

Counterfeit Christs

A study of false saviors and false salvation

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24

Counterfeit Christs

The Counterfeit Christ of Mythology

“The reality is, Jesus was the Solar Deity of the Gnostic Christian sect and like all other Pagan gods, he was a mythical figure.”

– Internet Movie Zeitgeist

“Why should we consider the stories of Osiris, Dionysus, Adonis, Attis, Mithras, and the other pagan mystery saviors as fables, yet come across essentially the same story told in a Jewish context and believe it to be the biography of a carpenter from Bethlehem?”

– Timothy Freke/Peter Gandy

“The Jesus Mysteries” was a very important book for me in leaving Christianity...”

– Skeptic Forum Post

“An erudite and well-researched book stuffed with plenty of controversial ideas.”
—Book of the Year 1999, *THE DAILY TELEGRAPH*

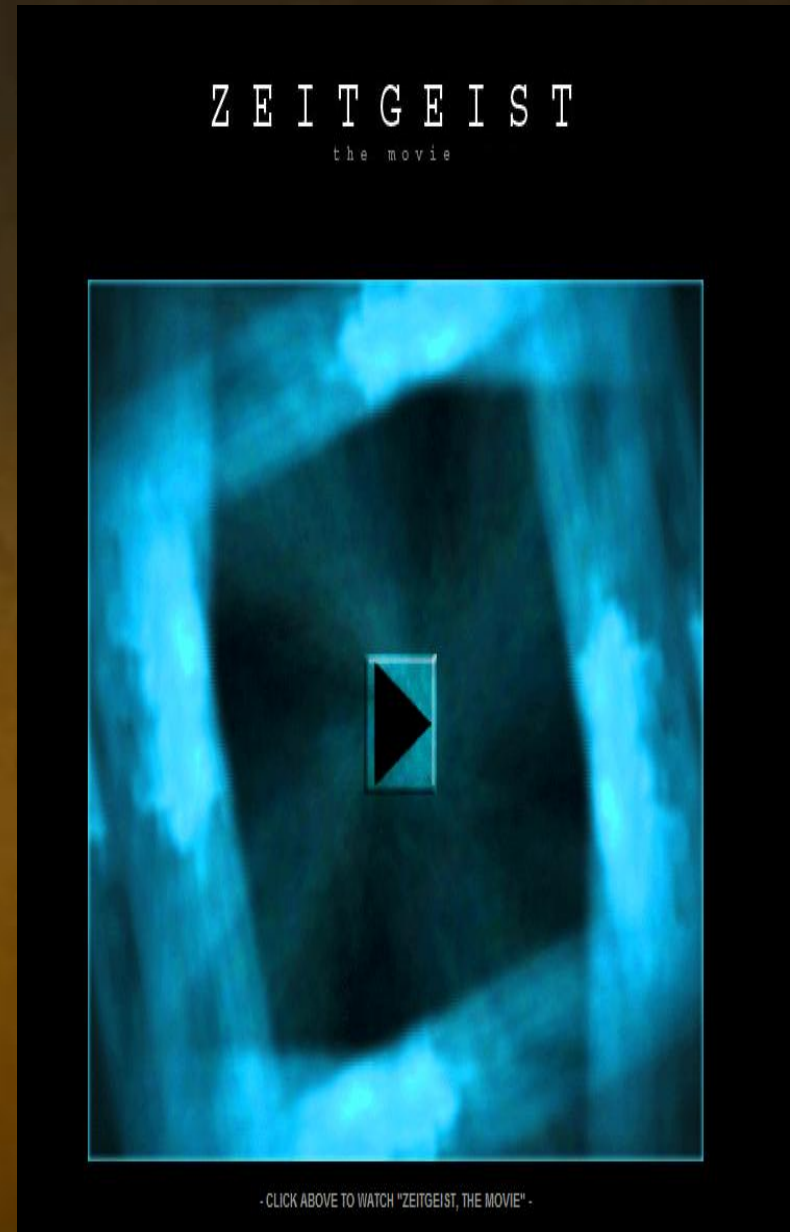
THE JESUS MYSTERIES



WAS THE “ORIGINAL JESUS”
A PAGAN GOD?

TIMOTHY FREKE & PETER GANDY

“The reality is, Jesus was the Solar Deity of the Gnostic Christian sect and like all other Pagan gods, he was a mythical figure. It was the political establishment that sought to historize the Jesus figure for social control. By 325 a.d. in Rome, emperor Constantine convened the Council of Nicea. It was during this meeting that the politically motivated Christian Doctrines were established and thus began a long history of Christian bloodshed and spiritual fraud.”
-Zeitgeist Transcript





Questions That Need Answers:

1. Did Jesus of Nazareth actually live?
2. Where do these claims of a mythological Jesus come from and what are they?
3. Was the Person of Jesus distorted into something much more by His disciples or others?

A Warning about Discernment

"Error, indeed, is never set forth in its naked deformity, lest being thus exposed, it should at once be detected. But it is craftily decked out in an attractive dress, so as by its outward form, to make it appear to the inexperienced... more true than truth itself."

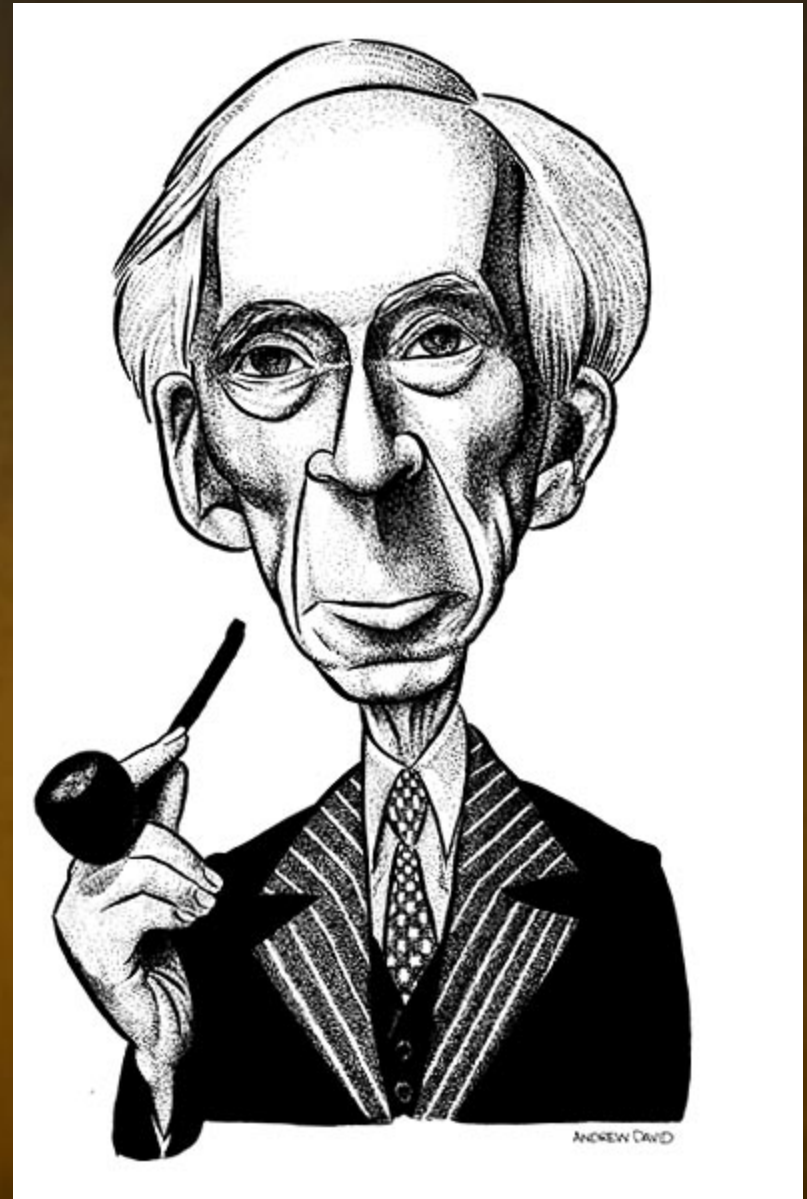
- Irenaeus



Did Jesus of Nazareth actually live?

