

Series: Cosmic Christ

“Exact Representation”

December 17, 2023 A.M.
West Side Church of Christ
Searcy, Arkansas
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Text: Hebrews 1:1-4

OUTLINE:

1. Size of the universe (he made that); the mystery of the universe (he's in that). But now what it would be like for God to be one of us.
2. Modified C. S. Lewis' quadrilemma: Lunatic, Liar, Legend, or Lord.
3. Problem “Lord” There is only 1. (*ho theos*—the Father). Christian claim of the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit, co-equal, co-eternal, these three distinct divine persons are the One God). Hard to understand. Can be confusing. Number of groups don't believe in the Trinity. Christians didn't find a Greek philosophy and try to fit the story into it; they encountered Jesus and were forced to develop new language to make sense of this Divine truth.
4. Assumes the claim about Jesus.
5. Jesus' claims about himself
 - a. I AM: Ex 3:14; John 8:56-58 (stones to stone him); Mark 6-3 sayings, Take courage; don't be afraid; I AM. [John's 7 statements]
 - b. Forgive sins: Mark 2 (who can forgive sins except God alone?)
 - c. One with God: John 10:30—I and my father are one (stones)
 - d. Control over his own life: John 10:18
6. Early Christians made this claim about Jesus. This is what “Christianity” claims.
 - a. Matthew 1:18—Immanuel: God with us
 - b. Col 1:15: What God created “with”
 - c. John 1:1-3 What God existed “with”
 - d. Heb 1:1-3 What God's exact representation is
 - e. 1 Cor 8:6—there is one God and there is one Lord (Lord was the name for the one God in the Old Testament)
7. Spilling out beyond language: Jesus is God
 - a. Hebrews 1:8-12

- b. Titus 2:13
 - c. Philippians 2:5-7
 - d. John 1:18; 20:28
 - e. 1 John 5:20
8. 'Trinity' often hard to explain. But it is demanded from the text:
- a. OT language, imagery, and titles that are about God and God alone are applied to Jesus.
 - b. Acts that can only apply to God are applied to Jesus.
 - c. Worship that applies only to God is applied to Jesus.
9. So "in having to do with Jesus, we are having to do with God."
10. Return to "I Am" claims. That Jesus is the "exact representation": imprint, expression, likeness, or copy. If God were to come to us in human form; if God were to have eyes and ears and live in our world. If God were to speak to this circumstance; if God were to respond to this need – in all these ways, "if you've seen me, you've seen the Father."

What's In It For Us?

- A. The God of the Old Testament and the Jesus of the New Testament and the Spirit of the early disciples = the same God!
 - Language of incredible grace in OT
 - Language of wrath and expectation in NT
- B. The Church is connected to the power and grace of God. In communing with Jesus, being in the body of Christ, and filled with the Spirit of Christ, we are, in fact, participating in God himself.
- C. Jesus' exclusive claims are being made by the God of the universe:
 - There is no salvation outside of Christ
 - Christ defines truth, goodness, beauty, and reality
 - The hope of the world is/can be found in Christ

All those stories of God saving his people are true in and through Jesus Christ.
Conclusion: Carbon copy. Literally!