

5-3-1 Assignment 1 on Bird, Sec. 4.1-4.3

QUESTIONS

1. What is one criticism of the historical (“Christology from below”) approach to understanding Christ?
2. What are four manners in which Christ is present in the Old Testament?
3. What are the Latin names (first words) of the three Lucan birth songs (of Mary, Zechariah, Simeon)?¹
4. In what way was the message of the Kingdom of God the central thread in all of Jesus’ preaching?
5. According to Bird, what are the four ways Jesus’ life (events/details) contributes to Christology?

Answers

1. That the reconstruction of a scholar’s “historical Jesus” says more about the scholar than about Christ.
2. Prophetically, Typologically, Christophany, Allegory
3. The *Magnificat*, *Benedictus*, and *Nunc dimittis*.
4. As the saving power of God’s Sovereignty, was both present and future, with a new exodus underway.²
5. Primary theological source, Old Testament connection to Church, Anti-docetism, Example for Church,

TERMS

christotelic: View that Christ is the ultimate goal and purpose of all things written in the Old Testament.

theotokos: A “God-bearer”, a term and title for Mary who carried a fully divine Jesus in her womb.

docetism: The belief that Jesus was so divine as not to be human, nor corrupted by flesh and suffering.

SUMMARY

This section delves into Christology, first with some preliminary remarks about the preeminence of Christology within the context of a systematic theology, and also the benefits and pitfalls of Christology from below (historical-based) vs Christology from above (divine-based). Then, the aspects of Jesus’ life are explored, from his Old Testament connections – with the associated hermeneutical approaches – to his birth of Mary and a discussion of the virgin conception. Then, Bird focuses on Jesus’ ministry, his teaching on the Kingdom of God and connecting this to the central message of the whole Bible.

¹ Michael F. Bird, *Evangelical Theology, A Biblical and Systematic Introduction* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013), 416.

² Michael F. Bird, 431.