

CERTAINTY OF TRUTH

EVALUATION OF THE JESUS SEMINAR

OPENING THOUGHTS

TRUE - FALSE

- THE OPINIONS OF THE JESUS SEMINAR ARE HELD BY MOST BIBLICAL SCHOLARS.
- MOST OF THE HISTORY AND DISCOVERY CHANNELS' SHOWS PORTRAY BALANCED INFORMATION.
- THE JESUS SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS ARE FUNDAMENTALISTS.
- THE JESUS SEMINAR HAS A SECRET AGENDA.

THE NEW JESUS

- WHAT WAS THE GOAL OF THE JESUS SEMINAR?
- WHAT DID THEY FIND LOOKING FOR THE 'NEW JESUS?'

PRESUPPOSITIONS

- **SCIENTIFIC NATURALISM**
 - **ALL THINGS HAVE A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION
THEREFORE ALL THINGS ARE PHYSICAL**
 - **JESUS IS NOT SUPERNATURAL**
 - **NO MIRACLES**

SPECIAL NOTE

- BELIEVING SCIENTIFIC NATURALISM, BEGS THE QUESTION
- EXCLUDES THE GOSPELS FROM CONSIDERATION
- THERE IS NO GOD OR HE IS UNKNOWABLE
- GOD'S EXISTENCE IS AN OPINION, FEELING, OR PREFERENCE

PRESUPPOSITIONS

- SCIENTIFIC NATURALISM
- THE PRIMACY OF APOCRYPHAL GOSPELS
 - I.E. THOMAS AND PETER
- THE GOSPELS ARE NOT HISTORICALLY RELIABLE

GOSPEL OF THOMAS

- **107** JESUS SAID, THE KINGDOM IS LIKE A SHEPHERD WHO HAD A HUNDRED SHEEP. ONE OF THEM, THE LARGEST, WENT ASTRAY. HE LEFT THE NINETY- NINE AND LOOKED FOR THE ONE UNTIL HE FOUND IT. AFTER HE HAD TOILED, HE SAID TO THE SHEEP, 'I LOVE YOU MORE THAN THE NINETY- NINE.'

- **108** JESUS SAID, "WHOEVER DRINKS FROM MY MOUTH WILL BECOME LIKE ME; I MYSELF SHALL BECOME THAT PERSON, AND THE HIDDEN THINGS WILL BE REVEALED TO HIM."

GOSPEL OF THOMAS

- **109** JESUS SAID, THE (FATHER'S) KINGDOM IS LIKE A PERSON WHO HAD A TREASURE HIDDEN IN HIS FIELD BUT DID NOT KNOW IT. AND [WHEN] HE DIED HE LEFT IT TO HIS [SON]. THE SON [DID] NOT KNOW ABOUT IT EITHER. HE TOOK OVER THE FIELD AND SOLD IT. THE BUYER WENT PLOWING, [DISCOVERED] THE TREASURE, AND BEGAN TO LEND MONEY AT INTEREST TO WHOMEVER HE WISHED.

CRITERIA USED

- DID JESUS SAY THAT?

- IF IT SOUNDS LIKE A JEW, JESUS DID NOT SAY IT

- IF IT SOUNDS LIKE THE CHURCH, JESUS DID NOT SAY IT

- WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

- MULTIPLE ATTESTATION

- DO THE GOSPELS PASS THIS TEST?

CONCLUSIONS OF THE SEMINAR

- JESUS WAS AN ITINERANT SOCIAL CRITIC SIMILAR TO A GREEK CYNIC
- JESUS NEVER CLAIMED TO BE GOD
- JESUS NEVER PERFORMED MIRACLES
- JESUS DID NOT RISE FROM THE DEAD

JUST A THOUGHT

- WHAT ARE THE POSITIVES OF THE JESUS SEMINAR?
- WHAT ARE THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE JESUS SEMINAR?
- WHAT DO THE CLAIMS OF THE JESUS SEMINAR DO TO YOUR FAITH?
- IF WE HAVE NEVER SEEN MIRACLES, WHY BELIEVE THEY EXIST?