

# The Discerner

the voice of... **Religion Analysis Service**

A QUARTERLY EXPOSING  
UNBIBLICAL TEACHING & MOVEMENTS

Volume 36, Number 2

April • May • June 2017

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Freemasons  
Jehovah's Witnesses  
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**Exposed!**



*"Hereby know we the spirit of truth  
and the spirit of error" 1 John 4:6*

# The Discerner

Volume 36, Number 2  
April • May • June 2017

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Published Quarterly  
Price \$10.00 for 4 issues  
Foreign subscriptions \$14.00

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## COMMENTS FROM DISCERNER READERS

*We begin by sharing some comments we have recently received from our readers:*

“To those at RAS have a blessed Christmas in Christ Jesus and throughout the year. Larry Sutherland was leader of our senior Bible study group and always had current back-issues of the *Discerner* with him. That is how I was introduced to *The Discerner* and appreciate each issue. I read as I have become more knowledgeable about cults.”  
*Gail Trandem*

“Enclosed is my gift for 2016. I too miss the writings of Larry Sutherland in *The Discerner*. I am one of the few, perhaps, who doesn't have a computer and so am somewhat handicapped when it comes to *The Discerner* [RAS website] and all that can be accessed on it. I see only what is in the magazine itself. God's blessings to you in the New Year.” *Pat Jacob*

“Did you know that Dr. Harold Berry lives here at Christian Homes in Holdage? I'm sure you have his great book, *What They Believe*. He wrote or compiled it years ago when he was at *Back to the Bible* in Lincoln NE. It's still a great book. We have wonderful fellowship. Thank-you for always defending the God-given biblical truth!! No

doubt you get criticism from the cults. That's expected. Keep up the good work!" *Robert H. Johnson*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Yes, I remember Dr. Berry and his book(s) on cults, and indeed, I still have it. It was a great help to me when I was first learning about cults as a young man, and many times since. Please send our greetings to Dr. Berry thanking him for his great service to the body of Christ with the excellent material he provided on cults.

*Great thanks to all of you for your generous gifts during the past holiday season and throughout the year--we simply cannot carry on with this ministry of truth without your support!*

## WITH THIS ISSUE

We will begin this issue with some news items we think will be of interest to our readers.

Following the news items, our feature article is by Jeriah Shank. Mr. Shank does an excellent job responding to biblical critics who try to take away from the uniqueness of Jesus Christ by claiming the gospel stories were derived from ancient mythic sources.

The next article is my (Steve Lagoon) response to skeptics who reject Christianity because they have difficulty understanding how God can allow the evil and suffering in our world. In the article, I respond to that oft-repeated criticism, known as the Epicurus Dilemma, and show how the supposed dilemma fails in the light of Bible teaching.

*Our final article is Bary Gaudrealt's exposé on the Roman Catholic Church, the latest in an excellent series of articles written by Mr. Gaudrealt, and for which we are in his debt.*

*And as always, enjoy our quiz, this time on the life and ministry of the apostle Paul!*

*Plan to attend this important event...*



# **Witnesses Now for Jesus Midwest**

**July 28 & 29, 2017**

Friday (10:00 AM until 7:15 PM) and Saturday (9:30 AM until 2:45 PM)

## **Long Memorial Hall**

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**Sound Biblical teaching by noted Christian Apologists and testimonies by former Jehovah's Witnesses to provide refuge for the oppressed, and to edify and equip the Church.**

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- **Ed Havaich**
- **Steve Lagoon**
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- **Rob Phillips**
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- **Julie McAllen**
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***For more information or to register, please call or text:***

**Charles Smith at 314-277-3866 or e-mail him at: [sns276@yahoo.com](mailto:sns276@yahoo.com)**

**There is no registration fee for the event!  
(Pre-registration is requested.)  
Freewill offerings will be taken during the program.  
Literature and Christian resources available.**



## NEWS AND COMMENTARY

### Talking Trees

When I was younger, I remember hearing *The Smothers Brothers* comedy duo singing a song called *I Talk to the Trees*. New research is suggesting that talking trees are not as strange as it may seem! Sarah Kaplan of the Washington Post recently reported about such a fascinating occurrence (*Trees Fight Back Against Deer Bites*, Washington Post, as published in the Minneapolis Star Tribune, September 18, 2016, SH 3).

The article describes the truly amazing ways in which trees actually communicate with one another to fend off threats from deer. The article states:

A study published in the most recent edition of the *Journal Functional Ecology*, scientists in Leipzig, Germany, describe the brilliant way that wild maple and beech trees figure out when roe deer are eating them—and enact a strategy to make sure the critters don't return for another snack . . . Whenever a branch is snipped—by a deer, insect or human—the trees release 'wound hormones' called jasmonates. The chemicals help with the recovery process. They also play a role in interplant communication; when one plant releases jasmonates, their neighbors start to ramp up their defenses against disease and insect attacks as well. It's like a forest-wide alarm system . . . The trees studied in Leipzig seemed able to recognize specific threats and tailor their responses accordingly . . . When a roe deer was eating their branches, the trees released a second set of chemicals: first the hormone salicylic acid [to help re-growth] . . . and then tannis [that makes] the trees distasteful to deer.

Of course, scientists involved in the research assume this amazing process is a result of evolution, but they betray themselves by describing the process with words like "brilliant" and "pretty wily." Although they were meant, no doubt, as personifications, nevertheless, we are quite right to see in this incredible process that handiwork of our glorious God!

