

An increasing common tack for discrediting the Bible's account of the resurrection is to claim that it was a mythological story that predated Christianity. Therefore, then the early proponents of Christianity created their story, they simply borrowed from earlier myths. If spend time on the Internet reading comments from cynics, critics, and skeptics, you're heard this claim. The semi-popular online movie called "Zeitgeist" also helped to popularize it. And, if you're looking for some reason to disbelieve the Bible or the claims of Christianity, then this is exactly the sort of fodder you're looking for.

Usually, the ill-informed critics postulate that Christianity in the form we now know it developed during the period of Flavius Valerius Aurelius Constantinus Augustus; better known as Constantine (27 February c. 272 – 22 May 337).

But, that's easily dismissed since Christianity was persecuted by the likes of Nero from 54 to 68 AD and Tacitus (56-117 AD), the Roman historian, confirms that fact. The gospels and the Pauline epistles were already circulating by the end of the first Century and they include all the doctrine and history that lays the foundation, the early creeds, and the teaching of Christianity. So, strike one for the critics.

Let's talk about some of the more common claims made against Christianity (since, if you can prove that Christianity is made up, or borrowed from earlier sources, then the resurrection itself is a hoax).

Horus

Quoting from the movie "Zeitgeist" – Horus is the Sun God of Egypt of around 3000 BC. He is the sun, anthropomorphized, and his life is a series of allegorical myths involving the sun's movement in the sky. From the ancient hieroglyphics in Egypt, we know much about this solar messiah. For instance, Horus, being the sun, or the light, had an enemy known as Set and Set was the personification of the darkness or night. And, metaphorically speaking, every morning Horus would win the battle against Set - while in the evening, Set would conquer Horus and send him into the underworld. It is important to note that "dark vs. light" or "good vs. evil" is one of the most ubiquitous mythological dualities ever known and is still expressed on many levels to this day.

Broadly speaking, the story of Horus is as follows: Horus was born on December 25th of the virgin Isis-Meri. His birth was accompanied by a star in the east, which in turn, three kings followed to locate and adorn the new-born savior. At the age of 12, he was a prodigal child teacher, and at the age of 30 he was baptized by a figure known as Anup and thus began his ministry. Horus had 12 disciples he traveled about with, performing miracles such as healing the sick and walking on water. Horus was known by many gestural names such as The Truth, The Light, God's Anointed Son, The Good Shepherd, The Lamb of God, and many others. After being betrayed by Typhon, Horus was crucified, buried for 3 days, and thus, resurrected..

Now that would look pretty bad for the Christians ... if this claim was true. But, it's not. At all. It's not hard to look these things up, but most people won't. They'll simply be satisfied with the apparent expertise of the film maker, book writer, or online blogger who repeats these falsehoods. In fact, one characteristic of these sources is that they virtually never cite their sources ... but when they do, they cite each other. For instance, they'll cite the movie Zeitgeist to prove these assertion, but the movie itself offers no citations or historic sources to prove any of their contentions. They're just making stuff up and then it gets repeated over and over. When there's a critical mass of online sources repeating the same misinformation, people treat it like it's settled fact. Except that it isn't.

Horus was not born on December 25th, he was born on the 5th day of the "Epagomenal Days", which does not even take place in December on the modern or ancient calendars, but rather between August 24th and 28th. AND remember that the Bible does not say Jesus was born on December 25. That's a tradition. Trying place other birthdays on December 25 does nothing to undermine Christianity, nor does it prove that the Bible borrowed from myths.

His mother was not a virgin. Horus's father was Osiris, who was killed by his brother Seth. Isis used a spell to bring him back to life for a short time so they could have sex, in which they conceived Horus.

Quoting from Edward L. Winston – “I, as well as several others, as well as several Egyptologists you can find on the Internet, know of no reference anywhere to a "star in the east" or "three kings" and "new-born savior"; it is

simply made up. I cannot find any source or information proving he was a "teacher when he was 12 years old", that he was "baptized at age 30", that he "walked on water" (but on the Internet, I did find several places that suggest he was "thrown in the water", but I have no direct source at this time for that). More so, I cannot find any evidence he was referred to as "The Truth", "The Light", Lamb of God", "the Good Shepherd", etc.

