

LECTURE #5

Contrast God and Man

<-----> God- uncreated, nothing to compare
Himself to, changeless and unchangeable

-----> Man- created -

God is stuck with who He is, but since we are created, we can be transformed (1 Jn. 3:2)

Eastern Thought: Your stuff and God's stuff are the same
They worship divine master because he is god in their framework.

Gen. 3:5 You shall be as gods
Eyes shall be opened- salvation is mental and understanding reality = we are all a part of God

∴ sin is ignorance- no knowing you are a god; all disciplines get you back to consciousness; you think that you are you

∴ to lose yourself is the goal of eastern thought, not a moral salvation

∴ worship of the holy men

∴ hell is to keep coming back and not realize that you are god! Drop of water falling into the ocean = loses its individuality.

*Eastern: self-worship
Mantra- deliver the mind

TM- uniting consciousness that we are God

Paul- always

Mormon idea of pre-existence- spirits floating in space

Story- Salt water kills frogs- Guru Maharaja

3 Absolutes of Wonder- the nature of God and reality

These absolutes of wonder are fundamental statements of the truth which God has chosen to reveal about Himself and His creation. Although we cannot prove or go beyond these statements, the logical evidence of nature, logical reasoning and the revelation of the scriptures all agree to the one fact that these fundamental principles are true. As we understand them we can compartmentalize all the things we can observe into one of these areas- Romans 1:16-20.

Isaiah 6:1-3

Rev. 4:8

HOLY

HOLY

HOLY

UNCREATED
(Metaphysics)

TRIUNE
(Epistemology)

CREATOR
(Morals)

Being

how to know Truth

Character

The system of principles underlying a particular study which is composed of ontology and cosmology.

The study of nature and grounds of knowledge, especially with reference to its limits and validity.

Choices relating to principles of right and wrong

ontology- study related to the nature of being or existence

truth- that which actually is; fact.

Right- obedience to lawful authority in accord with truth or fact

cosmology- study of the universe as an orderly system of origins, structure, and space-time

knowledge- the body of truth, information and principles.giving

Wrong- opposite of right

Good- conforming to moral order, beautiful, helpful, life-

relationship

Bad- decayed, mischievous,
disobedient, injurious, unplea-
sant, anything worthy of
disapproval

"Stuff"

"relationship"

"Choices"

ETERNAL

UNITY AND DIVERSITY

SEQUENTIAL

Gen. 1:1
Ps. 90:2

Elohim is the Hebrew
word for God and it is

Gen. 1:1-31 God created in
sequence

God
<----->
from to

Diversity or Plurality of
God

Created = (bara in Hebrew)
to bring into being new things
which have not been made
before

Man
----->

Gen. 1:1-3
Gen. 3:22
Gen. 11:7
Isa. 48:16
Isa. 9:6
Matt. 28:19

Gen. 1:1 Plural of God (Elohim)
Singularly creating
Gen. 1:26
I Sam. 17:8 Choose = create
man creates by his choices

Man was created
at a definite point
in time

Mk. 1:8-11
John 1:1-2
John 14:6-11

Beginning makers

Isa. 40:28
Isa. 44:6
Isa. 43:10
Isa. 48:12
Rev. 4:8
Col. 1:15-17
John 1:1-3

Unity of God

Deut. 4:35, 39, Deut. 6:4
1 Kings 8:23, II Sam. 7:22
Deut. 32:39, Ps. 86:10
Isa. 43:10, Isa. 46:9
Hos. 13:4, John 10:30
Mk. 12:29

Ps. 104:24-30, Ps. 148:1-5
Is. 40:26, 41:20, 42:5, 43:1
Isa. 45:12-18
Matt. 2:10, Col. 1:16-17
John 1:3,10, Rev. 4:11
Ecc. 12:1, Rom. 11:36
Heb. 1:1-2, Neh. 9:6

Timeless Being

Diversity

Flexible

Job. 36:26
Ps. 9:7
Ps. 41:13, 45:6-7
Ps. 103:17
Ps. 102:25-27
Ps. 45:6
Heb. 1:12
Gen. 21:33

Changeless

Diversity

Flexible

Isa. 40:28
Ps. 121:3-4
Heb. 13:8
Jas. 1:17

Unchangeable

Unity

Faithful

Num. 23:19
Rom. 11:29
Mal. 3:6

II Tim. 2:13

Chart

Isa. 6:1-3 Holy x Holy x Holy

- 1) Worthy of worship or high esteem
- 2) Full of awe
- 3) pure, innocent

Rev. 4:8

Epistemology

Truth and communication
How can you know truth?

