

Historical Efforts to Align Time and Place and Law and Order

Set 11 of 12 slide sets

Michelle Nailon CSB

Project Employment Inc.
Melbourne 2024
All Rights Reserved

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

Isbn 978-0-9805603-8-1

Have you ever thought about trying to put time and place into alignment?

You could think of it this way.

Regarding time: Should you try to live in the past and cling to what worked in the past? Or should you live in the present and reject the wisdom and traditions of the past?

Regarding place: Should you look upon nature in front of you, as something that can be abused as well as used?

Before going into the relevance of previous slides to the Eucharist, it would be helpful to explore some answers to three major questions that have some relevance to the sense of time and place.

1. Was the approach of the gospel writers totally novel or have other groups of people sought out a “still point” between time and place in order to “open up” a time/space portal of the cosmos?

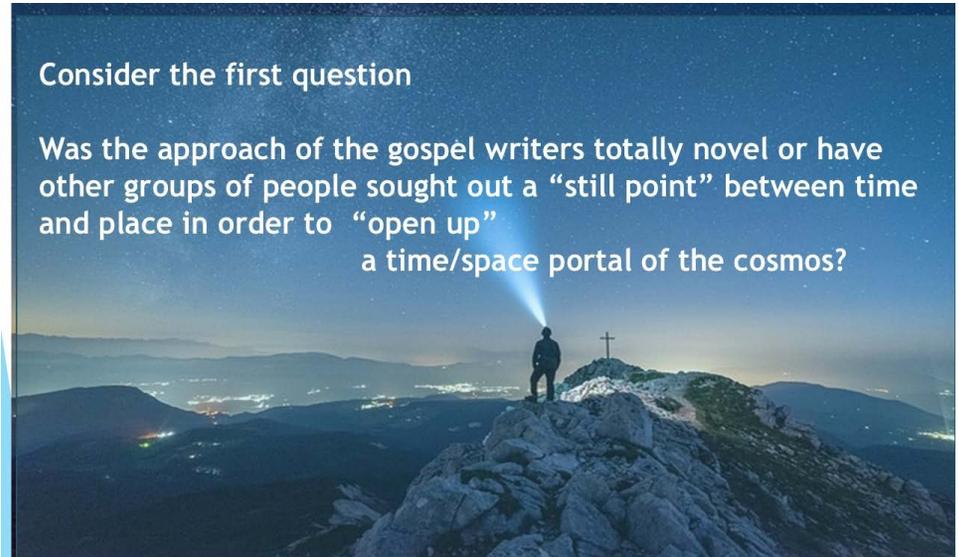
2. Over the centuries, how successful has been the gospel attempt to combine the two world views of Judaism (with its focus on law and time) and Hellenism (with its focus on order and place)?



3. Does the gospel of John provide a “lead in” to the Eucharist and is an “alignment” of the sense of time and place found here ?

Consider the first question

Was the approach of the gospel writers totally novel or have other groups of people sought out a “still point” between time and place in order to “open up” a time/space portal of the cosmos?



Ancient Efforts to Align Time and Place

No. 241



No. 243

- ▶ In Peru's Machu Picchu Temple, at sunrise on the winter solstice, the light will stream through the window so the Sun's rays fall directly onto the ceremonial stone.



- ▶ In Turkey, unearthed artefacts suggest a site was ingeniously and creatively used by Neolithic people for healing and regeneration.
- ▶ At the winter solstice, sunrise will fully illuminate the stone head.



Page 61

No. 242

- ▶ The Egyptian pyramids were aligned with the stars. When a certain alignment took place, the pharaoh could lead his people into the next world.



- ▶ In Egypt's Karnak Temple (of 5,000 years ago) the rising sun of the winter solstice would penetrate the inner sanctum and rest on its Holy of Holies.



No. 244

- ▶ The Stonehenge monument in England (2,500 BC) was designed to align with both the sunrise of the summer solstice and the sunset of the winter solstice.



Efforts to align time and place are deeply embedded in the human psyche

No. 245

- ▶ In Mexico's Chichen pyramid (400s A.D). the feathered serpent god Kukulcan appears to 'visit' the temple at the spring equinox.
- ▶ At that point in time triangles of light and shadows are created on the side of the staircase to give the appearance of a snake slithering down the northern steps of the temple.
- ▶ Then at the summer solstice it looks like the pyramid is split into two..



No. 247

Some scholars believe Australian aborigines also aligned time and place

Summer solstice Equinox Winter solstice



Fig. 4. The Wurdi Youang stone arrangement and the hypothesised solar alignments, from Norris et al. (2013). The point where the lines converge is the best vantage point for observing the solar markers.

Arrangement near Mt Rothwell and Little River Victoria

Page 62

No. 246

- ▶ Efforts to align time and place have continued on to connect life in this realm with life beyond it.
In Melbourne Australia at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month the sun shines directly on the tomb of the unknown soldier.
- ▶ People pause for a minute's silent reflection, in the hope their focussed attention will bring peace to those who have died in battle.

