

Study Questions for Drane

Chapter 1

1. What does it mean to say that the story of Jesus is the grand metanarrative of all history?
2. What was the one crucial factor which insured the success of the whole Christian movement?
3. What was Hellenism and who was its founder?
4. How did Hellenistic philosophy lead to a spiritual and moral vacuum?
5. Who are the Gnostics and what did they believe about God, the world, people, salvation, and ethics?
6. What do we call the religions that offered a direct experience of God through sexual and initiation rites?
7. What is a God-fearer?
8. What is the LXX and why is it important?
9. Who was Antiochus IV Epiphanes and what group led the revolt against him?
10. Who were the Sadducees, Pharisees, Zealots, and Essenes? What was the main belief of each group?

Chapter 2

1. What is the problem with the dating of the birth of Jesus and what are three possible solutions to it?
2. What three languages did Jesus likely speak?
3. Why was it surprising for John to tell Jewish people they had to be baptized?
4. When God the Father told Jesus at his baptism, "You are my own dear son. I am pleased with you" what two scriptures was he citing and what two themes was he announcing?
5. What were the three temptations and why did Jesus reject them?
6. Why do some people find it hard to believe in the virgin birth?
7. How does the fact that only Matthew and Luke mention the virgin birth lead to a double-edged argument?

Chapter 3

1. According to Drane what were the two main subjects that caused sharp division among Jesus' hearers?
2. In what four ways did Jesus use the phrase "Son of Man"?
3. What two possible answers are there for the question, "Why was Jesus inconsistent in his reaction to being called Messiah?"
4. If Jesus really was the Messiah, what are three reasons the gospels do not show him claiming that title?
5. When the New Testament calls Jesus the "Son of God" or the "Word of God" what is it saying?
6. What is the one very clear implication of the various titles used to describe Jesus?

Chapter 4

1. What are three explanations of why Jesus went to Jerusalem at the end of his life?
2. In what ways was Jesus' entry into Jerusalem an open declaration that he was the Messiah?
3. What three accusations were made against Jesus when he was on trial by Pilate?

4. Name and explain the five images used to describe Jesus' death.
5. What two aspects of God's relation to humanity run through all five images of his death?
6. Why is the question of who condemned Jesus important?
7. What is the question about the timing of the Last Supper?

Chapter 5

1. List and explain the four strands of evidence that Jesus rose from the dead.
2. Some people refuse to believe Jesus rose from the dead. What three alternate explanations do they give for the resurrection fact?
3. List and explain the three meanings of the resurrection.

Chapter 6

1. What are two false understandings of the kingdom of God? What is Drane's definition?
2. In what two ways did Jesus understand the idea of God's kingdom?
3. What tension is there in the New Testament idea of the Kingdom of God?
4. What is futurist eschatology to many contemporary Christians?
5. According to Schweitzer what was Jesus' eschatology?
6. What is realized eschatology? What is inaugurated eschatology?

Chapter 7

1. What is the difference between a parable and an allegory? Give an example of each from Jesus' teaching.
2. What are the four main subjects addressed in Jesus' parables?
3. What are the four main ideas taught by the parables about the ruler of God's kingdom?
4. What are the four main ideas taught by the parables about the people in God's kingdom?
5. What is the one main idea taught by the parables about the community of God's kingdom?
6. What are the three main ideas taught by the parables about the future of God's kingdom?
7. What are two possible solutions to the problem caused when Jesus says the purpose of the parables is to obscure the truth?
8. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the idea that Jesus never intended to found a church.

Chapter 8

1. What are three sources of evidence that Jesus did miracles?
2. Evaluate the idea that Jesus' miracles were only attributed to him by later writers.
3. How did miracles show the arrival, scope, and challenge of the kingdom of God?

Chapter 9

1. Why were "the people of the land," Samaritians, and Galileans looked down upon by the Law-keepers of Jesus' day?
2. What was the meaning of Jesus cleansing the Temple?
3. What is the basic premise of Jesus' ethical teaching?
4. What two moral premises of the Old Testament did Jesus make the foundation of his own teaching?
5. What are three practical consequences of the ideas that God is a holy God and a loving

parent?

6. What is the relationship between *kerygma* and *didache*?
7. What does Drane mean when he says, “Jesus’ teaching was not a law but an ethic of freedom”?

Chapter 10

1. What three consequences come from the idea that the gospel writers were not primarily biographers?
2. What are *testimonia* and how did they contribute to the formation of the Gospels?
3. What are *logia* and how did they contribute to the formation of the Gospels?
4. Explain the diagram on p.177 with reference to B. H. Streeter’s ideas.
5. Give two reasons why it is unlikely that Mark is a condensation of Matthew as Augustine claims.
6. Why is it difficult to believe Luke used Matthew?
7. Explain the five considerations that point to the conclusion that Matthew and Luke used Mark.
8. Explain the four considerations that point to the non-existence of Q.
9. What is the idea behind form criticism?

Chapter 11

1. What internal and external evidence is there to link Mark with Peter?
2. For what three purposes was Mark written?
3. Explain the three possible solutions to the problem of Mark’s ending.
4. For what three purposes was Luke written?
5. For what four purposes was Matthew written?
6. Scholars used to think that John was a reinterpretation of the Jesus story in the synoptics. Why have they abandoned this position?
7. What hints are there in John that the author spoke Aramaic?
8. Besides promoting faith in Jesus, what two other purposes does John fulfill?

Chapter 12

1. Why is it imperialistic for people like Bultmann to say we can know almost nothing about Jesus?
2. List and explain three traits of the gospels that provide positive evidence for their reliability.
3. Discuss the quest for the historical Jesus mentioning Reimarus, Schweitzer, Bultmann, and the Jesus Seminar.
4. List and evaluate the criteria for determining the “authentic words of Jesus.”
5. What two reasons does Perrin give to support the idea that the New Testament contains very little, if anything, that comes from Jesus himself?
6. The first of Perrin’s two ideas can be criticized in three ways. What are they?
7. The second of Perrin’s ideas has one major flaw. What is it?

Chapter 13

1. How was Jesus’ attitude toward the Law different from other Jewish leaders of his day?
2. How was Jesus’ attitude toward race different from other Jewish leaders of his day?

3. When Luke records Stephen's speech is he following Josephus or Thucydides? How do you know?
4. For Christians like Stephen, why was the Temple redundant?
5. What are the three possible dates for the composition of Acts? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each view?
6. What evidence leads people to conclude that Acts is essentially accurate?
7. For what three purposes was Acts written?