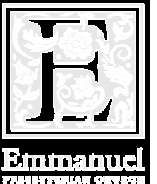


Orchard Sunday –
January 10, 2010

Worldviews and
Evangelism



Schedule

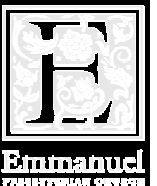
- 12:15 – 12:45 – Lunch
 - Get in groups and Fill in the Blank in your group:
 - “The one thing people need most to help solve the world’s problems is _____.”
- 12:45 – 1:15 – TALK by Jim
- 1:15 – 1:30 – Q&A
- 1:30 – 2:00 – Discussion in small groups
- 2:00 Go Home, or help Clean up

LUNCH QUESTIONS

- **Ice Breaker** – If you were marooned on a Deserted Island, who would you want with you? (NOT your spouse, sig. other)
- **Topical Question** – The one thing people need most to help solve the world's problems is _____.

Orchard Sunday –
January 10, 2010

Worldviews and
Evangelism



Challenges in Evangelism

- “Wow, where does that question come from? And how do I answer it?”
- “Are you kidding? It says the **OPPOSITE!**”

An Example – Ancient Tablet

- July 2008 NYT Article
- Dates to ~ 100 BC
- Tablet possibly has a prediction of a Messiah who would die and be resurrected in 3 days

Debate on Messiah and Resurrection - NYTimes.com - Windows Internet Explorer
www.nytimes.com/2008/07/06/world/middleeast/06stone.html?_r=3&oref=slogin&oref=slogin


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ns - Descripti... Ancient Tablet Ignites ... X Mail :: Inbox: update of ses...

Ancient Tablet Ignites Debate on Messiah and Resurrection

By **ETHAN BRONNER**
Published: July 6, 2008

JERUSALEM — A three-foot-tall tablet with 87 lines of Hebrew that scholars believe dates from the decades just before the birth of Jesus is causing a quiet stir in biblical and archaeological circles, especially because it may speak of a messiah who will rise from the dead after three days.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Dominic Buettner for The New York Times
When David Jeselsohn bought an ancient tablet, above, he was unaware of its significance.

If such a messianic description really is there, it will contribute to a developing re-evaluation of both popular and scholarly views of Jesus, since it suggests that the story of his death and resurrection was not unique but part of a recognized Jewish tradition at the time.

The tablet, probably found near the Dead Sea in Jordan according to some scholars who have studied it, is a rare example of a stone with ink writings from that era — in essence, a Dead Sea Scroll on stone.

It is written, not engraved, across two neat columns, similar to columns in a Torah. But the stone is broken, and

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 TWITTER
 E-MAIL
 SEND TO PHONE
 PRINT
 SINGLE PAGE
 REPRINTS

JEFF BRIDGES MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL
CRAZY HEART
NOW PLAYING
IN SELECT THEATERS
WATCH TRAILER

Example – Ancient Tablet

- **Conclusions:**
 - **“This should shake our basic view of Christianity,” – Israel Knohl, Hebrew University**
 - **“Some Christians will find it shocking — a challenge to the uniqueness of their theology — while others will be comforted by the idea of it being a traditional part of Judaism,” – Daniel Boyarin, UC Berkeley**

Example – Ancient Tablet

- Huh? What's happening here?
- Different Assumptions about:
 - The reality or role of prophecy
 - The implications of the existence of pre-existing stories and traditions for the veracity of the Bible
- Different Worldviews

What is a Worldview?

- The set of Beliefs and Assumptions we make about “How the World works”
- Worldview defines and drives:
 - What we value
 - How we think and analyze situations
 - How we act
- **EVERYONE HAS A COMPLETE WORLDVIEW, EVEN IF THEY CAN'T ENUNCIATE IT CLEARLY**

Why Does it Matter for Evangelism?

- If we can't agree on a set of basic assumptions about how the world works, (or at least understand each other's) we can't have a coherent conversation.

What is in a Worldview?

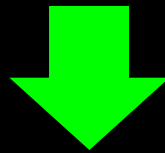
A Worldview Answers the following Questions:

1. What exists?
2. How did it get here?
3. How do I know things?
4. Who is God (if there is one)?
5. What is the nature and purpose of Man?
6. How do I deal with (concepts of) evil/pain?
7. What is of ultimate value?

How do they get to these Answers?