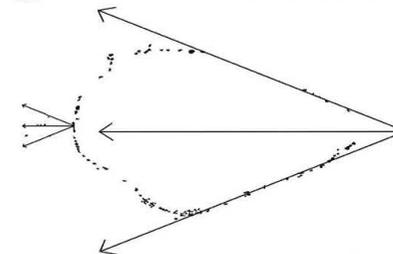


No. 248

Wurdi Youang, this 11,000 year old stone arrangement found in Victoria, shows the exact position of where the Sun sets at summer and winter solstices and at the spring and autumn equinoxes.

62

Rock Art Research 2013 - Volume 30, N



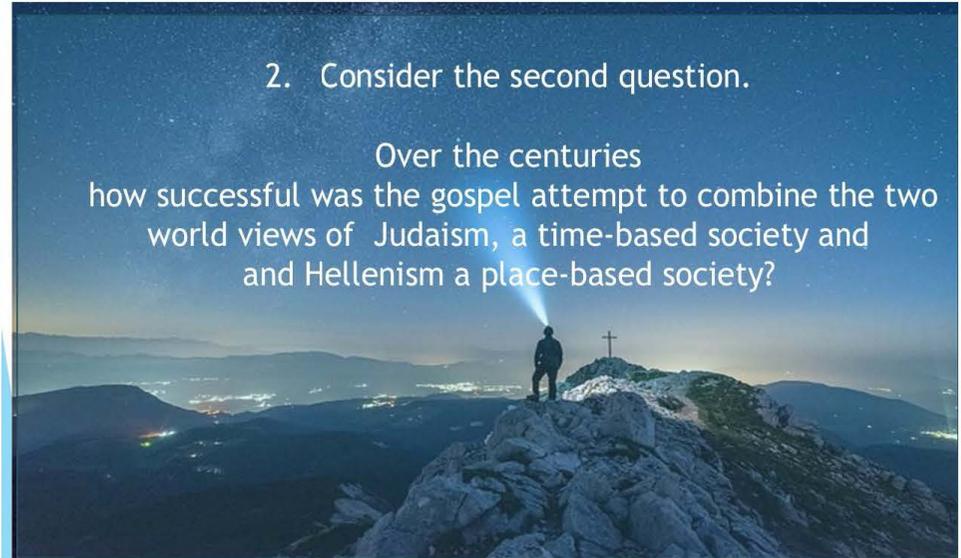
The challenge to align time and place in deeply embedded in the human psyche.

In Melbourne, consider the last five minutes of a Grand final match in which Collingwood kicks the winning goal. For the Magpie fans, time and place have been aligned!



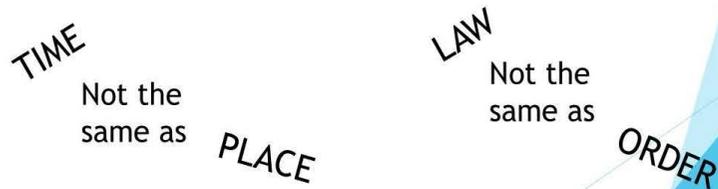
2. Consider the second question.

Over the centuries how successful was the gospel attempt to combine the two world views of Judaism, a time-based society and and Hellenism a place-based society?

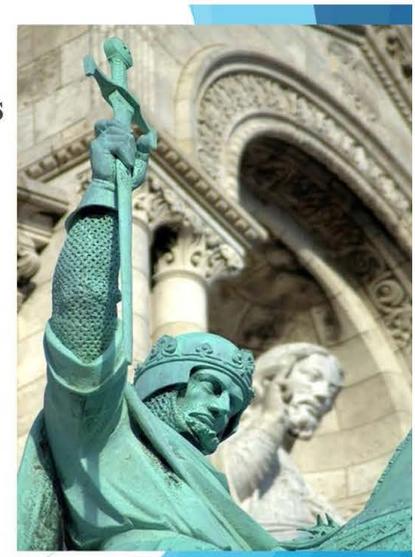


Historical Efforts to Align two differing world views

- ▶ The gospel writers challenge people to live with two “conflicting” world views.
- ▶ But how are they expected to do this?
- ▶ If we look back over the centuries a number of varied attempts have been made here.



- ▶ 1. In the early years of the church, after Christianity was endorsed and adopted by the Roman Empire, the texts of Greek philosophy “faded away”.
- ▶ 2. But during the C12th Crusades these Greek texts were rediscovered.

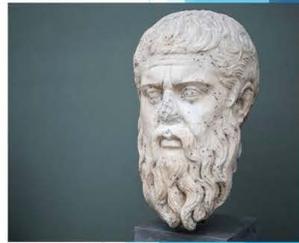


No. 253

- 3. Aquinas then began writing a rationalized church framework based on the works of Aristotle.

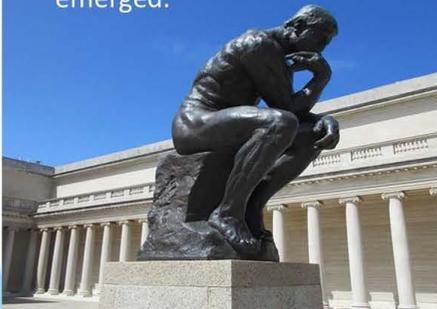
When some church authorities objected to this, Aquinas pointed out that Church teaching had already been relying on the writings of St Augustine, for centuries.

Theologians had not realised that Augustine in turn was reliant on the philosophy of the so-called Greek “pagan” Plato.



No. 255

- 5. During the centuries to follow, Enlightenment philosophy emerged.



A chief source for Enlightenment thought were the ideas of the ancient Greek philosophers..

- 6. Some Enlightenment philosophers rejected tradition altogether.

They thereby provided a C20th rationale for the Nazis to attempt an “obliteration” of time-based Judaism altogether.

Page 64

No. 254

- 4. The rediscovery of Greek philosophy triggered the Renaissance in Europe and then the Protestant Reformation.

Christianity was then split into the two rival factions of:

Catholics (cf. a law-based society) and Protestants (cf. an order-based society).

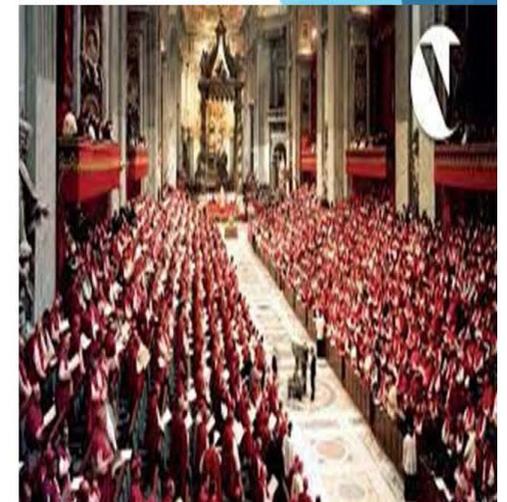


No. 256

- ▶ 7. In the 1960's the Catholic Church attempted to recognize and endorse the “Hellenism” of the Protestant tradition.

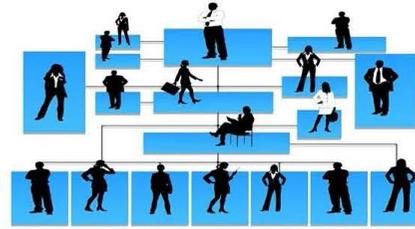
- ▶ But such a “truce” between the two world views has not been easy, even at a personal level.

For instance:



No. 257

- ▶ Does identification with the “still point” of Jesus, mean living midway between the two differing types of society?
- ▶ But does this “water down” the benefits of either side?
- ▶ Most people already operate in the long-term environment of family and the busy, “now-focused” work world.



The work world

No. 259

The Eucharist proclaims, endorses and enacts the presence of the

Living Word and the

Living Authority

dwelling amongst us

www.valuesclarification.org/ischristianmoralityunique.htm

No. 258

A third Question for this set of slides

3. Does the gospel of John provide a “lead in” to the Eucharist?

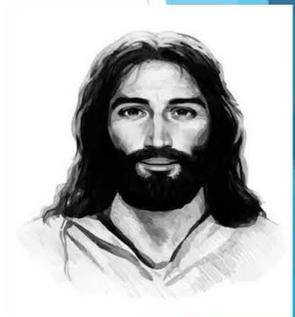
The Catholic Eucharist is a celebration of what people believe to be the **REAL PRESENCE** of Jesus Christ. How so?

No. 260

The gospel writers, take such an understanding of language and the will of a people, acting as a “subject,” further than this.

John describes Jesus Christ as the “living authority” of God acting within the context of history.

He describes Jesus Christ as the “living word” of God acting in the ‘now’ and in the world.





The Eucharist proclaims, endorses and enacts the presence of the

Living Word and the

Living Authority

dwelling amongst us

www.valuesclarification.org/ischristianmoralityunique.htm

A Challenge to put on your own thinking cap!

At present there are about 1.4 billion Catholics in the world. By definition this means they have a belief in the on-going incarnation of Jesus Christ.

But perhaps there is a wide range of understanding(s) about what this means.

Perhaps a re-interpretation of cosmology and the place of Jesus Christ in it, has affected the attitude of some people towards the Mass.

Have you ever thought of the presence of Jesus Christ in terms of a Living Authority and a Living Word at work in the world around us?

Have you thought of the Eucharist as an endorsement of this Living Authority and Living Word?