## **Conservative Doctrine a Major Factor in Church Success**

A recent newspaper headline caught my attention. It was titled, *Researchers Find Doctrine Really Does Matter* (Terry Mattingly, Faith, Lacrosse Tribune, Saturday 12/17/2016, A-6). Terry Mattingly described the surprising finding of researchers in Canada that shows a distinct correlation between the success of mainline Christian churches (Anglican, United Church, Presbyterian, and Evangelical Lutheran) is in direct proportion to their faithfulness to “conservative biblical doctrines.”

Mattingly stated: “The bottom line: The faith proclaimed in growing churches was more orthodox—especially on matters of salvation, biblical authority and the supernatural—than in typical mainline congregations.”

The article quotes sociologist David Haskell, “What we see is that growing churches hold more firmly to basics of traditional Christianity, including being more diligent about things like prayer, Bible reading and evangelism.”

One of the paradoxes discovered in this study is that “in growing churches pastors tend to be more conservative than the people in the pews [whereas] in declining congregations, pastors are usually more theologically liberal than their people.”

Among other findings, the study shows that “Clergy in growing churches affirmed, by an overwhelming 93 percent, that Jesus rose from the dead, leaving an empty tomb [compared with] 56 percent of clergy in declining churches.”

In the area of evangelism, there was another very telling trend: “In growing congregations, 100 percent of the clergy said it’s crucial to ‘encourage non-Christians to become Christians,’ while only 50 percent of pastors in declining churches agreed.”

Indeed, people have a basic spiritual need and hunger that cannot be fulfilled by nice little social groups, but can only be fulfilled by a relationship with the living Lord.

# **STOP COPYING ME!**

by Jeriah Shank

## **Is the Story of Jesus Stolen from Pagan Beliefs and Traditions?**

I have two young children who are getting to the age where they are beginning to interact with—and annoy—one another. Often they copy one another. You know the drill: One child says, “Stop copying me!” The other responds, “Stop copying me!” et cetera ad infinitum.

Such conversations eventually wear down even the most resolute of parents. But kids aren’t the only ones crying, “Stop copying me!” Some critics are saying the Gospels’ claims that Jesus was the divine, virgin born, resurrected Savior of the world were copied from earlier myths and were incorporated into the cult of Christ. For example, D.

## **Is the Story of Jesus Stolen from Pagan Beliefs and Traditions?**

M. Murdock in his book *Christ in Egypt* states, “In other words, we are convinced that ‘Jesus Christ’ may well be a fictional character created out of older myths, rituals, and symbols.” Bill Maher, a political commentator, likewise asks an actor dressed as Jesus in his film *Religulous*, “Does it ever bother you that the story of a man who was born of a virgin was resurrected? Your bio was something that was going around the Mediterranean for at least a thousand years.”

This view, called the Christ Myth, or Cosmic Christ theory, has had many advocates over the years in some form or another. Beginning in the first and second centuries, pagans and Christians alike were commenting on parallels between Jesus and pagan myths. But this belief became most popular in German theological circles in the 1800s and has continued with scholars like Gerald Massey, David Strauss, Kersey Graves, Alvin Boyd Kuhn, Bruno Bauer, D. M. Murdock, Tom Harpur, G. A. Wells, and Richard Carrier; in documentaries like *The God Who Wasn’t There*, *Zeitgeist*, and *Religulous*; and even in popular books and movies like *The Da Vinci Code*.

Specifically, it is claimed that long before Jesus, gods such as Horus, Osiris, Mithras, Dionysus, Balder, Krishna, and Attis were born of virgins on Dec. 25, had disciples, performed miracles, died, and rose again. The heart of the issue is that if it can be proved that first-century Jews merely hijacked these ideas from other religions in

order to invent a new religion around Jesus Christ, Who they say may not have even been a historical person, this would greatly diminish or even destroy the essence of Christianity. No Christ, no Christianity. In response, this article will show that these claims are greatly exaggerated or untrue.

### **The Christ Myth Theory Commits the False Cause Fallacy**

There are at least four reasons for rejecting the Christ Myth theory. The false cause fallacy is a term used to describe an illogical approach to an issue in which a person rejects or accepts a particular idea because of its source, rather than because of the arguments for the idea itself. Stated simply, it is the false belief that similar ideas require a similar source. For example, when I was in seventh grade, my little sister, who was in first grade at the time, was crying on the school bus and I went to comfort her. The bus driver said to us, “I should have known you were her older brother. You look alike.” The problem is that I am adopted and am not biologically related to her. Our common appearance was not an indicator of a common source.

Claiming that Christian beliefs borrowed from earlier pagan beliefs simply because parallels exist is a logical fallacy. Even if a belief is held because of another false belief, this does nothing to demonstrate that the belief held is false. It must first be demonstrated that the claims of the Gospels are false on their own terms before one can hypothesize about the origins of such belief.

Yet when one examines the Judaism from which Christianity did originate, there is disgust for other religions. Jews were passionately monotheistic and held that God was holy and not to be mixed with the religious views of other nations (see Exodus 20). If early Christians knew these parallels, so did the Jews they were seeking to convert. Had Christians yanked these beliefs from pagan worship, they would have been manifestly rejected by first-century Jews.

### **God Often Used Parallels to Demonstrate His Superiority**

That parallels exist between Christianity and the religions that predate is really no surprise. The Bible includes numerous examples of God purposely doing things to demonstrate His power and authority over the false gods His people had begun to worship.

