

Annual Moore College Lectures 2013

**What in the World?
Speaker: Dr Bill Salier**

5-Lecture Series: 19 - 23 August 2013

Lecture Outlines



Lecture 1: The Word and the World

Part A: John 1.1-18: Our Starting point

The cosmic context

The word and the world

Part B: The world in the Old Testament

- i. words, words, words...

erets earth: *Gen 6.11; Gen 18.25; Exodus 19.5; Numbers 14.21; 1 Sam 2.10; Psalm 2.8, 10.18; 33.8; 96.13; Isa 24.18-20; Isa 38.11.*

hakkol the all: *Ps 103.19; Isa 44.24; Jer 10.16*

tebel parallel with **erets**: *Jer 10.12; the whole population of the world is referred to Ps 24.1; 33.8; 98.7; Isa 18.3; 26.9; context of universal judgement Isa 13.11; 24.4; 34.1; cf Ps 96.13; 98.9.*

a small puzzle...

- ii. Genesis 1-11

The creation of the world

The sin of humanity

Cain & Lamech

The generation of Noah

Babel

- iii. The Nations

The call of Abram

The Nation of Israel

Called out of the nations (*Gen 41.50; Exod 18.11; Num 10.29ff; Ezek 16.2-3*)

Israel as a nation (*Gen 12.2; Exod 19.6*)

- iv. The nations as the matrix of Israel's Life

Enemies (*Neh 5.9*): evil (*2Chron 33.9*), plotters (*Psalm 59.5*), agents of oppression (*Isaiah 14.2*).

Israel against the nations

The nations against Israel

- v. A fatal attraction...

Avoid contact (Deut 12.30 and 18.9).
A temptation (Deut 7, 12.30; 29.18).
Evil practices (Lev 18.24; Deut 18.9; Kings 14.24).
Idolatry (Deut 12.29-32)

Fertility (Deut 31.20)
marriage (1 Kings 11.2-4);
political power (1 Kings 12.28);
conquering powers (2 Chron 25.14);
desire for military victory (2 Chron 28.23).

vi. What is the problem with idolatry?

A jealous God (Deut 6.14-15; Jsh 24.19-20; Ps 78.58-59)
Idols destroy you... 2 Kings 17.15; Hos 9.10
The attraction of an idol

What exactly is idolatry?
Love and affection
Trust and allegiance
Exclusivity
Thinking about idolatry

vii. Israel becomes like the nations

2 Kings 17.8-15; Jer 2.28, 11.13; 7.18

viii. The Nations and Israel's Existence

Exod 19.6:
God is sovereign over the nations:
God will judge the nations
God will bless the nations (Ps 22.27; Isa 2.1-4; 60.5, 11; 62.2; 66.18-20; Jer 33.9; Ezek 37.28; 39.7);

ix. Babylon: the nation's nation

In the beginning...
The pride of Babylon
In Isaiah...(Isa 13-14, 21, 24.10; 47)
In Jeremiah (25, 50-51)

The New Testament Fulfilment

Part C: Conclusion...

creation, mission, opposition, and allure

Excursus: The City

The city as our context

The city and the world

The city in Scripture

Living in the city

Lecture 2: Living With the Opposition of the World

John: the cosmic theologian...

Part A: The World According to John

John 1.9-11: The true light, who gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was created through Him, yet the world did not recognize Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.

Created by the word

Bad world

The children of God

John 1-4

1.29: The lamb of God who...

3.16-20: God so loved...

4.42: Truly the savior of...

John 5-12

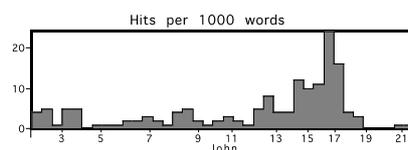
More of the same

The world and the Jews (eg 6.31/3; 49/51; 7.1/7.7; 18.20; general patterns as well)

John 13-17

Preparing for the future

The prominence of the world



The disciples in the world

John 18-21

Part B: the world and the Jews

What does it mean to be the kosmos?

John 8

Origins (8.23; 8.44-47)

Destiny (8.24)

Characteristics

Moral (8.39-47)

Ignorance (2.18; 5.30-40; 6.30, 42; 7.41-42; 8.21-2, 27)

Misdirected loves (3.19-21; 5.41-44; 12.25)

Function?

