

## FOUR” FACES OF GOD

### SLIDE 1

Do you like my paper weight? Got it in China.

Now it is not an idol. I do not worship it and it is a bit of a joke in our house. If I think Pete is in a bad mood, I turn the cranky face out. He does the same for me.

But this funny little thing which are a dime a dozen in China, reminds me of how we all see God in different ways. The paper weight looks quite different from different angles and people could argue over which face is “right”. One could say he was happy, another cranky, another peaceful. They would all be “right”.

We have the same situation with God. You can mount a good argument to support any number of positions explaining the nature of God. Some say there is only one of Him and go to war to prove it. Others say there are two and withdraw from those who say there is three. The threes use this number to define Christianity and reject others and call them heretics. The wise ones say “I don’t really know”

I am going to mount a case that He may actually be four, or at least manifest as four different aspects of His nature or four Faces.

### SLIDE 2

## MATHEMATICS

At school I hated maths. Could never understand it. Took me five years to pass Maths I at Uni and in the end they gave me a Pass Conceded just to get rid of me.

But God loves numbers. Humans cannot live without numbers. We use them in

Mathematics

Finance

Sport

Cooking

Medicine

Computers

There are few human endeavours which do not use numbers in some way.

God uses them all the time. In fact He based His creation on them. They are proof that the universe was designed and did not just fall together in a random pattern.

Maths is not random. Mathematics is total order and organisation.

He uses numbers in the movement of waves in the ocean, formation of cyclones, facets of chemical crystals, electronics, engineering. Everything uses numbers and mathematicians have even found anti-numbers.....

Hello. I thought negative numbers were hard enough.

**SLIDE 3**

## **NUMEROLOGY**

But He also uses numbers on a deeper level in a secret code in the Bible and, some say, in nature itself. It is called Numerology.

People have been studying it for thousands of years and it is not confined to Biblical study. We are all aware of how people think that number 7 is lucky and 13 not... well that is if you are European based. The Chinese hold that four is unlucky. Five is Satan's number etc.

But the Biblical study of Numerology can give us a deeper understanding of God which one cannot get through normal channels. This is really special and touches our spirit in a way that words alone cannot.

Seven is a fascinating number and represents completion.

Sabbath, God rested on the seventh day as His creative work was done;

Classifications in the Animal Kingdom work on seven divisions from Kingdom to Species;

The seven stages in human development

Gestation time for animals: mouse 21 days, rat 28, chooks 21, turkeys 28, dog 63, duck 42. The human takes 280 days which is  $7 \times 40$  which is totally significant in itself.

So many more

## **ASTROLOGY**

Now I am not talking about fortune telling or crappy tables in the newspaper and magazines in January, or the books on sale at the Post Office in June. This is just rubbish and usually made up

## **NUMBERS**

I am going to examine the first four numbers so we can see the spiritual dimension of them and how God speaks to us through them. This concept is easily seen up to ten but is there in the higher numbers as well

### **SLIDE 5**

## **NUMBER 1**

One is the number of the only True God. Boom boom. Pretty obvious.

### **1 -THE MONAD**

- Beginning
- First from the beginning and last from the end
- Alpha and omega
- Eternity
- Permanence
- Remains one when multiplied by any other number
- In all things
- Unique

- Nothing can be, without it
- Beyond comprehension in simplicity and complexity
- Circle and centre at the same time

So it is with the deity

## SLIDE 6

### **GOD –FATHER OF ALL**

- The great first cause
- Independent of all
- All stand in need of Him
- He needs no assistance from anyone
- He excludes all difference so is always harmony

KJV: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

## SLIDE 7

### **NUMBER 2**

#### 2-DUALITY

- Opposite –odds/evens, black/white, right/left
- Heaven and earth
- Comparison and perspective
- Male and Female
- Positive/negative
- Unite separate entities
- Bi prefix indicates uniting of things (bilingual). Di prefix to indicate separation of entities (divide)
- Sun and moon
- 2 eyes, 2 ears, 2 legs, 2 arms.

## SLIDE 9

## **GOD –FATHER GOD –THE SON**

**John 10:30** My Father and I are one.

### **SLIDE 10**

#### **NUMBER 3**

Three is

3 -TRINITY

- First odd number
- First number to enclose Third dimension –area, volume
- Number of time -past, present and future
- Number of life -birth, life and death.
- I, you, them.
- Good, better, best.
- Animal, vegetable and mineral.
- Mediator
- Knower, knowing and known.
- Third time lucky, three wishes, three challenges.
- Think, speak, act.
- God's number.

### **SLIDE 11**

**FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT.**

## BIBLICAL OCCURRENCE

- Third day -
- Earth rose out of dark and light.
- Resurrection on third day
- God – Omniscience, omnipresent, omnipotent
- Divine perfection
- Godhead – Father Son and Holy Spirit
- Holy, Holy, Holy
- Beginning, now and for evermore.

[Matthew 28:19](#) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

## SLIDE 12

### NUMBER 4

Four is the number we are interested in and its secret meaning reminds us of the relationship between the Godhead, and the earth, His Creation. God plus Son plus their Spirit in heaven. Add the universe and you have three plus one. Four. So four is God's manifestation in His creation and His revealing Himself to us **in** our world and **through** our world.

In the Bible we can see that four is the number of creation. He finished making it on the fourth day. From then on it was decoration.