For example, during the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt, God sent the plagues to free His people and to deliver judgment (see Exodus 7—11). It has been well documented by scholars such as John J. Davis in *Moses and the Gods of Egypt* that each plague was



a direct attack on the various gods of Egypt. Egyptians thought Ra was the sun god, so the God of the Israelites blocked out the sun. The Egyptians also often worshiped the Nile gods, so God turned the water to blood. For Christianity to purposely incorporate the claims of other religious viewpoints would very much be in line with earlier practices of showing that, while other religions claimed their gods could do these things, Jesus really did do them, showing His true power! Since God is all-knowing and often works through prophecy, it would not be surprising if He allowed many parallels to come into existence for the ultimate purpose of foreshadowing Jesus.

### **Historical Evidence Supports the Claims of Christianity**

Unlike these various pagan myths, the beliefs of Christianity are centered in history. Christianity claims that around AD 30–35, a virgin-born Jesus was crucified as a sacrifice for the sins of others and rose again three days later, proving His divinity.

The beauty of Christianity is that ample evidence supports such claims. First, the Gospels have been shown to be reliable in their recollection of facts and in their preserved presence today. Even Bart Ehrman, a leading critic of the Bible, writes in *Misquoting Jesus* that “the essential Christian beliefs are not affected by textual variants in the manuscript tradition of the New Testament.”

Second, the facts surrounding Jesus—such as His life, ministry, death, empty tomb, and the sacrifice of His disciples—are abundantly supported from the New Testament writings and from the writings of the church fathers and at least nine non-Christian writers from the first two centuries, such as Josephus and Tacitus. There is nothing like this for the pagan myths before Christ. Evidence like this has led modern New Testament scholars, like John Dominic Crossan, who denied the resurrection, to write, “That he was crucified is as sure as anything historical ever can be.” Likewise, Michael Grant, a secular historian, writes, “To sum up, modern critical methods fail to support the Christ-myth theory. It has again and again been answered and annihilated by first-rank scholars. In recent years no serious scholar has ventured to postulate the non-historicity of Jesus—or at any rate very few, and they have not succeeded in disposing of the much stronger, indeed very abundant, evidence to the contrary.”

To illustrate this issue, see if you can name the ship that fits the following description. It starts with T, was described as unsinkable, struck an iceberg, held a shortage of lifeboats, and many people drowned. If you are thinking of the Titanic, you would be right. But this description is also true of a fictional ship called the Titan in a

story written in 1898, 14 years before the Titanic sailed. Imagine someone concluding that because the Titan was fictional, the Titanic never existed. That would be ludicrous. Evidence shows that the Titanic really existed and did all those things regardless of any parallels that came before it. The same is true of Jesus. Even if there are parallels, there is good reason to believe that Jesus really did the things ascribed to Him.

### **The Parallels Are Not Parallel**

When one examines the original sources, however, the alleged parallels are nothing of the sort. Many are exaggerations and redefinitions, the result of later additions to make beliefs seem more like the popular Christianity of the day, or even flat-out lies. In all reality, because the primary sources do not uphold the alleged parallels, proponents often simply quote other scholars quoting other scholars, rather than the original documents. Let's examine just three of the most commonly cited parallels to illustrate. Though these myths contain many alleged parallels, for the sake of space, the discussion will be limited to the most significant ones.

### **Horus**

Horus was an Egyptian god. Leading Christ-Myth proponent D. M. Murdock describes him, among other things, as being born of the virgin Isis Meri on Dec. 25, "crucified" between two "thieves," resurrected on the third day, and called many divine names like "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," "Messiah," the "Son of Man," "the Word made flesh," and "Iusa," while his father, Osiris, was the KRST. But none of the primary sources support these ideas. Some of the most reliable information about these beliefs comes from writings dated later than the New Testament.

More specifically, the Bible never claims that Jesus was born on Dec. 25. Instead, though there are differences between some of the Egyptian and Greek texts, the primary sources agree that Horus the child was not born of a virgin but was the result of a sexual union between the goddess Isis (with no specific mention of "Isis Meri") and her brother/husband Osiris, an Egyptian king/god who had been murdered by his brother Set for sleeping with their sister Nephthys, who was Set's wife. Set tricked Osiris into climbing into a coffin, which was then thrown into the sea, and Osiris drowned. When Isis found Osiris's body, she hid it until Set found out, at which point he cut Osiris into 14 pieces. Isis then gathered all the pieces of her dead husband, except for his reproductive member, which had been eaten by a fish. She then magically conceived Horus with his corpse while

in the form of a bird. Horus then grew up to battle Set and ultimately prevailed.

For his death, Horus himself was never crucified. The closest he comes to it is a picture with his arms outstretched to the heavens as the sky god, as even Murdock herself admits. Horus did, however, die as a child from the sting of a scorpion but was raised back to life through magic spells when Isis pleaded with the god Thoth. But this was nothing like the voluntary death of Jesus. Osiris, too, was raised, but not like Jesus. He never returned to life, but was spiritually raised to become god of the underworld.

While some names for Horus are similar to Jesus, there are no references in the primary sources to names like Iusa. Further, the name KRST is Egyptian for “burial,” while the name Christ is Greek for “anointed one.” And though he was called “savior,” the only one Horus saves is his father, Osiris, by getting revenge through his defeat of Set.

## **Mithras**

The cult of Mithras was a mystery religion from the Romans that had come from the Persians. So many forms of Mithraism were entrenched in a Zodiac worldview, mixing various beliefs and practices, both early and late. Concerning its relation to Christianity, Muslim scholar Yousaf Saleem Chishti writes in *What Is Christianity?*, “Many critics are constrained to conclude that Christianity is the facsimile or the second edition of Mithraism.” He claims Mithras was a son of God, was born of a virgin, was crucified, and rose from the dead on the third day, atoning for the sins of man before returning to his heavenly father. Others have also pointed out the importance of baptism and the eating of a sacramental meal in the worship of Mithras.