Relationship must be based on truth.

3 qualities of relationship:

1. Initial discovery, birth of a rel.
2. Mutual commitment- both initiative and response are needed.
3. Durational aspect- dynamic, they move
*Need to be maintained => energy

"Relationship"- condition of having a specified harmonic connection

Relationship is eternal!

Unity and Diversity- example dogs

Elohim- plural form, God in NAS

=> supreme power, sovereignty and glory

PLURALITY OR DIVERSITY

Gen. 1:1-3 Create is a singular verb

3:22 No 3 gods which would imply a plural verb too

1:26

11:7- Ten commandments film- having both unity and diversity

Isa. 6:8

Isa. 48:16

Isa. 45:3 Elohim with singular Me

Matt. 28:19 Name is singular

Mk. 1:8-11 Baptism of Jesus

John 1:1-2 With = face to face

Ecc. 12:1 Literally Creators

Singular adjectives with Elohim: 2 Kings 19:4, 16; Ps. 7:9, 57:2

Plural used when referring to heathen: 1 Sam. 4:8

*The use of the plural implies that the word in the singular is not full enough to set forth all that is intended. With Elohim, the plural form teaches us that no finite word can adequately convey the idea of infinite personality or the unity of person's in the Godhead.

Book of John- show relationship with Father and Son

Unity of God

Deut. 6:4 Jehovah Elohim one = plural unity

Gen. 1:24- two become one flesh

Deut. 32:39

2 Sam. 7:22

Ps. 86:10

Isa. 46:9

Jn 10:30 Jesus speaking with Jews- 'a unity'

Jn. 17:20-23 Complementary oneness- not cookie cutter
Christians

Mk. 12:29

Father is God- I Cor. 8:6

Son is God- Isa. 9:6-7, Jn. 1:1-2, Heb. 1:8

HS is God- Acts. 5:3-4, Heb. 9:14

Chart

5 Greek Words For Time

1. Chronos- an amount or quantity of time, duration
Chronicle-
Matt. 2:7- date or time the star appeared
Lk. 4:5 - moment of time
Lk. 20:9- long period
Acts 20:18- Paul- with you whole time
Rom. 16:25- long ages past, times eternal
Mk. 2:19- duration of time
Acts 7:17- time of promise for Abraham
Acts 3:21- until a date

2. Kairos- a quality of time, characteristic time, season, epochs marked by features

"It's time for revival" (Kyros)

Acts 1:7 Chronos and Kairos- quantity and quality

Prophecy- warning, be a pan-millennist. Post trib. Mid, Pre, No-

:8 Authority and power

Traffic light example: green light gives authority to Go even though you have the power to go through a red light

Policeman example: he has authority by his badge through the law; gun is the power to back up authority

Matt. 24:36 God is evaluating history and will set the time of the end by his own authority. History is not a fixity

Matt. 24:14 Then shall the end come

2 Pet. 3:12 Our obedience hastens His coming

*History is not a fixity but the interaction of God and men. Bible records how men's choices changed history

Noah

Moses

*Prayer influences history

AFTER THE FALL OF LUCIFER

"War has been declared. The great, governing cherub had become the malignant enemy. Although the Lord had the power to destroy Satan with a breath. He did not do so. It was as though an edict had been proclaimed in heaven: 'We shall give this rebellion a thorough trial. We shall permit it to run its

full course. The universe shall see what a creature, though he be the highest ever to spring from God's Word, can do apart from Him. We shall watch this experiment, and permit the universe of creatures to watch it, during this brief interlude between eternity past and eternity future called time. In it the spirit of independence shall be allowed to expand to the utmost. And the wreck and ruin which shall result will demonstrate to the universe, and forever, that there is not life, no joy, no peace apart from a complete dependence upon the Most High God, Possessor of heaven and earth."

