John 1; John 1 and Genesis 1 & 2

February 14, 2008

Group One: Breakdown the narrative of John 1 (through v.18) and explain for each stage:
What is significant in each stage? (you determine that)
What is significant in the transitions from one stage to the next?
Be specific - note passage numbers and words.

- Word is important—old testament
- Light/darkness—dark doesn’t overcome
- Transition of “word” to “him”, “him” to “life”, “life” to “light”, “light” to “dark”
- John wasn’t light (Jesus was), but John could testify and was witness
- World—people
- Children: born of god, people are Jesus’ people but not yet children of God until they believe in Him
- Jesus became human and lived among us
- Goes from general to specific, elaborates at end, puts it into context, actually says “Jesus Christ, only son of God”

Group Two: What is meant by the gospel’s use of (the) ‘Word’? (Source: John 1, and as you find)
Come up with more than three explanations with textual support.
Be specific - note passage numbers and words.

- The “word” is like another meaning of “God”, word=God (John 1:1-3)
- He (word) was in the beginning with God, Word=He (John 1:2)
- “And the word became flesh”, Word=flesh of mankind (John 1:14)
- “The (word) lived among us, and we have seen his glory”, Word=Jesus (John 1:14)

Group Three: Find parallels, connections, references, etc. (Sources: John Ch.1 and Genesis Ch. 2)
Be specific - note passage numbers and words.
Offer reason/s for what you find

- John 1
  - All is created by God (John 1:3-5)
  - “Flesh”-God’s gift of son, Jesus (John 1:13-14)
  - Children of God (John 1:12-13)
- Genesis 2
  - Parallel, all is created by God (Genesis 2:2-3)
  - “Flesh”-Creation of man (Genesis 2:23-24)
  - Children of Adam (Genesis 2:7)
- Hard to find similarities because John:1 is God’s introduction of his gift of his son Jesus to the world and Genesis is simply a creation story
Group Four: Find parallels, connections, references, etc. (Sources: John Ch.1 and Genesis Ch. 1)

Be specific - note passage numbers and words.
Offer reason/s for what you find

- John 1 and Genesis 1
  - Began with “in the beginning”
  - Similar style, structure (narrative writing)
  - Light/dark references (John 1:5, Genesis 1:5)
  - Water symbolism (John 1:26, Genesis 1:6)
  - Creation of humans (John 1:12, Genesis 1:27)
  - The “word” (John 1:1, all of Genesis 1)
  - All things were created through God (John 1, Genesis)
  - Flesh (John 1:14, Genesis 1:21)

Group Five: Compare and contrast: What is similar what is different? (Source: Gen 1 & 2)

Focus on these four criteria:
- creation (the acts of, assessment, sequence, purpose, etc.)
- mankind (how mankind is created, purpose of mankind, etc.)
- God language (how is God discussed, name/s, attributes, etc.)
- Textual character (look at text character in each chapter, hint: look for telling words and narrative structure)

Offer two explanations for the sequence of Gen 1 and Gen 2 (what would happen if the chapters were reversed?)

- Genesis 1
  - Called “God”
  - Structured
  - Mainly story of Earth’s creation
  - Days 1-6
  - Darkness, water, land, animals, humans
  - Mankind to rule creatures
  - Focus more on God
  - God created, said “let there be…”, proclamation of the word of God, command

- Genesis 2
  - Called “Lord God”
  - Story like
  - Man created woman from his rib
  - Order: Dry, water, man, the animals (because man is lonely)
  - Focus more on man
  - God formed, planted, made, fashions from…