

PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATIONS

- ❖ **PROBLEMATICS** : *Text / Tradition ; Scholarship / Dating ; Language / Concepts...*
- ❖ **CVSP FOCUS** : ‘*Humanities*’- the *exploration* of human existence, including *new perspectives* on *The Divine (God), Nature, The Human Being (Man), Society, History, Knowledge, Values (good/evil), Excellence (virtue and vice), Freedom / Slavery...*)

I. TEXTS: THE 27 BOOKS OF THE NEW COVENANT (Testament)

- **4 GOSPELS** (“good news”) : *Synoptics (Matthew, Mark, Luke)* and *John*
- **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES** (Luke) : account of the *early community*
- **21 EPISTLES** : *letters from leaders* (Peter, Paul, John...)
- **APOCALYPSE** or **REVELATION** (John) : culmination (*‘last things’*)

- *The book of a people: presentation and interpretation of historical events in Palestine and other parts of the Roman Empire in the first century CE (the dating challenge : 6 BC to...?)*

II. THE CENTRAL EVENTS

- Birth-Infancy-Acts-Arrest-Torture-Crucifixion of *Jesus of Nazareth*
- Birth of *the new community* and its expansion from Palestine to Rome

III. THE CENTRAL EVENTS INTERPRETED

- ❖ *Their claim: historical density* (Luke 1:1-4; 1John 1:1-4; 2Peter 1:16...)

- ❖ *Interpretation = on-going appropriation and expression of implications of the events*

- **JESUS** : *Messiah* (Psalm 2:2) ; *Son of God* (Ps2:7) ; *Son of Man* (Daniel 7:13-14) ; *Suffering Servant* (Isaiah 42:1-9, and esp. 52:13 to end of 53) ; *Savior* (*Jesus = YHWH saves*) (Matthew1:21) ; *New Adam* (1Cor 15:44-49) ; *Logos* (John 1)

○ *Problematics* :

- *Scripture (written Word of God) as medium for God’s revelation in the form of a Person* : LOGOS / Word of God (Luke 24:27 and John 5:39)
- *Language* : *Greek (Logos)* but informed with *radically different (monotheistic)* meaning ; applies to *all main concepts of the New Testament*

- **RESURRECTION - ASCENSION - PENTECOST** (Acts 1-2)

- The *claim* that this is *fulfillment* of Hebrew Scriptures’ *promises* for the *messianic age* (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-28; Isaiah 44:3; Joel 3:1-2 /// Acts 1-2 ; John 1:33, and 7:37-39, and 14: 13-21...)

- **PAUL** : *conversion* (Acts 9 and 22) from *Pharisee / persecutor* to *major leader*

- ❖ *Paul’s exposition of the gospel (NEXT WEEK)*