



Does challenging superstition or faith protect people?
 Is it mistaken to support organised religion in membership or donations?

If people do good because they are human, not because God prompts them,
 is it right to risk giving God any credit when they alone own their good?



PAGAN ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTIAN RELIGION

The similarity between the Jesus story and earlier stories about mythological heroes and pagan Gods and legends concerning Old Testament prophets has given rise to the view that the gospels were made up by people who plagiarised these tales.

THE OTHER GOD-MAN OF THE BIBLE

Antiochus IV Epiphanes of Book of Daniel fame claimed to be the image of God. Jesus was about being the image of the invisible God. This title Epiphanes means The Revelation of God. Jesus being the essential and complete image of God is what his being Son of God, Lord and divine are all about. The true origin of the incarnation, where God becomes man in Jesus, is in Antiochus.

GNOSTICS

The New Testament says that Simon carried the cross for Jesus for Jesus could do no more. It does not say that Jesus was nailed to the cross through his feet. This omission in gospels intended to show Jesus rose from the dead and gave us hope speaks loudly. Mark like Pilate wonders how Jesus died so quickly. No wonder if he were not nailed through the feet though it could be said it does not matter a lot. In some crucifixions, not all, the victim had to push up on his tied or nailed feet to take a breath and soon through pain and exhaustion was not able to any more. The victim dies by asphyxia.

Oddly enough the notion that somebody, perhaps Simon pretending to be Jesus, was nailed by the feet comes from Gnostics who were essentially pagans with Christian veneers. We find such statements in the Nag Hammadi literature.

For Christians, Jesus was nailed through the feet.

THE FATHERS SPEAK

The Fathers of the Church sometimes admitted that Christianity existed before Christ. St Augustine one of the most brilliant albeit nevertheless twisted minds the Church ever produced wrote, "Among the ancients, this thing called the Christian religion existed. It was not absent from the start of the human race even before Christ came in the flesh. When he came the true religion then became known as Christianity" (Retractiones).

The Second Book of Esdras expresses ideas that must have been stolen by the Christians later.

"For my son the Messiah shall be revealed with those who are with him, and those who remain shall rejoice four hundred years. After those years my son the Messiah shall die, and all who draw human breath."

"And as for the lion whom you saw rousing up out of the forest and roaring and speaking to the eagle and reproving him for his unrighteousness, and as for all his words that you have heard, this is the Messiah whom the Most High has kept until the end of days, who will arise from the offspring of David".

"When these things take place and the signs occur that I showed you before, then my Son will be revealed, whom you saw as a man coming up from the sea."

"Then he, my Son, will reprove the assembled nations for their ungodliness."

"The Most High shall be revealed on the seat of judgment, and compassion shall pass away, and patience shall be withdrawn. Only judgment shall remain, truth shall stand, and faithfulness shall grow strong."

“And I will raise up the dead from their places, and bring them out from their tombs, because I recognize my name in them.”

“Remember your children that sleep, because I will bring them out of the hiding places of the earth, and will show mercy to them; for I am merciful, says the Lord Almighty.”

“After seven days the world that is not yet awake shall be roused, and that which is corruptible shall perish. The earth shall give up those who are asleep in it, and the dust those who rest there in silence; and the chambers shall give up the souls that have been committed to them.”

“The pit of torment shall appear, and opposite it shall be the place of rest; and the furnace of hell shall be disclosed, and opposite it the paradise of delight. Then the Most High will say to the nations that have been raised from the dead, ‘Look now, and understand whom you have denied, whom you have not served, whose commandments you have despised. Look on this side and on that; here are delight and rest, and there are fire and torments.’ Thus he will speak to them on the day of judgment.”

St Justin Martyr in the second century stated that in relation to the virgin birth of Jesus and his crucifixion and death and his resurrection and ascension the Christians said nothing that the sons of the pagan divinity Jove were not saying.

Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit. So Matthew says. It does indicate that a miracle was involved but what exactly? Did it refer to her being too young to get pregnant, barren or getting pregnant at the wrong time of the month? It may indicate some kind of creation was involved. That is all it says. It tells us nothing about whether God found a way to simulate sex with her pagan style and leave her a virgin.

There is an interesting parallel between the virgin conception and the resurrection of Jesus. Life appears in the womb where there is no life and life appears in the tomb where there is no life. This hints that to reject the virgin conception is to open the door for doubting the resurrection as well.

Early Church Father Origen said nothing in reply to Celsus who said that Christianity brought absolutely nothing new in philosophy or doctrine or stories about crucified and rising saviours for he couldn't say anything.

St Gregory of Nazianen wrote to St Jerome that the Fathers or theologians who helped form the Church's doctrine were often guilty of saying what they had to say not what they thought (page 55, 56, *The Pagan Christ*). So truth was of secondary importance to them.

Origen complained about the considerable alterations of the scriptures by Christians (page 59, *The Pagan Christ*).

There can be no doubt then that when the Fathers admitted that their faith was nothing new it was the truth. It didn't help their cause for them to confess that. There can be no doubt that when they defended orthodox Christianity they may have been twisting facts and lying to do so.

Conclusion

There is no evidence that Jesus lived when the Jesus story was anything but original. The story was copied from other sources and you don't need to copy stories about a man who really lived.

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