“Historically it is quite doubtful whether Christ ever existed at all, and if he did we know nothing about him.”

– Bertrand Russell
Why I am not a Christian, 16

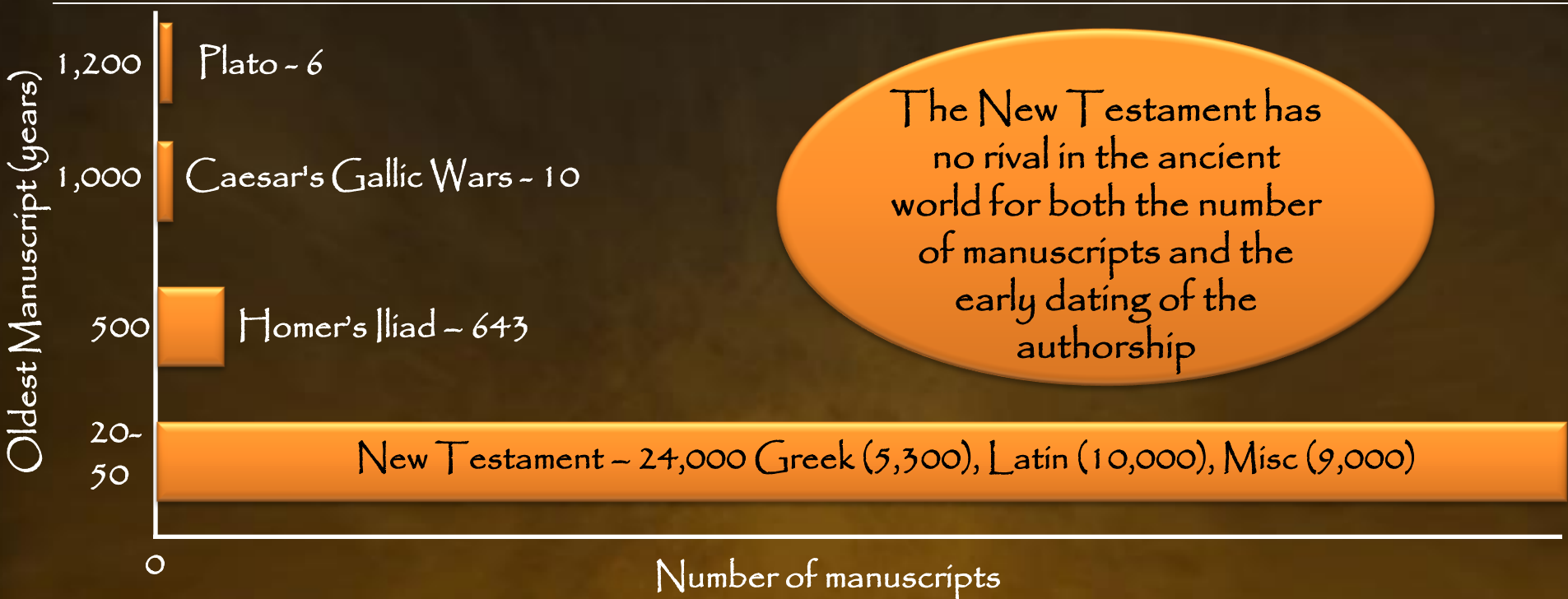


How History is Understood/Believed

Eyewitness accounts that were accurately and faithfully recorded by those who can be trusted.

1. Bibliographical Test – how reliable are the manuscripts we have and how early is the dating?
2. Internal Evidence Test – is the document free of contradictions and do the accounts match?
3. External Evidence Test – is their external evidence that corroborates the document's testimony?

How Does the New Testament Rate?



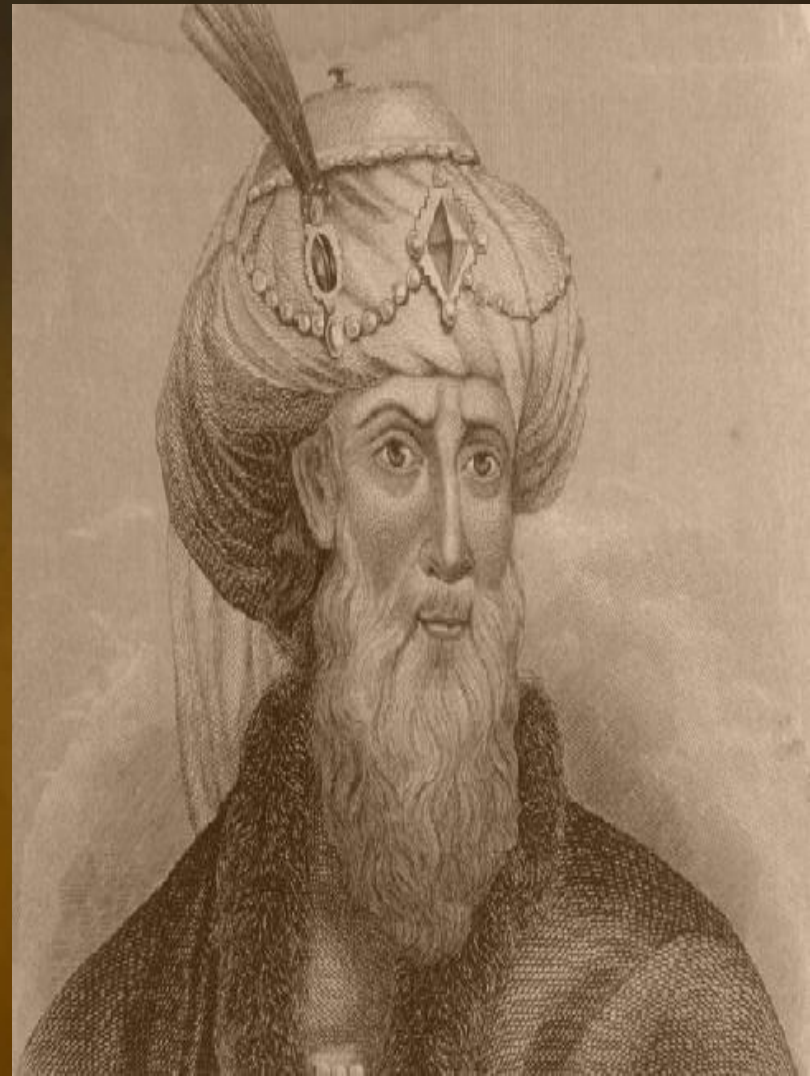
“We can already say emphatically that there is no longer any solid basis for dating any book of the New Testament after about A.D. 80. In my opinion, every book of the New Testament was written by a baptized Jew between the 40’s and the 80’s of the first century (very probably sometime between about A. D. 50 and 75)”

- William F. Albright, Archaeologist

Extra-Biblical Writings of Jesus

“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good and was known to be virtuous. Many people among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive; accordingly, he was perhaps the messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”

– Antiquities 18.3.3
(undisputed rendering)