#### 4 -Tetrad

- First number with a square root.
- Fire, Air, Earth, and water.
- Spring, summer, autumn, winter
- North, south, east and west.

- Phases of the moon in a month.
- Animals have four or more legs. (not man)
- Tetragrammaton (YHVH) God's name
- DNA –adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine
- Valency of carbon, the basis of life.
- Solid, liquid, gas, plasma

### SLIDE 13

### **FATHER, SON, SPIRIT, MAN**

In Scripture the pattern is blurred but can be seen in terms of the relationship with the earth

- Fourth Commandment involving earthly rules – Sabbath Day
- Fourth clause in Lord's Prayer – "Thy will be done on earth..."
- Fourth book of the bible, Numbers, is concerned with tribes, counting, building of the Tabernacle – all earthly things rather than relationship with God

Four is often seen as three like things plus one, three similar things plus one odd one out but fitting the picture but these are much more esoteric

- Unclean animals – three chew cud but one did not
- Materials in Tabernacle – three metals, and wood.
- Coverings of Tabernacle – three from animals, and flax
- Nebuchadnezzar's stature – three metals and clay.
- Transfiguration is especially interesting

[Mar 9:2](#) And after six days Jesus took with him Peter, and James, and John, and led them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

Peter, James and John..... and Jesus standing on the earth but

Mat 17:2 And was transfigured before them: and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes were white as the light.

Mat 17:3 And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.

Two in the heavenly realm. Plus Jesus makes three... trinity. Three on earth. Plus Jesus. Three plus one making the four of creation with Jesus bridging the gap. Jesus part of the heavenly realm. Jesus part of the world.

## BIBLICAL EVENTS

### SLIDE 13

## DANIEL

It is in the story of Daniel that this concept of four is so very obvious and important. The four kids were taken as slaves to Babylon. While there were four of them, they usually appear as a group of three plus one. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.... and Daniel.

**Dan 1:7** and the chief of the eunuchs gave names to them. He named Daniel, Belteshazzar; **and** Hananiah, he named Shadrach; Mishael, Meshach; Azariah, Abed-Nego.

Dan 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: **and Daniel** had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Dan 2:49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, were thrown into the fiery furnace because they would not bow down to foreign gods. An angel of God came and protected them. Three people plus one angel. The magic four again.

Dan 3:24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

Dan 3:25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

And again

Dan 11:2 "Now I'll tell you the truth: Look! **Three more kings will arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain more than them all.** As soon as he gains power by means of his wealth, he'll stir up everyone against the Grecian kingdoms.

Dan 11:33 Insightful people will impart understanding to many, though they'll **fall by sword, by fire, by captivity, and as war booty for a while.**

Dan 12:7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that lives for ever that it shall be for a **time, times, and an half**; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

**SLIDE 14**

**EZEKIEL**

**SLIDE 15**

Probably the most important four in the Old Testament is in Ezekiel 1. We all know the story of how he was a great prophet sent by God to warn God's people that if they didn't lift their act, they and THEIR creation, would be destroyed.

The message came through a really weird thing made up of what looked like four people in some weird vehicle. Countless people have tried to explain this "thing" from a product of Ezekiel having the DT's to an alien space ship.

Eze 1:4 I was amazed to see a wind storm blow in from the north, consisting of a massive cloud and fire that was flashing back and forth, surrounded by bright light. From deep within the cloud something was shining that appeared to have a colour like bronze that had been placed in fire until it glowed.

Eze 1:5 Deep inside it, the likenesses of **four living beings** were visible. Their appearances were similar to human forms,

Eze 1:6 except that they each had **four faces, four pairs of wings,**

Eze 1:7 and straight legs. Their feet resembled calves' hooves, but they gleamed like polished bronze.

Eze 1:8 From under their wings there were **human hands on their four sides.**

Now as to their four faces and four pairs of wings,

Eze 1:9 their pairs of wings overlapped each other. They moved in straight directions without turning their faces around as they moved.

Eze 1:10 The form of their faces was human, but each of the four also had the face of a lion to the right, the face of an ox to the left, and the face of an eagle behind them.

Eze 1:11 That's what their faces were like. Their wings spread out above and around them, one pair overlapping another, with one pair covering themselves.

Eze 1:12 Each moved in straight directions. Wherever they decided to go, they went without turning themselves.

Four but they all worked as one.

Eze 1:13 Now, in the midst of the living beings there was something that appeared to glow like coals kindled by a fire, like torches that moved back

and forth between the living beings. The fire was dazzling, and lightning flashed from the fire.

Eze 1:14 The living beings moved around, in appearance resembling lightning.

Eze 1:15 As I observed the living beings, I noticed one wheel on the earth beside each being—**that is, for the four of them.**

And the mission that was brought to Ezekiel again was four-fold.

**Eze 2:3** " Son of Man, I'm sending you to that rebellious people, the Israelis, who have rebelled against me the same way their ancestors did. And they're still rebels to this very day!

Eze 2:4 They're stubborn and strong willed. I'm sending you to them to tell them what the LORD says.

Again four. Three plus one. Rebellious, impudent, stiff hearted... BUT YOU

(ASV) And thou, son of man, be not afraid of them, neither be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns are with thee, and thou dost dwell among scorpions: be not afraid of their words, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house.  
but you.

And again four – three plus one. Briars, thorns scorpions ....words. Words is the odd one out so the worst problem or the first cause.