Postulates:

1. something taken as self-evident or assumed without proof as a basis for reasoning
2. a fundamental principle
3. a necessary condition; prerequisite



Faith Statements

What Makes a Postulate “Valid”

Three tests:

1. Reason – Law of Non-Contradiction

2. Experience – Factually validated

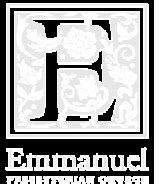
3. Liveability – You can and do live consistently within it

Reason – Law of Non- Contradiction

Something cannot be “A” and “non-A” at the same time and in the same relationship

1. NOT a complete simple-minded refutation of “Both/And” in favor of “either/or”. Christianity is replete with “Both/And”

- Christ is BOTH fully God AND fully human
- God is BOTH Sovereign AND Just when he holds man responsible



Law of Non-Contradiction

- Necessary for any statement to be meaningful at all
- Implies that, overall, your worldview should be internally consistent in how it explains ALL of life

TEST 2 – Experience

- Your worldview should be able to explain how the world actually works
- The “evidence” that supports your Postulates should be consistent with them
- Occam’s Razor

TEST 3 – Liveability / Conscience

- You have to be able to live consistently with the logical conclusions of your worldview
 - Behavior, Morality, Ethics, etc..

How do different worldviews
answer these questions?

What Exists?

Spiritual

Both

Physical



How did it get here?

- Self-Existent - GOD
- Created by Something Self-Existent
- EVERYTHING ELSE

How do I know things?



Sensory Input / Experience



Reason



Revelation (if you believe in Spiritual)

- Bible – Dominant and Primary



“Feeling” / Personal inherent knowledge

- Conscience (Imperfect)



Who is God (if there is one)?

None / Me

No supreme
being above
others
(Or humanism
says man is
ultimate)

Pantheistic

God is in all
things.
Non-personal

Theistic



Personal,
separate
being
Omniscient
Omnipotent
Good
Holy
Just
Trinity...



How do I deal with (concepts of) evil and pain?

Materialist/ humanist

Good and evil don't really exist apart from my personal definition

Pantheistic

There is nothing really ultimately evil or good. All is God



Theistic

God allows or creates it for some end
God allows sin and the resulting pain for His ultimate glory



What is the purpose of man?

Materialist/ humanist

Nothing
transcendent
OR
Self-
actualization
(as you define
it)

Pantheistic

To become
fully one with
the god

Theistic

To glorify or
serve God



To glorify God
and enjoy Him
forever

What is of ultimate value?

**Materialist/
humanist**

“Stuff”
OR
Humans

Pantheistic

Unity of all
things

Theistic

God

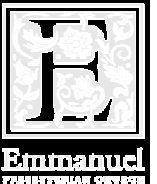


God's Glory

What about this Postmodernism?

- Postmodernism says “There are no Absolutes”, “Truth is relative”
- Violates law of non-Contradiction
- Functionally, leads to “picking and choosing,” and underlying assumptions of:
 - Materialism
 - Knowledge through Feeling/ Personal inherent knowledge

How do I deal with all this?



Know Your Own Worldview

- Secret Service Example
- Can you answer all of these questions concisely, clearly and consistently?
- Learn the great doctrines of the Faith
 - Study Systematic Theology / Confessions / Foundations / Institutes
- Study the Bible – NOT VERSES!
 - Read whole books first (and second)

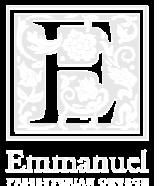
Challenge Yourself, especially in what you know best

- All your education comes from people with a worldview – mostly non-Christian
- Listen to Christian “non-experts”
- Examples
 - Doctors and “healthy behavior”
 - Financiers and “Invisible Hand”, “Free markets”
 - Lawyers and the “adversarial process”
 - Parents and “happiness”

Two Ears, One Mouth

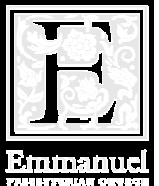
Spend time listening and asking questions,
less time “arguing” or “proving” Jesus

- You’ll never argue someone into believing your postulates. That’s the Spirit’s work
- If you can easily dismiss a World Religion, you haven’t understood it
- Most people today are not “orthodox” followers of their faith/worldview. Ask questions to clarify where they stand and why – to you and to them
- Share the Christian worldview with them
- Use *reductio ad absurdum* (Prov. 26:5, Rom 6)

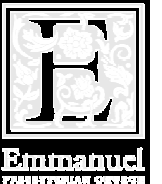


Find Common Ground – if you can

- Once you agree on a set of Postulates, start building up each of your worldviews together and see whose makes more sense according the three tests
- If you can't agree on postulates, drop it.
 - Don't "cast pearls before pigs" Mt. 7:6
 - Know when to "answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself" Pr. 26:4
 - "Shake the dust from your feet" Mt. 10:14



Questions?



Discussion Questions

- Given what you've heard today, would you change the answer to “what the world needs is _____”? Why?
- Discuss a conversation you had with someone else where differences in your worldviews had you “talking past each other.”
- Does thinking about all this stuff really matter? Why or why not?
- What are you going to do next to understand this stuff better?