of The Royal Official’s Son John 4:46-54
3. Healing Of The Man At The Pool John 5:1-9
4. Feeding Of The 5000 John 6:1-14
5. Walking On Water John 6:15-21
6. Healing Of The Man Blind From Birth John 9:1-41
7. Raising Of Lazarus From The Dead John 11:1-44

**Concluding thought**

* John wrote his gospel under inspiration of a loving Father who wanted His children to be fully convinced as to who Jesus was in His deity.

**Resources for Discovery 5 A & B**

1. **Names of God:** <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/misc/name_god.cfm>