

## Understanding Hebrew Thinking

- Introduction
  - Brief personal testimony
  - Why this topic matters to me
  - Ray Vander Laan
- Let's talk about Western or Greek Thinking
  - Greeks are concrete thinkers
  - Definitions and organization
  - Hellenistic by nature meaning they elevate the human mind to the throne
    - Information is king
  - Ask "Who or What is GOD?"
  - The result of Greek thinking is you don't have to make a commitment to the information, its just information.
- Let's talk about Eastern or Hebrew Thinking
  - Hebrews are abstract thinkers
  - Stories and pictures
  - Hebrew word for Bread – lechem
    - Hebrew word for Place – bet
    - Where was Jesus Born? Bethlehem
    - Whats a place of Bread
    - What does Jesus Call Himself

- Bread of Life, Light of the World, Living Water
  - What is a manger – not a feeding trough, but a watering trough
  - Jesus was probably conceived on the Feast of Lights, born in Bethlehem (the bakery), and laid in a manger where the sheep drink.
- To a Hebrew numbers are first of all symbols and to a Greek they are first of all quantity or data
  - David and Goliath
    - 1 Sam. 17:4-7
    - Height - 6 cubits and a span, coat of armor – 6000 shekels, spear point – 600 shekels
      - What does that have to do with anything?
    - Genesis 3:15
- Greeks want to know information about God, Hebrews want a relationship
  - Religious Jews really are seeking relationship with God, they just haven't encountered Jesus yet.
    - Thermometer explanation
- Honey Bear exercise
  - Psalm 34:8
- What does Rabbi Mean?
  - Comes from the Hebrew raba, meaning “great” or “revered”, which is what it meant during the time of Christ

- More recently Rabbi is defined as: a Jewish scholar or teacher, especially one who studies or teaches Jewish law.
  - Talk about different types of Rabbi
    - Torah teachers, which were the majority of all Rabbi
    - Rabbi with s'mikhah (authority)
      - Matt 21:23 – 25
      - How do you get s'mikhah?
        - Only when 2 s'mikhahed Rabbi's give
        - John 1:29 – 34
      - Rabbi's with s'mikhah have Talmidim (Disciples)
        - What is a Talmid?
          - You want to be just like the Rabbi
          - Where he goes, you go 24 hours a day
        - This is where the religious Jews have an issue with Christianity.
- The study of the Torah started very early in a child's life
  - By the age of 12 some will have had the entire Torah memorized
    - If the Torah is not memorized, you were done. You go learn a trade if you're a boy, and if you're a girl you will be married shortly there after when you reach the age of menstruation.
    - If the Torah is memorized, then you move beyond memory to explanation of the Torah.

- You do this while you learn a trade with your father till the age of 15
  - If you pass this level, which few ever did, then you would study the entire Tanakh (old Testament) in depth until the age of 30. They would be a Talmid of a Rabbi with s'mikhah.
    - How do you become a Talmid of a Rabbi?
      - Your reputation has preceded you. May I follow you?
        - Recite Leviticus, Recite Deuteronomy, etc.
    - Not many made it
    - How did Jesus get his Talmidim?
      - Mark 1:16 – 20
      - He asked them, not the other way around!
- Talk about what yoke means
  - Doctrine, tenants or beliefs based on the Torah
  - Matt 11:30
- How do you find out what a Rabbi's yoke is?
  - Ask them what the greatest commandment is
    - Matt 22:15 – 40
- Are you a Talmid of Jesus?
  - Romans 8