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HOUSE
AN AFFIRMING MINISTRY

PHAM BIBLE STUDY · SESSION 2

The Religion of Jesus

..... STUDY GUIDE

Nothing in this guide requires you to know
where anything is in the Bible.



Beliefs have birthdays.

Some of what you were handed as “what Christians have always believed” has a date, an author, and an agenda. Here is the receipt trail we walked tonight.

- ~30 CE** ○ Jesus preaches the kingdom of God
Tables, margins, love of God and neighbor. No rapture, no inherited guilt, no “Trinity.”
- ~200s** ○ The word “trinitas” first appears
A theologian named Tertullian coins the term — roughly two centuries after Jesus.
- 325** ○ Council of Nicaea
Bishops vote the Son fully divine. Arguing, politics, an emperor watching.
- 381** ○ Council of Constantinople
The three-person formulation lands: one God, three persons.
- ~400s** ○ Augustine builds inherited guilt
Reading Romans 5:12 in Latin — “in whom all sinned” — he teaches guilt at birth.
- 1830s** ○ John Nelson Darby invents the pre-tribulation rapture
Eighteen centuries of Christians lived and died without this teaching.
- 1909** ○ The Scofield Reference Bible
Darby’s system printed beside the scripture until nobody could tell them apart.

Every belief on this line has a birthday.

A birthday doesn’t make a belief false. It makes it a decision — and decisions can be weighed.

WHAT PAUL WROTE — GREEK

“...death spread to all because all sinned”

eph' hō pantes hēmarton

Your guilt comes from your own acts. A newborn hasn't done anything yet.

WHAT THE WEST READ — LATIN

“... in whom all sinned”

in quo — read as: in Adam

Guilty inside Adam's act — before ever doing anything. The verdict arrives at birth.

Even the King James follows the Greek: “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.” — *Romans 5:12, KJV*

THE CHAIN, LINK BY LINK

- 1 Paul writes Romans in Greek: death spread to all because all sinned.
- 2 The Western church reads Paul in Latin translation.
- 3 The Latin can be read “in whom [Adam] all sinned” — guilt assigned before birth.
- 4 Augustine — brilliant, influential, reading the Latin — builds inherited guilt on that reading. (He had other arguments too; this verse was a load-bearing wall, not the whole building.)
- 5 Downstream: born guilty. Bodies suspect. Desire suspect. Centuries of Christians taught to be ashamed of existing before they'd done a single thing.

DEFINED LATER DOES NOT MEAN INVENTED FROM NOTHING.

They built from real material. The question is never “did they use the Bible” — it's “what did they decide to build.”

Worth knowing: inherited guilt is the floor predestination was built on — if you're guilty before you can act, God must do all the choosing. A God who can be moved takes down both. See page 6.

THE RELIGION OF JESUS — WHAT WAS IN HIS MOUTH

LUKE 4:16-21 — HIS FIRST SERMON. HIS MISSION STATEMENT.

¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. ¹⁷ And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ¹⁹ To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. ²⁰ And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

When Jesus got one sermon to say who he was — this was it. Not a doctrine. A direction: toward the poor, the captive, the oppressed. [That's where Affirmation 1 comes from.](#)

MATTHEW 22:36-40 — THE HINGE. HIS OWN SORTING METHOD.

³⁶ Master, which is the great commandment in the law? ³⁷ Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

He was handed the same problem you have — a big, complicated sacred text — and he told us what everything hangs on. When acting on a teaching doesn't produce love of God and neighbor, Jesus himself gave you permission to weigh it.

OPEN FLOOR — FOR YOUR OWN HAND

One belief I was handed that I want to run through Matthew 22:

Councils get a vote. He gets the veto.

[We measure our faith by the shape of his life. — Affirmation 2](#)

THE KINGDOM IS NOW — AN ARRIVAL, NOT AN EVACUATION

MARK 1:15 — THE HEADLINE OF HIS RELIGION

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

LUKE 17:20-21 — ASKED WHEN THE KINGDOM COMES

²⁰ And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: ²¹ Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

KJV

“...the kingdom of God is **within you.**”

It starts in the person.

MODERN TRANSLATIONS

“...the kingdom of God is **among you.**”

It shows up between people, at tables.

One Greek phrase — entos hymōn — honestly holds both. This time, we don’t have to pick.

MATTHEW 6:9-10 — YOU’VE PRAYED THIS YOUR WHOLE LIFE

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰ Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Jesus never taught anybody to pray for an evacuation. He taught us to pray for an arrival — **in earth**. And he taught us to keep praying it — you don’t pray for what’s already fully here.

WHERE PUBLIC HOUSE STANDS

The kindom is breaking in now — AND God isn’t finished.

This earth is not a lobby. It’s the site. Every open table and every act of justice is a brick.

A GOD WHO CAN BE MOVED — A MINORITY POSITION, HELD ON PURPOSE

Most of the tradition reads these verses as figures of speech — a respectable position. We read them the other way: as a God who is genuinely in relationship. Scholars call it open theism. We call it the God Moses actually met.

EXODUS 32:7-14 — READ THE WHOLE SCENE. MOSES ARGUES; GOD LISTENS.

7 And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. 11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. 14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

GENESIS 6:6

And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

JONAH 3:10

And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them: and God did it not.

GENESIS 22:12

...for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.

Notice: where modern translations say “relented,” the King James says the LORD **repented**. The old translators didn’t flinch. Sorry. Grieved. Repented. Now I know — the Bible’s own words.

FOR A GOD WHO CAN BE MOVED

A prayer I stopped praying because I thought it couldn’t matter:

Your prayers are real. Your choices are real. The future is genuinely open.

No one was doomed at birth. No one was born condemned. The story isn’t finished being written.

TWO QUESTIONS. ASK THEM OF ANY BELIEF.

1 Who decided this — and when?

2 Does it look like Jesus?

Any doctrine. Any tradition. Ours included.

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The standard: if a decision with a birthday can't survive the greatest commandment — if acting on it doesn't produce love of God and love of neighbor — it falls off the wall. No matter how old it is. No matter who voted for it.

AND FROM SESSION 1 — FIVE QUESTIONS FOR ANY TEXT

- 1 Who wrote this, and to who?
- 2 What were they dealing with?
- 3 What kind of writing is this?
- 4 What happens when somebody acts on this?
- 5 Have you read the entire chapter? (bonus)

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QUESTIONS? BRING ME THE ONE YOU DON'T BUY.

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My goal is understanding, not agreement.

Scripture quotations: King James Version (public domain).

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