

Marcus Borg

Marcus Borg is a member of the Jesus Seminar and a popular lecturer in the United States. His talk used the same material in his books but with a different slant.

His title: - deeply divided Christians was discussed.

The mainline Christians were deeply divided over a number of different topics eg the status of gays/lesbians. There were two different paradigms

A paradigm is described as a way of seeing a whole (eg the solar system before and after Copernicus).

1). The earlier paradigm.

A). Inerrancy of the Bible

B). The Virgin Birth

C). The atonement

D). The resurrection

D) Authenticity of the miracles

: - others : - belief in the second coming, the deity of Christ

D). The earlier paradigm.

The Bible is literally true eg Genesis. a divine product and consequences

Exclusive revelations

Christian life is faith central: belief in the afterlife is very important. Also sin, guilt, forgiveness of sins

All of the above concepts are really quite modern not ancient

Fundamentalists numerically dominant in the United States

Millions have left church because of the above ideas

Since 1965, a decrease of 40 per cent in congregations

The earlier paradigm is no longer persuasive to a large section of the public

2). The emerging Paradigm

Roots in Enlightenment

Dominant in seminaries in last 40 years. Is now taking root

Features: - non-doctrinal

Historical/metaphorical

They are human product not divine

No denial of the reality of god

The bible :not how it happened: metaphysical/ metaphorical: - fresh meaning according to the age in which it is read.

Thomas Mann a definition of myth: story about the way things never were but always are. Bible is true and some of it happened

Waddle's story's main more important had a very dry to Christian life

Resolution should with gold/transform her transforming.

Faith=radical trust in God

Faithfulness-loyalty-allegiance-commitment to god

Not correlation with the least

Cracks are positive  
Personal-grow up-born again-new identity  
Political-Kingdom of god

3). Christian fundamentals

A). Reality of God-otherwise innocent and Christian 30-but don't believe in God and their

B). Centrality of the Bible. Foundation document-stories-Wisdom tradition

C). Centrality of Jesus the divine revelation of God. Jesus trumps a viable the Bible

D). Vision of metaphor-sacrament mediator of the strict

E). Relation entrance hall transformation. Way his relationship with gold has known in Jesus. Spirituality-tractors-paying attention

Liberal emerging Vision

The new way requires a new name eg neo- traditional: neo-classical

In the future and there will be more Christians in the main line denominations\_who believe in the emerging paradym

## Funk

Jesus used metaphors

He talked of the everyday word world's. He was not a theologian.

He prefers to call the Kingdom of God the divine domain.

Right here and now.

In many of Jesus he called onto intuitive soldier's such as: -

The divine domain

1. Belongs to the core core

To. Love Your enemies: break drivers and tribalism

Hamish your mother and father

If you hair on to look like if you lose it. If you lose your life you will get it.

For give and you'll will be forgiven

No proffered as welcome in his own country

If somebody sues you for your coat giving Russia at

No rooms for demons

Consider Liz Liz Liz

He got so and rain encored and that

Call: all racers have equal status and declarer ruffed

## Science

1600: the second act or ensure age. Flat Earth: six-day creation: Sandra and if salmon and goes round the earth

Invention of the tours go/muggers could microscope.

Certain where the navigation of the Le Gros a circumnavigation of the club

Printing

Reformation

Looking for something and finding something else

Copernicus: changes view of heaven

Enlightenment: innovation of philosophers Liberals could spirit: reason replaces revelation

Darwin: genesis of fiction

Einstein: relativity

Quantum theory

String theory: 10 dimensions

Couple that at apocalypse apocalypse: increasing population again to sources in an ecosystem

The second Enlightenment

The 1960s

The death of God

Robinson: Honours to grant

These censuring of human species: humans not the centre of the overs Universe

Need for new liberalism

Jesus Seminar: Bible revision need it

Sunday morning expenses need for a newer symbols need a change in changing  
lingua Mel Gibson: end to Jewish: need to replace a class crosser as a symbol

Lib paragraph you go round of

Rise and fall of mythical symbols

Reality

Replace across as a symbol

Reprise all with new symbols eg towers go/Marcus Cook/round table

Free) human community: Faxon seminar found what they had in common

News symbolic you have as

Divine domain and untenable that during towards its.