**SLIDE 16**

The traditional picture has been of the four being at the four corners of the vehicle

**SLIDE 17**

but actually they were in a line of some sort

**SLIDE 18**

Now we are told it was a spaceship.

**SLIDE 19**

## **THE VISION**

Eze 1:10 tells us that each living creature had four different faces:

- a human face in front,
- a lion's face at the right,
- a bull's face at the left,
- an eagle's face at the back.

Three from the animal kingdom and one bird. Three animals and one man. Again three plus one.

Now God never wastes anything in the Bible and there is a hidden meaning in this picture. But these four beings represent a very, very special hidden message. The “thing” came from God and was a FOUR.... big time..... so is a picture of Him in relation to us.

Actually in this picture , when we solve the puzzle we can see four aspects of God and how He deals with us.

Just like the four faces of my paper weight.

## **HUMAN FACES**

Each entity had the face of a human but the body of the creature so that we could understand the secret.

## **MAN**

Now the human face obviously represents mankind. .... Dhurr... and was in front as people are the most important things to God and the reason the world was created.

## **LION**

On the right is the lion. The lion stands for

- A king.
- The king of the beasts.

- The Lion of Judah represents the royal line.
- The British lion is the standard of the British monarch.
- Lions represent the Emperor in China and guard his palaces.

And yet the lion is a wimp. The lionesses do all the work.... But that is another story.

We all know that God is King of the universe, the earth and us. Pretty basic. The right hand side is important too because the next most important person, or guest of honour always sits on the right hand side of the host at a dinner.

Christ sits on the right hand of the Father in Heaven

## **OX**

On the left is the bull or the ox.

The left hand is

- Not the dominant hand.
- In some eastern countries it is used for personal hygiene only.
- The direction west is on the left hand side north. Setting rather than the rising of the sun.
- Serving at table in a restaurant or a formal dinner always takes place from the left.
- The saying “out of left field” indicates something unusual

So the position on the left indicates lesser or serving.

Oxen were, and in a lot of the world still are, beasts of burden. They usually do this by pulling things or carrying them on yokes. They are docile and obedient and are real servants of man. They don't have to be tamed like horses but submit to man. They bear their burdens or their sufferings without complaint. They are true servants of humans.

## **EAGLE**

At the back is the eagle. The eagle soars high in the sky; sometimes you can't even see them. They watch what is happening on the earth from the heavens. In the Bible, eagles are always associated with strength and the heavens.

## **ASPECTS OF GOD**

These four faces tell us about four aspects of God as shown through Jesus who was God. Father, Son and Spirit, however you explain that concept, and yet He came from the heavens, (eagle), became man (man) suffered for us all and made the ultimate sacrifice (oxen) and is and will return as our conquering king, (lion).

### **SLIDE 20**

## **MOUNT WARNING**

As a child I was always fascinated by Mt Warning which dominated the valley where I lived. My grandfather used to tell me that it was the face of a man lying down. I loved to watch the cloud coming and going. Sometimes the face was covered as if by a sheet. Other times the nose just caught the sun as if he had been sunburned. One time the cloud looked just like a moustache. This was my mountain and I knew it intimately. It was a face that I loved.

### **SLIDE 21**

Then one day we took a trip to Byron Bay and I asked Dad what that funny mountain was sticking up about the hills. "It's Mt Warning" he said. I was in shock. I knew what my mountain looked like and it was not this!!!! Dad explained and this began a lifelong fascination as the different aspects of Mt Warning that one could see from the valley.

### **SLIDE 22**

So which one is right?

Obviously they all are. It is just that we mere cannot see the whole picture at the same time.

## **ASPECTS OF GOD**

## SLIDE 23

So, too with God. We cannot see all the aspects of His nature at the one time and can hang up on the particular aspect we can see and neglect or even deny the others. In the vision we can see all the aspects of God and, if we look at one of these facets or aspects only, we can think that what we are seeing is the “true God”. It is true but we are only seeing part of Him.

However, God, in His wisdom sent us two pictures of all these aspects. Obviously, one is the Ezekiel vision and the other, more importantly, is Jesus Christ.

## GOSPELS

Now the amazing thing, to me at least, is that we see this same picture in the New Testament in the construction of the book and in the way Jesus interacted with the world. We all know that the gospels tell the story of Jesus when He was on earth and that there are four of them. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They each tell the story from a slightly different point of view so each gives a different picture of Jesus.

Again we see the number four which is the number which represents God’s relationship with the earth, but especially with man. We know that Matthew, Mark and Luke are all very similar gospels with similar stories often told in the same words. Their focus was on His earthly time and His physical life.

John focuses on the spiritual aspect of Him and His life and contains very much fewer “stories”. John which is more spirit focused.

Again three plus one.

Four.

Matthew’s reveals Jesus as a King, not only the King of the Jews but the King of the whole world and the heavens etc. This is His Lion face.

Mark shows Him as a suffering servant who died for us. This was His Ox face

Luke shows us that He really was a man. His Man face.

John tells about ....what? He tells us how Jesus was God. His eagle face.

They do this in the stories they “choose” to tell, how they tell them, their choice of words and innuendo.

## SLIDE 24

### **LION – KING - MATTHEW**

Kings and Queens usually get their jobs by being the first born son to a king or queen. There are lots of reasons for this including the power to make it happen, basic selfishness but more importantly, the new king grows up in an environment where he can learn kingship. A king just is, by virtue of his birth.

