

119

GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Answering Atheists Series: Was Yeshua Copied From Pagan Myths?

TEACHING SUMMARY

This teaching examines the claim that the gospel accounts of Yeshua were assembled from pagan myths. It focuses on alleged parallels promoted in Zeitgeist, arguing that the claims should be tested against the actual sources rather than accepted from repeated assertions.

The central methodological point is that similarity does not establish a causal connection. The teaching distinguishes a general resemblance from evidence that one account borrowed from another, and emphasizes both the content and the dates of the sources being compared.

Claims about Horus are examined in detail. The teaching contrasts the cited birth story with the virgin birth and challenges claims about disciples, baptism, crucifixion, and a three-day resurrection. It identifies a scorpion's sting in the account it cites concerning Horus's death.

The teaching also examines Attis, Krishna, and Dionysus. It compares the details of their stories with the gospel accounts and distinguishes resurrection from reincarnation. Where it discusses later versions of myths, it argues that their chronology cannot establish that the gospels copied them.

The Mithras section acknowledges the limited evidence for the cult's beliefs. The teaching describes Mithras as rock-born, identifies zodiac imagery rather than twelve disciples, and disputes the alleged death-and-resurrection parallel. It also separates later religious practices from claims actually made in the gospels.

The conclusion rejects the proposed borrowing. The teaching urges attention to primary evidence, meaningful differences, and chronology. It repeatedly notes that the Bible does not identify December 25 as Yeshua's birthday, so that later tradition cannot establish a parallel within the gospel accounts.

SUMMARY POINTS

- Alleged parallels should be checked against the sources being cited.
- Similarity alone does not prove that one account caused or supplied another.
- The teaching examines claims popularized in Zeitgeist.
- The Bible does not specify December 25 as Yeshua's birthdate.
- The gospels do not specify the number of magi who visited Yeshua.
- The cited Horus death account involves a scorpion rather than crucifixion.
- The teaching distinguishes reincarnation from bodily resurrection.
- The dating of later legends matters when proposing a borrowing relationship.
- The teaching identifies Mithras's surrounding figures as zodiac signs.
- Its conclusion rests on source details and chronology rather than superficial resemblance.

FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Basic

1. The documentary repeatedly examined in the teaching is _____.
2. The Egyptian figure examined first is _____.
3. The Bible does not specify a December _____ birthday for Yeshua.
4. In the cited account, Horus is stung by a _____.
5. The teaching describes Mithras as born from a _____.
6. The twelve figures around Mithras are identified as signs of the _____.

Challenging

1. A resemblance does not by itself establish a _____ connection.
2. The alleged baptizer of Horus whom the teaching disputes is named _____.
3. The teaching links many alleged Horus parallels to the writings of Gerald _____.
4. The epic cited for Krishna's death is the _____.
5. The cited account of Krishna's death describes a _____ shooting him.
6. The teaching distinguishes resurrection from a soul entering a new body, which it calls _____.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does the teaching distinguish similarity from evidence of borrowing?
2. How does consulting the Horus account change the comparison presented in Zeitgeist?
3. Why does the teaching separate a later December 25 tradition from the actual gospel accounts?
4. How does the distinction between resurrection and reincarnation affect the Krishna comparison?
5. What importance does the teaching assign to the dates of the sources and legends?
6. How does the discussion of Mithras illustrate the need to avoid claiming more than the evidence supports?

ANSWER KEY – GROUP GUIDE

Basic

1. Zeitgeist
2. Horus
3. 25
4. scorpion
5. rock
6. zodiac

Challenging

1. causal
2. Anup
3. Massey
4. Mahabharata
5. hunter
6. reincarnation