While little actual documents for Mithras exist, because it was a secret religion, artifacts, graffiti, and later documents play out the events of his life. Most of the written accounts come from after the life of Jesus and even from Christian authors like Justin Martyr and Tertullian. In other words, what parallels do exist are quite possibly additions made to Mithraism to make it more like the popular Christianity.

In the documents we have, Mithras was not born of a virgin but appeared full grown out of a rock. While rocks are technically virgins, this is hardly parallel. While some quote earlier sources from the Persians, those accounts have the Mithras-like god being born of

the preserved seed of a god, still very different from Jesus. Most importantly, Mithras did not die, much less rise again. Rather, he slayed a bull whose blood spilled out on plants, which symbolized life. It is his defeat of the bull that leads to his title as savior. Mithras was then thought to judge the souls of the departed and lead them through the spheres of the seven planets to the equivalent of Heaven.

In terms of the practice of baptism for Mithras followers, it was not a baptism like that of Jesus. First, this baptism was secret, and Christian baptism is public. Second, this baptism consisted of the initiate standing in a pit while a bull was scarified above and the blood was dripped down over the person, while Christian baptism is a picture, in water, of Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. Finally, the commemorative meal for Mithras was of the bull, while the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Jesus' own body and blood.

## **Dionysus**

As a third example, consider Dionysus, the Greek god of wine. The movie *Zeitgeist* declares, "Dionysus of Greece, born of a virgin on December 25th, was a traveling teacher who performed miracles such as turning water into wine, he was referred to as the 'King of Kings,' 'God's Only Begotten Son,' 'The Alpha and Omega,' and many others, and upon his death, he was resurrected."

Yet again, the primary sources just do not bear this out. No sources before Christianity describe him as being born on Dec. 25. And as for his virgin birth, Dionysus was not born of a virgin at all. Two different but related accounts exist. In the first, his human mother, Semele, was impregnated by Zeus in human form. When Zeus's wife Hera found out, she convinced Semele to demand to see Zeus in his glory, but the awesomeness of the sight killed her. Zeus then took the baby from her womb and carried him in his own thigh until he was ready to be born.

In the second version, Semele is simply the vehicle for Dionysus to be reborn into the world after being torn apart by the Titans as a child. In the stories, either Zeus drinks a concoction made with his heart and impregnates Semele with lightning, or Semele drinks it and becomes pregnant. But even in this case, Dionysus was the offspring of Zeus and his daughter Persephone. But this alternative is significant because it is also the only source for the idea that Dionysus was killed and resurrected.

In regards to his performing miracles like turning water to wine, all ancient deities performed miracles, and one would expect the god of

wine to do such a thing. Only Dionysus did not turn water into wine, but filled empty wine jugs. And while he did do much teaching while traveling, his teaching revolved around how to make wine and get drunk.

In each of these cases, when the parallels are considered head to head, there is nothing in pagan mythology like the virgin-born Jesus, Who was God incarnate, born nonsexually to a mortal woman. He would grow to perform miracles that are externally evidenced, would voluntarily give His life to pay for the sins of others, and would rise three days later as He predicted, leaving behind an empty tomb, never to die again.

## **Conclusion**

Despite the growing popularity of bloggers claiming that Jesus didn't exist and that His story is just copied from earlier myths, either in part or in whole, this article has shown that there is no good reason to take this claim seriously and that, in fact, there are good reasons to think Jesus really did what He claimed. Perhaps the apostle Peter's own words are the most helpful in approaching this issue. He relays his own experiences when he writes,

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Pet. 1:16–21)

The real Jesus is a person we cannot ignore. We can reject Him or accept Him, but we cannot escape His reality. The best we can do is heed the instructions of the apostle Paul, who wrote, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9).

Jeriah Shank (M.Div., Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary; MA, Baptist Bible Seminary) is pastor of First Baptist Church, Monroe, Iowa.

This article first appeared in the Baptist Bulletin. © Regular Baptist Press, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Used by permission.

## **THE EPICURUS DILEMMA: RECONCILING GOD AND EVIL**

by Steve Lagoon

The Greek philosopher Epicurus laid down a philosophical challenge related to the perennial question of how to reconcile God's existence with the existence of evil and suffering (hereafter evil/suffering) in the world. Epicurus (341-270 B. C.) said:

Is he willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is impotent. Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Whence then is evil?

### **Theodicy**

Such questions generally fall under the category of theodicy since they try to reconcile the reality of evil/suffering with the claims of a good God. Louis Pojman defines theodicy:

Theodicy. Attempts 'to justify the ways of God to men' by solving the problem that evil presents to the theists. The word derives from the title to the Theodicy of Leibniz.

Reese adds:

From *theos* ('God') and *dike* ('justice'). A term introduced by Leibniz to characterize the topic of God's government of the world in relation to the nature of man. The problem is the justification of God's goodness and justice in view of the evil in the world.

As Epicurus stated the question, since evil/suffering does exist, either God is good and really wants to stop suffering but is not powerful

enough to stop it, or He does have sufficient power to stop it, but because He is not good, he does nothing to stop it.

Let us consider this challenge to theism raised by Epicurus; is God weak or unconcerned or whence is evil?

### **A Weak God?**

There are indeed those who have been driven to conclude that God must surely be lacking the power to stop evil or He most certainly would.

This is the view, for instance, of the Jewish Rabbi Harold S. Kushner in his book, *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*. Rabbi Kushner's position was forged in the fire of watching his own son suffer from a tragic condition and his conclusion is understandable. Kushner could not accept that God had the power to prevent or stop it, yet allowed his son to suffer with the disease. Kushner wondered: "Was God less compassionate than he was?"

