

5-3-1 Assignment: Bird, 4.1-4.3.4
Due: January 25, 2023

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to speak of the centrality of Christ?
2. What is the danger of Christology from Below?
3. What is the danger of Christology from Above?
4. What are 4 ways that Bird proposes that Christ is in the Old Testament?
5. Which 2 gospels reference the virgin birth/conception?

ANSWERS

1. To speak of the centrality of Christ is to imply that the coherence of Christian beliefs is determined by our quest to articulate and enact the Lordship of Jesus Christ in our own spiritual journey, worship, confession of faith, and corporate mission.
2. The danger of Christology from Below is Ebionism, where Jesus is simply a human being who has a special relationship with God but is not identified with God in any serious way.
3. The danger of Christology from Above is Docetism, where Jesus is so divine that he can scarcely be regarded as a genuinely human.
4. Bird writes that Christ is present in the Old Testament in 4 ways: Prophetically, Typologically, Christophany, and Allegorically.
5. Only the gospels of Matthew and Luke implicitly mention the virgin conception, although Mark alludes to it as does Paul in his letters.

TERMS

- Christology: the study of the person and work of Christ
- Kerygma: is a Greek word meaning “proclamation.” The Greek word κηρύσσω (kerysso) means “herald,” or one who proclaims. And thus the kerygma is what is proclaimed. As the Apostles began the work of preaching and proclaiming Christ, they proclaimed a message that was rather basic and simple.
- Festschrift: a book honoring a respected person, especially an academic, and presented during their lifetime. It generally takes the form of an edited volume, containing contributions from the honoree’s colleagues, former pupils, and friends.

SUMMARY

As we enter part 4 of the textbook, Bird begins to unpack “The Gospel of God’s Son: The Lord Jesus Christ.” He gives an overview of Christology, the study and work of the person of Christ, and discusses different theological methods and viewpoints on how to go about studying the gospels. In this section, he begins to discuss the life of Jesus, particularly focusing on the virgin conception. Towards the end of this section, Bird dives into the historical Jesus. He also gives his approach and methodology for finding Jesus in the Old Testament.