

Johannine Literature- week 5- part 1

The Synoptic Gospels and John

1. Location of Jesus ministry
2. Length of Jesus ministry
3. Type of writing
4. Focus

Dating Jesus life and ministry

Dates in John- 27-30AD, 28-30AD or 30-33AD

1st Passover in the spring (2:13, 2:23, 4:45)

4:35 (four months until the harvest), 5:1

(unnamed feast- possibly festival of Tabernacles in the fall?)

3rd (or 2nd) Passover 6:4, tabernacles 7:2,
Hanukkah 10:22

4th (or 3rd) Passover (11:55, 12:1, 13:1)

Could be 28-30AD if 4:35 is just a saying

Authorship

John

Inner 3

We are not told the author in John or 1/2/3 John

‘the disciple whom Jesus loved’- 13:23, 19:26,
20:2, 21:7, 20, 24... also called ‘the other
disciple’- (my favourite bit- John 20:1-4)

Compare passages for similarities

John 13:34-35, 1 John 2:7, 2 John 5

John 14:23, 1 John 5:3, 2 John 6

John 15:11, John 16:24, 1 John 1:4, 2 John 12

Purpose in writing- pastoral heart of John

John 20:31 and 1 John 5:13

Culture

How might we fall into the trap of becoming like the culture around us? Or, what false beliefs might we be tempted toward due to our culture?

Groups- detective work- we only have the letter responding to situations at the time- as a group choose passage and construct what you can about the situation- Passages are in 1 John 1:8-10, 1 John 2:19-23, 1 John 4:1-3, 1 John 5:6-8, 2 John 7 and 10-11, 3 John 7-10, Revelation 1:9-11

Gnosticism- 'spirit is good but matter is evil'-
1 John 2:22, 4:2-3, also 2:4 and 4:20

Affects how we view...

the body and physical world

salvation

Jesus

Spiritual Growth

Sin

Features

The Gospel of John

What is your favourite bit in the gospel of John?

John 1- a diff birth narrative- Jesus as the 'word'

Jesus has a clear mandate (4:34), and shows the glory of the Father (14:9)

I am- notice striking statement in 8:58

I am statements- possibly pointing to Exodus 3:14- The Bread of Life 6:35, The Light of the World 8:12/ 9:5, The Gate 10:7, The Good Shepherd 10:11/ 14, The Resurrection and the Life 11:25, The Way and the Truth and Life 14:6, The True Vine 15:1,5

use of the OT- John 1, John 3, John 6, etc. (1:50-51, 3:14-15, 6:48-51)

1 John

God is light 1:5 and God is love 4:8, 16

The world- 1 John 2:15-17 (used 6 times)... but 17 more times in 1/2/3 John... diff from John 3:16... see also John 17:15-18

Revelation

How do we read Revelation?

Uses the number '7' 52 times- generally means complete like creation in 7 days

Does it describe... the past (1st century events), a span of time from John's to today and into the future, or primarily about the end times? Or is it just a symbolic book about the victory of good over evil? (Look at Rev 12)

Structure- intro 1:1-8, 7 letters 1-3, Throne 4-5, 7 seals 6-8:1, 7 trumpets 8:2-11:18, 7 signs 11:19-15:4, 7 bowls 15:5-16, final judgement and concluding words 17-22

Eschatological- way of seeing and living as people in the end times with the knowledge that we have- it is the goal of God's actions throughout history- this can be understood on many levels such as personal, for humanity, for the church, etc.

Rapture- 1 Thess 4:13-18 (meet him in the air)
vs. Rev 19:7-16 (come back with him)

Luke 17:26-30- often misused here

Mark 13:20- for the sake of the elect

phrase 'day of Christ' used to refer to rapture

Is the rapture Pre-trib, Mid-trib, Post-trib (Post-trib would make the rapture unnecessary)

Tribulation- Rev 11:3-5 (also foretold in OT)

2 witnesses- Moses and Elijah, Enoch and Elijah-
evangelism in first half then killed

Second Coming happens...

Millennium- Rev 20:1-10

Pre-mill, Post-mill, Amill

Some points not to be missed in Revelation

Intro, letters to the seven churches, the throne
in heaven, passages about heaven

Acts- week 5- part 2

Luke and Acts belong together

Author refers to Paul as 'we' several times (16:8-17, 10:5-15, 21:1-18, 27:1-28:16).

Tradition is that Luke was the author, but it is not explicitly stated (Col 4:14)

Structure of Acts

Follows characters (**Look at Acts 1:1-2**)... actually shows the Holy Spirit working through the apostles- Peter (1-5), Stephen (6-7), Philip (8), Saul (9), Peter (10-12), Paul (13-28)

Best seen as *geographical* – from Jerusalem to Rome (**Look at Acts 1:8**)

Acts 1 to 6:7- the 'Jewish' church in Jerusalem

Acts 6:8-9:31- growth to Greek speaking Jewish Christians

Acts 9:32-12:24- growth to gentiles

Acts 12:25-16:5- growth geographically

Acts 16:6-19:20- growth westward

Acts 19:21-28:30- Paul goes to Rome

<p>Why does Acts end so abruptly? What do you think?</p>

Issues in Interpretation

Creating principles from narrative

How do we tell when narrative is setting out a biblical precedent to be followed or a historical illustration only to know about?

Can we base our church on what we find in Acts? How can we tell between what is descriptive of a particular time and place and what is meant to be generally applied?

Narrative does not lay out what we ought to do... sometimes the opposite.

How could you misuse one of the following passages?

Acts 3:6- 'get up and walk'

Acts 4:32-35- example of the early church

Acts 5:1-2- Ananias and Sapphira keep back some of the money

Acts 8:14-17- baptism in the Holy Spirit

Acts 28:5-6- Paul bitten by a viper

Danger of asking questions that the author was not asking

Need to ask, 'why is Luke writing this?' to properly understand.

What should we expect when we worship together? (Read Acts 2:1-4)

Categories of Doctrinal Statements

There are basically three categories of doctrinal statements derived from Scripture: 1) Christian theology, 2) Christian ethics, and 3) Christian experience and practice

Some things in Acts... although not setting a principle to be always followed... allow for an example to practice.

Key themes

The Holy Spirit

The main character in Acts is the Holy Spirit and His work. It has been said that it should be called 'The Acts of the Holy Spirit'.

Search for word 'Spirit' (as opposed to 'spirit') in ANIV comes up with- Acts 1:2, 5, 8, 16, 2:4, 17, 18, 22, 28, 4:8, 25, 31, 5:3, 9, 32, 6:3, 5, 10, 7:51, 55, 8:15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 29, 39, 9:17, 31, 10:19, 38, 44, 45, 47, 11:12, 15, 16, 24, 28, 13:2, 4, 9, 52, 15:8, 28, 16:6, 7, 19:2, 6, 20:22, 23, 28, 21:4, 11, 28:25

Look at some of the verses on the Holy Spirit. What do you learn about the work of Holy Spirit from these verses?

Pentecost

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Jews vs. Gentiles

Jews vs. Gentiles is important in the book... Acts 9 and 10 is critical.

Birth of the church

Christians- first called Christians in Antioch, called followers of The Way before that- Acts 11:26

Ekklesia- gathering, assembly, church- Acts 19:32,39, 41 (assembly)

Evangelism

They became bold by the Holy Spirit, were given what they needed to say, and went and proclaimed Christ to all parts of society.