

A Beginning Place

A. John 1:14---

"And the Word Became Flesh, and Dwelt Among Us, And We Beheld His Glory As of the Only Begotten From the Father, Full of Grace and Truth." That is, Christ presented Himself in a specific way.

1. This verse is the Eye of the Hurricane
The Realities of the world swirl About it.

2. This verse is meaningless unless it is seen in BAS-RELIEF
on the map of human condition.

----there are over 5 billion people in the world

----The majority of them are poor

----Nearly half are hungry every day

----There are 18,000,000 Refugees in the world today

----9,000,000 are children

----In 1975 Cambodia was a country with 8,000,000 people
and over 4,000,000 have since died

----Every year hundreds of Cubans loose their life trying to
escape Castro

----1/2 Billion people suffer from some form of hunger

----10,000 die each week of starvation in Africa, Asia,

----There are more than 1,000,000 political prisoners in the
world

----Amabus, Indonesia, a Baby suffering from disease will die
unless medication is airlifted, one baby?---50 died the month

before

----In Hong Kong density around 288,000 persons per square mile

----In a nursing home in Wheaton, Illinois -- a father dies --- his brain ravaged and defeated by meningitis

----In Afghanistan old men, young boys and women and tender young girls are still mistreated and often sold as sex slaves.

----In America, hundreds - thousands of unborn are killed every year - with only a small cry of protest.

----Legal, Social and Mortal Justice are waning.

----"The People"----Are Distressed and Downcast like sheep without a Shepard. Matt. 9:36

3. It is into this kind of world that Jesus came

4. In this kind of world the statement of John 1:14 is to be seen, interpreted, understood and applied as an explosion of cosmic proportions.

5. In One Person
At One Point in History
At One Place on the Earth
By Particular means
Far beyond human purposes



The God of Creation
intervened in
Human History

6. After this, The world would look different. It would be perceived in new terms, on a new basis.

7. THOUGHTS, INTENTS, MOTIVATIONS, PURPOSES, WOULD ASSUME NEW SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE.

8. Most importantly, we would know Perhaps that God has come near to us---a lot nearer than we thought a lot nearer than we really wanted.

John 1:14
ETERNITY-GOD
"WORD" - LOGOS
(SUM TOTAL OF BEING/MEANING)

B
e
c
a
m
e

Historical Prophetic Process

Not abstract
"Flesh"
(knowable-Touchable-Demonstrable)
Personality - I John 1:14
"And"
"Dwelt Among Us"

