

The Christians

Wed., Jan. 23,02

Class notes

Next time: 1) Borg handout

2) 3 biblical readings

3) Wilson pp. 25-27

Today: 1) Jewish background of Jesus

2) In-class biblical interpretation - Luke 18:15-30 NRSV

3) Jewish teaching + ministry

- Worship Analysis Assignment Requirements were given
- Handout on growth rate for religions in the U.S.
- Questions on reading and discussion of syllabus topics
- "In the Wake of Goddesses" by Tikva Fryman Kensky was mentioned for personal reading if interested

5 points to be clear on Judaism

1.Monotheist view of God

- Important view in Judaism that is inherited by Christianity

2.Covenant

- Important notion
- Promise or agreement between God and Jews (or people of Israel)
- People's side of Covenant = ethical and ritual laws
- Rituals very concerned with purity
- Purity important because God is holy, therefore God's people must be holy
- Defining holy as set apart- through ritual practices- doing different things than others around you
- Which is more important Ethical or Ritual?

3.Political History

- Beginning as nomadsà tribal judgesà Kings (David/Soloman 1000BCE)à foreign rulers (1st Century Roman Empire)
- 1st CE double taxation existed; Jews taxed by Romans and Temple, which totaled about 35% of income

·Kings had messianic expectation (ruler) because of Isaiah (prophet) had a vision

4.Common interpretations of Judaism in 1st CE

a) Sadducees

- Priestly rulers who ran the temple**
- Placed great significance on ritual purity**

b)Pharisees

- Leaders of synagogues who cared about individual purity through ritual**

c)Zealots

- Wanted to overthrow foreign rule**

d)Kingdom of God Movements

- One group was Essenes-communes-apocalyptic**
- Another group was led by wandering healers + rabbi/teachers**

We then did the in class biblical interpretation