This same kind of motivation has been at the heart of theologians in the "Open Theism" camp who have sought to get God off the hook by suggesting that He is limited in knowledge. God simply cannot be blamed for the evil and suffering in the world since He didn't know it was going to happen in advance.

While some may find philosophical comfort from this type of portrayal of God, nevertheless, such a God is not the God revealed in the pages of Holy Scripture. It certainly is not the God of Anselm, the greatest being that can be imagined. No, this "God" seems to be kind of wimpy in the face of the forces of evil.

Rather, the God of Scripture is the all-powerful ruler of the universe.

"Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable"(Isaiah 40:28).

"All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"(Daniel 4:35).

"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and

for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”(Colossians 1:16-17).

### **A Malevolent God?**

The other option posed by Epicurus is the unpleasant idea that while having the power, God simply doesn't care. He, therefore, observes from heaven wholly unconcerned and lacking in compassion at the evil and suffering in the world.

Again, this is not the God revealed in the Scriptures. How could God show greater love or compassion than to have sent His own Son to die on a cruel cross to make forgiveness and peace with Him possible?

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believed in him, should not perish, but have everlasting life”(John 3:16).

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God”(2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

“The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love” (Psalm 103:8).

“Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail” (Lamentations 3:22).

### **How should a Christian respond?**

The bottom line, as we shall see, is that Epicurus' argument is a false dichotomy. In other words, despite Epicurus' argument to the contrary, there are actually more than the two options he presents in order to reconcile the reality of evil and suffering with God's goodness and power.

### **Classical Free-will Theism**

Indeed we shall here defend the classic Christian response often called the “Free Will Theism” defense, in which all the attributes of God are affirmed including His omnipotence (all-powerful) omniscience (all-knowing) and his goodness.

Essentially Free-Will Theism suggests that God has a higher purpose in allowing evil and suffering to exist. Borrowing language from Leibniz, God created the best of all possible worlds while placing a



high value on freedom and love, the very thing a good God would want to preserve.

### **The Cause of Evil and Suffering**

The Bible explains the origin of evil in the rebellion of men and fallen angels (the Devil and demons). That is, God made a perfect universe and a perfect world for man (Genesis 1:31); a world without evil, a world without suffering. But a world with a choice; follow God and enjoy God's blessings or rebel against God and cause evil and suffering as a consequence.

Sadly, the first people of our race, Adam and Eve, chose the way of rebellion and rather than passing down perfectly good natures to their offspring, they instead passed down to all of their posterity evil, sinful, and corrupt natures. What was meant for good had been twisted by rebellion into a evil.

This evil, or original sin, infects all of Adam's children so that there now exists an insuperable gulf between them and their creator, insuperable that is without the gracious working of God towards them (Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:12).

Here is where the explanatory power of Christianity is so compelling. That is, it is the Christian worldview that so accurately depicts the real world we all live in. God created an amazing universe and a wonderful world for man to live on. Though it is marred by the fall into sin and the consequent entrance of death into that world, nevertheless the world remains a beautiful and abundant home for us.

But the Bible also says people have a responsibility to manage and reign over our environment. Further, men are morally accountable to God for how they live. Our various news sources make it clear that there is something inherently wrong with mankind and that something is *sin*, which accounts for all the evil actions on display; one man against the other.

### **C. S. Lewis and Freedom**

Now some might wonder why God created the world with this possibility for evil to develop. Perhaps none have explained it more lucidly than C. S. Lewis:

God created things which had free will. That means creatures which can go either wrong or right. Some people think they can imagine a creature which was free but had no possibility of

going wrong; I cannot. If a thing is free to be good it is also free to be bad. And free will is what has made evil possible. Why, then, did God give them free will? Because free will, though it makes evil possible, is also the only thing that makes possible any love or goodness or joy worth having. A world of automata—of creatures that worked like machines—would hardly be worth creating. The happiness which God designs for His higher creatures is the happiness of being freely, voluntarily united to Him and to each other in an ecstasy of love and delight . . . and for that they must be free. Of course God knew what would happen if they used their freedom the wrong way: apparently He thought it worth the risk . . . If God thinks this state of war in the universe a price worth paying for free will—that is, for making a live world in which creatures can do real good or harm and something of real importance can happen, instead of a toy world which only moves when He pulls the strings—then we may take it is worth paying.

### **Real Choice, Real Love**

As a young man, and new in my Christian faith, these words from C. S. Lewis were immensely helpful. Surely God could have made people like little play dolls that say ‘I love you’ when you pull the string. But that would be anything but real love.

Again, imagine having a robot-like spouse that was built with voice recognition capabilities so that it responded to your words of affection with some pre-programmed words of affection in return. It might sound good, but the words would ring hollow.

Perhaps one of the things it would say was, ‘You’re the only one I love!’ Of what possible value would those words have since they were spoken by a machine that could not choose another?

No, real love means having a real choice, real free will. Lewis used the word risk, and rightly so, since in making creatures as us, creatures with real choice, God created the real possibility that we would not choose Him, but would rather go the way of satanic delusion and self-centeredness.

But one day, God will judge the world and every man will stand before his seat of justice. No act of injustice will be left unpunished. Every murderer, every rapist, every dictator will be brought low before his holy tribunal. Then God’s perfect justice will prevail through the universe. The Apostle John had a vision of this day:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away” (Revelations 21:1-4).

### **When You Don’t Understand**

I want to share an observation that was inspired by a comment I heard from Christian psychologist James Dobson, but it is something too which any parent can relate to.