Matthew’s primary focus was to the Jews who were a very legalistic bunch. Matthew had to establish Jesus authority to say and be what He was. This was essential for Him to be accepted by His own people. The Messiah had to be of the line of David so Matthew spells out Jesus’ royal lineage by tracing his family tree back to Abraham. This proves that He was of the royal family and so qualified to be a king.

### **GENEALOGY**

Matthew deliberately sets out to prove that Jesus is Messiah and so the rightful King of the Jews.... And us all too.

Obviously this has to be done by a genealogy showing the continuation of the genetic material from David.

**Mat 1:1** The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Mat 1:2 Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;

Mat 1:3 And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Tamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;

Mat 1:4 And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

Mat 1:5 And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

Mat 1:6 And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias;

Mat 1:7 And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

Mat 1:8 And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;

Mat 1:9 And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;

Mat 1:10 And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;

Mat 1:11 And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

Mat 1:12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

Mat 1:13 And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;

Mat 1:14 And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;

Mat 1:15 And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

Mat 1:16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Mat 1:17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

The way Matthew sets out the generations contains a hidden message that would speak to the Talmudic understanding of the Jews but for another time.

The line had to come through David and Solomon for Jesus to be the king and so Messiah and it had to be Solomon's line to be legitimate. Many argue that this is irrelevant as Joseph, Mary's husband was not His real father but it is clear that Joseph adopted Jesus as his son, otherwise they would have been outcasts in the society. This fulfilled the Law.

He was born at Bethlehem where the kings came from and from where God had told His people The Great King would come.

## **MASCULINE**

The gospel is totally masculine and emphasises masculine concepts.

Matthew tells us the story from Joseph's point of view. Mary hardly gets a mention. Matthew is the only Gospel that tells us about the Magi or as tradition calls them, The Three Kings. These were great men from the East, The Wise Men, astronomers and astrologers in the scientific understanding. They came to pay homage to a King; they dealt with the king of the land; they expected to find "The King of the Jews".

## **SLIDE 25**

## **KING**

John the Baptist emphasized the Kingship.

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

**Mat 3:2** And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mat 3:3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Kingdom of Heaven. Lord here means God but is also a term used to address a king. Mark and Luke cover this too but their emphasis is on repentance etc. Only Matthew uses the concept of Lord and power. Only Matthew shows how John recognises Jesus' authority when he declares that he, John, should be baptised by Jesus. All three Gospels, Jesus us identifies as God's son, and so the great king.

The concept of kingdom is mentioned 56 times in Matthew, 21 in Mark, 45 in Luke and 13 in John. Matthew has 7 parables about the kingdom, Mark and Luke have 3 and John has none.

## **RIGHTEOUSNESS**

A major emphasis in Matthew is on righteousness which comes from a rule of Law which an essential part of any kingdom and the authority to enforce comes from the King. In Matthew, righteousness is mentioned 12 times, Mark once, Luke 5 and John 2.

It was essential for God to reach His chosen people, Israel, which is where He had always operated, and to maintain His integrity, that God's Law as still valid and that Jesus fulfilled and lived by this.

Jesus, and Matthew were not talking about all the added stuff that the Pharisees had added. This was what got Jesus into trouble with them.

Throughout His sermons in Matthew, Jesus focuses on being righteous which tells us how important the laws of the Kingdom are. His miracles show His authority over nature and evil, like walking on water and calming the storm and demons obeying Him. He unashamedly claimed and used this authority which He got from His Father, just like any prince does.

## CONCEPTS ONLY IN MATTHEW

Concepts mentioned in Matthew alone or mentioned in passing in other Gospels:

- The Sermon on the Mount sets out the ground rules  
for the Kingdom. (Matt 5:1-48)
- Power to the "Church" (Matt 16:18)
- Keys to the Kingdom (Matt 16:19)
- Parable of shekel found in the fish (Matt 16:18) –Recognise earthly king
- Must be children to enter Kingdom (Matt 18:3) – Luke must be servants
- Twelve thrones (Matt 19:12)
- Parable of Just Landowner (Matt 20:16) - who enters kingdom ?
- Indictment of Pharisees (Matt 23) – higher authority
- Children in Temple (Matt 21:14-15) –
  - Recognised him as Son of David and so king
- Parable of King & wedding (Matt 22:1-14) –who enters kingdom
- Parable of Ten Virgins (Matt 25:1-13) - who enters kingdom
- Parable of Talents (Matt 25:14-30) “

- Parable of Sheep and Goats ( Matt 25:30-33) “
- Judas suicide (Matt 27:3-10) – justice
- Pilate’s question. “Are you the King of the Jews?” (Matt 27:11)
- Soldiers mocking “King of the Jews” (Matt 27:29)
- Resurrection – women bow (Matt 28:9)
- Resurrection – women obey (Matt 28:10- 11)
- Jewish authority abuses power (Matt 28:11- 15)

### Authority taken from Priests and given to the church

Mat 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.

Previously, squabbles were taken to the priests.

Mat 18:18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Mat 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 18:20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Here, Jesus passes on His authority to His people

**SLIDE 26**

**KEYS TO THE KINGDOM**

People call Him the Son of David, Son of God. He tells us He can give us the “keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

**Mat 16:19** And I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven to you. And whatever you may bind on earth shall occur, having been bound in Heaven, and whatever you may loose on earth shall occur, having been loosed in Heaven.