He taught and
He left traces
behind

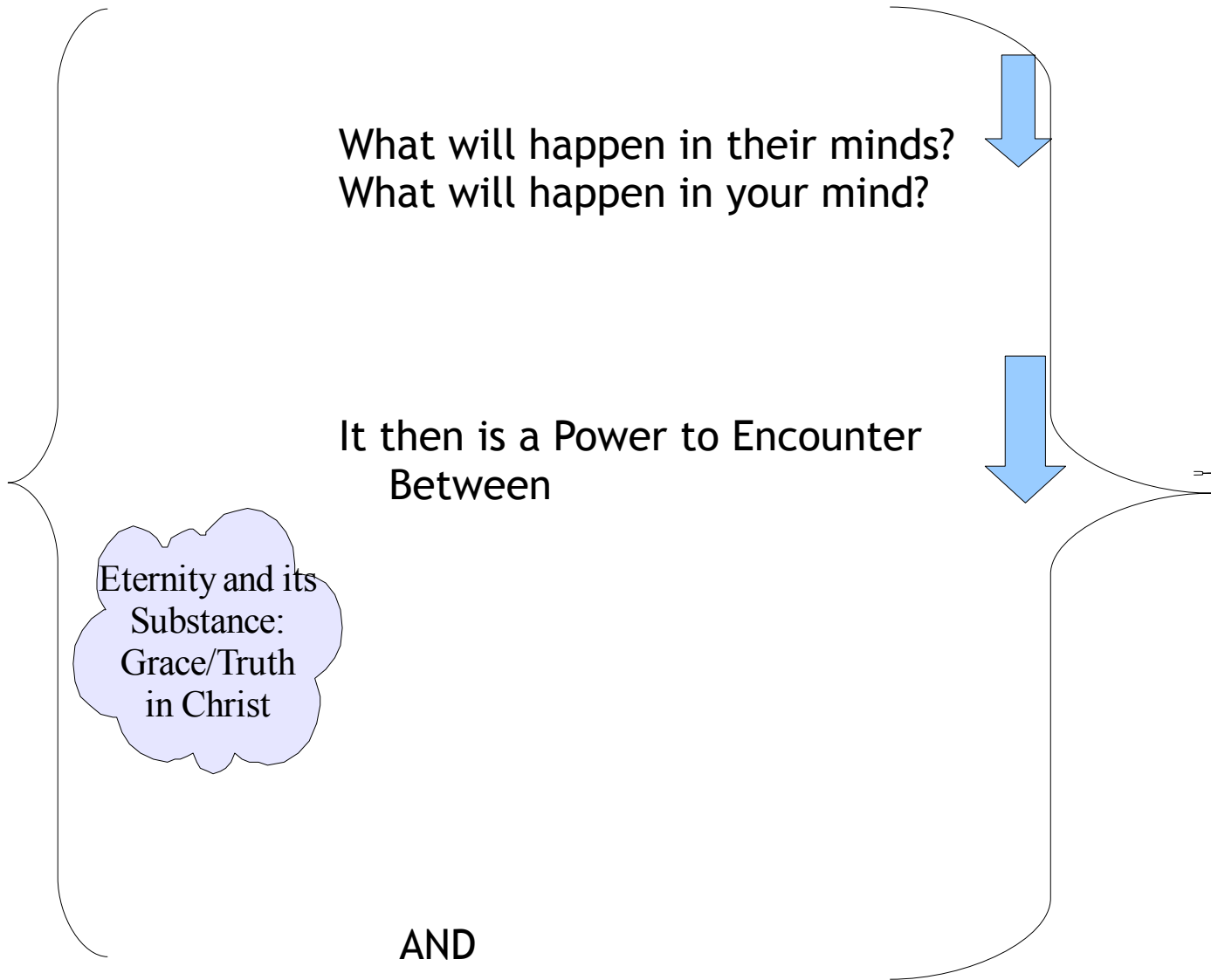
The Linear Experience
Birth

Life

The Human Experience
Death

The Space-Time Effect:

"We Beheld His Glory"



The World of Earth Man

10. Implications!

----Jesus came to challenge earth bound Ignorance and/or

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wisdom

----Jesus came to contrast:

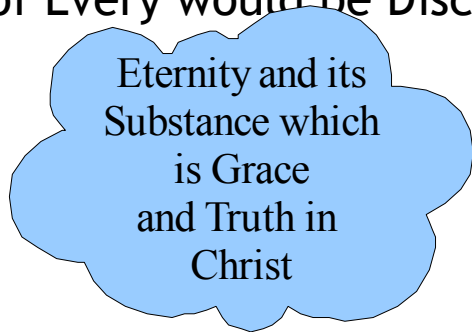
Heaven and Earth

God and Man

Revelation and Reason

Spirit and Flesh

----There is to Be/Has to be a Personal Encounter in the Life of Every would be Disciple:



**MUST
CLASH
WITH**

**THE RESULT IS
"FAITH" OR FRICTION**

----Something about the Nature of God--that He is Transcendent

---Implies Something about the nature of man

That he is in need

That he is in Focus

That he is in Favor

II. John 1:14 Flatly Contradicts

---Eastern Religion

Pantheism-Mysticism-Resignation (Fatalism)

---Nihilism -

by Lane Rogers

Life is pointless or contingent on power acquisition

-Existentialism

Rules are made up as we go along- Experience

---Modern Theology

"God is dead"--Religion is to be adapted to current values and acceptable contemporary molds

---Deism

A Form of Personal and Divine indifference

B. Acts 17: 24-31 - The context and environment of the Transcendent mind.

“The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of Heaven and Earth, does not dwell in Temples made with hands; neither is He served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since He Himself gives to all life and breath and all things; and He made from every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined the boundaries of their habitation, that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist, as some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His offspring.'”