Imagine a very young child, perhaps a year or two old, sick and in the hospital needing intensive care. All around are strange people with masks, and they are holding the child down and sticking him or her with needles. The child is scared and in pain and wonders, “Why are my mom and dad not helping me?” or worse yet, “Why are mom and dad actually helping these people to hurt me?”

The child is simply too young to understand. The only thing that the child can do is look into his or her parents’ eyes and trust that they are somehow doing all this for their good.

And this is just what the Christian must do. We are like the child, simply not able to fully comprehend why God is allowing them or others to suffer. It is at this point that we must look to our loving heavenly Father, and trust. Trust Him, and trust that He has a reason for what He is doing.

We must stand upon God’s word:

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose”(Romans 8:28).

### **The Christian Response to Evil and Suffering**

We have seen the supposed dilemma of Epicurus is without merit. The Bible provides satisfying answers to the problem of evil and suffering. The Christian gospel offers very real comfort to the reality of the pain and suffering going on in this world.

We are assured that God is with us in our pain, helping us through it. *We can know that the pain is not in vain*, but rather God is able to bring goodness from it, all the while building our faith in through the process.

Again, we can be sure that all evil will be judged and justice will ultimately prevail. Lastly, we have the great hope that evil and suffering will not go on forever; *God is going to bring it all to an end in the New Heavens and the New Earth*. Yes, we rejoice that all evil was judged at the cross of Christ and the victory won with Christ's Resurrection!

### **The Atheist Explanation for Evil and Suffering**

Before concluding, let us briefly consider what the atheist's critics of Christianity have to offer in the face of the same human suffering and evil in the world.

*Nothing!*

Nope. The atheist has not one word of comfort to offer the world. All they can say is that there is no inherent meaning or purpose to the universe or man's place in it. "All we are is dust in the wind." We owe our existence to a random cosmic incident.

It's a dog eat dog world. The survival of the fittest. The strong trample over the weak. No purpose in suffering. Just endure it because there is no hope of it getting better. There is no hope for ultimate justice in the face of evil. There is no hope of eternal life where we can experience a world of real joy devoid of injustice and suffering. No, just death.

I know that atheists will respond by saying "Hey, I am sorry to break this bleak outlook to you, but that's just the way it is." But, it isn't just how it is. The Christian worldview is much more compelling than the atheistic vision both intellectually and existentially!

# **20 BIBLICAL REASONS WHY I CANNOT BE A ROMAN CATHOLIC**

by Bary Claud Gaudreal

## **INTRODUCTION**

In the light of Scripture we will, “examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good” 1 Thessalonians 5:21. I will seek to examine the Roman Church’s teachings to see if they stand up to the real teachings of the Scriptures.

## **I. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF TRADITION BEING EQUAL WITH INSPIRED SCRIPTURE :**

**THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES:** As a result the Church, to whom the transmission and interpretation of Revelation is entrusted, “does not derive her certainty about all revealed truths from the holy scriptures alone, both Scripture and Tradition must be accepted and honored with equal sentiments of devotion and reverence.” Canadian Council of Catholic Bishops. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 2nd ed. 1997, p. 26

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** It is very clear that the cannon composed of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament is closed and that the church has rejected the Apocrypha as Scripture. “Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. *Do not add to His words, lest He reprove you and you be found a liar.*” Prov. 30:5-6

## **II. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholics claim that from the time of Peter the apostle, the so claimed first pope of the Catholic faith, there has been a line of popes to the present pope in office. There has been “The authoritative and unbroken transmission of the mission and power conferred by Jesus Christ on St. Peter and the Apostles from them to the present pope and bishops.” Donald Attwater (Editor) *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford, Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, 1997, p. 29

**BIBLE REFUTE:** One of the conditions of being an apostle was that that person had to have witnessed the life of Christ. Those apostles have long since died out thereby breaking the so-called apostolic chain. “Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the

time that the Lord Jesus went in and among us , beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He was taken up from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” Acts 1:21-22

### **III. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF THE POPE BEING HEAD OF THE CHURCH**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic Church claims that the Pope is the head of the Church. “The pope, as bishop of Rome, is the successor of St. Peter, and therefore for the visible head of the Church on earth, the vicegerent of Christ , and the supreme ruler of all Christians.” Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, 1997, p. 388

**BIBLE REFUTE:** The Bible makes it very clear that Christ is the head of the church. “And *He put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over the church*, which is the body, the fullness of Him who fills all and all.” Eph. 1:22-23

### **IV. THE CATHOLIC TEACHING OF THE INFALIBILITY OF THE POPE**

**THE CATHOLICS TEACHING:** “The Roman Pontiff head of the college of bishops, enjoys this infallibility in virtue of his office, when as supreme pastor and teacher of all the faithful – who confirms his brethren in the faith – he proclaims by a definitive act of doctrine pertaining to faith or morals ... “Canadian Council of the Catholic Church. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 2nd, 1997. pg 235

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** Only Christ can be infallible, because He is our sinless high priest. “For such a high priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens. Heb. 7:26

### **V. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF CALLING PRIESTS FATHER**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic church calls its priest father and calls the Roman pontiff “Holy Father.” “FATHER is by right the title of **mendicant** friar but in speech is extended to all priests of the regular” (q.v.) clergy. Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and publishers, 1997 pg. 190

**BIBLE REFUTE** The Bible is straight forward in that no man should be called father (in a spiritual sense) for God is our Father. “*Do not*

*call anyone on earth your father; for one is your Father, He who is in heaven.” Matt. 23:9*