The term Son of God or Son of David, is mentioned

- Matthew 18
- Mark 8
- Luke 15
- John 11

Matthew finishes his gospel with

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power/authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

A king sending His people out to do his will.

**SLIDE 27**

## **OX – SUFFERING SERVANT – MARK**

### **OXEN**

The Gospel of Mark portrays Jesus as the Suffering Servant. The total opposite to the Conquering King and so it is appropriate that this aspect be on the left hand side of the man aspect in Ezekiel’s vision.

In the vision, this aspect is portrayed as an ox, a beast of burden, a worker pulling or carrying heavy loads, strong and obedient.

### SLIDE 28

An ox (plural **oxen**), also known as a bullock in Australia and India, is a bovine (cattle) trained as a draft animal. Obviously the biggest animals are chosen for the task but they have intelligence, a willingness to learn, and be peaceable.

We all know that an ox is a beast of burden and used only to work for man's benefit.

### SLIDE 29

## SERVANT

The role of a servant is to carry out the will of the master. They must put aside all their personal desires and needs to meet those of the master. These can be paid workers, usually a lowly wage or they can be slaves. Either way, the bottom line is service to another.

A good servant acts immediately to respond to a command. Mark uses the word "immediately" 43 times, while Matthew uses it 19, Luke 10 and John 10.

The concept of the suffering servant is there in Mark but it is less obvious than the concepts of the other Gospels. Like an ox, the concept of servanthood is unobtrusive, not drawing attention to itself, just like a good servant does. This aspect is shown more by omission than commission.

## JESUS

We all know that Jesus came to earth to die for our sins so that we could have the same relationship with God as He has. It is an understatement to say that this was a big sacrifice for Him as He gave up the most amazing life in "heaven" to become a person. It would be the same as us giving up our lives to become cockroaches.

There is no genealogy or reference to His birth or background. No one cares about the personal details of a servant or waiter or where they come from. They are there to serve you.

Mark touches on John the Baptist, the baptism and does not mention the testing by Satan. Servants serve and are not in a position to argue with those in higher authority. (Satan is the ruler of the world). Mark does not include this interaction as it didn't fit into the role of submission. Doesn't mean it didn't happen, just not relevant to what message God wanted His people to hear through Mark.

There are no long discourses. Servants are invisible and silent.

## MARK'S GOSPEL ALONE

Concepts mentioned in Mark alone or mentioned in passing in other Gospels:

- Early part of Parable of Sower.

The grain grows secretly and purely to support man.

Mar 4:26 "The kingdom of God is like a man who scatters seeds on the ground.

Mar 4:27 He sleeps and gets up night and day while the seeds sprout and grow, although he doesn't know how.

Mar 4:28 The ground produces grain by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head.

Mar 4:29 But when the grain is ripe, he immediately starts cutting with his sickle because the harvest time has come."

- Disciples were "His companions" (Mark 3:14)
- Jesus is never called "Lord" as He is in all the other Gospels, except by the Syro-Phoenician woman who is a gentile. He is called teacher or nothing.
- Never indicts Pharisees, just warns of danger.
- Sermon on Mount contains no
- Bridegroom rejecting attendants
- Master judging servants
- No king separating nations
- No Lord's Prayer
- Jesus does know when He will return to earth. (Mark 13:32)
- No powerful angels at His arrest (Mark 15)

- No promises to the thief on cross. (Mark 15)
  - No earthquakes, resurrection or angels
  - Heals blind and then deaf unobtrusively (Mark 7:31-37, 8:22 -26)
  - Allows crowds to invade privacy (Mark 3:20, 6:31, 6:34, 6:45, 6:54 – 55)
  - Compassion for people (Mark 1:41, 6:34, 10:21)
  - Small details seen only by a servant
- “in the house” (Mark 2:1)
- “went home again” (Mark 3:20)
- Simon’s mother in law “by the hand” (Mark 1:31)
- Embraced children (Mark 9:36, 10:16)

## SACRIFICE

Under the Old Law, the blood of animals was required to atone for the sins of the people. Oxen were used for this as well as other animals.

Jesus took the place of those animals when He shed His blood for us. The old Law was still operating, only the form of sacrifice had changed. He took the place of the oxen, and all the others used as well.

Even though He was sacred, like the oxen, He made the sacrifice for our sins without complaint.

## SLIDE 30

## YOLKS

It is in the context of oxen that one thinks of yokes. After all it is the yoke that is placed on the animal, or indeed a man, that enables him to carry the burden. This can be done with a single animal ploughing or drawing a cart, or as a team. A yoke is needed to do this and is a crossbar with loops that fit over the shoulders and heads of the oxen and allowed the farmer to control them. It is the yoke that distributes the weight evenly and so it is essential that it fit properly so there are no

points of weakness. Each yoke has to be made specifically to fit each animal otherwise it will cause the irritation at the point of contact.

In the Old Testament the word meaning Yoke is used 40 times, the number is significant in itself. It is always used in the context of burden and servitude and slavery and dominion by enemies and usually occurs as a result of sin. In the New Testament it is used 6 times.

We know that Jesus' father was a carpenter from

[Mar 6:3](#) Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Judah, and Simon

Tradition has it that Jesus was one too. It stands to reason within the norms of His society, but it is also said that He had a speciality in making yokes and that His reputation for the quality, especially their fit was widespread.

