

HOW CAN WE ANSWER THE BIBLE'S CRITICS?  
B: ALLEGED INCLUSION OF MYTHS AND FABLES

- I. Alleged Mythical Roots of Christian DOCTRINES and PRACTICES
  - A. The Taurobolium (cf. Rev. 7:14; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rom. 6)
    1. Depicts consecration of a HIGH PRIEST, not a new CONVERT
    2. Christians use no ACTUAL BLOOD
    3. Christians, especially JEWISH converts, would have found it REPULSIVE
    4. This POST-dates the NT by almost 100 YEARS
  - B. Baptism
    1. Only SUPERFICIALLY similar to JEWISH baptism
    2. Depicts the convert's identification with Jesus in His DEATH, His BURIAL, and His RESURRECTION
  - C. Resurrection
    1. Only Christianity has a God who DIED and ROSE AGAIN in order to lead His faithful to ETERNAL LIFE
    2. Only Jesus was a HISTORIAL person who died and rose again NEVER to DIE again
    3. Only Jesus was SEEN in the FLESH by eyewitness who had KNOWN Him before His DEATH
  - D. Rebirth

1. Only VAGUE connection to the Christian doctrine
  2. All POST-date Christianity by at least 100 YEARS
- E. Sacrificial Death of the Deity
1. None of them DIED for SOMEONE ELSE
  2. Only Jesus died for SIN
  3. Jesus died ONCE and for ALL (Heb. 7:27; ;9:25-28; 10:10-14)
  4. Jesus' DEATH was an HISTORICAL event
  5. Jesus died VOLUNTARILY
  6. Jesus' death was not a DEFEAT but a TRIUMPH
- II. FALLACIES of Linking Christianity with Mystery Religions
- A. "Combinationalism or Universalism": Combining elements from MANY religions to CREATE something that looks VAGUELY Christian
  - B. "Coloring the Evidence": Using CHRISTIAN terminology to describe PAGAN elements and then marveling at the PARALLELS
  - C. "Oversimplification": Finding supposed parallels by OMITTING important information
  - D. "Who's Influencing Whom?": Alleging DEPENDENCY on the basis of evidence that POST-DATES Christianity
- III. UNIQUENESS of the Gospels' Portrayal of Jesus
- A. Described a contemporary PERSON in a contemporary CULTURE
  - B. Denied all SIMILARITIES and claimed EXCLUSIVITY
  - C. Present simple REPORTS without mythical EMBELISHMENT