

FAKE RELIGIONS

ser5006 True Christianity in a Fake World, Pt 1

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E & L

(HOOK & BOOK) POINT OF INTRIGUE

A. David W. New, the Washington DC attorney, said, *“Understanding the world in which we live is explained in the first four words of the Bible, **“In the beginning God.”**”*

Matthew presents Jesus in his gospel as the *King of the Jews* tracing His genealogy to Abraham, the first Jew and father of all who believe.

Mark presents Jesus in his gospel as *a servant to all*; and gives no genealogy. (Servants don't need genealogies, only royalty does.)

Luke presents Jesus as *the perfect man*, tracing His genealogy to Adam, the son of God.

John presents Jesus as *the eternal God*, laying down these truths:

1. Jesus is God
2. Jesus has existed forever
3. Despite His eternal, divine nature, Jesus took on human flesh to



display God's glory and offer grace to all mankind.
(**show symbols of the 4 gospels, p1**)

John, along with his brother James, came from an affluent family. All indications are that at one time John was opinionated and headstrong. He and his brother were referred to as a "sons of thunder." But somewhere along the way he got the message of love, and later was referred to as "the apostle of love."

Mother Teresa said, "If you judge people you have no time to love them." Certainly this "son of thunder" who wanted to call down fire from heaven on the Samaritans, did a 180 and learned to love rather than judge.

Who should you be loving instead of judging?

St John writes in **John 1:1-4**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

B. What identifies a FAKE RELIGION?

First, let's ask the question: *How many religions are there in the world?*

Answer: Over four thousand. Out of those four thousand, five populate the earth in greater measure. They are:

Buddhism

Christianity



Hinduism

Islam
Judaism

Out of these five, Christianity has the most followers with 2.8 billion; Islam is the second largest with 1.6 billion.

Second, there are two essential truths that identify a “fake religion.”

1. What is being worshipped?

2. Who is Christ?

C. Let us pray!

II. ESSENTIAL TRUTHS THAT DISTINGUISH TRUE RELIGION FROM FAKE RELIGION

A. (LOOK) What is being worshipped?

My favorite Christian movie of all time is Chariots of Fire. The film is set in the 1920s when the United Kingdom was class-obsessed and religiously divided. The movie draws a contrast between a Jew, Harold Abrahams, and a devout Christian, Eric Liddell. Eric sees running as a part of his worship to God, refusing to train or run on the Lord’s Day. Harold sees running as a way of overcoming anti-Semitism and class bias, but neglects his beloved sweetheart, Sybil in his single-minded quest.

There is one scene in the film that vividly portrays this fundamental truth regarding the identification of “fake religions,” and that the God of the Bible has no equal and is the only true God.

Understand the setting. The nations have gathered with their best athletes. The politics of world powers are on display, and Eric Liddell addresses the frailty of our human conceptions of greatness when he reads from Isaiah 40. Let's look at it. ([show video clip https://youtu.be/ZjF59VB0h6g](https://youtu.be/ZjF59VB0h6g) 2:18)

Isaiah 40: 8-31(selected verses)

8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.”

12 Who has measured the ^[g]waters in the hollow of His hand,
Measured heaven with a ^[h]span
And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure?
Weighed the mountains in scales
And the hills in a balance?

15 Behold, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket,
And are counted as the small dust on the scales;

17 All nations before Him *are* as nothing,
And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

18 To whom then will you liken God?
Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

21 Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the

earth?

²² *It is* He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants *are* like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

²³ He [□]brings the princes to nothing;
He makes the judges of the earth useless.

²⁴ Scarcely shall they be planted,
Scarcely shall they be sown,
Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth,
When He will also blow on them,
And they will wither,
And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

NOTE! The average empire lasts 250 years. America will be 250 years old in 2026.

²⁵ “To whom then will you liken Me,
Or *to whom* shall I be equal?” says the Holy One.

²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high,
And see who has created these *things*,
Who brings out their host by number;
He calls them all by name,
By the greatness of His might
And the strength of *His* power;
Not one is missing.

²⁸ Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,

Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the weak,
And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

³⁰ Even the youths shall faint and be weary,
And the young men shall utterly fall,

³¹ But those who wait on the LORD
Shall renew *their* strength;
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,
They shall run and not be weary,
They shall walk and not faint.

Truth number one: Any god that is the creation of man's imagination and of human hands is fake, and the religion built around it is fake.

B. (Number two) Who is being worshipped?

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

1 Corinthians 8:6

This verse tells us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and the Son through whom are all things, clearly stating that Jesus is God.

yet ^hfor us *there is* one God, the Father, ⁱof whom *are* all things, and we for Him; and ⁱone Lord Jesus Christ, ^kthrough whom *are* all things, and ^lthrough whom we live.

Genesis 1:1, John 1:1 and *John 17:3* tells us Jesus coexisted with the Father and Holy Spirit as God and was God.

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Let's look at Jesus' own words. He is in discussion with the Pharisees.

John 8:56-59

Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw *it* and was glad.”⁵⁷ Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”

NOTE! To have seen Abraham means Jesus was living 1767 years before this moment in time.

⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

NOTE! This is the same I AM which introduced Himself to Moses in the desert, saying tell Pharaoh, “I AM that I AM.”

⁵⁹ Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going^[v] through the midst of them, and so passed by.

(TOOK) If a religion doesn't clearly state and believe that Jesus is God, that religion is “fake.”

After Jesus had calmed the sea, we are told that the disciples worshipped Him. *Matthew 14:33* tells us,

Then those that were in the boat came and worshipped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

III. IDENTIFYING “FAKE” RELIGIONS

A. The following religions DO NOT believe Jesus is God:

1. Islam
2. Buddhism
3. Hinduism
4. Judaism—although Judaism gives us the roots of our faith, most Jews today refuse to accept Jesus as the Christ. What Jews do know is that Christ is God; they just don’t believe the Jesus in the New Testament is the “One to Come.”
5. Jehovah Witnesses
6. Mormons
7. Christian Scientist
... just to name a few.

IV. INVITATION

A. Jesus said, “I AM the way the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me.” *John 14:6*

B. If you want a relationship with the God who made you in His image, this is where you begin:

Admit– your sins have separated you from God.
(Psa 14:1-3; Rom 3: 23);

Believe – that God did something about your sins through Jesus Christ. (The final Pascal Lamb/Messiah.)
(Lev 17:10; Heb 9: 19-22);

Commit – yourself to His righteousness by confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior. (Isa 53:5; Col 1:22);

Do it today! (Isa 49:8; 2 Cor 6:2).

Father in Heaven, I'm sorry for the things I've done that are wrong: I am a sinner; forgive me. Thank You for loving me and sending your Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for my sin. Holy Spirit come into my heart; Jesus be my Lord and Savior. I give You my life. Amen.

ser5006, *Fake Religions* (True Christianity in a Fake World, Pt 1). 1589 words
(approximately 12 minutes +2:18=14 minutes)