

THEIR ROCK IS NOT LIKE OUR ROCK

A THEOLOGY OF RELIGIONS



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How to think
about other
religions

“Can we fit them into our story?”

THEIR ROCK
IS NOT LIKE
OUR ROCK

Deuteronomy 32:1-43

- What do you learn about the LORD?
- What do you learn about other religions?

Acts 17:16-31 – What do you notice about...

- Creation, the Creator and the creature?
- The Fall and fallen religion?
- Redemption and Consummation?



What are other religions?

“non-Christian religions are sovereignly directed, variegated and dynamic, collective human idolatrous responses to divine revelation behind which stand deceiving demonic forces. Being antithetically against yet parasitically dependent upon the truth of the Christian worldview, non-Christian religions are ‘subversively fulfilled’ in the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Not embarrassment or arrogance but Bold Humility

“a stance that seeks first to understand the world of religion and religions through a biblical worldview before then applying unique and satisfying gospel truth to a world of pseudo-gospels that promise much but can never ultimately deliver.”

- We are all creatures
- We are all (self-contradictory) sinners
- There is a unique gospel that saved us (cf. Titus 3)

The unique gospel

1 John 4

What is unique to Christianity?

- Trinity
- Incarnation
- Cross
- Grace
- Produces true love

Back in Athens..

- The point of entry & contact-attack is the experience and confession of impotence, ignorance and anxiety
- Use of Bible overview against idolatry
- Suppressed/distorted (remnantal) truth, within idolatrous religions and philosophies, which contradicts and self-convicts



Subversive fulfilment

1. Affirm the buried and perverted truth
2. Expose the error, distortion, contradiction
3. Show the satisfaction in the gospel of Christ

E.g. Acts 17

E.g. Sacrifice

E.g. Islam – rewards, justice, revelation, oneness, compassion

Remember

- Collective, social, cultural and worldview systems
- But – deal with the **individual** and their heart commitment – “I am never concerned with Buddhism, but with a living person and *his* Buddhism.”
- So Listen
- Then redefine and redeem their words & concepts

Resources:

- [Dan Strange, Christianity and world religions \(talk\)](#)
- [Dan Strange, Christian uniqueness, Pluralism and the 'Theology of Religions' \(article\)](#)
- [Tim Keller, Exclusivity: How can there be just one true religion? \(talk\)](#)
- [Tim Keller, Deconstructing Defeater Beliefs \(pdf\)](#)
- [Steve Scrivener, Principles for Apologetics from Paul at Athens \(pdf\)](#)