

Is Christian Morality Unique?

Part 2

Time - Place

And the cosmic tension between them

Set 2 of 12

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Project Employment Inc.
Melbourne 2024

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ischristianmoralityunique.htm](http://www.valuesclarification.org/ischristianmoralityunique.htm)

ISBN 978-0-9805603-8-1

What sort of tension exists between the two world views of Judaism and Hellenism?

No. 27

No. 28

In Part 1 of *Is Christian Morality Unique* it was shown that, from its beginnings there was an on-going tension within Christianity

between:

the Commandments of Judaism

and

the idealism of Hellenism (i.e. the Greek philosophy of the Roman Empire)



▶ The uniqueness of this dialectical tension points to the uniqueness of Christian morality or ethics as some would describe it.



Over the centuries, there has been an on-going "problem" of anti-semitism (anti-Jewish) sentiment amongst populations even while Jews live, contribute and achieve amongst us. Perhaps a culmination of anti-semitism was reached with the Nazis in the 1940's.

But even now, in the C21st, people struggle to understand the base from which Judaism operates - especially in terms of Zionism and the actions of the IDF (Israel Defence Force). The Israeli Government has constantly broken international law and one wonders if these people

honestly believe that while they are people of the law (i.e. the Commandments) they are also above the law.

It is not being proposed here to put forward a "solution" to such questions. However, given that it is being pointed out that Christianity is largely based upon Judaism then these are questions, not only to be dealt with by the Jewish community but also to be dealt with by Christians as well.

What do you think?

Differences can run a lot deeper than we may realise

No. 29

- ▶ On the one hand, it could be expected that when two cultures, value systems and world views meet and form a hybrid society, there would be some form of dialectical tension between the two societies that comprise the hybrid.



No. 31

- ▶ Would this tension be superficial?
- ▶ or would it “dip into” a tension that exists within the core of creation itself?
- ▶ In any case, what sort of tension would exist at the core of creation itself?
- ▶ Consider:

Page 8

No. 30

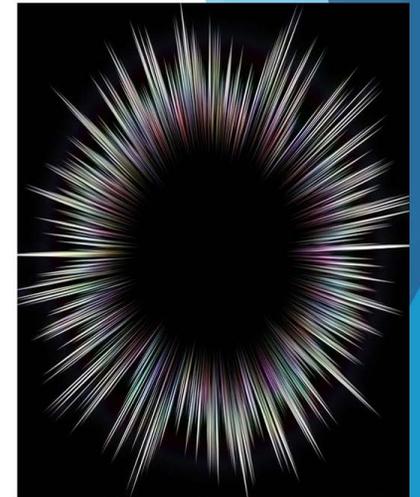
- ▶ One could therefore ask how significant would be the tension between the Commandments of Judaism and the rationalistic/idealism of Hellenism ?



No. 32

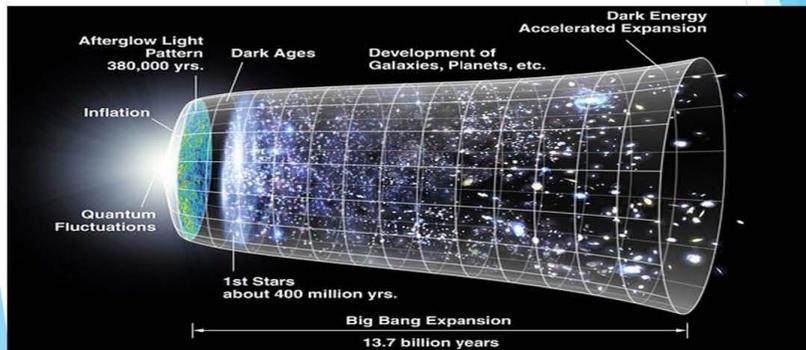
In these days of space exploration and a possible conquest of space travel, we are more conscious of the origins of the universe.

This dates back to the Big Bang that took place about 13.7 billion years ago.



