
WEEK 08: THE ORIGIN OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

- Origin of Christian Faith
- Comparative legendary tales
- The Virgin Birth

ORIGIN OF CHRISTIAN FAITH:

- History tells us that Christianity emerged in the community in the first century.

*“Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? ⁴ For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now **we also may live new lives**. Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.” **Romans 6:4***

- Ex: Margert’s story:
 - She was depressed since students wrote bad things about her
 - One day, someone asked her to revisit that classroom in her mind
 - Margert become emotional
 - The person told her she had forgotten about Jesus
 - He can write a new story for us!
- Disciples had their life changed!
 - At least something happened
- What caused the disciples to believe this?
 - The only monotheistic faith that existed at the time was Judaism.

- Their faith in the Messiah was:

*For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!" **Isiah 9:6-7***

- The Messiah was to be someone **who would come from the line of Judah.**
- The “father” of this tribe is one of the children of Jacob.
- Jacob prophesized the destiny of each tribe. For the tribe of Judah, he said:

*“Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you.” **Genesis 49:8-10***

- Since this prophesy was given, the rulers of Israel emerged from the tribe of Judah.
 - After the reign of King Solomon, 10 of the 12 tribes of Israel split and they established their own kingdom under the leadership of Jeroboam.
- *But Rehoboam spoke harshly to the people, for he rejected the advice of the older counselors and followed the counsel of his younger advisers. **1 Kings 11:13-14***
 - “My dear boy,” Father Graham said, “take a word of advice from an old man who loves peace. An insult is like mud;
 - Try not to make decisions when you are full of emotions
 - Listen to elders! Young people are full of emotions
 - We have energy, they have wisdom!
 - It is a community because we need each other!

- The tribe of Judah and Benjamin continued their kingdom in the southern region under the leadership of Rehoboam.
- The southern kingdom of Judea continued to be ruled under the leadership of a king who emerged from that tribe until **they were conquered by the Roman Empire in 63BCE.**
- For the first time, the tribe of Judah was being ruled by “an outsider”.
 - Much worst ... **A NONE JEW!**
- The Jewish community was now depending on the Messiah to come!
 - Surely, they thought, the Messiah will come anytime to restore our Kingdom.
- *“Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” **Acts 1:6***
 - When Christ was crucified, their dreams was shattered.

*“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel.” **Luke 24:19-21***
- If their expectation of a Messiah was not fulfilled... why did they continue to believe in Christ AFTER the crucifixion?

COMPARATIVE LEGENDARY STORIES:

- On that Sunday morning when the tomb was found empty, the disciples declared **Jesus has risen from the dead.**

- Where did they get this idea from?
 - The Jewish community believed in a resurrection that:
 - would take place **at judgment day**
 - was universal
 - Christ resurrection not only preceded judgment day but was a singular event.
 - In addition, Christ raised Himself from the dead.
- Not to be confused with the miracle of restoring someone's life
 - Miracle of Elijah (1 Kings 17:8-22)
 - Miracle of Elsa (2 Kings 4:1-37)
 - Miracle of Jesus, the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-44).
- Christ's life was NOT restored, He came back to life by defeating death.
 - In the case of the miracles sated above, all the people ended up dying when their time arrived.
- Not to be confused with "legendary tales"
 - In the case of Osiris:
 - He was killed by his brother, who was also a god
 - Osiris body was dismantled
 - His sister used a spell to "restore" Osiris body so she could have a child from him.
 - As a result of her action, she conceived a child.
- Even if this story was EXACTLY like the resurrection story of Christ, history shows that the Jewish community in Judah would have had no knowledge of it.

POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS:

- Conspiracy theory
 - The disciples lied about everything
- Apparent death theory
 - Christ survived the crucifixion
- Displaced body theory
 - They lost the body of Christ
- Hallucination theory
 - The resurrection was all in their head.
- The resurrection story
 - Christ actually rose from the dead.