When you put this on the context of

[Mat 11:28](#) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

[Mat 11:29](#) Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

[Mat 11:30](#) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

## **BURDENS**

This is included in Matthew and not Mark, where it refers to the burdens laid on the people by the Priests in their interpretation of God's Law, rather than the yoke.

[Mat 23:4](#) For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders;

In Christ's Law of Love the burden has not been eliminated but with His support and provision in the case of failure, Christ's yoke makes the burden more comfortable and light.

We all have our burdens which I believe are designed for each of us specifically to enable our best possible development, so, just as each yoke is made specifically for each animal, so the yoke of Christ fits each of us and its fit is perfect. It is designed specifically to enable us to work Him for love and peace. If your yoke is chaffing you, perhaps you had better see whose yoke you are wearing.

Mark shows us the Face of God that is service to Him and to others.

Mar 10:43 Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,

Mar 10:44 and whoever wants to be first among you must be a slave to everyone,

Mar 10:45 because even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many people."

And Mark's last word:

Mar 16:20 Then his disciples went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord kept working with them and confirming the message by the signs that accompanied it.

And they did it. They too were servants. And they too suffered. Are we? Will we?

**SLIDE 31**

## **MAN- LUKE - MAN**

Luke was a Doctor and so was very interested in Jesus as a man. Luke knew Jesus was the Son of God but that He was also a man just like us, but the only perfect man.

It seems that Luke may have "interviewed" many of the people involved, especially Mary as he reveals details that are very, very personal to her.

Luk 2:18 And all those who heard marvelled about the things spoken to them by the shepherds.

Luk 2:19 But Mary kept all these sayings, meditating in her heart.

Luk 2:33 And Joseph and His mother marvelled at those things which were spoken by him.

Luk 2:48 And seeing Him, they were amazed. And His mother said to Him, Child, why have you done so to us? Behold, your father and I have looked for you, greatly distressed.

Luk 2:49 And He said to them, Why did you look for Me? Do you not know that I must be about My Father's *business*?

Luk 2:50 And they did not understand the word which He spoke to them.

## HUMAN-NESS

### SLIDE 32

The whole of Luke 2 is devoted to His childhood and the highlights there in terms of His walk with God.

Luke made a special effort to show us that Jesus needed the same stuff as we do like food and clothes.

He needed to rest like we do, to eat, time out to get away from people to pray and think and be.

Luk 4:2 forty days, being tempted by the Devil. And in those days He ate nothing. And they being ended, He afterward was hungry.

He just needed to go and talk to His dad.

Luk 22:41 And He was withdrawn from them about a stone's throw. And He kneeled down and prayed,

He felt afraid

Luk 22:42 saying, Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me. Yet not My will, but Yours be done.

Luk 22:44 And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly. And His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

He needed his mates around Him

Luk 22:15 And He said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer.

but just like most people, most of them deserted Him when He needed them most.

Luk 22:34 And He said, I say to you, Peter, the cock shall not crow this day before you shall deny knowing Me three times.

Luk 22:48 But Jesus said to him, Judas, do you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?

Just like we feel the agony of a splinter in the finger, He felt every blow and lash and kick and stab from the thorns and the weight of the cross on his torn open back. Every bit of it.

He was just like us but He didn't **have** to put up with it all. He told them

Mat 26:53 Don't you think that I could call on my Father, and he would send me more than twelve legions of angels now?

Matthew showing Jesus' authority again

**SLIDE 33**

## **FOLK LIKE US**

We see Him dealing with ordinary people, the poor, children, healing, hospitality, prayer, praise and joy.

He did the things ordinary folk do like holding the Passover.

Luk 22:7 And the day of the Unleavened Bread came, when the Passover must be killed.

**Luk 22:8** And He sent Peter and John, saying, Go and prepare the Passover for us, so that we may eat.

Jesus made a choice to suffer as a man because He loves us all.

**Mat 26:42** He went away again the second time and prayed, saying, My Father, if this cup may not pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.

## **SLIDE 34**

### **WOMEN**

One aspect of Luke which is very important is his emphasis on the role and involvement of and the place of women.

Jesus seemed to go out of His way to include them, honour them, use them as examples in parables and even make them some of His closest friends.

Having women in His intimate circle of friends.

**Luk 8:1** After this, Jesus travelled from one city and village to another, preaching and spreading the good news about God's kingdom. The Twelve were with him,

**Luk 8:2** as well as some women who had been healed of evil spirits and illnesses: Mary, also called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out;

**Luk 8:3** Joanna, the wife of Herod's household manager Chuza; Susanna; and many others..

His relationship with Mary and Martha is pivotal to His story as they provided a home for Him where He could go when He needed safety and support.

**Luk 10:38** And as they went, it happened that He entered into a certain village. And a certain woman named Martha received Him into her house.