Extra-Biblical Writings of Jesus – Enemy Attestation

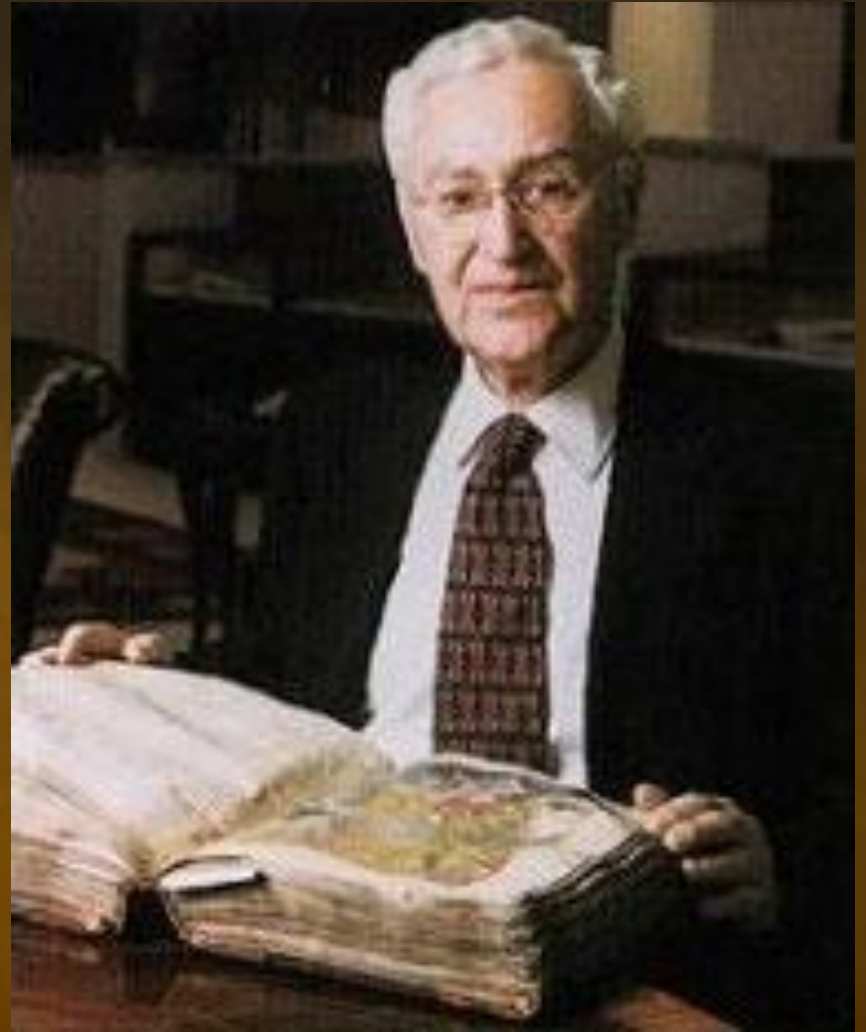
“Nero substituted as culprits and punished with the utmost refinements of cruelty, a class of men loathed for their vices whom the crowd styled Christians. Christus, from whom they got their name, had been executed by sentence of the procurator Pontius Pilate when Tiberius was emperor.”
– Tacitus (Roman historian), Annals, Book 15.

“They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang an anthem to Christ as God, and bound themselves by a solemn oath not to commit any wicked deed...”
– Pliny the Younger, Letters, series 10.

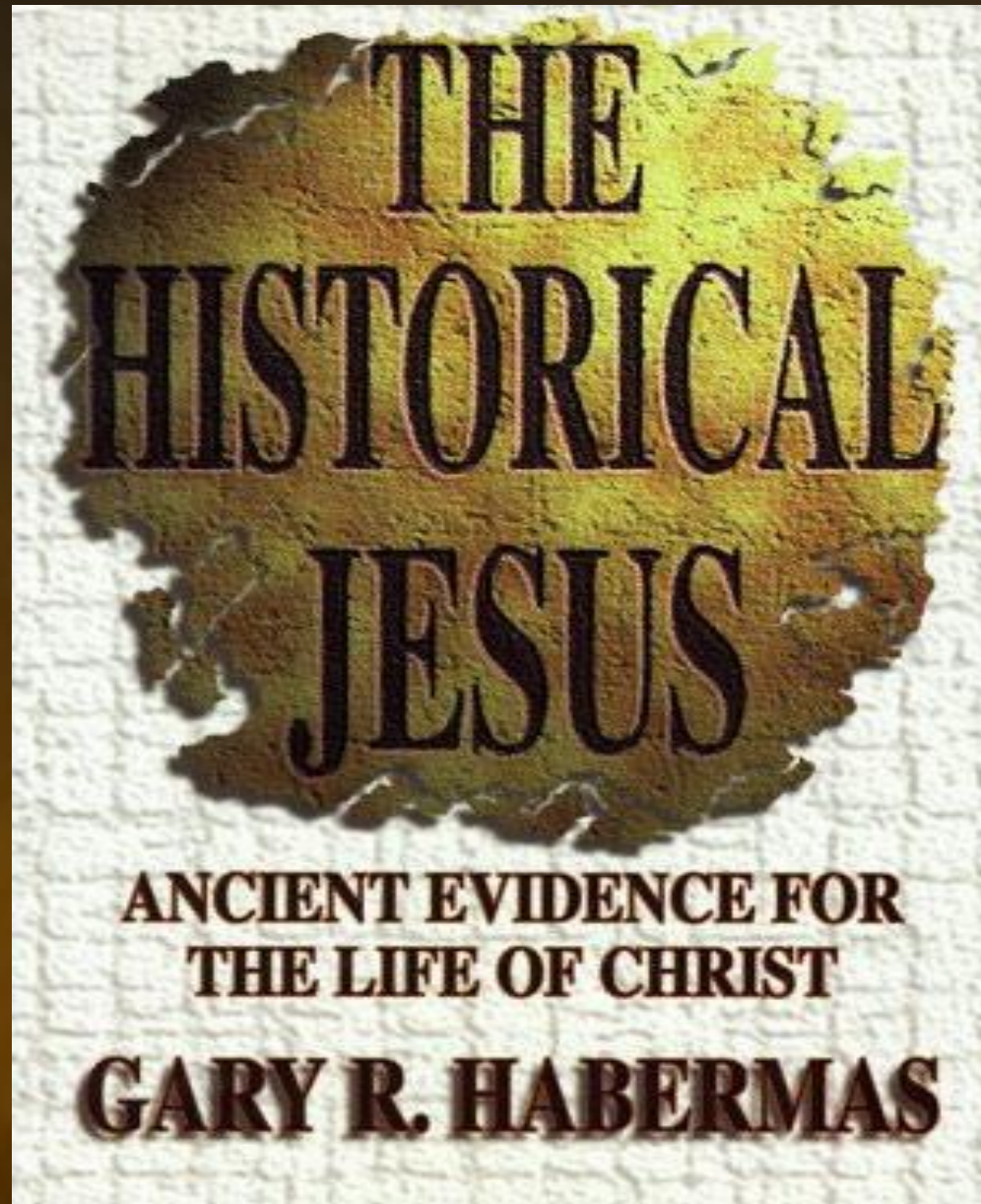
“On the eve of Passover Yeshua was hanged ... since nothing was brought forward in his favour he was hanged on the eve of the Passover!”
– Jewish Talmud, Sanhedrin 43a.

Jesus is referenced by more historians of antiquity than the Roman emperor at the time (Jesus' 43 vs. Tiberius' 10).

