## Is Jesus a Pagan Idea?

## Jesus among the gods

"There is nothing the Jesus of the Gospels either said or did . . . that cannot be shown to have originated thousands of years before, in Egyptian Mystery rites and other sacred liturgies."

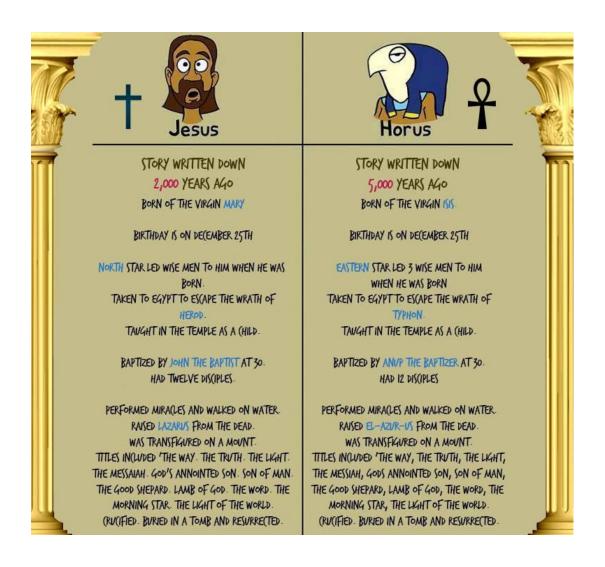
Tom Harpur, The Pagan Christ

"Nothing in Christianity is original."

The DaVinci Code

The pre-Christian god Mithras was born of a virgin in a cave on December 25, was considered a great traveling teacher, had twelve disciples, promised his followers immortality, sacrificed himself for world peace, was buried in a tomb and rose again three days later, instituted a Eucharist or "Lord's Supper," and was considered the Logos, redeemer, Messiah, and "the way, the truth, and the life." Sound Familiar?

Did the Mithraic Mysteries Influence Christianity?



## Differences Between Muhammad and Jesus

Muhammad	Jesus
Said Allah does not love those who reject Islam. (Qur'an 30:45, 3:32, 22:38)	Said God loves everyone. (John 3:16)
"I have been commanded to fight against people till they testify that there is no god but Allah, and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah" (Muslim 1:33)	"He who lives by the sword will die by the sword." (Matthew 26:52)
Stoned women for adultery. (Muslim 4206)	"Let he who is without sin cast the first stone." (John 8:7)
Permitted stealing from unbelievers. (Bukhari 44:668, Ibn Ishaq 764)	"Thou shalt not steal." (Matthew 19:18)
Permitted lying. (Sahih Muslim 6303, Bukhari 49:857)	"Thou shalt not bear false witness." (Matthew 19:18)
Owned and traded slaves. (Sahih Muslim 3901)	Neither owned nor traded slaves.
Beheaded 800 Jewish men and boys. (Abu Dawud 4390)	Beheaded no one.
Murdered those who insulted him. (Bukhari 56:369, 4:241)	Preached forgiveness. (Matthew 18:21-22, 5:38)
"If then anyone transgresses the prohibition against you, Transgress ye likewise against him" (Qur'an 2:194)	"If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also." (Matthew 5:39)
Jihad in the way of Allah elevates one's position in Paradise by a hundred fold. (Muslim 4645)	"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called Sons of God" (Matthew 5:9)
Married 13 wives and kept sex slaves. (Bukhari 5:268, Qur'an 33:50)	Was celibate.

Slept with a 9-year-old child. (Sahih Muslim 3309, Bukhari 58:236)	Did not have sex with children.
Ordered the murder of women. (Ibn Ishaq 819, 995)	Never harmed a woman.
"O you who believe! Fight those of the unbelievers who are near to you and let them find in you hardness." (Qur'an 9:123)	"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." (Matthew 5:5)
Ordered 65 military campaigns and raids in his last 10 years. (Ibn Ishaq)	Ordered no military campaigns, nor offered any approval of war or violence.
Killed captives taken in battle. (Ibn Ishaq 451)	Never took captives. Never killed anyone.
Encouraged his men to rape enslaved women. (Abu Dawood 2150, Qur'an 4:24)	Never encouraged rape. Never enslaved women.
Demanded captured slaves and a fifth of all other loot taken in war. (Qur'an 8:41)	"The Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." (Matthew 20:28)
Was never tortured, but tortured others. (Muslim 4131, Ibn Ishaq 436, 595, 734, 764)	Suffered torture, but never tortured anyone.
"And fight them until there is no more persecution and religion is only for Allah" (Qur'an 8:39)	"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:44)
Blessed the brutal murder of a half-blind man (al-Tabari 1440)	Healed a blind man (Mark 8:28)
Ordered a slave to build the very pulpit from which he preached Islam. (Bukhari 47:743)	Washed his disciples' feet. (John 13:5)
What are the Greatest Commandments? "Belief in Allah and Jihad in His cause" (Muslim 1:149)	What are the Greatest Commandments? "Love God and love thy neighbor as thyself." (Matthew 22:34-40)
Demanded the protection of armed bodyguards, even in a house of worship (Qur'an 4:102)	Chastised anyone attempting to defend him with force. (John 18:10-12)

Died wealthy from what was taken from others in war or demanded from others in tribute.	Demanded nothing for himself. Died without possessions.
Advocated crucifying others. (Qur'an 5:33, Muslim 16:4131)	Was crucified himself.
According to his followers: Had others give their lives for him. (Sahih Muslim 4413)	According to his followers: Gave his life for others. (John 18:11 and elsewhere)