-- p. 51, Barnhouse, The Invisible War

Matt. 13:30 Harvest
Gal. 6:9 Time of reaping
Matt. 8:29 Time of Punishment
Matt. 26:18 Time is at hand
Rev. 12:12 Time of Evil
Lk. 4:13 Time of a purpose

3. Pleroma- complete or full, fulness of time (ple ro ma)

Gal. 4:4
Ep. 1:10

4. Teleico- to bring to an end, fulfill days

Luke 2:43 Stayed the full length of the feast
John 19:28

5. Akey- beginning or origin

Jn. 8:25
Rom. 16:25
Ep. 3:9
2 Tim. 1:9
Tit. 1:2
II Thess. 2:10

Time is a moral concept

Universe = space x motion x time

Time must have personality- a moral concept

Spring example- hit a spring

*it takes a personality to record succession

*otherwise you only have change, not time

Example: clocks record sequence

water clock

mechanical clock

digital clock

atomic clock

* time only has meaning for moral beings

Acting and reacting moment by moment

=> How is God looking at you right now?

Handout- Time and eternity- see handout on pg.

THE ETERNAL NOW VIEW OF GOD

Augustine: confused being and character

He said that god has a timeless personality

Example: history is a book, the imaginary time frame

God sees the whole book as "now"

Implications

1. God never thinks any new thoughts
2. God never has any new feelings
3. God never makes any new decisions
4. God never does anything after anything
5. God never created anything, all matter is as

infinite as God => pantheism

Gen. 1:1

Relationship calls for a common response of two persons to truth in love. A relationship is to something that has happened but it is something that is in the process of being. John. 8:31, 32. To continue in relationship with Jesus Christ we must continue in His Word, this means growth. As we know more truth, the truth makes us free. This type of knowledge includes mental understanding but also has the connotation of application and experience.

TIME AND ETERNITY

Definitions:

Time- a duration in which a sequence of events takes place.

Eternity- a sequence of events without duration

Therefore time and eternity are single dimensional phenomena. Time has its boundaries in its length.

Eternity has no boundaries in its length.

In the
beginning. . .

and they shall reign
forever and ever.



Gen. 1:1
John 1:1

Rev. 22:5b

Time runs parallel to Eternity, but Time has a beginning and an end and is sectioned into intervals, or measured by the movement of the physical universe in relation to our physical position.

Eternity has no beginning or end and is divided into intervals by acts of God's will.

Both Time and Eternity have three distinct, but not separate parts:

Past-- that which has truly happened already

Present-- that is truly happening, (but as soon as it has taken place it becomes part of the past).

Future-- that which has not yet truly happened or currently taken place.

The only verse in the Bible that could imply that God lives outside of time would be II Peter 3:8, which is quoted from Psalms 90:4. "But do not let this one fact escape your notice beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day." Verse 9 continues, "the Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance." This simply indicates that God doesn't count time in the same way that we do but makes no mention of God existing in the past, present, and future simultaneously.

Time is a necessity for personality to function. The blurring of the past, present, and future would destroy the Biblical sense of history and destiny and very closely reflect the circular view of reality that the eastern world view gives.

For a more complete explanation of the eternal now concept of God, see pages 145-149 in C.S. Lewis' Mere Christianity.

"This idea has helped me a good deal. If it does not help you, leave it alone. It is a "Christian idea" in the sense that great and wise Christians have held it and there is nothing in it contrary to Christianity. But it is not in the Bible or any of the creeds. You can be a perfectly good Christian without accepting it, or indeed without thinking of the matter at all."

