

5-3-1 Assignment 1 on Bird 4.1 to 4.3.4.

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QUESTIONS

1. What are the differences between Christology from below and Christology from above?
2. What kind of Christology should a believer do?
3. What insights about Jesus come from the Old Testament?
4. What is the meaning of the virginal conception according to the author?
5. What contributions does the life of Jesus make to Christology?

Answers:

1. "Christology from below" attempts to anchor Christian teaching about Jesus in history (the historical Jesus). On the other hand, "Christology from above" begins with the Church's proclamation of who Jesus was, is, and will be (the divine Jesus).
2. A believer should do a Christology from behind (Old Testament), from below (historical Jesus), from above (divine Jesus), and from before (the Jesus of the Gospels).
3. Jesus relates to the Old Testament in a prophetic, typological, christophanic, and allegorical way. He is the Anointed One of the OT whose life relates to OT prototypes. In addition, there are possible appearances of Him in the OT and allegories that have their interpretation of Him.
4. The virginal conception means that God's deliverance comes through Israel's people, history, and covenants. This history is an indelible part of God's mission to bring the children of Adam into a relationship with himself through the children of Israel. God executes this plan through the true Son of the God of Israel.
5. Bird points out four contributions of the life of Jesus to Christology. Jesus is the primary theological source of the Church. He is also the glue that unifies Israel's hopes with the faith of the Church. Furthermore, His life points to the fact that He was a real being, human and divine. Finally, the mission of the Church is a sequel to the ministry of Jesus.

TERMS

Christophany: This term refers to the appearances of the pre-incarnate Son of God in the Old Testament.

Solus Christus: This term identifies Jesus as the absolute and final eschatological intermediary between God the Father and humanity.

Theotokos: God-bearer. Important title attributed to Mary.

SUMMARY

Christology is not to be seen from a single perspective (from above or below) but from a broad view that encompasses what the Old Testament says about Jesus and what He taught in His earthly ministry. Also, the believer must bring up the role of Mary and the virgin conception within this debate for an adequate Christology. The teachings about Jesus from the Old Testament (prophetic, typological, Christophanic, and allegorical) and from the Gospels (His miracles, preaching, sacrifice, and redemption) contribute to Christology. Jesus is the primary theological source, the union of Israel with the Church, and the *raison d'être* of the Church's mission.