

Just Thinking Apologetics #12

By far the most popular skeptical view of Jesus is that he was a late legendary invention of those who started the Christian religion. In order to present the reasons for this view not matching with reality, a few articles will be necessary. When all is said and done, the mythical view of Jesus falls short for many reasons.

One of the biggest knocks on Christianity by those who see Jesus as a later Christian invention is that the New Testament documents were written long after the life of Jesus. The Gospels (with possibly the exception of John) were written by 70 A.D. If Jesus died around 30 A.D., then the Gospels were indeed written many years after his death. The epistles of Paul were probably written in the late 40's to the early 50's.

Of significance is the oral tradition that exists to bridge the gap between the death of Jesus to the time of the New Testament documents. I Corinthians 15: 1-4 is of particular importance. These four verses represent an early creed (a known story) revolving around the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Jack Kent a skeptic of the resurrection states that these verses "could be dated very close to the actual crucifixion." The view that the resurrection story was a later invention does not correspond with what we know to be true. Finally, Oxford scholar of ancient Greek and Roman history, A. N. Sherwin-White, argues, "The span of two full generations is insufficient time for myth and legend to accrue and distort historical fact."