“Today no
competent
scholar denies
the historicity of
Jesus.”
- Bruce
Metzger, Ph.D.



For More Information on the Historicity of Christ...



Where do these claims of a mythological
Jesus come from and what are they?

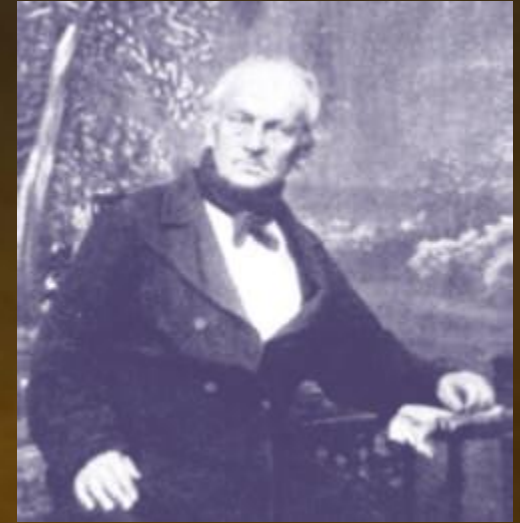
Two Points to Keep in Mind



1. The seriousness of any truth claim dictate the amount of evidence necessary to support it.
2. The evidence should follow accepted scholarly standards (e.g. use of original sources, early dating of sources close to the event, consistency in reports, etc.)

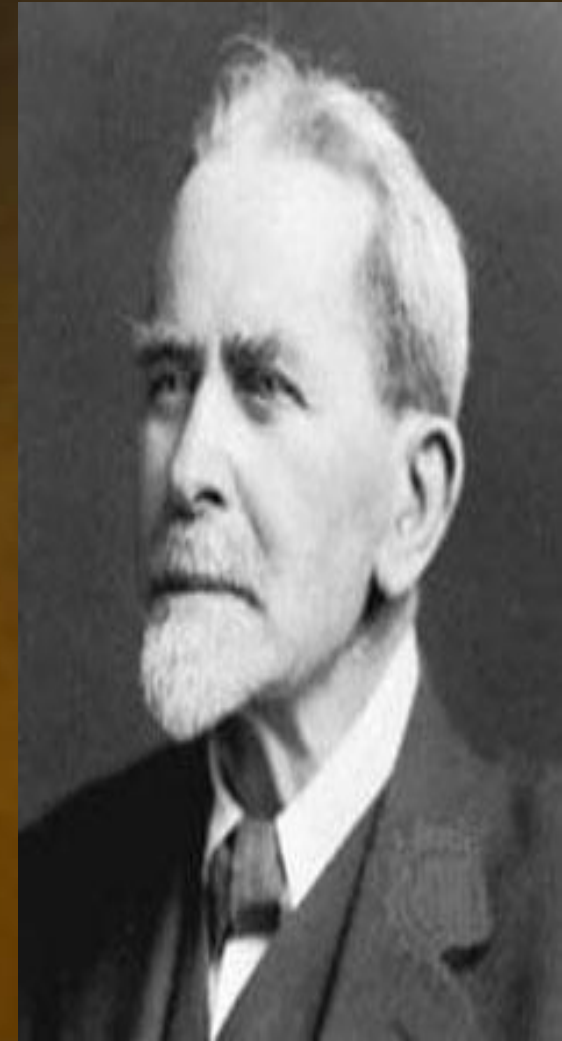
Sources for Mythological Jesus Claims

Although some may argue for the participation of other, earlier historical figures, most historians peg the start of these claims with a man named Bruno Bauer (1809 – 1882). Bauer was a German theologian, philosopher and historian who looked at the sources of the New Testament and controversially concluded that early Christianity owed more to Greek philosophy (Stoicism) than to Judaism. Starting in 1840, he began a series of controversial works arguing that Jesus was a myth, a second century fusion of Jewish, Greek, and Roman theology. His work was picked up by Albert Kalthoff (1850-1906) who followed Bauer's extreme skepticism about the historical Jesus. Kalthoff went so far as to claim that Jesus of Nazareth never existed and was not the founder of Christianity.



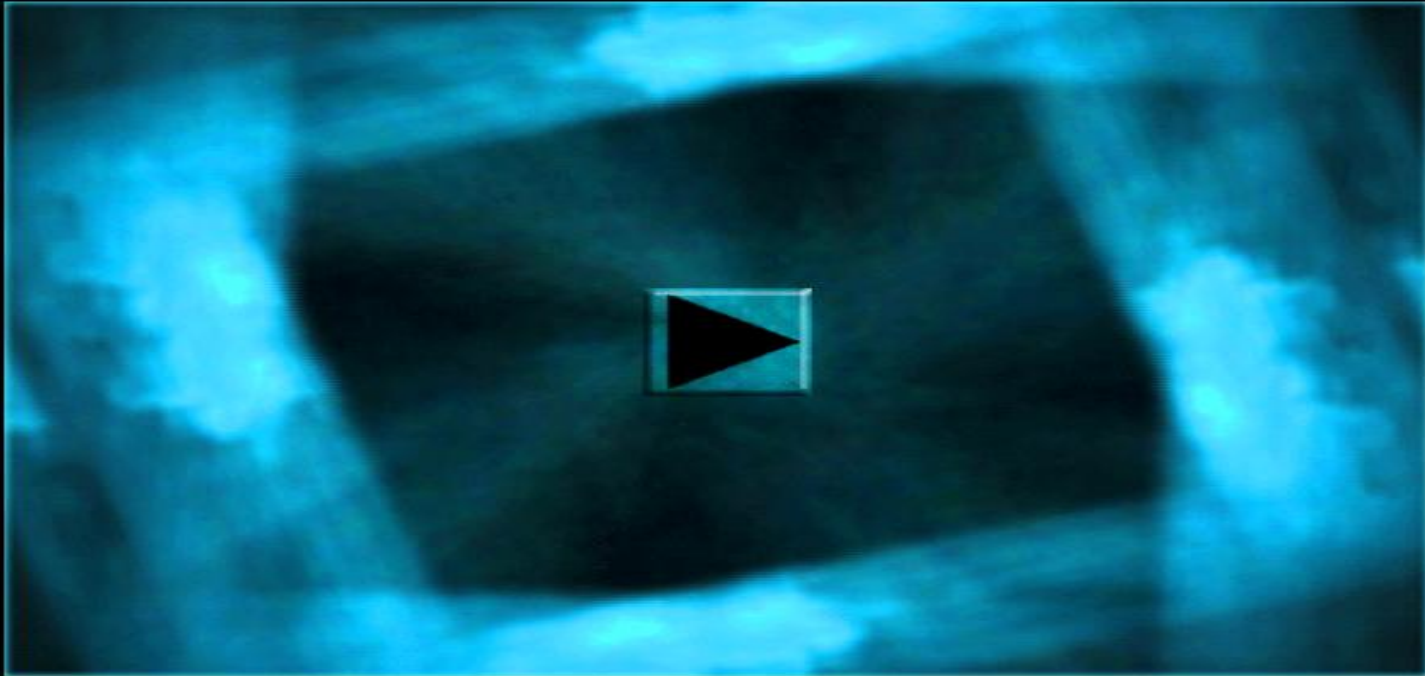
Sources for Mythological Jesus Claims

After Bauer and Katlhoff came others, with the most notable being James Frazer who wrote a work entitled **The Golden Bough** where he argued the theory of there being widespread worship of dying and rising fertility gods in various places - Tammuz in Mesopotamia, Adonis in Syria, Attis in Asia Minor, and Osiris in Egypt. Frazer's view has been adopted by many who little realize its fragile foundations, with the explanation of the Christian Resurrection by such a comparative-religions approach even being reflected in official Soviet propaganda. In the 1930s three influential French scholars, M. Goguel, C. Guignebert, and A. Loisy, added to Frazer's claims by interpreting Christianity as a syncretistic religion formed under the influence of Hellenistic mystery religions. And today, modern propagators of this thinking include the producers of the internet movie *Zeitgeist*, Dan Brown, and Freke and Gandy.