His genealogy comes through Mary and goes back to Adam through David. (Luke 3:22 - 3:38)

## LUKE ALONE

Bits mentioned in Luke alone

- His birth from Mary's perspective (Luke 1:5 – 2:38))
- His childhood (Luke 2:39 - 2:52)
- Devotion to parents (Luke 2:51)
- Early submission to Heavenly Father (Luke 2:43 - 2:47)
- John the Baptist and Jesus are related (Luke 1:36)
- Story of Zechariah (Luke 1:5 - 1:23, 1:59 – 79)
- Story of Elizabeth (Luke 1:24 - 1:25, 1:40 - 66)
- Story of Simeon (Luke 2:28 - 2:35)
- Story of Anna (Luke 2:36 - 2:39)
- Sets historical background (Luke 2:1 - 2:3)
- Jesus age when His ministry started (Luke 3:22)
- Emphasis on money and dealing with it
- Provision of needs
- Poor -
  - Poor family (Luke 2:24)
  - Stable (Luke 2:7)
  - Another man's grave (Luke 25:53)
  - Nowhere to lay His head (Luke 9:58)
  - Give to the poor (Luke 12:33-12:34)
- Greater emphasis on prayer
- At important moments in ministry
- Needing deserted places
- Prays for Peter's faith (Luke 22:32)
- Relationship with people
- Insights into many new people
- Peter James and John especially close to Him

- Story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-19:10)
- Story of Mary and Martha (Luke 10:38-42)
- Role of women
- Elizabeth, Mary, and Anna
- Widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-15)
- Woman who kissed His feet (Luke 7:36-38)
- Women provided His needs (Luke 8:1-3)
- First of know of resurrection (Luke 24:1-6)
- Miracles – 10 unique to Luke
- More miracles of healing
- Elizabeth’s conception (Luke 1:34-)
- Zechariah’s dumbness and healing (Luke 1:20-22)
- Peter’s fish catch (Luke 5:4-7)
- Resurrection in Nain (Luke 7:11-15)
- Cure of Crippled woman (Luke 13:10-17)
- Miracle of Seventy Two (Luke 10:17)
- Healing Man with Dropsy (Luke 14:1-6)
- Cure of Ten Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
- Restoration of severed ear (Luke 22:51)
- Parables – 40 parables
- God is on the side of the poor (Luke 12:33 - 12:34)

## ON THE CROSS

Only Luke records the story of the two criminals.

**Luk 23:39** And one of the hanged criminals blasphemed Him, saying, If you are Christ, save Yourself and us.

**Luk 23:40** But answering, the other rebuked him, saying, Do you not fear God, since *you* are in the same condemnation.

**Luk 23:41** And we indeed justly so, for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this Man has done nothing amiss.

**Luk 23:42** And he said to Jesus, Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.

Luk 23:43 And Jesus said to him, Truly I say to you, Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.

Here we see His concern for the salvation of others, His love of people, even scum like these criminals were. I have often wondered if only Mary heard this interaction as she was very close to the Cross while the disciples were “far off”.

## **MAN**

Luke shows Jesus as a man. He uses small unobtrusive detail to add the human aspect

He shows Jesus the Man aspect of God. A man of the people, who relates to them, loves them, weeps with them, eats with them, suffered for them and died for them.

And at the end, in

Luk 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

we see that His human-ness was actually the thing that proved He was God.

## **SLIDE 35**

### **EAGLE – GOD - JOHN**

The Book written by John tells of how Jesus was God as well as human.

Now I have no idea how this could be but He was. There are heaps of theories but we really don't know. It is beyond the human mind to understand how Jesus can be wholly God and wholly man at the same time.

This gospel was written much later than the other three and John shows a deeper insight into Jesus that comes from long contemplation and seeing things from the perspective of time and probably long discussions with those who had walked with Him. He has come to see just how much God Jesus was. Hindsight and distance give us such a different perspective.

The Eagle is behind the man, the concept of the “power behind the throne”, the driving force, there but not seen, controlling yet hidden from the world.

It was because Jesus was the Son of God that He could do the miracles, read peoples’ minds and show amazing wisdom in being able to teach a special lesson to one person in a crowd and yet not offend all the others who were just entertained. He could communicate with angels directly when He wanted to.

Most of all He was able to raise people and Himself from the dead. Only God can do that. Prophets have raised people but only God can raise Himself.

## **SLIDE 36**

### **GENEOLOGY**

John starts with His genealogy in the heavenly realm, then brings Jesus down to earth only in His role as The Son of God, the Word of God.

**Joh 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**Joh 1:2** He was in *the* beginning with God.

**Joh 1:3** All things came into being through Him, and without Him not even one *thing* came into being that has come into being.

**Joh 1:4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**Joh 1:5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

No nativity. No childhood. Just God on in heaven and then on earth.

John based his teachings on concepts which are perceived by the Spirit rather than definite statements of fact so it is hard to list points. Just as most of us walk around this earth, His creation, and have no concept that He is managing it and sustaining it and us, so too, is the spiritual aspect or face of Jesus, hidden in the Gospel of John. John portrays the spiritual dimension of Jesus.

John’s gospel has a structure based around the Feasts of God. Chapters 2 -4 are set around a Passover season, Chapter 5 involves “a feast”, some think this is another Passover. Chapter 6 is definitely another Passover; Tabernacles is the setting in

chapters 7-10, then the Feast of Dedication in chapter 10-11. The Last Passover dominates in chapters 13-19.

He mentions “Light of the world” or light 23 times while the others have only single figures.

