

The background of the cover is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous stars of varying brightness. In the center, there is a dark, silhouetted figure of a person's head and shoulders, looking upwards. Behind the figure, a soft, glowing nebula or cloud of gas is visible, adding a sense of depth and mystery to the scene.

Mythicisism

by D. M. Murdock

Introduced by Dr. Kenneth John Atchity •

Did the Biblical Jesus really live?

The question “Did the Biblical Jesus really live?” has been debated by scholars for centuries. While literalist Christian scholars prefer to seek evidence that *supports* their belief in a historical Jesus, impartial historians, including some Christian ones, have shown that there is in fact no evidence to support a historical Jesus.

The unbiased view is that the Biblical accounts of Jesus are based entirely upon a blending of enduring ancient myths that were repackaged for the time during the first centuries C.E. and continued to evolve through the Middle Ages. No one knows for sure why the early Church Fathers literalized the myths that sprung from the growing spiritual awakening that recognized a human's ability to transcend animal nature and reach toward the divine: Was it ignorance? Lust for power?

Or maybe it was an attempt to simplify the complex mythological stories for the uneducated masses. We may never discover the reason.

D.M. Murdock's wonderfully clear introduction to the subject of mythicism from her book *Christ in Egypt* and the lists that follow from her book *The Christ Conspiracy* are written under the pseudonym Acharya S. Her work supports the thesis, set out in my novel *The Messiah Matrix* as well, proposing that the story of Jesus Christ was not even remotely unique to Christianity. The same story was pre-existent for millennia in the divine biographies of ancient rulers as far back as the early Egyptian pharaohs who were worshipped as gods. The ancient god myths were adopted according to contemporary needs by many cultures including the Greeks and Romans.

The Messiah Matrix focuses on Augustus Caesar who was the first emperor of Rome and was largely responsible for creating the religion we call Christianity today. The association with Augustus was deliberately

dropped by the early Church Fathers in favor of the literalized myth of Jesus Christ.

Although the foundations of Christianity evolved out of Rome's myth-making machine the new religion rapidly spread throughout the Empire with full Imperial sanction, in order to provide a unifying faith for the many countries under Augustus Caesar's control.

If you believe in a literal Jesus it will be challenging to even address the question that is the title of this article: "Did the Biblical Jesus really live?" Perhaps the most powerful way to answer it for oneself is to read the biographical elements of the mythical 'gods' worshiped by ancient cultures eons before the age of the Biblical Jesus. D.M Murdock's article on *Mythicism* is a clear, accessible resource that provides powerful evidence concerning the true roots of the Jesus myth.

Dr. Kenneth John Atchity, former professor of classics, writer and producer; and author of *The Messiah Matrix* (www.messiahmatrix.com).



Mythicism by Acharya S [D.M. Murdock]

Mythicism represents the perspective that many gods,

goddesses and other heroes and legendary figures said to possess extraordinary and/or supernatural attributes are not “real people” but are in fact mythological characters. Along with this view comes the recognition that many of these figures personify or symbolize natural phenomena, such as the sun, moon, stars, planets, constellations, etc., constituting what is called “astrotheology.” As a major example of the mythicist position, various biblical characters such as Adam and Eve, Satan, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, King David, Solomon & **Jesus Christ**, among other figures, in reality represent mythological characters along the same lines as the Egyptian, Sumerian, Phoenician, Indian, Greek, Roman and other god men, who are all presently accepted as myths, rather than historical figures.

[Note: D.M. Murdock’s point is emphasized by the following lists of elements from the divine biographies of several mythological characters. Notice the similarities with the Jesus story. KJA]

Horus/Osiris of Egypt from *The Christ Conspiracy* by Acharya S page 115-116 [circa 2900 B.C.E.]

* Horus was born of the virgin Isis-Meri on December 25th in a cave/manger with his birth being announced by a star in the

East and attended by three wise men.