Z E I T G E I S T

the movie



- CLICK ABOVE TO WATCH "ZEITGEIST, THE MOVIE" -

Produced by "Peter Joseph"; real name is James Coyman. Use biblical pseudonym to help credibility and protect himself. Watched millions of times and purports to have 40,000 new people view it each day. From where does his information come?

Modern Day Voices of the Myth Claim

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- [S8] - Acharya S.: Suns of God, Adventures Unlimited Press, 2004. Page 86-95
- [S9] - Olcott, William Tyler : Suns Lore of All Ages, The Book Tree, 1914. Page 157
- [S10] - Mackenzie, Donald: Egyptian Myth and Legend, 1907 Page 163
- [S11] - Churchward, Albert: The Origin & Evolution of Religion, Page 48, 51
- [S12] - Acharya S.: Suns of God, Adventures Unlimited Press, 2004. Page 92, 113
- [S13] - Acharya S.: The Christ Conspiracy, Adventures Unlimited Press, 1999. Page 257-259
- [S14] - Massey, Gerald.: The Historical Jesus and the Mythical Christ, The Book Tree, . Page 39-40
- [S15] - Septehenses, Clerk De.: Religions. of the Ancient. Greeks, p. 214.
- [S16] - Doane, Thomas.: Bible Myths and Their Parallels in Other Religions, p. 327-328
- [S17] - Massey, Gerald.: The Historical Jesus and the Mythical Christ, The Book Tree, . Page 40
- [S18] - Hall, Manly P.: The Secret Teachings of All Ages, 1928. Page 53-56 [Chapter 7: "Isis, the Virgin of the World"]
- [S19] - Massey, Gerald.: The Historical Jesus and the Mythical Christ, The Book Tree, Page 12-13
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- [S21] - Walker, Barbara: Women's Encyplodia of Myths and Secrets, p. 748-754
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- [S23] - Massey, Gerald.: Ancient Egypt The Light of The World ,Cosimo Classics, Pages 613-620
- [S24] - Massey, Gerald. :Ancient Egypt The Light of The World ,Cosimo Classics, Pages 614
- [S25] - Massey, Gerald.: Ancient Egypt The Light of The World ,Cosimo Classics, Pages 600-607
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- [S27] - Massey, Gerald.: Ancient Egypt The Light of The World ,Cosimo Classics, Pages 623-661
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- [S29] - Massey, Gerald.: The Historical Jesus and the Mythical Christ, The Book Tree, . Pages 74-75
- [S30] - Acharya S.: The Christ Conspiracy, Adventures Unlimited Press, 1999. Page 115
- [S31] - Massey, Gerald.: The Historical Jesus and the Mythical Christ, The Book Tree, . Pages 43-47
- [S32] - Acharya S.: Suns of God , Adventures Unlimited Press, 2004. Page 93
- [S33] - Churchward, Albert: The Origin & Evolution of Religion, Page 135

Sources for Mythological Jesus Claims



Attacked by apologists and
atheists alike!
Find out what the fuss is all
about!

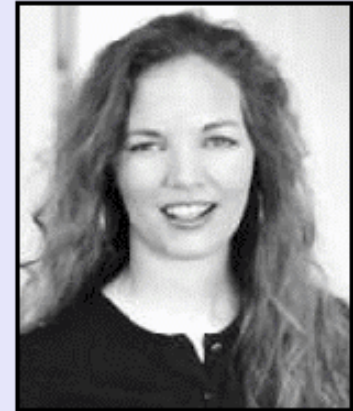
"The Most Important Book of Our
Time"

***The Christ Conspiracy:
The Greatest Story Ever Sold***

***"The Christ Conspiracy makes The Da
Vinci Code look like kid's stuff!"***

**What's the shocking truth behind the
real story of Jesus Christ?**

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by Acharya S

Member, American School of Classical
Studies, Athens
Scholar of Archaeology, History,
Mythology and Languages

- Real name: D. Murdock; "Acharya" means guru or teacher
- BA, liberal arts Classics, Greek Civilization, from Franklin and Marshall College.
- Quoted verbatim in Zeitgeist
- Books published by Adventures Unlimited Press (also publishes books on time travel, the existence of werewolves, and the lost city of Atlantis).
- Work not touched by one reputable publishing house

Sources for Mythological Jesus Claims

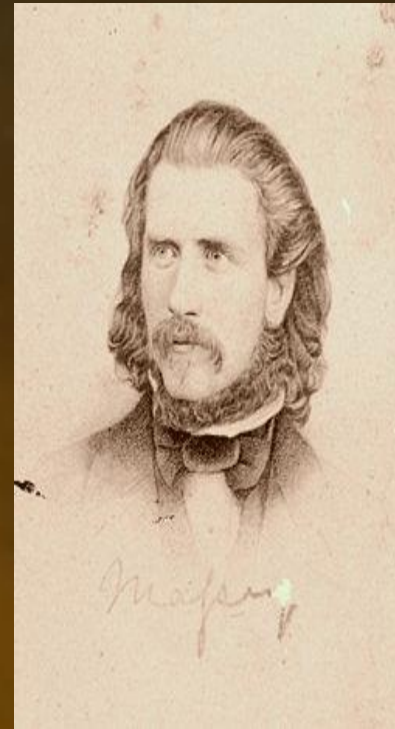
- Believes Jesus never existed (a view shared by no New Testament scholar)
- All the gospels not penned until after AD 150 (a view shared by no New Testament scholar)
- Asserts all of Paul's letters are forgeries
- Says no reliable external sources exist to testify about Jesus
- Believes astrology and the zodiac was a key factor in both the Old and New Testament. However, Scripture forbids astrology (Deut. 4:19) plus Genesis was written around 1,000 B.C. with the actual events having occurred even earlier. History shows that the division of the stars/constellations into the 12 zodiacal signs did not occur until the Babylonians made the divisions around the fifth century B.C. so the timing is off
- Quotes Adolf Hitler as saying that it was his Christian convictions which led him to attempt to exterminate the Jews. Source is *The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets!*
- Makes many claims such as the story of Lazarus' rising from the dead being an Egyptian myth without sources (or uses secondary sources)



"I read Acharya's books and enjoyed them. If you read the feedback in the "Emails I have loved" section on her website, you'll encounter a number of people who have benefited from her books: they stopped believing in Christ." – Skeptic forum post

