

ACCEPTING JESUS AS A LAST RESORT? THE INFAMOUS TRILEMMA!

The argument that Jesus was liar, lunatic or Lord of all is used to get people to accept he was Lord by a process of elimination. It presupposes that there is something special about Jesus' claim to be Lord.

Background

Background is vital. There were lots of apocalyptic prophets and Messiahs in Israel at the time Jesus allegedly lived. The dead being raised was a part of the narrative and when Jesus failed to raise the dead the Church decided he did not fail for he raised himself and the others are yet to be raised. It was a matter of when you will be raised not if.

The life of Joseph Smith by his mother speaks of a culture that was riddled with people having revelations allegedly from God.

After Obama, somebody saying they might be president of the USA does not seem so odd.

The trilemma is not as convincing when you realise that we only think it is persuasive for it so strange to us. If we had friends claiming to be God we would not be thinking that somebody claiming to be God means they might be really God. We would think they are sane and not liars but just caught up in nonsense.

The trilemma is superstition and cruel superstition at that for it is a very serious thing to encourage people to give their lives to Jesus if there is too much uncertainty. There is more than just the question of if Jesus was liar, lunatic or Lord of All. Was he honestly mistaken? Did he make his belief that he was God all about himself - and did it leak out and lead to this thing he wanted to stay personal to end up being part of a religion? If self-deception was involved we must remember that there are billions of ways to be self-deceiving regarding an issue or claim. So a trilemma is pathetically simplistic. Was his claim to be God a misunderstanding? Was it his followers who lied that he claimed to be God? Or did they not lie but imagine that the Holy Spirit inspired them to "realise" that Jesus was God? Did Satan do miracles to make people think falsely that Jesus claimed to be God? Remember how Paul in Romans 1 condemns anybody who turns God into a man. Did he claim to be God in the sense that a Pantheist does? What if he thought that the word God describes a moral principle and that himself and the Father and the Holy Spirit are only God in the sense that they adhere to that principle? Was Jesus fooled by aliens or demons to think that he was God? Did he claim to be honorifically God - eg was he like those who were called God as a mark of honour without any literal meaning being intended? After all he said that people who were very good were called gods in the Old Testament - they were not real gods but were gods by honour. Was he joking if he said he was God for after all he said God should be seen as Abba Daddy - really! That we should be over-familiar with God? Sounds like a joke!

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Father and/or Son by H Wayne Hamburger