

Jesus is Fully God

Part 1

A) Jesus is not just a Copycat God

1) *All Mythology have no historical account or eye witnesses.*

Jesus has historical proof that he existed, we have eye witness accounts of who he claimed to be, and how he lived his life. His witness accounts affirm that Jesus was born of a virgin, and that he died and rose again.

Edwin Yamauchi (a doctorate in Mediterranean studies from Brandeis University, and having taught at Miami University of Ohio for more than thirty-five years) states, “In the case of Jesus, even non-Christian authorities, like Josephus and Tacitus, report that he died under Pontius Pilate in the reign of Tiberius. The reports of his resurrection are quite early accounts.”¹

2) *Jesus continues to impact the world unlike Legends and Myths*

“Christianity is quite distinct in that it rose from a Jewish background, which is monotheistic, and it centers around a historical figure who was put to death in a barbaric manner, which is attested in non-Christian Paul was converted by encountering the risen Christ and had access to eyewitnesses such as Peter and James. Christianity flourished and expanded in spite of persecution from the Roman authorities. It was a new message of love and God’s intervention in the world, and it incorporated all people, including slaves and women, the educated and noneducated.”²

3) *Mythological Stories have no negative impact on Jesus*

“should the story of Jesus’ resurrection have any more credibility than pagan stories of dying and rising gods—such as Osiris, Adonis, Attis, and Marduk—that are so obviously mythological?” Michael Licona (historian and resurrection expert) was well-versed on this controversy. “First of all, it’s important to understand that these claims don’t in any way negate the good historical evidence we have for Jesus’ resurrection, which I spelled out in our earlier discussion,” he pointed out. “You can’t dismiss the resurrection unless you can refute its solid core of supporting evidence.”³

4) *The death and rising from the dead myth God’s have no parallels to Jesus*

“They are far different from the reports of Jesus rising from the dead. They occurred in the unspecified and distant past and were usually related to the seasonal life-and-death cycle of vegetation. In contrast, Jesus’ resurrection isn’t repeated, isn’t related to changes in the seasons, and was sincerely believed to be an actual event by those who lived in the same generation of the historical Jesus. In addition, T. N. D. Mettinger (Senior Swedish Scholar, and member of the Royal

¹ Lee Strobel, *The Case For The Real Jesus*, 183

² *Ibid.*, 187

³ *Ibid.*, 162-163

Academy of Letters, History, and Antiquities of Stockholm) concludes that ‘there is no evidence for the death of the dying and rising gods as vicarious suffering for sins.’”⁴

Examples

“Attis? This myth is older than Christianity but the first report we have of a resurrection of Attis comes long after the first century. Adonis is more than a hundred years after Jesus. There’s no clear account in antiquity of Marduk even dying—and so a resurrection is even less clear. Some scholars say Tammuz is an account of a dying and rising god—but that’s disputed, and besides, it’s not a good this myth was tied to the changing of the seasons.” “What about Osiris?” “Osiris is interesting,” he said, smiling. “The most popular account says Osiris’s brother killed him, chopped him into fourteen pieces, and scattered them around the world. Well, the goddess Isis feels compassion for Osiris, so she looks for his body parts to give him a proper burial. She only finds thirteen of them, puts them back together, and Osiris is buried. But he doesn’t come back to this world; he’s given the status of god of the netherworld—a gloomy, shadowy place of semi consciousness. As a friend of mine says, ‘This isn’t a resurrection, it’s a zombification!’ This is no parallel to Jesus’ resurrection, for which there is strong historical support.”⁵

Why do academic people claim Jesus to being a Mythological God or a Legend?

Most academic people are supposed to use the method “Best Competing Hypothesis”, where you lay down all the evidence and then see which hypothesis best lines up with the evidence. I stand before you today and proclaim that all the evidence regarding Jesus points to Jesus being who he says he is in scripture: Jesus Messiah and Lord.

However, many people do not want to proclaim Jesus as Lord. As a result, they try to find a different reason why Historical accounts claim that Jesus was born of a virgin and that he died and rose again. The best way is to proclaim that the Bible has been changed over time, and that Jesus became a legend over time. Even though the evidence shows that Bible is trustworthy and that everything about Jesus in the Bible is truth.

