

# Biblical Mistakes

NO! Not that kind of mistake



# Doctrine vs. Exegesis

- What is the purpose of doctrine?
- To know the Truth!
- To ensure conformity to the Truth
- To identify dissenters
- To express the full range of the biblical message



# What is the purpose of exegesis?

- To understand the words of the text
- In the original context
- In the original language
- For the original audience
- Exegesis is NOT application or interpretation



# Interpretation and Application

- Most biblical exposition and commentary
- Jewish or Christian
- Sermon, midrash, Talmudic discussion, theology
- Virtually ALL popular literature



# The Bible(s)

- Was not written for you
- Was not written about you
- Was not written in your time, culture or language
- Was not WRITTEN
- Was not a “Bible”



# Theology and Exegesis

- Do we really need both?
- Harmony or conflict? Theology is intended to be harmonious
- Which one is more important? Which one is primary?
- Which one depends on paradigms?



# What is the real goal of believing?

- to fulfill the demand of God
- to fulfill our existential debt
- to become fully human according to God's intention



# And what happens when . . .

- Doctrine (theology) stands in the way of relationship



# Mis-Stakes

- **Transcendence**
- **Timelessness**
- **Worthiness**
- **Belief**
- **Relevance**
- **Reward and Punishment**
- **History**
- **Inerrancy**
- **Canonization**



# Transcendence

- The Holy Other God
- Perfect
- Immutable
- Essentially Unknowable
- The Propensity toward Mysticism



“The Bible tells us nothing about God in Himself; all its sayings refer to His relations to man. His own life and essence are neither told nor disclosed. . . The only events in the life of God the Bible knows of are acts done for the sake of man.” Abraham Heschel  
*Between God and Man*



# Why Do We Want To Know?

- What is the real motivation to know God as He essentially is?
- What does this tell us about ourselves?



# Timelessness

- “Outside time and space”
- Not like *anything* we experience - everything we know is temporal
- Is such an idea even conceptually logical? What is a square circle?
- The spatialization fallacy - when we think we know what we’re saying
- Consequences for creation
- Consequences for divine care



# Belief

- Platonic dualism - reason vs. reality [the real is rational]
- Truth as proposition
- *Statements* of faith - legal constructs
- Actions are secondary and not essential
- The spiritual vs. the physical



# Relevance

- There is only ONE Bible
- God is its real author
- The Bible is God's timeless truth
- The Bible was written with us in mind
- Our faith is based on the same Scriptures that Yeshua had



# Worthiness

Material corruption - decay / temporality / imperfection

“Radically transcendent, perfect, changeless, good, without body of any sort whatsoever (since body implied limit), this god could be ‘seen’ only with the mind. At or as the god’s opposite (and notional) extreme was hyle, coeternal unformed matter: defective, radically unstable, mutable, utterly without form. ‘Between’ them, the result of their interaction,’ the visible cosmos stood. To the degree that the cosmos was subject to movement and change it expressed the consequences of its unstable material substratum. The higher up in the cosmos, the greater the beauty and stability of the spheres; the lower in the cosmos, the greater the degree of movement and change. Below the moon, conditions deteriorated rapidly. Matter grew thick, balky, and sinister; chance, change, and fate ruled life on earth. them, the result of their ‘intervia negativa - What God is, man is not”



# Worthiness

- Sinful nature - *sarx*
- “the new man” - denial of essential embodiment
- Death - Heaven - the eternal existence of the soul (*psyche*)
- Salvation as rescue vs. salvation as rebirth
- Baptism



“Life is something that visits my body, a transcendent loan; I have neither initiated nor conceived its worth and meaning. The essence of what I am is not mine. *I am what is not mine.* I am that I am not.” Abraham Heschel *Between God and Man*



# Reward and Punishment

- A question of justice
- The origins of “Heaven” and “Hell”
- Greek syncretism
- Pythagoras - the eternal soul
- Is God fair?



# History

- Chronology vs. Importance
- The Greek idea of time
- The myth of eternal return
- The Hebrew invention of history
- Selective memory
- Reimagining the past



# Inerrancy

- What is the purpose of the doctrine?
- Autographs?
- Certainty?
- The historical record



# Canonization

- Inspired - Sacred - Canon
- The role of the Masoretes
- Why standardization?
- Sacred literature in the first century
- Control and community
- Rome - Reformation - Religion



# Where Are We Now?

- Perseverance
- Progress
- Purpose
- Perplexity
- Prognostication



# Experience

- The primacy of experience
- Something happened - now, what does it mean?
- Interpretation is secondary
- Interpretation is flexible
- Interpretation is contextual
- BUT interpretation is essential