## **VI. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE THAT THE PRIESTS OF ROME CLAIM TO POSSES THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING.** The Catholic Church claims that their priests hold the Melchizedek priesthood. ‘In The New Testament Epistle to the Hebrews, it associates Christ with Melchizedek’s priesthood by quoting in three successive chapters the invocation from Psalm 110: “You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek and forever.” This is also the biblical basis for the Catholic doctrine, that once a man is ordained a priest, his priesthood like Christ’s “in the line of Melchizedek,” is forever (Hebrews 5,6,7) John A Hardon, S.J.. *Pocket Catholic Dictionary*. .Image books; Double Day. 1985. p. 256

**BIBLE REFUTE:** The Bible is very clear that Christ alone holds the Melchizedek priesthood. “for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: *The LORD has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.... For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens.*” Heb. 7:21, 26

## **VII. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISMAL REGENERATION**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic Church teaches that baptism is essential for salvation. “Baptismal regeneration that owing to the removal of sin by the sacrament and infusion of first grace, the subject who has begun to live to nature now begins to live supernaturally.” Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, 1997, p. 45.

**BIBLE REFUTE:** Saint Paul makes it very clear that baptism does not save but only the gospel can save a person. “*For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ be made of no effect.*” 1 Cor. 1:13

## **VIII. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE PERPETUAL SACRIFICE OF CHRIST IN THE MASS**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** SACRAFICE OF THE MASS, The Catholic church teaches that every time mass is said, the wine and bread are changed into the body and blood of Christ which is continually

sacrificed daily on the altars of church. “The true sacrifice of the body and blood of Christ is made present on the altar by the words of consecration; a representation and renewal of the offering made on Calvary: in this divine sacrifice the same Christ is present and immolated in a bloodless manner who once for all offered Himself in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross . . . only the manner of offering is different.” Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books, 1997, p. 443

**BIBLE REFUTE:** The Bible is very clear that Christ died once upon the cross of Calvary for the sins of the world. “*Knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died, He died for sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.*” Rom. 6:9-10

## **IX. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF CONFESSION TO A PRIEST**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic Church teaches that one must confess their sins to a priest to have forgiveness. “The auricular confession of sins to a priest in the tribunal of penance. All mortal sins committed after baptism must be confessed together with those circumstances which alter the specific character of the sin.” Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*, Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, 1997, p.113.

**BIBLE REFUTE:** The Bible says that we are to confess our sins to Christ our high priest. “My little children, these things I write to you, that you may not sin. *And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ our righteous.*” 1 John 2:1

## **X. THE CATHOLIC TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE BEING DISPENCED THROUGH THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** “THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS are Baptism, Confirmation, the Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Orders and Matrimony. The Council of Trent defined it to be of the faith that these sacraments were all instituted by Jesus Christ, that they confer grace on all who receive them worthily and with the right disposition, the Baptism, Conformation and Orders imprint an indelible character on the soul and so cannot be repeated, and that the sacraments are necessary to salvation, though not all are necessary to every person.” Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers. 1997, p. 441.



**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Bible states clearly that one's own righteous works do not save. "But we are all like an unclean thing, and *all our righteousness are like filthy rags.*" Isa. 64:6

## **XI. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF VIRGIN MARY**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, The Catholic Church teaches that virgin Mary was conceived without original sin. "The immaculate conception of the blessed virgin Mary. i.e. The doctrine of our Lady in the first instance of her conception was, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God in view of the merits of Jesus Christ the savior of the human race, preserved exempt from all stain original sin." Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers. 1997, p. 246

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Bible teaches that Mary acknowledged and rejoiced that she had a Savior because she was a sinner. "And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and *my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*" Luke 1:46-47

## **XII. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE THAT MARY IS CO-MEDIATRIX WITH CHRIST**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic Church teaches that Mary is the Mediatrix of all graces. "The blessed virgin Mary in her aspect of the discerner of the graces bestowed on human kind by the Holy Ghost through merits of the crucified Christ. Having co-operated in the Incarnation and the Redemption by her motherhood and by her suffering at the foot of the cross, our Lady merits to co-operate as a channel for the graces flowing there from. Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers. 1997, p. 316

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Bible states that Christ alone is mediator between God and man. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus Christ." 1 Tim. 2:5

## **XIII THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF MARY BEING THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic Church teaches that Mary is the queen of heaven. "The Queenship of the B.V. Mary, May 31. As Christ is our divine King, Mary is our heavenly Queen." Louis L. Morrow. *My Catholic Faith*. 1963, p. 416

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Bible mentions only one Queen of heaven, that being a pagan female deity. "But we will certainly do whatever has gone out of our mouth, to burn incense to the *queen of heaven* and pour out drink offerings to her, as we have done, we and our fathers, our kings and our princes, in the city of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem. For we had plenty of food, were well off, and saw no trouble." Jer. 44:17

#### **XIV. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF SAINTHOOD**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** The Catholic Church teaches that there are some saints that are holier than others which are canonized by the Church who through their holy character gain entrance into heaven: "whose holiness of life and heroic virtue have been confirmed and recognized by the church's official process of beautification and canonization, or by the continued existence of an approved cultus and feast." Donald Attwater. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publication. 1997 p. 444

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Bible teaches that all believers are saints and when they die, they will all go to heaven. "To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints with all who in every place call on the name Jesus Christ our Lord both theirs and ours." 1 Cor. 1:2

#### **XV. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF PENANCE**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** "PENANCE, THE SACRAMENT OF. A sacrament of the New Law instituted by Christ which the absolution of a priest acting as judge, sins committed after Baptism are forgiven to a person who confesses them with sorrow and a purpose of amendment." Donald Attwater, *A Catholic Dictionary*, Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, 1997, p. 376

