

**Table 3: The “Two Religions” in the Gospels**

THEMES	JESUS	SUPPORTERS OF EMPIRE	EXAMPLE OF JESUS’ RESPONSE TO EMPIRE’S CLAIMS
Source of “divine power”	YHWH, the “Sky Father,” Creator of heaven and earth	YHWH <i>and</i> gods of empire	No power unless given from above
God’s “home”	Amidst God’s people	In imperially-sanctioned temples	Temple is coming down
Places of sacred encounter	River, mountain, wilderness, gatherings in Jesus’ name, especially provision of hospitality and table fellowship	Temple and synagogue	Temple is “robber’s den”; synagogues are possessed by unclean spirits
Purpose of human life	Praise God joyously in gratitude for the gift of life	To serve the gods through loyalty (Gk, <i>pistis</i> , “faith”) to empire	Trust in God and Jesus alone
Source of religious authority	Jesus	Priestly/scribal elite	Elite don’t know Scriptures or power of God
Basic social structure	Egalitarian kinship	Hierarchical patronage	Jesus’ family are those who hear the Word of God and do it; churches consist of “brothers and sisters”
Basic economic structure	Gift exchange	Money and debt	All debts forgiven (jubilee); God provides what people need as gift
Basic social architecture	House and village	Megalopolis	Babylon is fallen; discipleship communities in houses
Basic political structure	Kingdom/Lordship of God	Kingdom/Lordship of Caesar	Can’t serve two masters
Relationship with unknown “others”	Healing all divisions	Generate and defend “borders” and “boundaries”	Crossing to “other side”; going to Samaria

<b>Religious “obligations”</b>	Love and praise of God and neighbor expressed in “right relationship” (justice), forgiveness and love of all	Rituals expressing loyalty to “patrons,” both “divine” and human	It is not to be this way among you
<b>Relationship with earth/land</b>	Belongs to God; people are “tenants”	Belongs to King and those who can afford to buy it; others are tenants and slaves	Sell land and share proceeds
<b>Relationship with “enemies”</b>	Love them	Destroy them	Invite even Roman soldiers to participate in God’s reign