

Questions for Conversations.

12.26.21

How has God been speaking to you lately?

What questions did the message create for you?

Today We Looked at Ways of Understanding the Logos of John 1

John 1 and Gen. 1

What insights are we offered by thinking about John 1.1-14 in connection to Gen. 1?

If these passages are to be understood together, how does John 1 add to our understanding of Gen. 1?

Is John's appeal to Gen 1 to get us to think about the God's initial act of creation or God's act of re-creation? Is there a difference?

John 1 and Jewish Wisdom Literature

Wisdom is repeatedly described using the literary device of personification (talking about something as if it were a person)

Compare the way Wisdom is personified in Prov. 8 to the way the Logos is discussed in John 1.

What is similar/dissimilar?

If you have time/interest, do the same for Sirach 24 (on back). I know it is not in our Bible, but it is part of the Jewish Wisdom tradition.

John 1 and Greek Philosophical Tradition

Were you convinced by the parallels Rob pointed out in the message?

Does this underline the importance that wisdom has for understanding John 1?

What do you think of Rob's point (taken from Peter Kreeft) that Mary was the greatest philosopher to ever live (the greatest lover of the greatest wisdom)?

What steps might you take this week to being a better philosopher (lover of wisdom)?

If you had to pick one approach to John 1, which would you choose and why?

Share and Prayer

From Sirach 24

Wisdom will praise herself,

and will glory in the midst of her people.^[a]

² In the assembly of the Most High she will open her mouth,
and in the presence of his host she will glory:

³ "I came forth from the mouth of the Most High,
and covered the earth like a mist.

⁴ I dwelt in high places,
and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.

⁵ Alone I have made the circuit of the vault of heaven
and have walked in the depths of the abyss.

⁶ In the waves of the sea, in the whole earth,
and in every people and nation I have gotten a possession.

⁷ Among all these I sought a resting place;
I sought in whose territory I might lodge.

⁸ "Then the Creator of all things gave me a commandment,
and the one who created me assigned a place for my tent.

And he said, 'Make your dwelling in Jacob,
and in Israel receive your inheritance.'

⁹ From eternity, in the beginning, he created me,
and for eternity I shall not cease to exist.

¹⁰ In the holy tabernacle I ministered before him,
and so I was established in Zion.

¹¹ In the beloved city likewise he gave me a resting place,
and in Jerusalem was my dominion.

¹² So I took root in an honored people,
in the portion of the Lord, who is their inheritance.

¹³ "I grew tall like a cedar in Leb'anon,
and like a cypress on the heights of Hermon.

¹⁴ I grew tall like a palm tree in En-ged'i,^[b]
and like rose plants in Jericho;

like a beautiful olive tree in the field,
and like a plane tree I grew tall.

¹⁵ Like cassia and camel's thorn I gave forth the aroma of spices,
and like choice myrrh I spread a pleasant odor,

like galbanum, onycha, and stacte,
and like the fragrance of frankincense in the tabernacle.

¹⁶ Like a terebinth I spread out my branches,
and my branches are glorious and graceful.

¹⁷ Like a vine I caused loveliness to bud,
and my blossoms became glorious and abundant fruit.^[a]

¹⁹ "Come to me, you who desire me,
and eat your fill of my produce.

²⁰ For the remembrance of me is sweeter than honey,
and my inheritance sweeter than the honeycomb.

²¹ Those who eat me will hunger for more,
and those who drink me will thirst for more.

²² Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame,
and those who work with my help will not sin."