- * His earthly father was named "Seb" ("Joseph").
- * He was of royal descent.
- * At age 12, he was a child teacher in the Temple, and at 30, he was baptized, having disappeared for 18 years.
- * Horus was baptized in the river Eridanus or Iarutana (Jordan) by "Anup the Baptizer" ("John the Baptist"), who was decapitated.
- * He had 12 disciples, two of whom were his "witnesses" and were named "Anup" and "Aan" (the two "Johns").
- * He performed miracles, exorcised demons and raised El-Azarus ("El-Osiris"), from the dead.
- * Horus walked on water.
- * His personal epithet was "Iusa," the "ever-becoming son" of "Ptah," the "Father." He was thus called "Holy Child."
- * He delivered a "Sermon on the Mount" and his followers recounted the "Sayings of Iusa."
- * Horus was transfigured on the Mount.
- * He was crucified between two thieves, buried for three days in a tomb, and resurrected.
- * He was also the "Way, the Truth, the Light," "Messiah," "God's Anointed Son," "the "Son of Man," the "Good Shepherd," the "Lamb of God," the "Word made flesh," the "Word of Truth," etc.
- * He was "the Fisher" and was associated with the Fish

("Ichthys"), Lamb and Lion.

- * He came to fulfill the Law.

- * Horus was called "the KRST," or "Anointed One."

- * Like Jesus, "Horus was supposed to reign one thousand years."

"Furthermore, inscribed about 3,500 years ago on the walls of the Temple at Luxor were images of the Annunciation, Immaculate Conception, Birth and Adoration of Horus, with Thoth announcing to the Virgin Isis that she will conceive Horus; with Kneph the "Holy Ghost," impregnating the virgin; and with the infant being attended by three kings, or magi, bearing gifts. In addition, in the catacombs at Rome are pictures of the baby Horus being held by the virgin mother Isis—the original "Madonna and Child."

Attis of Phrygia from *Christ Conspiracy* by Acharya S page 107 [circa 1200 B.C.E.)

- * Attis was born on December 25th of the Virgin Nana.

- * He was considered the savior who was slain for the salvation of mankind.

- * His body as bread was eaten by his worshippers

- * His priests were "eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven."

- * He was both the Divine Son and the Father.

- * On "Black Friday," he was crucified on a tree, from which his

holy blood ran down to redeem the earth.

- * He descended into the underworld.

- * After three days, Attis was resurrected on March 25th (as tradition held of Jesus) as the "Most High God."

Krishna of India from *Christ Conspiracy* by Acharya S page 116-117 [circa 3228 B.C.E.]

- * Krishna was born of the Virgin Devaki ("Divine One") on December 25th.

- * His earthly father was a carpenter, who was off in the city paying tax while Krishna was born.

- * His birth was signaled by a star in the east and attended by angels and shepherds, at which time he was presented with spices.

- * The heavenly hosts danced and sang at his birth.

- * He was persecuted by a tyrant who ordered the slaughter of thousands of infants.

- * Krishna was anointed on the head with oil by a woman whom he healed.

- * He is depicted as having his foot on the head of a serpent.

- * He worked miracles and wonders, raising the dead and healing lepers, the deaf and the blind.

- * Krishna used parables to teach the people about charity and love, and he "lived poor and he loved the poor."

- * He castigated the clergy, charging them with “ambition and hypocrisy . . . Tradition says he fell victim to their vengeance.”
- * Krishna’s “beloved disciple” was Arjuna or Ar-jouan (Jouhn).
- * He was transfigured in front of his disciples.
- * He gave his disciples the ability to work miracles.
- * His path was “strewn with branches.”
- * In some traditions he died on a tree or was crucified between two thieves.
- * Krishna was killed around the age of 30, and the sun darkened at his death.
- * He rose from the dead and ascended to heaven “in the sight of all men.”
- * He was depicted on a cross with nail-holes in his feet, as well as having a heart emblem on his clothing.
- * Krishna is the “lion of the tribe of Saki.”
- * He was called the “Shepherd of God” and considered the “Redeemer,” “Firstborn,” “Sin-Bearer,” “Liberator,” “Universal Word.”
- * He was deemed the “Son of God” and “our Lord and Savior,” who came to earth to die for man’s salvation.
- * He was the second person of the Trinity.
- * His disciples purportedly bestowed upon him the title “Jezeus,” or “Jeseus,” meaning “pure essence.”
- * Krishna is to return to judge the dead, riding on a white horse, and to do battle with the “Prince of Evil,” who will desolate the

earth.

Zoroaster/Zarathustra from *Christ Conspiracy* by Acharya S
page 122-123 [circa 590 B.C.E.)

