

Walking an Ancient Path

Alex J Jacob

Bible Study Questions

("Walking an Ancient Path – Exploring four key New Testament Texts about Jesus" – Christian Publications International 2016)

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Introduction:

- How do we define, and think of, theology? Is it a dry, boring subject – if so, why? 11
- Do we focus enough on Christology? Do we understand what Christology is? Where should Christology "fit" in our day to day, week-by-week devotions? 11 - 12
- How helpful might Christology be in focusing discussions with those of other faiths? (And those of no faith whatsoever?)
- How did Jesus think of Himself? What clues do we get from His great "I AM" statements? (**See Appendix 1 - here**)
- How did the apostolic church think of Jesus? Look at some sample texts (**See Appendix 2 - here**)
- Is there anything that particularly struck you in the Introduction?

Chapter 1:

- Read the two key New Testament texts. Are there any obvious differences or nuances between them? Is this helpful? (15 - 17)
- Is there a useful link between Mary's Magnificat and Hannah's Song? How do we think Mary viewed her son? (20)
- How do we now think of Mary's ongoing involvement in the early church (page 20 – Acts 1:14) (20)
- Some perceive a chiasmic framework for the opening of John (page 22). Irrespective, what three key truths do we learn from John chapter 1? (22)
- What do we understand by Jesus' eternal pre-existence (page 23 middle)? (23)
- How should we view Jesus in the light of the festival of Tabernacles? How do we react to the thought that Jesus was probably born to coincide with the festival of Tabernacles? Is this important? (27)

Chapter 2:

- Read the two key New Testament texts. Are there any obvious differences or nuances between them? Is this helpful? (29)
- what should we understand by the idea that Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles (page 30) (30)
- how do we understand the idea of Jesus "emptying Himself" (page 35 upper)? (35)
- How do we understand the Title of "Lord"? (page 35 (lower))? (35)

Chapter 3:

- Read the two key New Testament texts. Are there any obvious differences or nuances between them? Is this helpful? 39
- How important were the heresies that afflicted the early church? How should we think of these heresies today? Do we face similar issues today? 41
- how do we understand the reconciliation of all things (page 43-44)? 43 - 44

Chapter 4:

- Read the two key New Testament texts. Are there any obvious differences or nuances between them? Is this helpful? 45
- how do we understand the term “in these last days” in Hebrews chapter 1? 45
- how do we understand this term “better covenant”? In what ways is Jesus better than all that had gone before (and all that have come since)?(page 49) 49
- how do we – how should we, understand the concept of and the use of the number 7 in the Bible? (page 51)
(note - on this latter we may want to look at a broader study of the use of the number seven in the Scriptures) 51

Chapter 5:

- How can we translate what we have learned into effective witness and mission?
- what is the good news that we are supposed to preach? (And do we do so faithfully)?
- page 61 – thinking new thoughts – read opening paragraph and discuss. 61
- are we comfortable with the reality of the trinity – and how do we make this intelligible to others? (summary quote page 62) (see also 2 definitions of the Trinity on page 65) 62
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Appendix 1 – Jesus’ “I AM” statements

Note to Appendix 1 – the statements below marked ***** are those that are generally considered to be the key statements of Jesus, in revealing His divine nature

John 4: 26	“I who speak with you am he ” – in answer to the Samaritan’ woman’s statement that the Messiah “will come” and “explain everything”.
John 6: 48	the bread of Life *****
John 8: 12	the light of the world *****
John 8: 18	the one who testifies for myself
John 8: 58	before Abraham was born, I AM (Matt 22: 32) *****
John 10: 7	the Gate *****
John 10: 11	the Good Shepherd *****

John 10: 36	God's Son
John 11: 25	the Resurrection and the Life *****
John 13: 13-4	your Lord and teacher
John 14: 4	that you also may be where I am
John 14: 6	the way, the truth and the life *****
John 14: 10	in the Father and the Father is in me
John 14: 20	in you
John 15: 8	the true vine *****
John 17: 16	They are not of the world, even as I am not of it.
John 18: 5	I am he – in answer to the question, the guards looked for “Jesus of Nazareth”. Met by Judas’ kiss of betrayal.
Mark 12: 26	quoting God (the Father) in God’s revelation to Moses via the burning bush – and demonstrating an aspect of God’s Lordship over time. “God said ... ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ He is not the God of the dead, but of the living.” [also Matt 22:32]
Mark 14: 62	are you the Christ? – “I am” [before the Sanhedrin – they <u>all</u> asked (Luke 22: 70) are you the Son of God?]
Matt 11: 19	the Son of Man
Matt 11: 29	gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls
Matt 28: 20	with you always

Luke 22: 70 [before the Council in Jerusalem] You are right in saying I am. [in answer to the question ‘are you the son of God?'] [see also Mark 14: 61-2]

Acts 9: 5 “I am Jesus” – in answer to Saul’s question “who are you Lord?”

Rev 1: 17 the alpha and the omega

Rev 22: 7 and 12 coming soon

Rev 22: 16 the Root and Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star

Appendix 2 – He is How the apostolic church views Jesus

John 1: 1 - 14 The revelation of God

1 John 2: 6 The pattern for our lives

Acts 10: 36 Lord of all

James 2: 1 The Lord of glory

2 Peter 1: 1 Our God and Saviour

1 John 2: 2 The atoning sacrifice for our sins

Hebr 7: 27 Once for all

Phil 2: 6 Being in very nature God