

Review: J. G. Jackson, *Christianity Before Christ*, Martino Publishing, Mansfield Centrey, CT, 1890 (2015 edn.)

Pages: 215

Guilt by Association

The main thesis of this attack on Christianity/atheist apologetic is *post hoc ergo propter hoc*, i.e., that because of similarities of some religious beliefs preceding the incarnation of Jesus Christ, Christianity cannot have a unique claim on religious truth (it is just another religion).

The main ‘sources’ cited are second century Gnostic writings, and the author exaggerates any similarity he may ascribe to Jesus’ life (e.g. many ancient gods are claimed to have been born on December 25, notwithstanding Jesus was not born on this date according to the Bible).

Even granting that similarities are real, it is equally or more likely that newly ‘Christinianised’ pagan cultures simply moulded their own oral traditions at the time to mimic what they thought was Christianity (in reality Catholicism). Mexico’s Quetzalcoatl for example being virgin born and fasting under temptation for forty days may have just been a merging with Spanish Catholicism.

Further, since there is a real devil, he may have seeded these cultures ahead of time with false but similar gods to enable precisely the false argument that the author makes.

Overall a quite useless polemic.

“Modernists” do not consider the Bible the word of God, admitting that it has myths, legends, and errors.

Pre-Christian Pagan Christs are said to have been Osiris and Horus in Egypt, Krishna and Buddha in India, Mithra of Persia, Quetzalcoatl of Mexico, Adonis of Babylonia, Bacchus of Greece, and Attis of Phrygia. All are claimed to have been born on December 25 of virgin mothers with the event heralded by the stars.

The Sphinx is a dedication to Horus.

Pharaoh was called “His Holiness”.

Krishna was virgin-birthed by Devaki.

James is said to have written the “Protoevangelion” which says Jesus was born in a cave.

A cave was illuminated at Krishna’s birth and soon after he spoke to his mother (like ‘Jesus’ did in the Gospel of the Infancy),

Jesus is said to have lived in an Egyptian town called Matarea.

Krishna was crucified and was always represented as a black man (Krishna means “the black”).

Prince Gautama (“Buddha”) was born c600BC(?), son of King Suddihodana and Queen Maya. He gave up his wealth to wander the wilderness as a hermit.

Buddha’s birthday is celebrated December 25.

Mithra was said to be mediator between God and man.

The Greek Bacchus 'emblem was IHS.

Quetzalcoatl was a virgin-born saviour in Mexico who was tempted and fasted for forty days. His second coming was foretold when Hernando Cortez arrived.

Adonis or Tammuz of Babylonia was virgin born.

Attis of Phrygia cut off his own genitals in his prime and bled to death under a sacred pine tree.

The two saviour god archetypes are either vegetation or sun gods.

Old kings were often sacrificed for young when they became old and feeble lest the land be cursed.

In ancient Babylon a mock king called "Zoganes" would rule unimpeded for five days, however, after this he would be hanged or crucified.

The Babylonians called their six-hundred year cycle the Neros.

Until the 4thC, Christmas was on January the 6th.

One legend says Jesus survived the crucifixion and later accused Paul of false teaching, then Paul killed him!