The Transcendent Mind

1. Paul - At Mar's Hill

2. Engages to Present Christ to the Academia

---Skepticism

---Cynicism

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---Imperialism

3. Paul's Beginning point? Certain Assumptions-
Presuppositions about God

---He is Creator--v. 24

---He is sovereign - v. 24

---He is Emmanent - v. 24

---He is Transcendent - v.24

---He is intelligent - v. 25

---He is the Antecedent - v.25

---He is knowable - v.25

---He is distanced from us only epistemically - v. 27

---He is the Personal God-v. 28

4. All human beings begin with certain pre-cognitive assumptions about God - and Paul in this encounter does not begin with "Doctrine" but rather with the mentioned assumptions. Perhaps a better word is "assertions."

5. In verses 24-28 Paul says that in order to know God, All people must be willing to entertain Christian assumptions and presuppositions about His nature.

"Being then the Offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine nature is like gold or silver or stone or an image formed by the art and thought of man. Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all, everywhere ought to repent." vs.20-30

6. In verses 29-31, Paul says that the second element in the

development of the transcendent mind is an awareness of man's nature: That is, that all men should recognize their own divine source "We are His Children" -v. 28 The universe does not possess person hood - yet human beings are unique in the universe.

POSSESSING

Man can begin to know God on the basis of what can be said about Him from the aspect of His creatures.
"Thomism"

PERSONHOOD

God is the uncaused caused
Our Attributes are the Arch types- of those first in God

But

If That's true then- it is reflective- Man can know about God and Himself by looking at his own unvarnished nature?

---Man is the creator of all idols - they are human productions from the human frame of reference
---But because man is their guiding genius, their cause-since he made them---common human intelligence should that he

himself is greater --and that he himself is a product of someone greater still v.29.

Man's real nature Paul says is self-evident. He is a transcendent being. A unique spiritual being created to reach out to God.

"Because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom he appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." v.31

7. The third element in developing the transcendent mind is contained in verse 31.

---It is a knowledge of Biblical truth

---That is the resurrection of Jesus from the dead

---The resurrection is an historical fact and a central element in the Christian message

---But it is known and understood and applied solely on the basis of revelation--that which was the core of Apostolic preaching is now the core of Biblical preaching.

8. The Transcendent Mind-

---It is a world view

---It holds that man is the product of another dimension (the Spiritual)

---It holds that man is essentially a spiritual being

---That he is made in the image of God

---That man was created first and foremost for communion - for a relationship with the unseen God

9. It has a context and environment in which it lives- 3 fold

---There are assumptions about the Christian God vs. 24-28

---There is recognition of man's real nature vs. 29-30

---All of this is added to Biblical truth v.31

10. Acts 17: 24-31 has a tremendous message for those who want to know God- who seek the transcendent mind---look at it!

Element#1 Assumptions about God vs. 24-28

He is creator - v.24

He is sovereign - v. 24

He is Emmanent

He is Transcendent - v. 24

He is Intelligent - v. 25

He is the Antecedent - v. 25

He is knowable - v. 27

He is distant from us Epistemologically - v.27

He is the personal God v.28

Element #2 Man's recognition of his own nature vs. 29-30

Man has person hood (acts, thinks loves, hates)

He reflects the arch-types inherent first in God

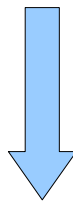
He is Primarily a Spiritual being

His God given intelligence tells him this

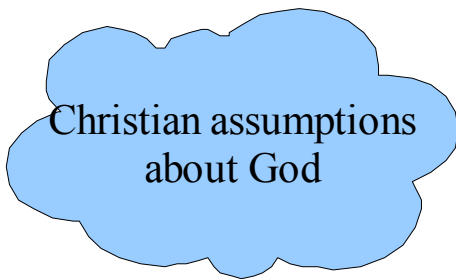
Element #3 Biblical Truth as Concealed in the Resurrection