Bead poll

A bishop in Denmark to suspend a preist for the following reason: he said it there was  
no heavenly God, no eternal life, no resurrection: but he wants to remain a Pastor  
How do you vote

Reds: He should be allowed continue

Pink: I am inclined to let him continue

Grey: I am not certain

Black: He should be suspended

The red and pink won by a large majority

## Spong

Spong confirms his Christian faith.  
He became a bishop at the age of 44

1) Cannot step outside Christianity  
He believes that God is in person of Jesus  
God was in Christ

2). He has a child of the 21st century  
God is a real presence  
He traces the development of Christianity from Plato to Augustine to the reformation

Truth is delineated by the reality and the age  
Christianity is reformulated in every generation

3). Abandon theism  
Jesus-incarnation of the deity  
The skies are empty  
No wandering star  
No Ascension  
No judge  
No miracles  
No original sin  
No Virgin Birth  
No resurrection  
Jesus did not die for your sins

The above is post Darwin nonsense  
Freud: to perpetuate immaturity  
Born again-child order-given up  
No ultimate truths  
No ethical norms  
That the nurses-across roads-God is dead

4) God is real?  
He is not a non-realist  
God Source of life not a meddler  
Part of what I am but not all  
Life-force  
Love: Transcendent and unbounded  
God is love  
Love = God  
Jesus = experience of love  
Ultimate symbol of love  
God in Christ  
God is real-all that we are-source of life-living fully-  
Love fully and wastefully  
Paul Tillich –ground of being being  
Jesus-source of love

The quest for history of Christ not a priority, not essential  
Not about supernatural power  
Not theist-not human  
Call of Christ=who we are  
Realm of divine  
I have come that you may have life and have it more abundantly

## Holloway

### Author of godless morality

- 1). First part : Bristol heart surgery inquiry  
Doctors harbouring organs of children  
Parents: said OK if there are they had asked  
For the benefit of the public  
Consent an ethical norm
- 2). Paradigm shift  
Thomas Kuhn -paradigm theory-world-view- How science operates. Book: Structure of Scientific Revolution  
Differences between scientists: right now  
Religious paradigm: Paradigm hang around : human need for continuity
- 3) Power system which causes victims. Karl Marx explains : victims must rise up  
Nietzsche: victim make alliance with heretics=and for reform and freedom eg women had enough  
Heretics - versus power
- 3). Emerging cultural paradigm
  - A). Radical suspicion of authority: who are the victims of American power
  - B). Consent is fundamental eg medicine/sexual ethics/abuse of children/Ethicswar/consent of the public eg Blair
  - C). Pleasure is good Edon't wait until after death
  - D). Celebrate ethical pluralityGood people can disagree: no one holistic view
- 4). Organist=Fixed ethical commitment eg Roman Catholic  
OK to be orthodox=Conservative  
Ethical jazz. Change always happens: therefore necessary do improvise  
Life is a jazz session
- 5) Bishops: radical before and after but not during  
Bishops are cowardly because they have to create unity. This is why bishops replicate against bishops: Rowan Williams changed by unity: survival of institutions. Don't quarrel with the Conservatives.

Lloyd Geering

He describes his conversion to Christianity. He'd also learned Science then theology.  
Joined the Presbyterian Church.

Difference between Spong and Borg and ;Himself and Cupitt in their concept of god

The world has reached a critical point: the future is global  
There is going to be a common future or no future at all!  
The evolution of cultures is based on symbols  
Culture/language discriminate us from the other animals  
He is humanistic: human creation:  
This worldly. There is one vast physical universe with eternal laws and evolving.  
The world is secular not religious  
Religion =supernatural, Secular this worldly  
The second axial age: led to a modern global second world  
It emerged out of the JC tradition: William of Ockham: : renaissance humanists:  
Erasmus:Luther : John Locke  
Post Christian led to rules and customs of Christianity.  
Fundamentalists: support superstition  
Incarnation led to humanisation of god .  
and the secular tradition

1)The first axial had god and spirits as symbols:  
The Jews developed monotheism; circumcision, observance of the 7thday  
Genesis relates to the Sabbath day  
2)The second axial age  
Divine revelation has now gone  
God in heaven has lost reality  
New kind of God: god =values we live by  
Love: passion: justice =human values  
Freedom: Truth will make you free  
Enlightenment : think for yourself: publish: speak  
Kingdom of God in the secular world.  
Human coming-of-age: Kingdom of God in secular world  
Inherent worth-not divine  
Humans coming of age: love, peace inherent values  
Purgatory/hell/Heaven abolished  
Heresy=choice: to choose own way  
Expansion of choice  
Fundamentalists are also heretics because they are in a prison  
Study of the past illuminate the present not dictate the future  
Important concepts

1). Faith: : he needed a voice within him=faith=Yes to life  
2). Hope. Original intention of Kingdom of God: Peace  
3) Love-central to JC tradition  
Original dictum of Christ: love Your enemies. Christians find this most difficult  
Love is not a result of a reward, it is now a spontaneous  
The secular tradition tells you to exercise values live more abundantly shedding  
symbols and live life to the full.

