

The Left-Out Man in the Middle

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I. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—Isaac was the left out man in the middle

A. Abraham—His story is told from Gen 12-25—And thru Judeo-Christian history

Gen 12:1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

Gen 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation..

Gen 22:2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only *son* Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Gen 24:4 But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a wife unto my son Isaac.

B. Jacob—His story is told from Gen 27-50—And thru Judeo-Christian history

Gen 27:19 And Jacob said unto his father, I *am* Esau thy firstborn; I have done according as thou badest me: arise, I pray thee, sit and eat of my venison, that thy soul may bless me.

Gen 27:20 And Isaac said unto his son, How *is it* that thou hast found *it* so quickly, my son? And he said, Because the LORD thy God brought *it* to me.

Gen 50:7 And Joseph went up to bury his father: and with him went up all the servants of Pharaoh, the elders of his house, and all the elders of the land of Egypt,

C. Isaac—His story is told in Gen 25-26—History mentions him as the middle man

Gen 24:67 And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her: and Isaac was comforted after his mother's *death*.

Gen 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she *was* barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

Gen 26:3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father;

Gen 27:1 And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, *here am I*.

Gen 27:2 And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death:

Gen 35:28 And the days of Isaac were an hundred and fourscore years.

Gen 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, *being* old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

II. Peter, James and John—James was the left out middle man

A. Peter—His story spans the New Testament

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Joh 6:68 ...Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Mat 14:29 ...he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

Act 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice...

1Pe 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout...

B. John—His story spans the New Testament

Joh 13:23 ...there was leaning on Jesus' bosom one of his disciples, whom Jesus loved.

Joh 20:3 Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1Jn 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes...and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ...unto his servant John:

C. James—Except for his death—He is not mentioned unless with Peter and/or John

1. Peter, James and John left all and followed Jesus

Luk 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, **they forsook all, and followed him.**

2. Jesus named Peter, James and John as apostles

Mar 3:16 And Simon he surnamed Peter;

Mar 3:17 And James the *son* of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, **The sons of thunder:**

3. Jesus invited Peter, James and John to witness the raising of Jairus' daughter

Mar 5:35 ...Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further?

Mar 5:36 As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.

Mar 5:37 And he suffered no man to follow him, save **Peter, and James, and John** the brother of James.

4. Jesus allowed Peter, James and John to witness His transfiguration

Mar 9:2 And after six days Jesus taketh *with him* **Peter, and James, and John**, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them.

5. Jesus reprimanded James and John for requesting fire

Luk 9:53 And they did not receive him...

Luk 9:54 And when his disciples **James and John** saw *this*, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

Luk 9:55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

6. James and John requested the choice seats in the kingdom

Mar 10:35 And **James and John**, the sons of Zebedee, come unto him, saying, Master, we would that thou shouldest do for us whatsoever we shall desire.

Mar 10:36 And he said unto them, What would ye that I should do for you?

Mar 10:37 They said unto him, Grant unto us that we may sit, one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left hand, in thy glory...

Mar 10:41 And when the ten heard *it*, they began to be much displeased with James and John.

7. Peter, James and John fell asleep when Jesus asked them to pray at Gethsemane

Mar 14:33 And he taketh with him **Peter and James and John**, and began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy;

Mar 14:34 And saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.

8. Toward the end—It turned out to be Peter and John—Without James

Luk 22:8 ...he sent **Peter and John**, saying, Go and prepare us the passover...

Act 3:1 Now **Peter and John** went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer...

Act 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb...

Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of **Peter and John**, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Act 4:19 But **Peter and John** answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.

Act 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them **Peter and John**:

9. James quietly and finally slipped away—As the first apostle who was martyred

Act 12:2 And he (*King Herod*) killed **James** the brother of John with the sword.

III. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit—Jesus is the left out ‘man’ in the middle

A. God—The rational mind of mankind recognizes that there must be a God

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

B. The Spirit—Even in the pagans, some kind of rationale recognizes a ‘Great Spirit’

Joh 4:24 God *is* a Spirit...

C. Jesus—The middle ‘man’ of the Godhead—The one that rationale cannot explain

1. The absurdity of the whole idea of God being a ‘man’

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...

Isa 7:14 ...a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Gal 4:4 ...God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

2. The unexplainable paradoxes of God being a man

Starting as nothing—In a womb—Born—In a manger—Sleeping—Growing
Walking—Hungry—Thirsty—Homeless—Weary—Troubled—Sighing—Groaning
In an agony—Crying—‘*If it be possible...*’—On a cross—‘*Why?*’—Dying—Buried

3. Jesus—The ‘man’ who lived—To die—So the dead—Would live

Heb 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

Heb 8:3 For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.

Heb 10:5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

4. The middle ‘man’ in the Godhead is the ‘middleman’ between God and man

Job 9:33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, *that* might lay his hand upon us both.

Rom 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Heb 9:24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: