

Dispelling A Few Myths About Jesus

By
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Was Jesus just copied from the Sun Gods of surrounding pagan religions? Did he really resurrect from the dead? Hopefully after reading this, you'll be able to answer these questions with facts and reasons, and not in blind faith in religion. So, let's start with the first question, was Jesus a copy from other sun gods of the surrounding pagan religions?

Well, if you read the Old Testament, you will notice that the Jewish people were commanded not to associate with people of pagan religions, so why would they steal their ideas for their savior? Some may say that it wasn't the Jews, it was a few people who rebelled and made the Christian religion, but then you have to remember that the requirements of the savior for the Jews had to fit the criteria set forth in the Jewish scriptures. Many ignore this or explain it away and point out parallels between Christ and other pagan sun gods, like their virgin birth, crucifixion, death and resurrection. Some of these Gods who are considered prototypes for Christ include Dionysus, the Greek God of wine, Horus the Egyptian Sun God, Attis, and Lord Krishna. The first recorded crucifixion was in 519 B.C. when Darius III of Persia killed 3000 people. Horus, was one of the first Gods was around back in 2700 BC, far before this. This same problem goes for many other supposed Christ's in history. As for the virgin birth, none of these Gods have a virgin birth other than Attis, who has a very different birth than Christ. As for the resurrection, the ones in this list that do resurrect, Attis and Dionysus, it is every winter and spring with the seasons. The only exception is Krishna, who said he would be reincarnated when the world needed his spiritual guidance. This is not the same as Christ's resurrection, and none of them have to do with conquering sin, which is only in Christianity. Even if these parallels were there, it doesn't matter, just

as there are many parallels between ancient Rome and the United States, that doesn't mean that the United States came from the Roman Empire. So, if the evidence points towards Christ's originality, the next question is did he really resurrect or was there a great conspiracy?

Well, lets look at the options other than Christ's resurrection. There's the possibility that the body was stolen, so lets look at how that would work. Remember that Christ said before he died that he would resurrect after three days, and the political and religious leaders knew it. Neither group wanted such a thing, and they surely could've thought of the disciples coming to steal the body, so of course they would put up security around the tomb until after the three days. The religious leaders didn't want to lose their own credibility to this Jesus, and the political leaders of the time most definitely didn't want a religious uproar that would be heard all the way back in Rome. According to a few sources, there should've been sixteen Roman legionnaires per watch by the tomb constantly, and a Centurion came every once in a while to check on them. Each of these soldiers were trained for five years, and if were found sleeping by the Centurion were given instant death. Anyway, lets say the disciples came and tried to steal the body; obviously there wouldn't just be the corpse of Christ there anymore. But, lets say that all sixteen were sleeping, knowing they would be killed if caught. So, the disciples carefully get by the sleeping soldiers and roll a two ton stone, as it's been estimated, up a dip in a trench that this rock was laid in to keep it from moving, while at the same time grinding it against the stone wall, and none of them wake up. It's just not reasonable to think something like that, if it was attempted, all the soldiers had to do was show the bodies of the disciples and Christianity would've ended right there and would never have gotten out of the first century.

That's not the only theory explaining away Christ's missing body, there is another called the Swoon theory by some. According to this idea, when Christ was given a drink, with the sponge, on the cross, it gave him a drug, which made him appear to be dead, while in reality he wasn't. Then while he was in the tomb, the damp cool air woke him up, and he rolled the stone away and appeared to the disciples. This theory is even less realistic than the idea that the body

was stolen. To see why, you must remember what happened to Christ before he was put in the tomb. He was beaten beyond recognition, according to the scriptures, he carried his cross up a hill, was hanging on it for six hours, with nails in his feet and hands, he was speared in the side, and apparently was also drugged. Now, after not eating for three days, he moved this two-ton rock up the dip in the trench, and escaped from all sixteen soldiers or didn't wake them up while grinding the rock.

Were there political reasons for a conspiracy as large as this? I would have to say no, the persecution of Christians didn't end until three centuries after Christ, and by that time, those who killed Christ were already dead. Some may say that there was no Christian persecution, but that is not true, two examples I can think of off the top of my head, without looking up others are Nero's blaming of the Christians for a fire he started, in which many Christians were killed unjustly, and when Titus destroyed the third temple along with Jerusalem. There are many other examples, and they have been recorded by historians of the time.

Other people may also ask the question, how do we know that what was written in the gospels is correct? It was just a bunch of writing by a small group of people, they protest. But, there's a problem, remember the religious leaders and government officials hated Jesus, and they would've done anything to destroy Christ. If they could've disproved one fact, they had every reason to do so, but instead what did they do? They killed all who preached the gospel, which told everyone they had no answer to give them. Also, why would these guys allow themselves to die for a great lie they've made, when they could save themselves by saying otherwise? Many may point out that other religions have martyrs, and that's a good point. However, Christianity is the only religion to claim that a man rose from the dead, while others say they saw a great man giving moral teachings and doing miracles, which may be true, none of those people would ever dare to claim they would rise from the dead, at least physically. Because if a person knows they're a phony they would know they wouldn't rise from the dead, and all the great teachings you've been giving would be wasted. And this also raises the question of motivation for these people, though that doesn't disprove the idea.

I've also heard many, even those who claim to be Christians, say that Christ didn't rise physically, but only spiritually. There's a problem with this if you believe that the scripture is inerrant and inspired by the Holy Spirit. In Luke 24, it says that: 1.) The women didn't find Christ's body in the tomb 2.) Christ said "Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." Elsewhere in the gospels, Christ also had Thomas stick his fingers through his palms and side, where he was speared and nailed. All of these verses show that Christ did not rise only spiritually, but also physically.

After looking at all these facts, I would think that there's only one option left to explain why so many people in such a short time believed in Christ, and made Christianity an immediate success. And that's that Jesus Christ really did rise from the dead exactly as prophesied in the Old Testament and confirmed in the new. So, if this is all true, and Christ did really rise from the dead, where does that leave us? What else is said in scripture of importance? That is something that should be looked at very thoroughly.

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