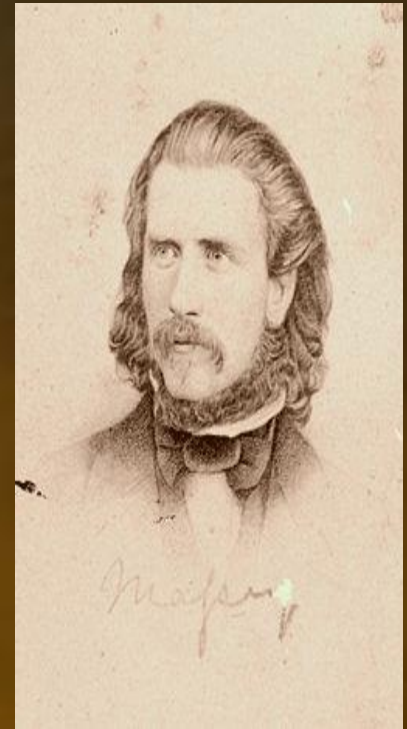
Sources for Mythological Jesus Claims

- Gerald Massey: Born in England; 1828-1907
- Not a trained/learned archaeologist or Egyptologist, but a poet
- Asserted that Christianity borrowed its religion from Egypt myth
- Uses as key source of evidence Toledeth Jeshu, "Book of the Lineage of Jesus", a widely discredited historical source (dated around 6th century) that is sometimes used to 'prove' that Jesus never actually existed
- Asserts many things in writings without sources or references
- Dr. W. Gasque, Ph.D., (Manchester, Harvard), investigated Massey (among others like him) with learned Egyptologists: "I sent an email to twenty leading Egyptologists – in Canada, USA, UK, Australia, Germany, and Austria... That the god Horus is "an Egyptian Christos, or Christ.... He and his mother, Isis, were the forerunners of the Christian Madonna and Child, and together they constituted a leading image in Egyptian religion for millennia prior to the Gospels ... The responding scholars were unanimous in dismissing the suggested etymologies for Jesus and Christ."



Sources for Mythological Jesus Claims

- Developed strong interest in psychic phenomena between the years 1862 and 1877 and wrote a book on spiritualism in 1871
- Began lecturing on mesmerism (medical quackery developed in the 18th century that deals with hypnosis induced through animal magnetism), the mystical interpretation of the Bible, and spiritualism
- Began contributing articles to "Lucifer magazine", which was started by a woman named H. P. Blavatsky, who was one of the forerunners of the **theosophical society**, an occultic organization that believed (among other things), Lucifer was the light bearer for all and equated him with Jesus
- *After this immersion, Massey began to do his study of Egyptology and "found" all the supposed parallels between Jesus and other pagan gods*



Horus According to Zeitgeist/Others



EGYPT - 3000 BC

HORUS
BORN ON DEC. 25TH
BORN OF A VIRGIN
STAR IN THE EAST
ADORNED BY 3 KINGS
TEACHER AT 12
BAPTIZED/MINISTRY AT 30
12 DISCIPLES



EGYPT - 3000 BC

HORUS
PERFORMED MIRACLES
"LAMB OF GOD"/"THE LIGHT"
CRUCIFIED
DEAD FOR 3 DAYS
RESURRECTED

Horus According to Zeitgeist/Others

Horus of Egypt

"Egypt, the primeval seat of learning, was the high seat of Sun adoration. The Sphinx, with the face to the east, represents Harmmachus, young Horus, or the rising Sun. The orb is Osiris, the ruling god of day. In its descent it is the dying deity, going below to the land of Shades; but only to be resurrected as the victorious Horus, piercing the head of the dragon of darkness." James Bonwick, *Irish Druids & Old Irish Religions*

The Egyptian sun god Horus, who predated the Christ character by thousands of years, shares the following in common with Jesus:

- Horus was born of the virgin Isis-Meri on December 25th in a cave/manger with his birth being announced by a star in the East and attended by three wise men.
- His earthly father was named "Seb" ("Joseph"). Seb is also known as "Geb": "As Horus the Elder he...was believed to be the son of Geb and Nut." Lewis Spence, *Ancient Egyptian Myths and Legends*, 84.
- He was of royal descent.
- At age 12, he was a child teacher in the Temple, and at 30, he was baptized, having disappeared for 18 years.
- Horus was baptized in the river Eridanus or Iarutana (Jordan) by "Anup the Baptizer" ("John the Baptist"), who was decapitated.
- He had 12 disciples, two of whom were his "witnesses" and were named "Anup" and "Aan" (the two "Johns").
- He performed miracles, exorcised demons and raised El-Azarus ("El-Osiris"), from the dead.
- Horus walked on water.
- His personal epithet was "Iusa," the "ever-becoming son" of "Ptah," the "Father." He was thus called "Holy Child."
- He delivered a "Sermon on the Mount" and his followers recounted the "Sayings of Iusa."
- Horus was transfigured on the Mount.
- He was killed, buried for three days in a tomb, and resurrected.
- He was also the "Way, the Truth, the Light," "Messiah," "God's Anointed Son," the "Son of Man," the "Good Shepherd," the "Lamb of God," the "Word made flesh," the "Word of Truth," etc.
- He was "the Fisher" and was associated with the Fish ("Ichthys"), Lamb and Lion.
- He came to fulfill the Law.
- Horus was called "the KRST," or "Anointed One."
- Like Jesus, "Horus was supposed to reign one thousand years."



Horus According to History/Truth

- Horus was born to Isis; no mention in history of her being called “Mary”
 - Mary is our anglicized form of real name ‘Miryam’ or Miriam
- Isis not a virgin; widow of Osiris who conceived Horus with Osiris
- Horus born during month of *Khoiak* (Oct/Nov), not Dec 25th
 - Dec 25th celebration of Christ’s birth did not occur until 4th century and linked to Winter solstice celebration. Bible never assigns birth date to Christ
- No record of three kings visiting Horus at birth
 - “Kings” didn’t visit Christ at His birth – magi (king makers) did. Bible never states the number of magi that came
- Horus not a “savior” in any shape or form
- No account records Horus being a child teacher at age 12
- Horus not “baptized”. Only account of Horus and water incident described in one story of Horus being torn to pieces, with Isis requesting the crocodile god to fish him out of the water he was placed into
- Horus did not have a “ministry”
- Horus did not have 12 disciples. According to the Horus accounts, Horus had four semi-gods that were followers and some indications of 16 human followers and an unknown number of blacksmiths that went into battle with him

Horus According to History/Truth

- No account of Horus being betrayed by a friend
- Horus did not die by crucifixion.
- Zeitgeist pegs Horus account at 3,000 B.C., long before crucifixion was practiced
- Various accounts have Horus being dismembered by Set and his body parts being scattered throughout the earth. Others combine Horus and Osiris together and him being torn apart and thrown into a river
- Horus did not die a death for others as Jesus did
- Horus not buried for three days
- Horus not resurrected. No account of Horus coming out of the grave with the body he went in with. Some accounts have Horus/Osiris being brought back to life by Isis and going to be the lord of the underworld.
- Left eye of Horus gouged out, which supposedly explained why the moon, which it represented, was so weak compared to the sun. It was also said that during a new-moon, Horus had become blinded and was titled Mekhenty-er-irty (mḥnty r ỉr.ty 'He who has no eyes'), while when the moon became visible again, he was re-titled Khenty-irty (ḥnty r ỉr.ty 'He who has eyes').

Krishna According to Zeitgeist/Others



KRISHNA

**BORN OF A VIRGIN
STAR IN THE EAST
PERFORMED MIRACLES
RESURRECTED**

INDIA - 900 BC

Krishna According to History/Truth

- 8th child of Devaki (not a virgin...) who conceived Krishna from hairs off the head of Vishnu being placed in her womb. Eight incarnation of Vishnu
- No mention of star in the east
- Krishna married to wife Radha. Usually depicted as teacher and young cowherd who has lively relationships with cow maidens
- Gained victory over a demon king
- Usually colored black or dark blue and plays a flute
- Krishna killed by an arrow from a hunter who accidentally shot him in the heel ("A fierce hunter of the name of Jara then came there, desirous of deer. The hunter, mistaking [Krishna], who was stretched on the earth in high Yoga, for a deer, pierced him at the heel with a shaft and quickly came to that spot for capturing his prey." Mahabharata, Book 16, 4)

Krishna According to History/Truth

- Krishna died and ascended; no resurrection back in this life ("He [the hunter] touched the feet of [Krishna]. The high-souled one comforted him and then ascended upwards, filling the entire welkin with splendour... [Krishna] reached his own inconceivable region." Mahabharata, Book 16, 4)
- "There are no Indian gods portrayed as crucified." Dr. Edwin Bryant, Professor of Hinduism at Rutgers University, scholar on Hinduism. In 2001, he translated the Bhagavata-Purana (life of Krishna) for Penguin World Classics; author of *In Quest of Historical Krishna*.
- What Jewish settlements in India have been found or copies of Hindu documents in Israel that the Jews could have copied and used?

