

CHRISTIANITY WAS COPIED FROM PAGAN RELIGIONS

- ✓ **Q:** “The story you call ‘the Gospel’ isn’t original. The story of Jesus is just a re-telling of the stories of other ‘gods’ who came before Him.”
- ✓ “Not one single doctrine, rite, tenet, or usage in Christianity was a fresh contribution to the world” (Harpur, *Pagan Christ*, p. 10). In his documentary “Religulous”, Bill Maher makes this claim: “Written in 1280 BC, the *Egyptian Book of the Dead* describes a god, Horus. Horus is the son of the god Osiris **born to a virgin mother**. He was **baptized in a river by Anup the Baptizer who was later beheaded**. Like Jesus, Horus was **tempted while alone in the desert, healed the sick and the blind, cast out demons, and walked on water**. He **raised Asar from the dead**. “Asar” translates to ‘Lazarus’. Oh yeah, he also **had 12 disciples**. Yes, Horus was **crucified and rose after 3 days**. **Two women announced** Horus **the savior of humanity** had been resurrected.”
- ✓ That makes it sound like the Bible copied the story of Horus in every detail. Is that true? Absolutely not! (In this message, we’re going to challenge these claims and see just how similar the stories of Jesus and Horus actually are.)

I. Bill Mahr: a Couple of Red Flags

- ✓ “**Written in 1280 BC**, the *Egyptian Book of the Dead* **describes a god, Horus ...**”
- ✓ First, the date is wrong. The Egyptian book of the dead *does* exist, but it wasn’t written in 1280. (It was written over time – 2600 BC to 664 BC). More importantly, it’s not a Book like the Bible, with a lot of stories about Horus, or any other god. (There were a few mentions of gods, but not a lot of details.) **Essentially, it’s a book of spells written to help people overcome obstacles in the afterlife.** (“For repelling a crocodile”, “for not being eaten by a snake in the realm of the dead”, “for not losing your mind”, and so on.) I searched all of the key words, but I couldn’t find ANY of what he claimed was there.

II. The Story of Horus From Credible Egyptologists

- ✓ **Source #1 – Edmund Meltzer, Ph.D., B.A.** – In his decades-long career as an **Egyptologist**, Dr. Edmund Meltzer has participated in archeological excavations in Egypt, translated hieroglyphic texts, published dozens of articles and books, and taught worldwide.
- ✓ **Source #2 – Dr. Geraldine Pinch** – is an accredited **Egyptologist**. She taught Egyptology at the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford, and has written books on Ancient Egyptian religion, mythology and magic.
- ✓ When we examine the stories that were really told in ancient Egypt, the alleged parallels between Jesus and Horus evaporate quickly. (Sometimes there are minor similarities, but they’re stretched so far, it’s laughable. Sometimes there aren’t any similarities at all.)

(a) THE VIRGIN BIRTH

The Claim: “Horus and Mithras were both **born of a virgin**, on December 25th, in a cave, attended by shepherds.”

Mithras – The Real Birth Story: No ancient source EVER describes such a birth for Mithras. Mithras is always described as emerging, fully grown, out of the side of a mountain.

(Dr. Franz Cumont was a Belgian archaeologist and a historian of religions. He is best known for his studies of Eastern mystery religions, particularly Mithra. He describes Mithras’ “birth” out of the rock in his book, *Mithraic Studies*, Manchester U. Press, © 1975, p. 173): “Following the cataclysm, we attend the birth of Mithra. The young god, already wearing his Phrygian cap, issues forth from the rocky mass. As yet, only his bare torso is visible. In each hand he raises aloft a lighted torch and ... red flames shoot out all around him from the rock.”)

Horus – The Real Birth Story: Geraldine Pinch relates the story in *Handbook of Mythology* (© 2002, p. 79-80). Osiris was cut into fourteen

pieces by his brother, Seth, and they were scattered all along the Nile. Osiris' wife, Isis, was able to gather thirteen of those to reassemble her husband. Unfortunately, Osiris' male organ was eaten by a fish, so Isis used her goddess powers to temporarily revive him and assemble another male organ out of gold. Isis, in bird form, uses her wings to fan the breath of life into Osiris, and he lives long enough to get her pregnant.

Edmund Meltzer – “This is depicted rather graphically in Ptolemaic temple scenes. There is nothing virginal about the process whatsoever.” To say that Jesus is a copy of either of those stories is insanity!

(b) HORUS – CRUCIFIED BETWEEN TWO THIEVES

“The alleged parallels you cite are, in my best judgment, extremely forced and sometimes based entirely on illusion. Crucified? The only rationale for this seems to be that Horus can be identified as a star that appears between two other stars ...” (That’s where they say the story of Jesus’ crucifixion came from. A star situated between two other stars. The Egyptians never referred to those stars as a “crucifixion”. Crucifixion wouldn’t exist for another 2000 years!) “That this is a ruthless disregard of the differences between the stories is an understatement”. (Answers to the Supposed Parallels Between Horus & Jesus.)

(c) HORUS WAS “RESURRECTED”

- ✓ Horus is not reported to have died at all, in the vast majority of Egyptian narratives, in the way that we’d think of death. Instead, Horus eventually merges with Ra (the Sun god) after which he “dies” and is “reborn” every day as the sun sets and rises.

III. Where Did the Jesus-Horus Connection Originate?

- ✓ There were two main sources, neither of which is validated by the academic community. Atheist and Professor, Bart Ehrman writes: “In 1999, D. M. Murdock published the breathless conspirator’s dream: *The Christ Conspiracy: The Greatest Story Ever Sold*. This

book was meant to set the record straight by showing that Christianity is rooted in a myth about the sun-god Jesus, who was invented by a group of Jews in the second century CE. Mythicists of this ilk should not be surprised that their views are not taken seriously by real scholars, that their books are not reviewed in scholarly journals, mentioned by experts in the field, or even read by them. D.M. Murdock’s book is filled with so many factual errors and outlandish assertions that it is hard to believe that the author is serious. If she is serious, it is hard to believe that she has ever encountered anything resembling historical scholarship. In my view mythicists are, somewhat ironically, doing a disservice to the humanists for whom they are writing. By staking out a position that is accepted by almost no one else, they open themselves up to mockery and to charges of intellectual dishonesty.” (Did Jesus Exist? P. 23, 263, 267)

- ✓ “The works of Murdock are not considered relevant or trustworthy in any circles of academia— even those of many mythicists. However, her books continue to be a major focal point for the popular arguments against the legitimacy of Christ.” (Debunking the Horus-Jesus Connection, Chris Henderson, Sommer Hayes, © 2015)
- ✓ The Jesus-Horus theory is rejected almost unanimously in academic circles, but it still causes trouble for young people who don’t know the facts. NONE OF THE ASSERTIONS ARE TRUE, and they can easily be disproven by reading the writings of credible Egyptologists.

IV. A Final Argument

- ✓ When Paul preached Christ in Athens, they said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of strange deities”. (Acts 17:21 – “All the Athenians as well as the foreigners who live in Athens used to spend their time doing nothing but talking about or listening to the newest thing.”)
- ✓ When Paul came preaching Jesus, what they didn’t say, “Dude! That’s just like Horus and Mithras!” They said, “What’s this new teaching you are proclaiming? You are bringing strange things to our ears”! (Acts 17:18–20)