

#### **Just Thinking Apologetics #14**

Three more reasons exist for why Jesus was not a late legendary development. First, if the New Testament writings were untrue, those who were still alive at the time the letters and reports surrounding Jesus could easily have exposed the myths/legends of the reports, but this was never done. Paul even challenges those of his time to check out the eyewitness accounts of Jesus resurrected appearance to over 500 people (I Cor. 15:6).

Secondly, the Jesus in the New Testament does not correspond with messianic expectations of the Jewish people (the Messiah as an earthly king) during the first century. Why would the Christians invent something contrary to Jewish expectations, knowing this would bring certain persecution?

Thirdly, Many first and second century documents from secular and Jewish historians corroborates with the writings of the New Testament, especially concerning Jesus. The interesting point concerning these documents is that they testify to the Jesus of history and many of those who wrote them were enemies of Christianity. Next week we will look at some of these writings. Jesus as a legend or myth is clearly not the best explanation. Dr. William Lane Craig asserts, “Today, scarcely any scholar thinks that myth is an important interpretive category for the gospels.”