Mike Licon Investigates Acharya and Krishna

“Dr. Edwin Bryant, Professor of Hinduism at Rutgers University is a scholar on Hinduism. As of the writing of this paper, he has just translated the Bhagavata-Purana (life of Krishna) for Penguin World Classics and is currently writing a book to be titled, In Quest of Historical Krishna.

When I informed him that Ms. Murdock wrote an article claiming that Krishna had been crucified, he replied, “That is absolute and complete nonsense. There is absolutely no mention anywhere which alludes to a crucifixion.” He also added that Krishna was killed by an arrow from a hunter who accidentally shot him in the heel. He died and ascended. It was not a resurrection. The sages who came there for him could not really see it.”

Ms. Murdock further claims that Christianity has failed in India because “the Brahmans have recognized Christianity as a relatively recent imitation of their much older traditions.” To this, Dr. Bryant simply commented, “Stupid comment.”

Mike Licona Investigates Acharya and Krishna

“Later I emailed him [Dr. Bryant] regarding her 24 comparisons of Krishna to Jesus which the reader may find in *The Christ Conspiracy*. He stated that 14 of her 24 comparisons are wrong and a 15th is partially wrong. What about her 9 that are correct; especially Krishna’s virgin birth, the story of the tyrant who had thousands of infants killed (a parallel to Herod), and Krishna’s bodily ascension? Benjamin Walker in his book, *The Hindu World: An Encyclopedic Survey of Hinduism* provides an answer. After tracing similarities related to the birth, childhood, and divinity of Jesus, as well as the late dating of these legendary developments in India, “[t]here can be no doubt that the Hindus borrowed the tales [from Christianity], but not the name.” Bryant also comments that these parallels come from the *Bhagavata Purana* and the *Harivamsa*. Bryant believes the former “to be prior to the 7th century AD (although many scholars have hitherto considered it to be 11 century AD.” Yet this is hundreds of years after the Gospel accounts. Of the *Harivamsa*, Bryant is uncertain concerning its date. However, most sources seem to place its composition between the fourth and sixth centuries, again hundreds of years after the Gospel accounts had been in circulation. An earlier date is entertained by David Mason of the University of Wisconsin, who states that there is no consensus on the dating that he is aware of but that it may be as early as the second century. Even if this early date is accurate, it is still after the Gospels, not before as Murdock’s thesis requires.”

Attis According to Zeitgeist/Others



ATTIS
BORN OF A VIRGIN
BORN ON DEC. 25TH
CRUCIFIED
DEAD FOR 3 DAYS
RESURRECTED

GREECE- 1200 BC

Attis According to History/Truth

- Many wide ranging accounts of Attis
- Not virgin born; woman Nana puts fruit in her lap that came from a tree started by Zeus' "seed" and supposedly has Attis from that
- Not crucified. One account has Attis being driven insane by his lover after which he castrates himself and he does 'bleeds to death' (but not by crucifixion) in the forest (remaining dead)
- No resurrection. Cybele [the great mother goddess] asks Zeus to preserve Attis and he does with the only signs being that his hair continues to grow and his little finger moves continuously. Only supposed resurrection stories of Attis come AD 150, long after the start of Christianity
- Secular scholars admit that Attis cult modified itself after Christianity and parroted Christian doctrines

Mithras According to Zeitgeist/Others



PERSIA - 1200BC

MITHRA
BORN OF A VIRGIN
BORN ON DEC. 25TH
12 DISCIPLES
PERFORMED MIRACLES
DEAD FOR 3 DAYS
RESURRECTED
'SUNDAY' WORSHIP

Mithras According to History/Truth

- Born out of a solid rock
- Emerged from rock carrying a knife and torch and wearing a Phrygian cap
- Battled first with the sun and then a primeval bull, thought to be the first act of creation. Mithras killed the bull, which then became the ground of life for the human race
- Very popular with the Roman military; military cult that excluded women
- Birth was celebrated on Dec. 25th along with Winter solstice
- Not mentioned as being a great teacher
- No mention of 12 disciples. Possible that the idea that Mithras had 12 disciples came from a mural in which Mithras is surrounded by twelve signs and personages of the Zodiac (two of whom are the moon and the sun), and even this imagery is POST Christian
- No bodily resurrection. We are told he completes his earthly mission then is taken to paradise in a chariot alive and well. Tertullian did write about Mithras believers re-enacting resurrection scenes, but he wrote about this occurring well after New Testament times.
- No evidence that Mithras was ever called “the Good Shepherd” or any other title attributed to Jesus
- Mithras worship flourished after Christianity and not before it

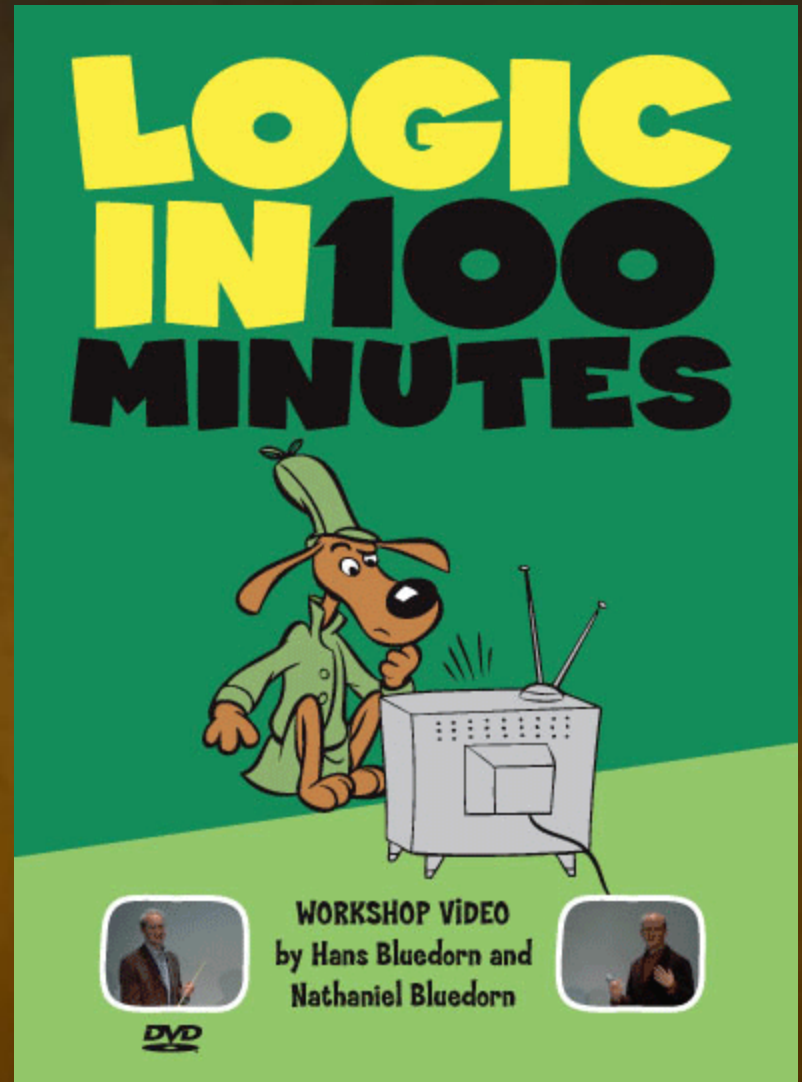
“It goes without saying that alleged parallels which are discovered by pursuing such methodology evaporate when they are confronted with the original texts. In a word, one must beware of what have been called, ‘parallels made plausible by selective description.’”