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** Once again penance (being an act of works to gain ones salvation) does not save. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He has saved us through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." Titus 3:5

#### **XVI. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF INVOCATION OF SAINTS**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** INVOCATION OF SAINTS. "*It is the teaching of the church* that God enables the saints to hear and see

the needs of those on the earth; that they present our petitions before the throne of God; and consequently, that we may pray to them. This is part of the doctrine of communion of the saints.” Donald Attwater, *A Catholic Dictionary*, Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, 1997, pg. 261

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** Clearly stated once again, we are to pray to Christ as our mediator. “Therefore He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He lives to make intercession for them.” Heb. 7:25

## **XVII. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF THE VENERATION OF SAINTS**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** “The cultus of dulia is paid to the saints; that of hyperdulia to the Blessed Virgin. Public cultus is said to be paid only to those canonized or beatified (or otherwise recognized by the Church); the former may be venerated anywhere; the latter only where permitted by the Holy See. Attwater Donald. *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publications. 1997, p. 444

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Scripture states that we are to venerate (worship) God alone. “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Away with you Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.”’ Matt. 4:10

## **XVIII. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF PURGATORY**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** “PURGATORY. The place and state which souls suffer for a while and are purged after death, before they go to heaven, on account of their sins.” Donald Attwatter. *A Catholic Dictionary*, Rockford Illinois, Tan Books Publishers, 1997, p. 413

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The Bible says that when a believer dies he or she goes straight to heaven. “We are confident, *Yes well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*” 2 Cor. 5:8

## **XIX. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF TRANSUBSTANTIATION**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** “The mode by which according to the infallible teaching of the church, Christ’s presence in the Eucharist is brought about. The word is defined by the Council of Trent as ‘the wonderful and singular conversion of the whole substance of bread

into the body of Christ and of the whole of the substance of the wine into the blood, the *species* of bread and wine alone remaining.” This means that both matter and form of the bread and wine cease to be; that the body and blood begin to be in a new way; and that common bond between these two pairs of terms is the species.” Donald Attwatter. *A Catholic Dictionary*, Rockford Illinois. Tan Books and Publishers, 1997. p. 499

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** When Christ speaks of eating His flesh and drinking His blood, He was speaking in a spiritual sense not literally. “Then He said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you, ... It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. *The words that I speak to you are spirit and they are life.*” John 6:53, 63

## **XX. THE CATHOLICS TEACH THE DOCTRINE OF THE TREASURY OF MERITS OF THE SAINTS**

**CATHOLIC TEACHING:** “(Sometimes called the Treasury of Satisfaction of the Church) The superabundant store of the merits and treasures and satisfactions of Christ, which were beyond the needs of our salvation to which are added the excess of merits and satisfactions of our lady and the saints. It is from this treasury that the Church grants indulgences” Donald Attwater (General Editor). *A Catholic Dictionary*. Rockford Illinois, Tan Books and Publishers, pp. 499-500, 1997

**BIBLICAL REFUTE:** The good deeds of Catholic saints are not imputed to the deceased members of “righteous” Catholics through penance. This would imply that one’s own good works plus the good works of deceased saints gets one into heaven rather than by the blood of Christ alone. “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast.” Eph. 2:8-9

## **CONCLUSION**

This review of Roman Catholic doctrines shows that the Church has seriously deviated from essential biblical teaching.

## QUIZ: THE APOSTLE PAUL

1. Where was the apostle Paul Born?
  - a. Tarsus
  - b. Antioch
  - c. Saint Paul
  - d. Rome
  
2. Which famous Jewish Rabbi did Paul study under?
  - a. Maimonides
  - b. Joseph of Arimathea
  - c. Caiaphas
  - d. Gamaliel
  
3. What name was Paul known by before converting to Christianity?
  - a. Barnabas
  - b. Saul
  - c. The Zealot
  - d. James
  
4. Who abandoned Paul during his first missionary journey?
  - a. Barnabas
  - b. Bartholomew
  - c. Bart Ehrman
  - d. John Mark
  
5. Who did Paul have a falling out with and go separate directions after his first missionary journey?
  - a. John Mark
  - b. Randy
  - c. Peter
  - d. Barnabas

6. Who did Paul confront to his face in Antioch?
- a. Peter
  - b. Judas
  - c. Satan
  - d. Antiochus IV Epiphanies
7. What did Paul use as a point of contact in his speech to Athenian philosophers on Mars Hill?
- a. He used a tree in the shape of a cross
  - b. An altar to an unknown god
  - c. He referred to the tomb of the unknown soldier
  - d. A snake
8. What happened why Paul was preaching in Troas?
- a. A boy fell out a window and died
  - b. A girl was delivered of a demon
  - c. It was late at night at Paul fell into a deep sleep.
  - d. The sign of the apple!
9. What happened when Paul was in jail at Philippi?
- a. He fed 5000 from the crusty bread in his jail cell
  - b. He miraculously survived a poisonous snake bite
  - c. An earthquake led to the jailer's conversion
  - d. Paul feigned an illness as a diversion for Silas to escape
10. What happened when Paul was shipwrecked as a prisoner on the way to Rome?
- a. Paul was thrown overboard by the crew to appease God and still the storm
  - b. Paul was drowned and revived by native islanders
  - c. Everyone on the ship was saved by a passing boat and returned to Jerusalem
  - d. Everyone on board safely made it to shore and continued to Rome

**Answers:**

1, a; 2, d; 3, b; 4, d; 5, d; 6, a; 7, b; 8, a; 9, c; 10, d

**Personal Notes on the Articles:**

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