### **THINGS MENTIONED BY JOHN ALONE:**

- John Baptist says he doesn't know his cousin? (John 1:32-33)
- Andrew recognises Him as Messiah (John 1:41)
- Nathanael acknowledges Him as Messiah (John 1:41-49)
- First miracle – water (earth) into wine (His blood) (John 2:1-2.10)
- New birth – born again (John 3:3. 3:7)
- Greater emphasis on eternal life
- Woman at the Well (John 4:1-4.30)
- Only gospel to use the double amen – verily verily – to emphasise Jesus as the truth incarnate. Earth and heaven
- Emphasises eternal life (John 4:4:4:20)
- Healing at Pool of Bethesda (John 5:1-47)
- Greater emphasis of unity of Father and Son
- Bread of Life - fulfilment of Passover (John 6)
- Light of the world (John 8:12, 9:5)
- Good shepherd (John 10;1-14)
- Emphasis on the Last Passover (John 13:1)
- Emphasis on Love
- Washing disciples feet (John13:1-14)
- Peaceful, power on the cross not suffering (John19)

### **SLIDE 37**

### **PASSOVER SERVICE**

This concept can also be seen in the reportings of The Last Supper.

Matthew gives us 17 verses in Chapter 26:13- 35. He covers the betrayal by Judas, mentions that this was all prophesied, they take the bread and wine and sing a hymn.

Mark gives us 14 verses in Mark 14:17-31 and covers exactly the same elements as Matthew.

Both these stories cover only what is needed to operate within the Law and righteousness and obeying God's commands.

Luke uses 24 verses, 22:14-38 and shows Jesus human side where He shows his emotions in his yearning to be with His loved ones. It may also mean that He knew that the end was in sight and He could leave these stupid people and go home.

[Luk 22:14](#) And when the hour came, He and the twelve apostles with Him reclined.

[Luk 22:15](#) And He said to them, With desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer.

He tells them that it is His last Passover

[Luk 22:16](#) For I say to you, I will not any more eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

We see the betrayal again but this time when He does the bread and wine, He actually does wine-bread-wine. This is most probably linked to the four cups of wine drunk in the Seder. Then we have the totally human interaction where the blokes vie over who will be the greatest and poor old Peter, so sure of himself and his loyalty, warned to beware of falling into the human trap of putting his own safety before his loyalty to his friend. And haven't we all done this? We have the best of intentions but our human weakness lets us down.

But in John's gospel, the emphasis is on spiritual issues. In fact he devotes Chapters 13 to 17 to these matters at the table. Four whole chapters, long chapters compared with a couple of dozen verses.

John tells of the betrayal but then adds the foot-washing concept. Every concept mentioned here is worthy of a sermon but I will just list them. He explains the

significance of the foot-washing in the need for them, and us, to be humble and that all people are equal in His sight. He talks about how He is fulfilling prophecy.

When He discusses the betrayal and who would be doing it with John and Peter, He dips the bread (his body) into the bitter herbs mixture used at Passover and hands it to Judas,

He talks of His glorification, of His departure, and then His totally important New Commandment

**Joh 13:34** I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. As I have loved you, you should also love one another.

Peter is warned re his betrayal, but Jesus tells them not to be troubled, that He has their backs and it is all sorted.

**Joh 14:1** Let not your heart be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in Me.

**Joh 14:2** In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were not so*, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

**Joh 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, so that where I am, you may be also.

**Joh 14:4** And where I go you know, and the way you know.

They discuss the concept of He in the Father and the Father in Him, showing love by keeping His commandments and then coming of the Holy Spirit. He is the Vine and if they make the choice to follow Him, He and His Father and the Spirit working together with each of them (the magic four) will get them through, It won't be easy but what of value ever is easy.

Wow!!! A whole religion, philosophy, psychology and plan for life in an after-dinner chat.

Then in Chapter 17 He rises His face to heaven and prays the type of prayer probably no one in the whole world had ever prayed. He talks to God as a son and tells Him all He has done and how concerned He is for these people whom He loves especially.

When you imagine that happening around a table littered with lamb bones, broken bread, maybe a bit of spilled wine with the full moon shining through the window, what an amazing meeting of the Godhead and man.

## CONCLUSION

John's gospel ends with a scene of earthly things, eating fish by the sea in the early morning. Sounds more like Luke until you realize that Jesus is there with them, in their midst, a spirit being, but still a man, among the earthly men.

## FOUR FACES

So four.

Four the number creation, of the world.

Fire, Air, Earth, and water; spring, summer, autumn, winter; north, south, east and west; phases of the moon in a month; DNA –adenine, guanine, cytosine, thymine; valency of carbon, the basis of life, solid, liquid, gas, plasma.

Four reminds us of the relationship between the God head, and the earth, His Creation. God plus Son plus their Spirit in heaven. Add the universe and you have three plus one. Four. So it is God's manifestation in His creation and His revealing Himself to us **in** our world and **through** our world.

### SLIDE 38

His very name as represented by the Tetragrammaton (YHVH) is but four letters and two of them are silent like the spirit and the servant (the eagle and the ox.)

God in His interactions with His creation is Father, Son and Spirit and us and we are part of Him in that when we accept Him as our Saviour, we become part of the body of Christ. Four faces. Four aspects, four dimensions, four ways we can understand Him, relate to Him, follow Him, worship Him and live like Him.

### SLIDE 39

Man, King, Servant and God.

And you know, it was only yesterday in the shower, that I realised that maybe you could see this tetrad in another way too. When we eventually reach our perfected state (whatever that is) we will, for all intents and purposes, be part of the Godhead.

Father is the eagle, the power behind the throne, Jesus is the lion, the King of the universe; the Holy Spirit is the ox, willing and loyal worker doing the bidding of His master and us, the perfected man.