-Bruce Metzger
Historical & Literary Studies, 9



Commission of Logical Fallacies

1. Fallacy of the False Cause
2. Composite Fallacy
3. Terminological Fallacy



Fallacy of the False Cause

The fallacy committed when an argument mistakenly attempt to establish a causal connection. What if I told you a story about a British ocean liner that was about 800 feet long, weighed over 60,000 tons, and could carry about 3,000 passengers? The ship had a top cruising speed of 24 knots, had three propellers, and about 20 lifeboats. And what if I told you that this ocean liner hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage in the month of April, tearing an opening in the starboard side forward portion of the ship, and sinking along with about 2,000 passengers? What does that sound like?

It is a fictional story described in Robertson's book called "the Wreck of the Titan" or "Futility" (Buccaneer Books, Cutchogue, New York, 1898). This book was written fourteen years BEFORE the Titanic disaster took place, and several years before the construction was even begun on the Titanic. In the 1880's, the well known English journalist, W. T. Stead also wrote an account of a sinking ocean liner in the mid-Atlantic, and by 1882 had added the detail that an iceberg would be the cause of the disaster.

Even if accounts of mythological gods more closely resembled Christ (and they don't), it doesn't mean that they caused the gospel writers to invent a false Jesus - claiming such a thing would be like saying the TV series *Star Trek* caused the NASA Space Shuttle program.

Composite Fallacy

The fallacy of Composition is committed when a conclusion is drawn about a whole based on the features of its constituents when, in fact, no justification provided for the inference.

- Zeitgeist and others like them combine features from many different religions to make it appear as if one Mystery Religion existed from which Christianity drew from. This is untrue.
- “The mystery religion par excellence has never existed, and quite certainly did not in the first century A.D.”, Gunter Wagner, German scholar
- The mysteries were always syncretistic—ready, and even eager, to combine with other religions. This was something that Christians always rejected, believing that they alone had the full truth revealed to them by Christ.

Terminological Fallacy

The terminological fallacy occurs when terms are redefined to prove a point, when in fact such terms do not mean the same thing when compared to their source. For example:

- Baptism
- Ministry
- Savior
- Resurrection

Those claiming Mithras and Jesus are the same talk about the “baptism” that initiated prospects into the Mithras cult, but what was it actually? The Mithras priests (using a ritual also performed by followers of Attis) would suspend a bull over a pit, place those wanting to join the cult into the pit, slit the bull’s stomach, which then covered the initiates in blood. Such a thing has no resemblance whatsoever to Christian baptism. But advocates of the mythological Jesus position use the same term to describe both in hopes of linking the two together.

Was the Person of Jesus distorted into something
much more by His disciples or others?

Initial Support for the NT's Truthfulness

- The many archaeological details confirming New Testament accounts.
- The historically confirmed references that run alongside the life of Christ.
- The early dating of the gospel accounts, during the lifetime of the eyewitnesses.
- The deep moral convictions of the authors and their commitment to truth.
- The accounts of the apostles going to their deaths for what they had seen.
- There is NO archeological evidence of mystery religions active in Palestine in the first century
- The Jewish mind rejected syncretism outright. However, the later mystery religions embraced it with fervor. But, beginning in the 4th century, Christianity DID begin to adopt some aspects of the mystery cults (such as the December 25th date as the celebration for Christ's birth)
- The typology of Joseph and Jesus (used by the Zeitgeist film to supposedly debunk the actual existence of Christ) is very well known and accepted by conservative Christian scholars as a foreshadowing of the first coming of Jesus.

Evidence from Paul's Encounters

The people of that day were acquainted with the Greek and Roman gods:

"When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds."

(Acts 14:11-13)

Evidence from Paul's Encounters

And yet when Paul encountered very knowledgeable philosophers, we find this reaction:

“He seems to be a proclaimer of **strange deities**,”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this **new teaching** is which you are proclaiming? For you are bringing some **strange things** to our ears; so we want to know what these things mean.” (Acts 17:18-20)

The point: If dying and rising gods were aplenty in the first century, why, when the apostle Paul preached Jesus rising from the dead in Acts 17, did the Epicureans and Stoics not remark, “Ah, just like Horus and Mithras...”? The same would be true of Paul's discourse in Acts 26; Festus, a Roman (who would have known about the Roman military Mithras cult), said Paul was out of his mind for preaching the resurrection.

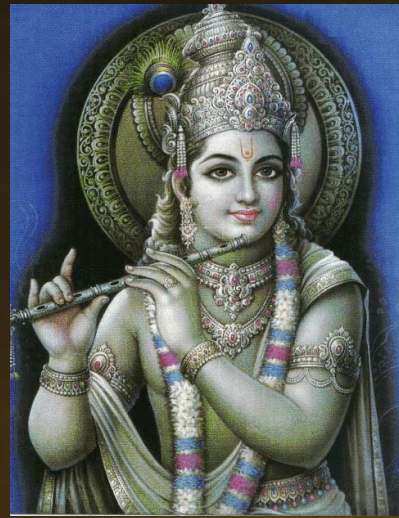
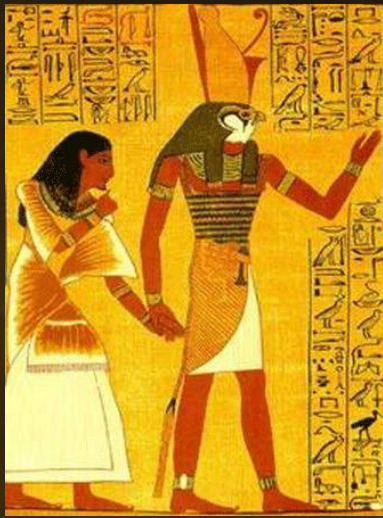
“The heart of Christianity is a myth which is also a fact. The old myth of the Dying God, without ceasing to be myth, comes down from the heaven of legend and imagination to the earth of history. It happens — at a particular date, in a particular place, followed by definable historical consequences. We pass from a Balder or an Osiris, dying nobody knows when or where, to a historical Person crucified (it is all in order) under Pontius Pilate. By becoming fact it does not cease to be myth: that is the miracle. .

.. We must not be nervous about ‘parallels’ and ‘Pagan Christs’: they *ought* to be there — it would be a stumbling block if they weren’t.”

- C. S. Lewis, “When Myth Became Fact”



In other words, all the myths of mankind's primitive religions were expressions of a deep yearning — the deepest yearning — in mankind's consciousness, namely that the mysterious transcendent God would come into intimate contact with mankind, and do so in such a way that He would repair the damages made by mankind's sinfulness, and would grant to mankind a safety that would last forever. Christianity, rather than being one myth alongside many others, is thus the fulfillment of all previous mythological religions. It is a myth, like the others, but this time a myth that is also a fact.



Myth
Vs.
Fact



Counterfeit Christs

A study of false saviors and false salvation

"Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." - John 8:24