

SERMON NOTES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, January 9-10, 2021 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “WHO CAN DO THAT?” TEXT: John 1:1-5

INTRO. The Hebrews seemed so weird! In the ancient world: an anomaly, a singularity. Neighbors, enemies, and conquerors: Jews were weird. Pilate as Governor-not a plum assignment. Like being ambassador today to Iran or North Korea!

I. PAGAN vs. HEBREW

A. Many gods v. ONE God:

1. Polytheism: many, families, hierarchy, like humans!
2. Monotheism: One God of whole universe; a being utterly different than human beings.

B. creation v. Creator: (Still so today!)

1. Pagan: creation of world incidental/accidental
 - a) warfare/violence
 - b) sexual
 - c) for amusement
2. Pagan: gods are part of creation, therefore *nature gods*
3. Hebrews: One Creator of *everything*, above creation, creates with purpose & by design.

C. A Moral God:

1. Pagan: gods capricious, self-centered, used humans as pawns/fun
2. Hebrews: God *reveals* self/his will by his Word, his Law, his Love
3. He governs *his own behavior* by right/wrong, good/evil

II. WHO CAN DO THAT?

A. Old Testament: Flood, Babel, Sodom, Isaac, Plagues, Red Sea, Manna, Jericho, Assyrian plague, Daniel, Fiery Furnace

B. New Testament: John's birth, Incarnation, Virgin Birth, "Pax Romana", Census, Star

C. Jesus: "SIGNS" > water/wine, still storm, walk on water, heal sick, blind, deaf, lame, raise the dead...EASTER!

D. *"Who can DO that?"*

E. Answer: Only the Creator! Only God! Only the Christ!

III. AND SO IT BEGINS...

A. At His baptism: "You are my Son..."

1. Who can DO that? Like Father, like Son!
2. Same essence, same mind, same power, same purpose

B. He LOVES those He has created:

1. He's come "to fulfill all righteousness".
2. He's "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world."
3. The CREATOR who lays down his life for his creatures.

C. Who can DO that? Only God! Only Jesus!