

Class 4 Session B Notes

These are the notes for the lecture given by our guest speaker Larry Mitchell of Friends of Israel Gospel Ministries. His topic was Jewish evangelism. Unfortunately we were unable to record his lecture in audio format due to technical problems. I trust that these notes will be helpful to you – John Feakes

Father Abraham

- 1 Corinthians 9:20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews;

Abraham met Jesus

- John 8:52-58 ⁵²Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. ⁵³Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself? ⁵⁴Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: ⁵⁵Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. ⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. ⁵⁷Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? ⁵⁸Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

The Gospel was preached to Abraham

- Galatians 3:6-8 ⁶Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. ⁷Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. ⁸And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.
- Genesis 15:6 he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness

One Orthodox Jewish man's question:

- Since you believe the Bible, why have you become a Christian and not a Jew?

Three branches of Judaism:

1. Biblical Judaism – centered around the temple until 70 AD Leviticus 17:11 *it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.*
2. Rabbinic Judaism (after 70 AD) – centered in the traditions of the rabbis, good works, prayers and charity have replaced the need for the blood sacrifice Mark 7:5-15 This people honoureth me with *their* lips, but their heart is far from me ... Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.
3. Christianity: Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law.

Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the Law

- Galatians 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- Galatians 3:24-25 ²⁴Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.
- James 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

My reply:

- Since you believe the Bible, why have you become a Christian and not a Jew?
- I believe your Bible teaches the same thing that I believe.

Father Abraham's Faith:

- Genesis 15:1 After these things **the word of the LORD** came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

The Debar of God

- The *Word* in Hebrew is *dabar*. In the Targums, which are ancient Aramaic translations or paraphrases of the Old Testament, it was translated as *mimra*. The Targums, which pre-date the Talmud, give us some insight into how the ancient synagogue understood the concept."
- <http://www.messianicgoodnews.org/rabbis/theword.htm>
- "The ancient Jewish Aramaic translation of Genesis 1:1, as found in "Targum Neofiti" which dates before Yeshua was born reads as follows: "In the beginning, with wisdom, the Son and Memra of the Lord, created and perfected the heavens and the earth."
- <http://yeshuatyisrael.com/life002.htm>

In the beginning, with wisdom, the Son and Memra of the Lord, created and perfected the heavens and the earth."

- Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made;
- John 1:1-3 ¹In the beginning was the Word, (Dabar) and the Word (Dabar) was with God, and the Word (Dabar) was God. ²The same was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made by him; (Dabar) and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Genesis 15:2 And Abram said, **Lord GOD**, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house *is this Eliezer of Damascus?*
- Genesis 15:4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.
- Genesis 15:5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be.**

- Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; **but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**
- Genesis 1:14-16 ¹⁴And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and **let them be for signs**, and for seasons, and for days, and years: ¹⁵And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. ¹⁶And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made the stars also.*
- Psalm 147:6 He telleth the number of the stars; **he calleth them all by their names.**
- Psalm 19:1-4 ¹The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. ²**Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.** ³**There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.** ⁴Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

The Constellations

- Virgil the virgin: Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- Leo the lion: Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

God on the Earth/God in Heaven

- Genesis 18:1-2 ¹And **the LORD appeared unto him** in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; ²And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,
- Genesis 18:16 And the men rose up from thence, and looked toward Sodom: and Abraham went with them to bring them on the way.
- Genesis 18:20-22 ²⁰And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; ²¹**I will go down now**, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. ²²And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.
- Genesis 19:1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;
- **I will go down now**
- Genesis 19:24 Then **the LORD** rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire **from the LORD** out of heaven;

The Trinity:

- **Deuteronomy 6:4** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is one* LORD:
- shoma Israel Adonai, Elohinu. Adonai echod.

- Echod means unity not one. Genesis 2:24 they shall be **one** flesh... Ezra 2:64 The whole congregation **together** was forty and two thousand three hundred *and* threescore
- "I believe with perfect faith that the Creator, blessed be his name is a **Unity**, and that there is no **unity** in any manner like unto his, and that he alone is our God, who was, is and will be." *The Standard Prayer Book*, Rev. S. Singer, Bloch Publishing Company, 1951, page 107
- **Isaiah 42:1** Behold my **servant**, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my **soul** delighteth; I have put my **spirit** upon him:
- Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let **us** make man in **our image**...
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 your whole **spirit** and **soul** and **body** be preserved blameless
- Isaiah 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.
- Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.
- **Zechariah 2:8-9** ⁸For thus saith the LORD of hosts; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye. ⁹For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me.
- **Zechariah 2:10-11** ¹⁰Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD. ¹¹And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

Is the Messiah God?

- Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.
- Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
- Psalm 45:6-7 ⁶**Thy** throne, **O God**, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. ⁷**Thou** lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: **therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee** with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.
- Psalm 45:11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for **he is thy Lord; and worship thou him.**

Abraham's Faith Tested

- Genesis 22:1-2 ¹And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. ²And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of **Moriah**; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

- Genesis 22:3-5 ³And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. ⁴Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. ⁵And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.
- Genesis 22:6-8 ⁶And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. ⁷And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? ⁸And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.
- Genesis 22:9-10 ⁹And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. ¹⁰And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.
- Genesis 22:11-12 ¹¹And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. ¹²And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.
- Genesis 22:13-14 ¹³And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. ¹⁴And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD **it shall be seen.**

Abraham's Faith Demonstrated

- Genesis 17:10-11 ¹⁰This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. ¹¹And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you.

Circumcision of the heart

- Deuteronomy 10:16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.
- Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart,
- Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

How does one circumcise the heart?

- Psalm 2:10-12 ¹⁰Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. ¹¹Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. ¹²Kiss the Son, lest he be

angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him.

Agur's Question:

- Proverbs 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?
- Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; (Yeshua) I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. (Yeshua)

What is the Purpose of Life?

- **Micah 6:8** He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?
- Same principle found in the New Testament:
- Ephesians 2:8-10 ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For **we are his workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus **unto good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

The Promise:

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.