Warning....

Yamauchi gives a caution, “First, be careful of articles on the web. Even though the Internet is a quick and convenient source of information, it also perpetuates outdated and disproved theories,” he said. “Also check the credentials of the authors. Do they have the training and depth of knowledge to write authoritatively on these issues? And be sure to check the dates of sources that are quoted. Are they relying on anachronistic claims or discredited scholars? And finally, be aware of the biases of many modern authors, who may clearly have an axe to grind.”⁶

⁴ Ibid., 166-167

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid., 187-188

Our Approach to People Making these false claims

1. Expose the False Claims:

The gods of mythology were not born of a virgin as Jesus was born to Mary, they did not live a life that was similar to Jesus in detail, they did not hold the titles attributed to Jesus, and they were not resurrected in a manner remotely similar to the resurrection of Christ. Primitive mythologies simply fail to resemble the Biblical account of Jesus when they are examined closely. Expose the false claims of those who say Jesus was copied from prior mythologies.

2. Expose the Errant Strategy:

Critics typically "cherry pick" from the mythological attributes of a variety of pagan gods and exaggerate the alleged similarities to construct a profile vaguely similar to Jesus. They search for singular similarities to the Christ of the Bible and then assemble these similarities from a variety of gods spanning the centuries and originating in geographically diverse regions (as if the 1st Century creators of the Jesus story would have access to these mythologies in the first place. There is no single prior mythology significantly similar to Jesus. Expose the selective strategy of those who say Jesus was copied from prior mythologies.⁷

B) Jesus Claimed to Be God

(1) He Prefaced His Statements As Though He Was God (Matthew 5:18)

(2) He Identified Himself With God's Own Name, "I Am" (John 8:49-58)

- Jesus identifies himself as the sovereign Lord of the Old Testament when he asks the Pharisees about Psalm 110:1. (Matt. 22:44) The Pharisees know he is talking about himself and identifying himself as one worthy of the Old Testament title, Lord.

(3) He Talked As Though He Was Equal With God (John 14:6-9)

(4) He Said That He and God Were One (John 10:25-29)

C) Jesus Demonstrated that He Had the Nature of God

(1) He Demonstrated Omniscience (John 4:16-30), Omnipresence (Matthew 28:20), and Omnipotence (John 11:38-44, Mark 6:48)

2) Jesus Asserted His Eternity

"Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58)

3) Jesus Possessed Divine Sovereignty

- An authority that is possessed only by God

Example: The ability to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-7)

⁷ www.coldcasechristianity.com

D) Jesus Was Worshiped As God by Those Who Knew Him

- (1) The wise men worshiped him at his birth (Matthew 2:10-12)
- (2) The leper worshiped Him at his healing (Matthew 8:2)
- (3) The synagogue ruler worshiped Him (Matthew 9:18-19)
- (4) The disciples worshiped him in the boat (Matthew 14:32-33)
- (5) The mother of James and John worshipped Him (Matthew 20:20-21)
- (6) The blind man worshiped Him at his healing (John 9:35-38)
- (7) The women worshiped Him at the empty tomb (Matthew 28:8-10)⁸

E) Apostle Paul and the other disciples used Lord when speaking of Jesus

Paul says, “There is one God, Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

(1 Corinthians 8:6; 12:3)

Question: Did Jesus give up some of his divine attributes while on earth?

⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ **but emptied himself**, by taking the form of a servant,^[c] being born in the likeness of men.

Philippians 2:5-7, ESV

This is called the Kenosis Theory which holds that Christ gave up some of his divine attributes while he was on earth as a man. (“Kenosis”- Greek word, meaning: “to empty”)

They saw Jesus voluntarily gave himself self-limitations so he could fulfill his work of redemption.

⁸ <https://coldcasechristianity.com/>

Deployment:

Question: In session one, we took a look at when Jesus became a man and asked why it was necessary for Jesus to be fully human? However, when he became a man and dwelt among the people during the days of the Roman Empire, Jesus remained fully God. Why was Jesus deity necessary?