- * Zoroaster was born of a virgin, and “immaculate conception by a ray of divine reason.”
- * He was baptized in a river.
- * In his youth he astounded wise men with his wisdom.
- * He was tempted in the wilderness by the devil.
- * He began his ministry at age 30.
- * Zoroaster baptized with water, fire and “holy wind.”
- * He cast out demons and restored the sight to a blind man.
- * He taught about heaven and hell, and revealed mysteries, including resurrection, judgment, salvation and the apocalypse.
- * He had a sacred cup or grail.
- * He was slain.
- * His religion had a eucharist.
- * He was the “Word made flesh.”
- * Zoroaster’s followers expect a “second coming” in the virgin-born Saoshyant or Savior, who is to come in 2341 CE and begin his ministry at age 30, ushering in a golden age.

Mithra of Persia from *Christ Conspiracy* by Acharya S page

118-119 [645 B.C.E.]

- * Mithra was born of a virgin on December 25th in a cave, and his birth was attended by shepherds bearing gifts.
- * He was considered a great traveling teacher and master.
- * He had 12 companions or disciples.
- * Mithra's followers were promised immortality.
- * He performed miracles.
- * As the "great bull of the Sun," Mithra sacrificed himself for world peace.
- * He was buried in a tomb and after three days rose again.
- * His resurrection was celebrated every year.
- * He was called "the Good Shepherd" and identified with both the Lamb and the Lion.
- * He was considered the "Way, the Truth and the Light," and the "Logos," "Redeemer," "Savior" and "Messiah."
- * His sacred day was Sunday, the "Lord's Day," hundreds of years before the appearance of Christ.
- * Mithra had his principal festival on what was later to become Easter.
- * His religion had a eucharist or "Lord's Supper," at which Mithra said, "He who shall not eat of my body nor drink of my blood so that he may be one with me and I with him, shall not be

saved."

* "His annual sacrifice is the Passover of the Magi, a symbolical atonement of pledge of moral and physical regeneration."

The Buddha from *Christ Conspiracy* by Acharya S page 109-110 [1366 B.C.E]

* Buddha was born on December 25th of the virgin Maya, and his birth was attended by a "Star of Announcement," wise men and angels singing heavenly songs.

* At his birth, he was pronounced ruler of the world and presented with "costly jewels and precious substances."

* His life was threatened by a king "who was advised to destroy the child, as he was liable to overthrow him."

* Buddha was of royal lineage.

* He taught in the Temple at age 12.

* He crushed a serpent's head (as was traditionally said of Jesus) and was tempted by Mara, the "Evil One," when fasting.

* Buddha was baptized in water, with the "Spirit of God" or "Holy Ghost" present.

* He performed miracles and wonders, healed the sick, fed 500 men from a "small basket of cakes," and walked on water.

* Buddha abolished idolatry, was a "sower of the word," and preached "the establishment of a kingdom of righteousness."

* His followers were obliged to take vows of poverty and to

renounce the world.

- * He was transfigured on a mount, when it was said that his face “shone as the brightness of the sun and moon.”
- * In some traditions, died on a cross.
- * He was resurrected, as his coverings were unrolled from his body and his tomb was opened by supernatural powers.
- * Buddha ascended bodily to Nirvana or “heaven.”
- * He was called “Lord,” “Master,” the “Light of the World,” “God of Gods,” “Father of the World,” “Almighty and All-knowing Ruler,” “Redeemer of All,” “Holy One,” the “Author of Happiness,” “Possessor of All,” the “Omnipotent,” the “Supreme Being,” the “Eternal One.”
- * He was considered the “Sin Bearer,” “Good Shepherd,” the “Carpenter,” the “Infinite and Everlasting,” and the “Alpha and Omega.”
- * He came to fulfill, not to destroy, the law.
- * Buddha is to return “in the latter days” to restore order and to judge the dead.

Conclusion by Dr. Kenneth John Atchity

Having read and assimilated the above biographical elements of several mythical characters (even the Buddha is held by most scholars to be mythical) it will be self-evident that these

many story elements reach back thousands of years to the very dawn of civilization. The story of Jesus Christ, far from being unique, is a recurring theme, based on ancient myths, though no one knows where the myths originated. The thesis contained in *The Messiah Matrix* is an important one for it tells why, I believe, the myth of Jesus Christ was allowed to spread at a time when Augustus was worshipped as The Son of God and anyone challenging his status would have been summarily put to death. In conclusion, no one says it better than D. M. Murdock in the closing words from her book *Who was Jesus?* concerning the challenge we face:

“It is paramount that...we consider the possibility that, rather than being the omnipotent Son of God, Jesus Christ is a manmade, literary character devised for a variety of purposes that no longer serve the greater good of humanity.”