Also lacking is any evidence that he was betrayed by Typhon. In fact, Horus never died, at any time, he later merges with the sun god, Ra -- but never dies and certainly never is crucified, and therefore could not have been buried for 3 days and resurrected.

This particular claim appears to have originated in the book "The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story Ever Sold"

That book is completely unsourced. The author, **Dorothy M. Murdock**, simply asserts things that were then repeated in the movie and voila, you're got ample reason to doubt the Biblical account.

Horus did not have 12 disciples, rather he had four semi-divine disciples called "heru-shemsu" (followers of Horus). He did have 16 human followers. One can also find reference to an unnumbered group of followers called the Mesniu (blacksmiths) who accompanied Horus into some of his battles, but nowhere can 12 of anything be found.

Attis

Attis, of Phrygia, born of the virgin Nana on December 25th, crucified, placed in a tomb and after 3 days, was resurrected.

Nope. Not true.

The legend of Attis does not say whether his mother is a virgin. It does say that Attis was born of Nana after she ate the fruit of an almond tree which had been grown from the blood of either Agdistis or Cybele. Attis was worshipped as the god of vegetation, responsible for death and rebirth of plant life. It was thought that each winter he died and in the spring he was reborn. So, every Spring his rebirth was celebrated, which is as close to a resurrection as this story gets.

Spring does not take place in December. There is no mention of any tombs in the Attis legend. And since he is considered dead all winter, that's not exactly 3 days.

Krishna

Krishna, of India, born of the virgin Devaki with a star in the east signaling his coming, performed miracles with his disciples, and upon his death was resurrected.

According to tradition based on scriptural details and astrological calculations, Krishna's birth date was July 19th or 21st, 3228 BC.

Krishna was of the royal family of Mathura, and was the eighth son born to the princess Devaki, and her husband Vasudeva. According to references in the Bhagavata Purana and Bhagavad Gita it has been interpreted that Krishna died around 3100 BC. There is no mention of a star in the east signaling his birth, nor is anything said about him being resurrected upon his death. There are tales of him performing some minor miracles, but that's as close as the connection gets.

Dionysus (Bacchus)

Dionysus of Greece, born of a virgin on December 25th, was a traveling teacher who performed miracles such as turning water into wine, he was referred to as the "King of Kings," "God's Only Begotten Son," "The Alpha and Omega," and many others, and upon his death, he was resurrected.

He was not born to a virgin, his mother was a mortal Semele (daughter of Cadmus) and his father was Zeus. Zeus, according to mythology, had other male children, so Dionysus is also not his "only begotten son".

Like the tale of Attis, Dionysus died each Winter and was resurrected in the Spring. So he was not exactly born on Dec. 25. He did, however perform miracles, mostly things involving wine, because he

was the god of wine. Thus, the legend that he could turn water into wine.

There is no respected source, modern or ancient, that claims the titles "King of Kings" and "The Alpha and Omega" are ever applied to Dionysus.

Mithra

Mithra, of Persia, born of a virgin on December 25th, he had 12 disciples and performed miracles, and upon his death was buried for 3 days and thus resurrected, he was also referred to as "The Truth," "The Light," and many others. Interestingly, the sacred day of worship of Mithra was Sunday.

The myths and legends of Mithra are plentiful. Different cultures have different stories about Mithra. But, there is no evidence that his birthday was December 25th. And again, it wouldn't matter since the Bible doesn't say that Jesus was born that day. The only dates mentioned concerning him are his festival on October 8th and another on September 12-16th. There is also a cattle pairing festival October 12-16.

There is absolutely no evidence anywhere whatsoever that he had 12 disciples or 12 of anything for that matter -- no Mithraist scholars seem to know about it. He was not born to a virgin, but rather out of solid rock. He was born fully grown. There is no evidence of a resurrection or that Mithra has ever died.

Importantly, Roman Mithraic evidence dates to at least a century after the time of the New Testament. It is true that Sunday was a sacred day for Mithra, but only to Romans, not to any other cultural tales of Mithra.

SO ...

I think these are simply attempts to blend ancient myth with Christian confessions in order to make them all look one-and-the-same. But, the central issue that separates Christianity from every other major religion is that the founder of Christianity made claims about Himself

that were proven and verified in the resurrection from the dead.
That's why the enemies of Christianity will do anything – lie, deceive,
fabricate, twist – in order to bring doubt to the resurrection story.