The knowledge of Jesus' MISSION
PURPOSE AS APPLIED
LIFE

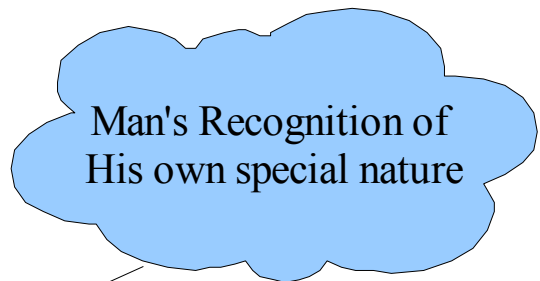
WE'LL PUT ALL THREE ELEMENTS TOGETHER IN CHART FORM



Jesus occupies a very important
Indispensable and strategic place
in all of this



He is the point
of unity
between

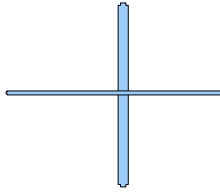


Paul is declaring our beginning Point- our point
of departure for knowing Christ



JESUS STANDS BETWEEN TWO
PREPSUPPOSITIONS

The Nature of God

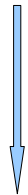
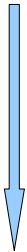


The Nature of Man

Acts 17:24-28
says that God is Spirit

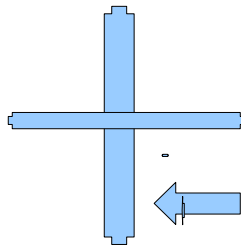
Acts 17:31
says life and death of Jesus proves both are true

Acts 17:29-30
Says that man is a Spirit Transcendent

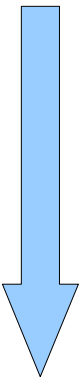


But these verses really say more

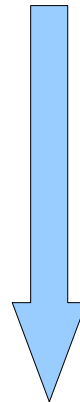
These verses speak of Heaven



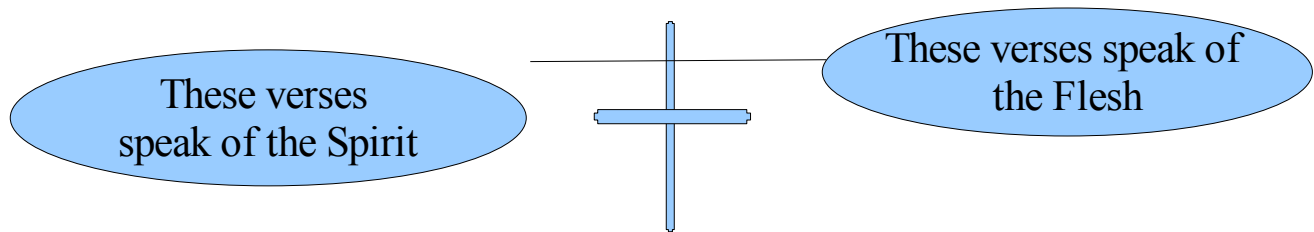
These verse speak of Earth



Jesus is their point of Convergence
Implications:
What is man
Where did he come from?
Why is he here?



Where is he going?
What is the nature of death?
What is the nature of Earth Life

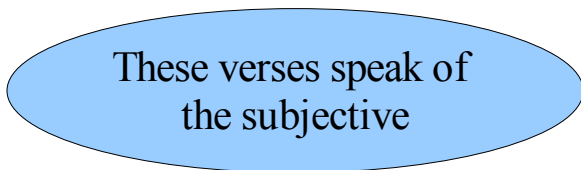


Jesus is the point of Oneness

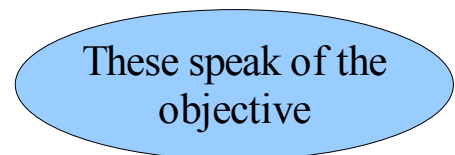
Implications: People in general and Christians in particular have always wanted to know how to handle the flesh spirit-thing. Well--the Life of Christ is the answer

Christ Releases the Tension
Problems
Realities
Results
Power

in living
Spirituality
on the earth



[what we can't see]



[what we can see]

Jesus is the point of unity

Implications:
A Perplexing part of life in general and religion in particular

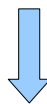
is how the subjective and objective elements of religion fit together, or as we have have frequently thought them to be INIMICAL. -Are we to see any unity between the two or not? Jesus' life shows us there is needed a unity to present -this will effect our view of prayer Power of God

providence Interpretation

Application

Therefore

Jesus' days on the earth (John 1:14) are terribly important to us and provide the keys to understanding the secrets of:



God
Heaven
flesh
Subjective

man
earth
Spirit
objective

John 1:14 and Acts 17:24-31 once paired together provide an essential statement as to the rational for and effects of the

miraculous incarnation of Jesus- But there is still need a distinctly and purely human application.