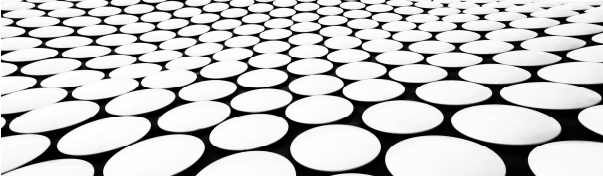

A Case of Mistaken Identity

Jesus & Jahweh



1

What are we going to talk about today?

- That old chestnut: The angry OT God Vs the loving NT God
- Key characteristics of God
- Look at a few “plays on words”

2

Words we use to describe God

- **Omnipotent** - With God nothing shall be impossible Luke 1:37

3

Perhaps best described by another word - *Creator*

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. *Gen 1:1*
- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. *John 1:1-3*
- *John's great theme is that Jesus is God*

4

Words we use to describe God

- **Omniscient**
- God knows all that can be known

5

Words we use to describe God

- **Omnipresent**
- Not limited by time or space – he can hear you and experience life with you wherever you are
- The one part of the divine nature that God struggles with (Jeff Lucas)

6

Words we use to describe God

- Immutability – God cannot change
- **God can change his mind but not his character**
- Impassibility – God cannot suffer and doesn't have emotions
- **Except Jesus! ...oh and God does regret...** if you want to you could describe this as not being beholden to natural passions (hunger, desire...)

7

Other key attributes of God

- Cannot lie ([Titus 1:2](#); [Hebrews 6:18](#))
- Cannot deny himself ([2 Timothy 2:13](#))
- God cannot tempt or be tempted ([James 1:13](#))

8

It's all about relationship

- We believe that being a Christian is all about relationship – a vibrant and connected walk with God the Father, through Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We believe that living in relationship with God is the best choice we can make, and that life is great when that relationship is well maintained. We also value our relationships with the people of God (the Church) and we always seek to have good relationships within the wider community. *Therefore, everything we seek to do we aim to accomplish through relationship.*

9

Prime
God is agape

10

Prime Points

- God is inherently relational because He is agape
- That God's prime characteristic and driver is agape
- That anything else we believe about God cannot contradict that He is agape

11

Agape

- Selfless
- Sacrificial
- Faithful
- Committed
- Devoted

12

The Name of God

- God replied to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you." 15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the Israelites: Yahweh, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever; this is how I am to be remembered in every generation. Ex 3:14-15
- He said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name Yahweh before you. Ex 33:19

13

Sounds like Agape?

- The Lord came down in a cloud, stood with him there, and proclaimed His name Yahweh. Then the Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: Yahweh—Yahweh is a **compassionate** and **gracious** God, **slow to anger** and **rich in faithful love and truth**, maintaining **faithful love** to a thousand generations, **forgiving** wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation. Ex 34:5-7

14

Hyperbole Indeed!

- maintaining faithful love to **a thousand generations**, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin. But He will not leave the guilty unpunished, **bringing the consequences** of the fathers' wrongdoing on the children and grandchildren to **the third and fourth generation**. Ex 34:6-7
- *It is conceivable that you might live to see the third and fourth generation, but only God could see 1000 generations*

15

An "inclusio" in Matthew's gospel

Matthew is the only gospel writer who tells us this:

Now all this took place to fulfil what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us." Matt 1:22-23

16

An "inclusio" in Matthew's gospel

Matthew is the only gospel writer who tells us this:

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matt 28:20

So it seemed good to Matthew and the Holy Spirit to emphasise the omnipresence of Jesus – which for Jesus is post-resurrection, something which has been especially good for us to remember this year.

17

God is with us

- "The Lord be with you"
- Goodbye – God be with you
- In the OT they had a tent where God tabernacled with them
- In the NT The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood (John 1:14)

18

- The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14-15
- Yahweh is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in faithful love and truth, maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving wrongdoing, rebellion, and sin.
Exodus 34:6-7

- Glory**
- Faithfulness (Heb: emet) is often translated as Truth (Greek: aletheia)**
- Faithfulness is being true to one's word.**
- Steadfast love (Heb: hesed) is a huge word and deserves a study of its own. (Try reading Michael Card's book "Inexpressible"). John is probably using grace (charis) to include all the other components of God's name in Ex 34**

19


God is with us

- In the OT the tabernacle became a temple where the presence of Yahweh was among His people
- In the NT the tabernacling of Jesus became the temple of the Holy Spirit – the Church


20

My Friend John

■ G _ d



21



“Sounds like”

- At the inauguration of Jesus’ ministry a “Yonah” descends
- Made up of four Heb letters three of which appear in the tetragrammaton
- What could be a better representation or the Spirit of God?
- ‘ehyeh (I am or I will be) is also the same.
- In a day when the Jews no longer spoke ‘Yahweh’, it would be easy to see the sense of God in these other words

22

- Ehyeh - I will be what I will be
- So Yahweh will be what He will be
- God is self-existent
- God is self-sustaining
- God is self-determining
- [Three good phrases to describe God linked by a play on words]
- Ex 3:12 God commits himself to be with them (I will certainly be with you)

23

The Patriarch Jacob

- And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground with its top reaching heaven, and God’s angels were going up and down on it. The Lord was standing there beside him, saying, “I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac.....All the peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. Look, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. Gen 28:12-15.
- Then He said, “I assure you: You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” John 1:51

24

- Jacob had just tricked his brother
- Nathaniel “an Israelite in whom there is no deceit” John 1:47
- All peoples will be blessed through you (*future*)
- Jesus is to be the one route to heaven. He takes this route himself to prove that it is safe
- A link between the spiritual and the natural - I am with you

25

Summary

- God is love, whether he is Yahweh or Jesus, OT or NT
- God is with us, as he was with Jacob, Nathaniel & the other disciples and in a sense that is the package in which the whole gospel is wrapped
- Jesus was filled with the Spirit of Yahweh, He is the only way to Yahweh. He tabernacled with us and now we are His temple

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