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity, p.149

The fall brought a sense of passing time and a futility

Ecc. 3:11

Rom. 8:19-23

"It is a heavenly *afternoon*. Davy and I have *just* had a timeless luncheon (I am assuming that God will not waste so joyous an invention as taste). I *then* say to her that I *shall* wander down to sit beneath the beech tree and contemplate the valley for *awhile*, but I *shall* be back *soon*. I do so. I contemplate the valley for some *hours* or some *years*-- the words are meaningless here where foreverness is in the air. At all events, I contemplate it *just as long* as I feeling like doing. *Then* I get up and start back, but I meet someone, C.S. Lewis, perhaps, and we sit on a bench and maybe have a pint of bitter and talk for *an hour* or *several hours*-- *until* we have said all we have to say *for now*. And *then* I got gladly back to Davy. She, *meanwhile*, has played the celestial organ. She has played the organ for a *few minutes* and is *just* turning to greet me *when* I come in. Whether I was away for an *hour* or a *hundred years*, whether she has played for *ten minutes* or *thirty*, neither of us has waited or could wait for the other. For there simply is no time, no hours, no minutes, no sense of time passing. The ticking has stopped. It is eternity.

-- A Severe Mercy, p. 205, Sheldon Vanauken

"Time flies when you are having fun"

Chatting with friends at night

Man's time is regulated by light--day and night

God's time is regulated by moral choices => reactions

Jn 17:4 Jesus accomplished all the work

Ep. 5:15-16 Redeem the time; How do you spend your time? Buy up opportunities by buying back the time by listening and obeying.

GOD IS UNCREATED-- ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION p. 39:

"*Time somehow has reality only in association with the created order. Time only has meaning when eternity interacts with creation.

*Time must have its ultimate origin in God, but He himself cannot be a subject of it-- at least not in the same sense the universe is subject to time

The following are conjectures, and not necessarily true:

*God cannot act in sequence without accessing new knowledge or experience, thus being "finite"

*Eternity precludes any kind of sequence. (Scripture indicates otherwise)

*All God's acts, experiences, and thoughts are simultaneously existent. He cannot have a new thought, feeling, or make a new decision-- The tenor of the Bible seems to contradict this. (It is certainly not wise to say that a sovereign God can do anything either wrong or intrinsically impossible.)

*All the future actions of moral beings are fixed and preordained by the will of God. (If true, it is neither intuitive nor nice, it certainly negates the concept of free choice).

From all this, if we think hard, we can summarize the three possible views of what eternity is. Comparing time to a film production, we end up with the following choices.

**There is no real movie.* There is no sequence of events. We have relativistic 4-D model of our world in which time is but a fourth dimension of space, with all history and reality a single act of creation-- an Eternal Now with the appearance of providential government but what is really the illusion of

freedom. This has been a popular theory, fitting well with the modern concept of relativity.

**The whole film is already made and produced.* We can cry over the sad parts, laugh at the funny scenes, but we can only share in the experience; nothing we do can change what we see. God has created the earth in time, but linked the future of that creation to His all-knowing mind; the future is thus fixed and unchangeable. This differs only from the first view in that it allows time as a distinct and real element in an otherwise deterministic process.

**We live on the set of a movie in production.* The Director knows much of what will happen in the film, but details regarding scenes and minor events are at the option of actors. This is a model of the world in which time is real and the future has options within certain divinely declared limits. This is perhaps our street-level doctrine, the practical view of most Christians, the model we use for thought and action in ordinary life."

We wish to verify the character of God

Before the Foundation of the World: Pro catoble cosmos, Greek words translated mean:

Pro- before, in front of

Catoble- disintegration or breaking down

Cosmos- world or world system (not the earth), people in the world

Therefore, a more accurate translation would be:

"In the face of the disintegrating or collapsing people or world system"

*Taken from notes by Winkie Pratney

Examples

Concept- God has things kept secret since He made the earth and world.

Matt. 13:35 "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things kept secret because of the disintegration of the people."

*Jesus answered honest questions. Answered dishonest ones with parables. Only the dishonest fear the truth.

