

410 Interesting thoughts? But a question, too!

First, some thoughts generated by my ‘aerial view’ of the gospel and epistles of John:^[409]

- *The Word was with God, and the Word was God.* Jn 1:1
- *‘I and the Father are one.’* Jn 10:30
- *‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!’* Jn 14:9
- *‘So now, Father, glorify me, alongside yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world existed.’* Jn 17:5
- *That which was from the beginning ... the Word of Life.* ¹ Jn 1:1

Maybe I’m too simplistic, but it seems it would take a lot of complex ‘interpretation’ to read those verses and to conclude anything *other than* that Jesus **is God**. For example, what existed ‘before the world existed’? Answer: Only God. *QED* (Pause for thought?)

Now, if you’ve paused, and if you do fully believe that this was God in human form, walking the earth and speaking to people, and showing people... well, showing them God... then we need to pay very close attention to what he says and does.

– *He went through the whole of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, healing every disease and every illness among the people.* Mt 4:23

– *‘Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfil them.’* Mt 5:17

Look! Jesus ‘taught’ them from the Bible; but that was the **Old Testament**. Interesting?!

– *‘Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?’* Lk 24:32

They discovered that their Bible contained glorious seams of gold – the gold of God’s pure love and truth,^[408] and their lives were transformed! And yet, and yet... I have a question.

If I had been in one of those synagogues, I would have wanted to ask Jesus a question, and I want to ask it now, in the 21st century, on behalf of my own dear friends and family who say they couldn’t possibly believe in a God who ‘did all that stuff’ in the Old Testament.

Please, God, I really want an answer – for love’s sake, please help me!

So I asked an AI site: *How do Christians come to terms with Bible passages where God tells the Israelites to commit what today we would call genocide?* The AI gave me seven different ways of ‘interpreting’ the Bible. I wonder which one Jesus would have used?

But I do affirm, from my current thinking, that the OT is a *highly valuable document* (series of documents), which Jesus and the early church used to help people understand what God is like and how we need to respond, but it only really ‘makes sense’ when you ‘add’ Jesus – all he said and did. We can then see those veins of gold, and our lives can be transformed by the love and truth of the Word made flesh.