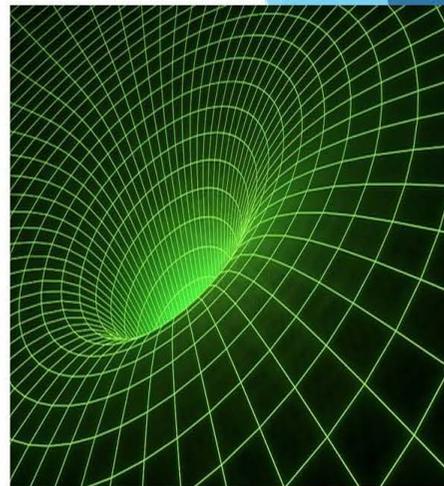
No. 33

- ▶ We are told the Big Bang happened in a millisecond flash of light that came from what astronomers call, a point of singularity.



No. 35

- ▶ Time and place are distinct from each other.
- ▶ But they also interact with each other e.g. astronomers can observe - time ripples within space



Page 9

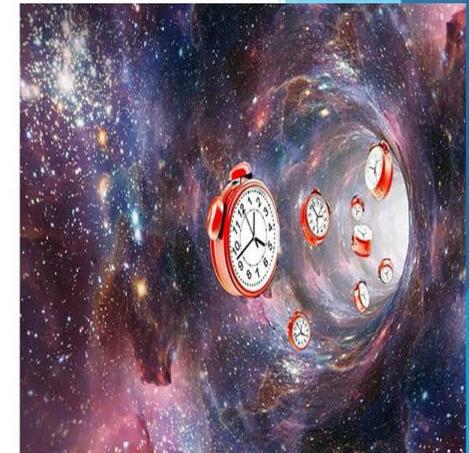
No. 34

- ▶ With the Big Bang came the emergence of :
- ▶ TIME and PLACE



No. 36

Astronomers also talk about “wormholes” which are a funnel-shaped space-time tunnel between two points, between universes



No. 37

They also talk of "black holes", that is, cosmic bodies with such extreme gravity nothing can escape from them.



No. 39

Where does that leave us as Christians?

As Christians we believe in the "incarnation", that is, that at some point in history God has entered into our material world

As Jesus Christ, God has lived amongst us.

This is a core belief of Christianity



Page 10

No. 38

In a cosmic sense we on earth, live in a "bubble" of time and place on an outer rim of the Milky Way.

In a material sense that is all we have.



No. 40

- ▶ Regarding the incarnation.
- ▶ To enter into the material world means to enter into the framework/bubble of Time and Place



A core belief of Christianity is that God entered into our material world of time and place

No. 41

What did the time and place “bubble” of C1st CE Palestine entail?



No. 42

Jesus was born into Judaism in first century Palestine.

At the time Palestine was governed by the Roman Empire, which in turn was largely based on Greek philosophy i.e, Hellenism.



No. 43



No. 44

▶ In Palestine much of the architecture, clothing, customs, literary forms, art, social structures, form of government etc. was derived from Greek culture.



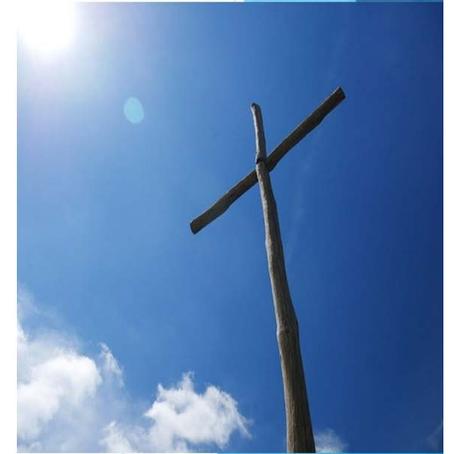
- ▶ In other words Jesus came into a world of Judaism and Hellenism



Would the tension between them have its roots in a primal tension that exists at the core of the universe between time and place?



- ▶ One can wonder to what extent were the two societies of Judaism and Hellenism based upon
- ▶ time and place.

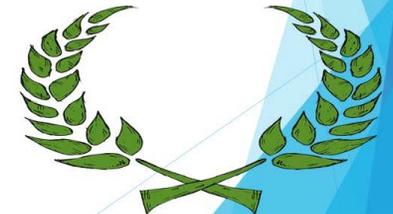


And

- ▶ Is the world view of Judaism largely based upon law with a special reliance on time?



- ▶ Is the world view of Hellenism largely based upon order with a special reliance on place?



A closer look at Judaism and Hellenism may clarify the difference