

A close-up photograph of a hand holding an open book. The book is held vertically, and bright, golden light rays emanate from the pages, creating a dramatic, ethereal effect. The background is dark, making the light from the book stand out. The text 'BOOK of JOHN' is overlaid on the image in a white, serif font. The word 'BOOK' is in a bold, all-caps font, 'of' is in a smaller, elegant script font, and 'JOHN' is in a bold, all-caps font.

BOOK *of* JOHN

DEBATING ABOUT JESUS – PART 2

JOHN 7:14-36

THE THREE GROUPS DEBATING IN OUR PASSAGE:

- **THE FIRST GROUP** was the Jewish leaders, “*the Jews*” who lived in Jerusalem and were attached to the temple ministry.
- **THE SECOND GROUP** would be “*the people*” (v. 12, 20, 31-32) who had come to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles.
- **THE THIRD GROUP** was composed of the Jews who resided in Jerusalem (v. 25).

SOTERIOLOGY: THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION

- The debate about how one becomes saved, or if one can be saved at all, or is it even necessary
- Who is this Jesus in our passage?
- Is Jesus the only way; God's only representative?
- Are Buddha, Muhammad, Brahman, and Jesus the same person?
- So, the question that is being debated is: ***DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO HEAVEN?***

SALVATION THROUGH THE LENSES OF THREE WORLD RELIGIONS

- 1. *BUDDHISM*** teaches the way of salvation is freedom from endless cycles of reincarnation.
 - It begins with two questions:
 - 1.** Why is there pain and suffering?
 - 2.** How does one break this rebirth cycle?
 - These basic tenets and answers are found in the Four Noble Truths and in the Eight-fold Path.

2. **ISLAM** teaches salvation by good works.

- Salvation is won by diligently observing the religious rituals prescribed by the five pillars of Islam:
 1. Reciting the confession or Shahada: *“There is no god but Allah; and Muhammad is his Messenger.”*
 2. Prayer
 3. Fasting
 4. Paying the divine tax
 5. The pilgrimage to Mecca

3. **HINDUISM** teaches many ways of salvation.

- The chief aim in Hinduism is to gain release from the cycle of reincarnation caused by karma—the consequences of actions now or in previous lives!
- To this end, there are four goals of life permissible to Hindus: ***Kama, Artha, Dharma***, and the final aim in life, ***Moksha***—liberation from the cycle of lives in this material world and entrance into Nirvana.
- There are three ways to ***Moksha***: karma yoga, jnana yoga, and bhakti yoga. **Yep, yoga saves.**

BACK TO OUR DEBATE IN JOHN 7

- Jesus had boldly announced that the leaders wanted to kill Him because He had violated the Sabbath and then claimed to be God. **John 5:10-18**
- He was once again claiming to be God!
- He was not simply born into this world like any other human; He was sent to earth by the Father. **Isa. 9:6**
- Within six months, Jesus would go back to the Father in heaven and the unsaved Jews would not be able to follow Him.

THE DEBATE IS ALWAYS ABOUT JESUS!

YET, THERE IS NO DEBATE ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE.

Acts 4:10-12; John 14:6; Romans 10:9

- Nothing and no one but Jesus will get you into heaven. You can debate who He is and what He is, you can change what He should be because you don't like what He said.
- But the Bible says that Jesus is God; Jesus is the only Savior and the only way to heaven.

THE ONLY REAL QUESTION IS: DO YOU BELIEVE IT?