*God keeps secrets because He can't trust dishonest people--
Element of trust.

Matt. 25:34--

Jn. 14:1-3 Jesus will go and prepare us a place
"Inherit the kingdom prepared for you because of the disintegration of the people."

Why did God prepare a kingdom?

1 Cor. 7:31 Because this one is falling apart.

Lk. 11:50 (47-52)

What prophets were killed before the foundation of the earth?

"In order that the blood of all the prophets, shed because of the disintegration of the people, may be charged against this generation." the

Prophets died at the hands of selfish men, they died because of the moral disintegration of the people.

Jn. 17:24 "For Thou didst love Me in front of the disintegrating people."

Eph. 1:4 "Just as He chose us in front of the disintegrating people that we should be holy and blameless before Him."

Heb. 4:3 "although His works were finished because of the falling apart of the people."

Heb. 9:26 "otherwise, He would have needed to suffer often because of the disintegration of the people."

1 Peter 1:20 "For He was ordained before He came in front of the disintegrating people, but was manifest in these last days for you."

Rev. 13:8 "And all who dwelt on earth will worship Him, everyone whose name has been written because of the crumbling of the people in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain."

Rev. 17:8 "And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life because of the disintegration of the people, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come."

5 Greek Words for Time: SEE PREVIOUS PAGE ()

Relationship calls for a common response of two persons to truth in love. A relationship is not something that has happened but it is something that is in the process of being. Jn. 8:31-32 -- To continue in relationship with Jesus Christ we must continue in His World, this means growth. As we know more truth, the truth makes us free. This type of knowledge includes mental understanding but also has the connotation of application and experience.

REASONS WHY GOD DOES NOT LIVE IN THE ETERNAL NOW:

1). If God lived in the eternal now,

A. The future would be an established fact already. Also, the past would be.

1. God would have created, would be creating, and would yet create the heavens and the earth and all His creation all of the time and all at the same time.

a. This is the same as saying, the creation has always existed, is always existing, and will always exist.

b. Another way of saying this is

1. God never created anything.

2. God never is creating anything.

3. God never will create anything.

2. If God cannot now create something new, when did God lose His ability to create, that is if God ever had the power to create anything?

a. If God could not create new things (choice is involved, then

1. God is not a free moral being

2. God would not have a personality--

personality takes time. Personality is essential for the exchange of thoughts and feelings. We could not know God, or He us, God would be inscrutable.

3. God would not be responsible for His own actions. Moral responsibility only is possible when an individual has the power of freewill or self-causation or autonomy.

3. Man would not be a free moral agent.

a. Man is created in God's image

b. Man would be a robot locked into a predetermined set of actions which man did not choose or create.

1. Man would not be responsible for his own actions.

2. God would be unjust in punishing man for something which man is not solely responsible for bringing into existence if it causes evil, pain, suffering, broken relationship, and death. There won't be such things as virtue or vice, or right or wrong.

3. Prayer would be useless, since communication requires at least two person(alities) in order to exchange ideas and feelings, in other words, to co-respond with each other, over a certain duration.

B. The God of the Eternal Now is Fate--Allah, the god of Islam.

II. If the above does not continue to satisfy any doubts, let's go to what the scripture says.

A. Read Isaiah 48:7

1) God can create things NOW!!

a. These things were not created in the beginning

b. These things were not merely revealed

1. God created things in the beginning and now shows sequential order, from the definitions above

Time and Eternity both have distinct events taking place in sequence.

B. Gen. 1:1-31 shows God working and creating in sequence; the first day, etc.

1. God did one thing after another

2. God perceived that what He had made was very good.

C. Gen. 6:6 shows a change in God's attitude from Gen. 1:31.

1) God was grieved in His heart (because of what He saw) and it repented Him that He had made man upon the earth.

D. Gen. 22:1-12; especially v. 12.

1) God said, "... now I know (with absolute certainty) that thou ferrets God.

a. God's foreknowledge is therefore not complete in respects to the choices of other free moral agents.