

Tabor Courses “Reunion” Zoom
September 29, 2024
Paul’s Message and Mission

“We know that you will go away from us. Who is it who shall be great over us” Jesus said to them: Wherever you have come, you will go to James the Righteous One for whose sake heaven and earth came into being” *Gospel of Thomas* Logion 12

Robert Eisenman: If you want to understand Jesus, go to James the Just—as reflected in the Qumran/Dead Sea Scrolls—the Teacher and his Community

Is Mark (and thus Matthew and Luke), as well as John, not only post-Pauline, but also carriers and reflectors of what Paul calls “his gospel” in contrast to and opposition against James and the Jerusalem “Church”?

Did Paul claim that he got his message and tradition from James, Peter, and John (the so-called Pillars) or directly the one he calls “The Lord Jesus Christ.” Or a blend of both sources?

Galatians 1:11 For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not man’s gospel. ¹² For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹³ For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; ¹⁴ and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. ¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, ¹⁷ nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. . .

1Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

1Corinthians 15:1 Now I would remind you, brethren, **in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand,** ² by which you are saved, if you hold it fast — unless you believed in vain. ³ For **I delivered to you** as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But

by the grace of God I am what I am, **and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them,** though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

1Corinthians 14:37 If any one thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that what I am writing to you is a command of the Lord. ³⁸ If any one does not recognize this, he is not recognized.

Is it likely that John the Baptizer, James, Peter, and John, and the Twelve proclaimed the core of Paul's Gospel?

Baptism in the name of Jesus Christ “into the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ” and reception of the Holy Spirit that was not available until AFTER Jesus' death and resurrection

Salvation and forgiveness of sins by grace through faith IN the atoning blood of Jesus

There is a “New” spiritual Israel, and a New Covenant for all humankind
Jerusalem “Above” is the focus
The Glory of Moses and Mt Sinai has faded away in the bright LIGHT of Christ
There is a New Covenant for the true “Israel of God,” Abraham's “SEED” Plural

The Kingdom of God brings the transformation of all that is temporal and subject to death to the “Glorious” freedom of a New Age in which the Cosmos itself will be transformed

God's elect, chosen ones will sit on heavenly thrones and judge both this world as well as the spirit world in all its cosmic levels.

What evidence do we have of the nature of the Jerusalem HQ led by James the Just, the Pillars, and the Twelve...

Q Source—“Double Sayings Tradition” embedded in Luke and Matthew

The Letter of James and traditions about James in Hegesippus; the Ebionites/Netzorim

The Book of Revelation

The Didache

The Pseudo-Clementine *Recognitions* and *Homilies*