

## Ancient Words

The Judeo Christian 'mythoplex', as is generally true for like canons of collective consciousness, has drawn from streams of many distinct sources of legend and tradition and weaves a fabric of moral and spiritual truth supremely presented in the character of Jesus as represented in the gospels, that have fed, inspired and embodied the high vision and aspirations of innumerable cultures and individuals throughout the last two to five millennia of the human journey - a journey that began well over 85,000 years ago, and spreading over the globe, has given birth to a wide array of differentiation.

The relatively single minded focus of the beneficiaries of this pool of thought ('relatively' considering the perspective of each unique denominational strand within the spectrum) necessarily requires a fusion of the variegated axiologies (value systems), and ideologies (collective ideas / systems of doctrine) inherent in the wide span of spatio-temporal context from which the various streams and stories emerge.

We tend to read the red letter quotations of each gospel as the verbatim conversations of a man being captured under modern day court standards of testimony, deliberately downplaying, even when we are aware, the issues of complexity in identifying, translating and harmonizing source material. We do this because we are instinctively aware of our priority of purpose.

We also deliberately ignore obvious anomalies of the truth claims of traditions, reaching for the grander level of truth to which we are aspiring e.g.

- the claims of Moses' authorship of the Pentateuch (which would likely necessitate his having to walk to his own funeral after having pre-recorded it.)
- or such logical overleaps as the genesis of the city of Cain and Abel's 'cousins'.
- obvious moral changes in the character of God the Father as represented from the times of Moses through to Paul in the scriptures.
- Whose prophetic vision was used as the source material for Satan's audience with God in Job recorded in such detail? etc. etc. etc.

All this is necessary as the greater truth does not exist in the cultural contexts and prevailing world views of those writers coopted by the Council of Nicea to tell a story of human life and its meaning that would resonate throughout the ages in all the earth.

The moral intent of scripture does not always accord with the impulse to accurately record history or the impulse to accurately enunciate science.

Singleness of mind (faith) has the same effect as hypnotic suggestion. By suspending critical thought, it streamlines human consciousness and creativity (will) with laser sharp efficacy, down one single path to the exclusion of all others.

At the same time, this is a very empowering and utilitarian cognitive skill, as well as a potentially debilitating (limiting) and divisive one; depending on the level of self awareness of the practitioner - even (and perhaps especially) when the practitioner is empowered by the exercise to work great, science-defying miracles..... as Maimonides; the Pharisees who, having witnessed the miracles of Jesus, crucified him; or the Church councils through the ages from before the time of Joan of Arc till now, all have intuited; and from time to time, elected to exercise their authority (justifiably or otherwise) in sanction of.

Clarity in harnessing and harmonizing the skills of simple unified thought (fundamentalism) and open-minded pluralistic thought (ecumenism) is one of the gifts I believe we, as Jamaican people with our self - defining motto 'Out of Many One People', are destined to give to mankind in our mature phase. (i.e how a collective can be decisive without being divisive) May the Christ of Scripture continue to guide and direct us to make that offering in due season. Amen

P.S.

Listen to Micheal W Smith's 'Ancient Words' - Simple, beautiful and honest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouTgX9hcwk4>