A portrait of Unbelief

The heart of unbelief (5.41-44; 7.18; 12.42-3)

The problem of unbelief (7.24)

The strategies of unbelief (9.16-34)

The impossible hope of unbelief (9.40-41)

Part C: The Opposition of the World

John 15.18ff

Because of Christ (15.18-20)

A new relationship (15.19)

Why does the world hate?

the name of Jesus (15.21)

sin exposed (15.22)

according to the Scriptures (15.25)

without reason (15.25)

the disciple's response

testimony under fire (15.26-16.4)

within the work of the Spirit (16.5-11)

John 17

Protection in the world (17.11-15)

Sending (17.16-19)

Future testimony (17.20-23)

Summary: The World in the Fourth Gospel

1. Narrative tension

2. A metanarrative

3. A Challenge to Belief

4. A Stimulus to Mission

in the context of opposition

5. The Character of God

Lecture 3: Living with the Allure of the world

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things that belong to the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For everything that belongs to the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride in one’s lifestyle—is not from the Father, but is from the world. And the world with its lust is passing away, but the one who does God’s will remains forever.

Part A: Reading 1 John 2.15-17

1 John generally

The context of 1 Jn 2.15-17

Imperatives and implications

The exhortation (v 15)

The reason: the love of the Father (v 15)

The definition (v 16)

‘Out there’ or ‘in here’?

The desires of the flesh

The lust of the eyes

The pride in one’s lifestyle

The reason: the futility of the world (v 17)

Conclusions

Simple...

And yet...

Understanding and application

Out there or in here once again...

A world too good?

Attached too strongly to a good thing

We can do this...

At the heart of the world is humanity with the world at its heart.

Part B: The world in the rest of 1 John

Familiar themes

God's love (2.2; 4.9, 14)

The world's ignorance and hatred of believers (3.1, 13)

The abode of false prophets and antichrist (4.3, 5; 5.19)

Overcoming the world (4.4)

A victory won

John 16.33

Sharing in a victory won

By faith (1 Jn 5.4-5)

In love

Keep yourself from idols (1 Jn 5.18-21)

The function of the world language

Part C: Revelation

Reading Revelation

Revelation 18

A choice to be made

The notorious prostitute

17.1-6: A portrait

17.7-18: the reality

18: Babylon the Great has fallen

Revelation 11:15: the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and Messiah

Summary

Lecture 4: Living in a World Passing Away

Paul and the world...

Part A: 1 Corinthians

The trouble in Corinth

Chapters 1-3

1.20-21: the world's wisdom overturned by the Gospel.

'this age'

how's the water?

1.26-31

worldly evaluations overturned

2.12

the spirit of the age

powers?

spirit of place?

3.19-22

reiteration

applied to factionalism

Hearing what the Corinthians heard...

redescribing their world/crucifying their world?

Discerning the spirit of the age

How?

A suggestion...

Chapters 5-7

5.10

the world

the boundaries

6.1-2

7.29-31

the context: marriage and the present distress

living at the edge of time

living 'as though not'

The form of this world

SUMMARY:

Part B: Romans

The world and this age

Rom 12.1-13.14

Part C: Galatians

The world

and the stoichea (Gal 4.3, 9; cf Col 2.8, 20)

crucified (6.14-15)

Summary and Reflection

Lecture 5: Living with the Word in the World

So far...

Part A: The enduring problem

1. The classic paradigm: H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture*.

Christ against Culture

Christ of Culture

Christ above Culture

Christ and Culture in paradox

Christ transforms culture

Some brief comments

Some common criticisms

Still a classic

Modern evangelical discussions...

2. Some alternative paradigms:

purity from, defensive against, relevant to, faithful presence within

condemn, critique, copy, consume, create

Some brief comments:

Life's complex/times change/which world?

Gestures and postures

3. An alternative suggestion

The story of the word and the world

What does the word do?

Teaches

Corrects

Rebukes

Trains in righteousness

What does this mean?

Part B: Thinking about our world

Diversity

Dissolution

Opportunity

Concluding two moments...

The first Adam

The last Adam

