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NT 624 Gospel of John (English language credit)

Klink Method Summary Analysis

According to Klink III, the book of John is a historical narrative that discusses real events that occurred when Jesus was on the earth. The author of John used a Greco-Roman biographical approach similar to the approach used in the Hellenistic era to document the life and ministry of Jesus. The author of John was a possible eyewitness to the work of Jesus and he documented his experiences as the holy spirit inspired him. As I reviewed the work of Klink I realized that the author of John may have avoided revealing himself because it was more important to communicate to the people in antiquity as well as people in Ephesus and by extension the people in modern times the significance of the life of Jesus as the incarnate son of God. The book of John highlighted the importance of the scripture as the word of God, it emphasized Jesus public ministry and the signs and miracles, as well as Jesus experience with John the Baptiste, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, the Jewish aristocracy and legal system, Jesus death, resurrection, and the promise to send the Paraclete or the Holy Spirit to comfort and strengthen the people until Jesus return. The Johannine community is an audience who has taken pride in providing a critical analysis of the book of John so that the world can have a thorough understanding of the writings of John from a social, historical, and theological perspective. The purpose of the gospel is to declare the good news of Jesus so that people in the past, present, and future can understand the role of Jesus as the son of God who came to the world to save, redeem, heal and deliver people from past issues. The book of John is called the fourth gospel and this introductory commentary of John can be used in ministry as a critical analysis tool for teaching people about the life and ministry of Jesus.

According to Klink, theologically Jesus was considered the incarnate one because Jesus was fully man and fully God when he lived on the earth. Jesus is the son of God who existed in the beginning as the word and Jesus became a human yet fully God who lived and died on earth to redeem the lives of humans so humans can experience the grace of God. Klink has suggested that the book of John is considered the holy scriptures or inspired word of God that is used to communicate historically to people in the first century as well as to people in modern times. The word was described as truth thus one can imply that the ideas of creation, salvation for the sins of the past, present, and future generation, as well as the revelation of Jesus as the son of God, are true statements. Therefore, the theological message presented in the Gospel of John can be an inspiration for past, present, and future readers of the word. Theologically I can conclude that Jesus was in the beginning and he became flesh and lived among humans, Jesus is God incarnate son, he came to die for a sinful world but the world did not receive him, and now he is making intercession for humans for our past, present condition and our future victory.

According to Klink historically, it is believed the book of John was written in the first century and there is a major debate regarding who was the author of the book. Most theologians believed the book of John was written by the apostle John the beloved friend of Jesus and son of Zebedee. While others believe the book was written by John the Elder or an anonymous writer. Historically it is believed the word existed in the beginning and God existed in the beginning to create the universe. The word was used in the beginning to communicate information to humans and to transform the lives of humans. The gospel of John was written as one part of four gospel so there is historical information documented in John that is also documented in the other gospels to explain the biography and experiences of Jesus. Historically Jesus was described as the word that became flesh in the form of Jesus who came to buy back the salvation of humans.

After Jesus was resurrected and ascended to heaven. The third person of tri-union Godhead was introduced to humans in the form of the holy spirit. The role of the Holy Spirit was to comfort, encourage, and keep believers who have chosen to follow the teachings in the scriptures.

According to Klink, many critical theologians questioned the authenticity of events like the resurrection of Jesus or other supernatural signs. The author of the book of John was believed to be an eye witness to the events in the past so the scriptures are believed to be a report of the biblical claims. This original text was written for the ancient audience and the text continues to be significant in modern times. The book of John has provided information so people can develop an understanding of the actual events as they occurred in the first century. As well as data so people can analyze to develop a critical understanding of the biblical historical events.

According to Klink the genre of the Gospel of John is a historical narrative that is used to express the scripture in a literary form. The concept of biography was patterned after the Greco-Roman approach that was used in the Hellenistic period. The historic approach was used to chronicle a series of events that occurred in the life and ministry of Jesus. Stories were used to describe the information the author intended to communicate to the reader so that the reader can develop an understanding of past events. Also, the reader can use the information to apply it to their current life. In ancient times the gospel was viewed as a biography to describe the life and ministry of Jesus. In ancient times information was passed on using oral history and eventually the information was written on scrolls and other materials. I believe that the use of stories was an effective method to pass the events of the past.

The Klink approach has provided additional information that can be used in many areas of ministry in my community. The narrative approach can be used for teaching new converts, children, and adults about the life and ministry of Jesus so all can learn the good news of Jesus.

Bibliography

Klink III, Edward W. John. Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament, edited by Clinton E. Arnold. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016. Pages 20-74