Don Cupitt

1). Response to Jack Spong

Jack believes there is something out there called god

Don believes that there is nothing outside our human experience-our language-our world.

He illustrated this by talking about an Atlas: if you take everything on the map there is nothing left

Perception=interpretation

2). The TV show Simpsons is a work of art: it is full of irony and all aspects of US life are mocked. In this way it is like a Jane Austen novel. Regarding the state of religion in Springfield: one member of the family is a fundamentalist: but the rest of liberal Protestants. The Simpson family are typical of US church attenders. The minister is Reverend Lovejoy who is an intellectual disaster: says eg God loves us victims

3). There is no absolute truth and no absolute right and wrong eg controversy gay marriage

The new ways of thinking are kept within the university/medical profession which is a prison for ideas

3) Don's creed

A). True religion is your own voice

B). " " Living your own life

C). " " Solar living: to live like the sun

D) True religion is productive: value of realising action

E). Faith: letting : float free: getting along with your own life

There is nothing out there

Religion is about creative : productive activity and personal style. Personal freedom

The new religion: enjoy life: Tolstoy: life is everything: life is God: God is life

Get a life!

The Quakers have an excellent way: Kingdom Christianity: ethical Pioneers

Also Japanese Buddhism

Truth, common to and not an: in a all

Democratic theology

The age of the Common speech: not great men eg Shakespeare any more

Given up revelation

Religious democracy

News Spirituality: personal religion

Empty radical humanism: when Clark personal way of commitment: the end of the ecclesiastical Christianity

God is a secular humanist : Feurbach.

Religion is made for man and not man for religion

Christianity is not their only way and Christians should give up their privileged status

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Questions

Spong and Borg are critical realists

Hollings has now abandoned critical realism agree with Cupitt

Karen is neither

Philip Pullman 's novels

Cupitt would like to retell the New Testament as myth nick Ruhi

## Karen Armstrong

Armstrong

The axial age was defined by Karl Jaspers after 1st WW

The first age was between 800 BC and 200 C E

Axial=pivotal: major turnaround

Budda, Confucius, Socrates and the Jewish Prophets

The second axial age started in the 16th century when the agrarian society changed into a technological age. There were no spiritual Greats

Many religious views were difficult to believe

Plato:

1).Myth=meaning

2). Logos(reason): practical, logical, rational, mathematics, medicine.

Need for both myth and logos

Myth=meaning leads to religion: life has ultimate meaning

In the second axial age, logos increased and myth decreased

Myth=timeless truth, related to ritual eg mass

Yearning for Ecstasy-ideas-transcendence

Ecstasy=standing out side oneself

Transcendence=goes beyond

In the first axial age, God was not defined

Trinity=not a simple personality (eg Gregory of Nicaea three goes to one, one and goes to 3)

Theology=poetry=lift

Not necessary to define God

Pre modern: live first then you'll understand

Live=nirvana

Religion=ethical alchemy

Living ethically will change you

Jesus did not talk about God but doing good, healing, leaving a good life

Koran: why argue about the divinity of Jesus

Live a good life good to share your life

Judaism: Tora: doing things

Religion=doing things which transform

Jesus a rebel

Budha: speak truth within yourself

How to live a good life

Feeling better when you do right

Unfortunately denigration of women

On Dying: find answers with yourself

The axial spirit what to do by yourself

Story from border: helps you crossed river, after wards are not a burden  
she likes Greek Orthodox religion  
ego=I want  
Survival is struggle  
Give yourself away  
Axial age leads true compassion  
Confucius was the first to say do not as you would not do to yourself

Step outside oneself: ecstasy

Charity: no self  
Love: benevolence

Rabbi Hilliel same ideas as Confucius

Axial age during a period of great violence eg the Grats profets

God is there but we cannot see it

Did not approval of the Mel Gibson movie

Logos gone mad and unskilful

Eugenie Scott

Religion

There is a Transcendental reality( God

Humanists /atheists disagree with this

Stated she was humanist

Evolution =Cumulative change

Survival of the fit enough

Natural selection only one of the mechanisms

Intelligent design ( Paley's watch) view of evolution now in vogue.

Talked about problems of the anti-evolutionists lobby in the US

Non existent in Europe

Reason why : Parents believe that if they were taught evolution their children would lose faith and they would not received the blessings of forgiveness of sins and everlasting life