

JESUS AND WORLD RELIGIONS

By

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The struggle of man against God has taken many forms, from the rebellion in the Garden of Eden, to the tower of Babel, to the crucifixion of Jesus, and now to the Parliament of World Religions, scheduled to for August 28 to September 5, 1993.

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the first International Parliament of World Religions, which took place in Chicago in 1893, this gathering is largely sponsored by the Institute for 21st Century Studies, a Rockefeller-funded group with ties to the Club of Rome and other illuminati promoters of the New World order.

Participants include Hindus, Muslims, Buddhist, Jews, Catholics, many leaders of Protestant churches, occultists, humanists, earth worshipping environmentalists and religious leaders from all over the world.

In a recent brochure the institute states that, "At the 1993 Parliament, the spiritual leaders of the world will be invited to share the wisdom of their faith tradition on the critical issues of the 21st century."¹ In this parliament, the Christian faith is seen as on a level with all other religions.

WHO SPEAKS FOR GOD? You don't have to be a Doctor of Theology to recognize that while this event may be a boon to many religions, it can only denigrate Christ and the truth of God. Everyone who knows anything about the life and teachings of Jesus knows that He claimed to speak for God.² As He was transfigured before the eyes of the apostles, God announced, "This is my beloved Son...hear him!"³ To acknowledge as true any other religion with a contrary message is to deny the claims of Christ.

When Jesus said, "I am...the truth,"⁴ He labeled as false all contrary religious claims. To choose the teaching of some religion other than that of Christ is fatal. "He that rejects me, and receives not my words, has one that judges him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."⁵

Many religions claim that their founders were divinely inspired and directed, but if that were true then God would be the author of gross confusion and contradictions. That which Jesus reveals is consistent with history, with the prophets and with all other truth.

Pagans are will to share "the wisdom of their faith tradition" with all who will listen. Representatives, so-called, of Christianity are welcome in their movement so long as they do not actually contend for the true Christian faith, which holds that God has spoken to us through His Son. But what happens when one affirms that Jesus revealed God's truth and everything that contradicts that truth is a lie? He is branded as a bigot with an unloving attitude, and is no longer welcome.

WHO SAVES FROM SIN? Of all the religions of the world, the Christian faith is the only one which gives the reason for humanity being under the curse of sin and then provides the solution. Sin began in the Garden when the first pair rebelled against God

and brought themselves under the condemnation of death. Immediately afterwards God promised a savior,⁶ and His prophets, through the centuries, repeatedly reminded the people of this coming redeemer.

Jesus announced that His purpose was “to give his life as ransom for many,”⁷ and history gives the record of His death on a Roman cross. It was Jesus who “died for our sins according to the scriptures,”⁸ that He might meet the death-penalty for our sin. “He who knew no sin, He (God) made to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”⁹ Jesus is God’s only provision for the sin problem. “Neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved.”¹⁰

Other religions have some appealing qualities and some heroic founders, but if one wants to be saved from sin and its penalty of death, he must come to the only One God has given for the purpose, His Son Jesus.

WHO CAN GIVE LIFE? Mohammed, Buddha, Moses, Plato, and Zoroaster all lie powerless and lifeless in the grave, but the Son God gave for our salvation He also raised up from death, and gave Him all authority in heaven and on earth. No one but Jesus could say, “I am the resurrection and the life.”¹¹ By this statement Jesus says that life itself is in His hands, and will be given through resurrection from the dead.

None of Christ’s claims and promises are more offensive to other religions than this one concerning the resurrection. Pagan philosophy and the majority of world religions teach that man has an inherent quality of immortality about him so that he will never die, but continue to live in a transformed state. They may call it an “eternal spirit” or “immortal soul”, but in some way there is the intent and hope to escape the reality of death, and therefore avoid the need of a resurrection from the dead.

While the term for “soul” occurs 840 times in scripture, and “spirit” is mentioned 763 times, yet there is not one such phrase as “immortal soul” or “undying spirit” in all the Bible. Paul’s statement is crystal clear, that Christ alone has immortality.¹² Nowhere in scripture is there any record of a promise of immortal life to anyone other than those with faith in Christ. Jesus insisted that eternal life was possible only through belief in Him, and that the alternative is to perish.¹³

According to Jesus, life after death depends upon being raised from the dead, and He claimed that the resurrection power was entirely in His hands, declaring, “As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom he will.”¹⁴ He boldly stated that the “hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth”, some to life and some to damnation.¹⁵ After one sermon in which He repeatedly told the audience that it was he who had the power to raise the dead,¹⁶ “the Jews sought to kill him.”¹⁷ When He gave proof to this claim by raising Lazarus from the dead, the chief priests and the Pharisees could stand it no longer. “So from that day forth they took counsel that they might put him to death.”¹⁸ To think that their eternal destiny should depend upon Jesus raising them from the dead was humiliating and totally unacceptable to that proud religious hierarchy.

It is still unacceptable to the gurus of world religion. They may accept Jesus as the example of a wise and humane person, but they strongly oppose Him as the One with universal authority, including the power of life and death.

WHO SPEAKS TO GOD? Not only is Jesus the sole means of resurrection to eternal life, he is the only means by which man be in touch with God. He said, “No man

comes to the Father but by me.”¹⁹ After dying for our sins, He has “gone into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God FOR US.”²⁰ Paul writes that “there is one God, one mediator also between God and men, himself man, Christ Jesus.”²¹

For this reason He instructed us to approach God in prayer *in His name*.²² This fact alone invalidates all other world religions. Not one of their leaders, dead or living, was ever appointed as a mediator between men and God. If Jesus is our only Mediator, what then of praying to some dead “Saint”, or through some clergyman?

John writes that “we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.”²³ Whatever qualities other religions may have, in order to access God they must abandon their false leadership and humbly bow to the Lordship of Jesus, the Son of God, Who alone appears for us before the Father.

To confess Jesus as the Son of God and Lord EXCLUDES any other religious influence. All that are outside of Christ are without hope and destined to lose life in the final judgment.²⁴ All we become or achieve, if we are not serving Jesus, will be of no lasting worth.

But to be in Christ is to have the presence of God now, and to have immortality in the world to come. Instead of seeking unity with those of other religions, Christians are instructed to make the gospel known to them, that they might be saved.²⁵ Instead of encouraging them in their blind celebration of ignorance, we must call them out of the power of darkness and into the kingdom of God’s dear Son,²⁶ through the truth which He alone has revealed.

Let us hold Him up to the world as the exclusive Savior, the Lord of lords and King of kings.

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