

Just Thinking Apologetics #13

Continuing with the theme that Jesus was a late legendary development there are two compelling reasons why this is not the best explanation. First, there is a huge difference between mythical writings and the New Testament documents. Myths have grandiose stories than can easily be recognized as untrue. Also, myths are written in such a way where places and events are either made up or are known to be historically false. In contrast to myths, the authors of the New Testament claimed to be eyewitnesses to the events they reported (Luke 1: 1-4, John 19:35, I Cor. 15: 3-8). Those who wrote the Gospels were either eyewitnesses of Jesus or were close associates of the apostles. The events, people and places mentioned in the New Testament can be investigated, and have been over the years. These investigations have never proved the New Testament authors to be untrue.

Secondly, those who followed Jesus had no good reason to invent the claim that Jesus was God. Think about the persecution that would come on those who claimed Jesus was on par with God. The claim that Jesus was God would have brought death threats from those who saw this as a transgression of monotheism (there is one God). Why would the followers of Jesus make the claims they did, unless they truly believed that Jesus was God? To simply make Jesus equal to God without truly believing it would have been foolishness. On these two counts the legendary Jesus view is not the best explanation.