

PAUL VS. JESUS WHO CREATED CHRISTIANITY?

(2022)

-Muslims (using Hyam Maccoby) don't like Paul, as he is so specific, and contradicts the Qur'an concerning original sin (S.7:24); the atonement (S.6:164; 53:38); and Jesus' Divinity (S.4:171). So, they claim Paul, who came later than Jesus, can be blamed for originating the 6 theological beliefs below: (Note: the same axiom confronts the later Qur'an)

- 1) Original sin
- 2) The atonement
- 3) The worship of Jesus
- 4) The trinity
- 5) The law thru Moses is worthless (citing Romans 3:28)
- 6) The only criterion for eternal life is faith in the crucifixion of Christ

Paul's Function: To expound on what Jesus said & did, like Islamic Traditions (*Sira, Hadith, Tafsir, Tahrikh*) (i.e. 5 daily prayers are in Hadith, whereas Suras 11:114; 17:78-79; 20:130; 30:17-18 only have 3 prayers)

-Paul's writings were read by eyewitnesses who would have confronted him if they were wrong.

-Paul hated and destroyed Christians (Acts 26:9-11; Gal.1), so how could he be the founder of the faith he persecuted?

Did Paul change the Gospel later on?

- Galatians 2 = The disciples were suspicious of Paul, but once they heard him, they tell him to preach (vs.9)
- John & Peter outlived Paul, and would have confronted him and his teachings if his gospel was different
- The Disciples teaching's corresponded with Paul's, both derived from Jesus' teachings.
- Gal.1:11-12; 1 Cor.11:23; 15:3-4 = Paul's gospel isn't made up, nor from man, but from Jesus Christ

Did Paul create his ideas in a void?

Paul doesn't enter until Acts 7, whereas Peter in Acts 2-4 speaks about Jesus, and His gospel

Do Paul's Epistles contradict the Gospels?

Paul was not at all the founder of Christianity, but its greatest expounder. Consider:

1) Original Sin:

- Matthew 7:11 = "*If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children...*"
- Matthew 15:19 "*For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, then false testimony, slander.*"
- Mark 10:18 "*...No-one is good-except God alone*"
- John 3:3-6 - Tells Nicodemus we must be "*born again..for flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit*"
- Original Sin is in the Old Testament, in Genesis chapter 3, and in the Qur'an, in Sura 2:35-39; 7:24 (all are imputed)

2) Atonement:

- Matthew 26:28 - "*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins*" (This is at the 'Last Supper', also found in Mark 14:24 and Luke 22:19 & 20, all independent of Paul)
- Luke 18:14 In the Pharisee vs the Tax-collector, we find a clear statement of Jesus' doctrine of justification.
- Hebrews 9:22 - "*Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sin*" (see Leviticus 17:11; Genesis 22 etc...)

3) The Worship of Christ:

- Did Jesus only preach the law (Luke 18:20) & the worship of God alone (Matthew 4:10; Luke 4:8; & John 4:21-23)?
- Jesus accepted worship, teaching: Whoever can save us from Hell is the object of our worship (John 5:21-26; 10:28); he required us to believe in Him (John 3:16, 17; 11:25-26), to follow Him (John 8:12), to obey Him (John 3:36), and to keep His commandments (John 14:21-24); that is why we worship Him.
- Angels are commanded to worship Jesus (Heb.1:6); Thomas worships him (Jn.20:28), as do 2 women (Matt.28:9)

4) The Trinity:

- Matthew 28:19-20 is the clearest reference to the trinity on Christ's lips
- John 17 is the foundation for the doctrine of the Trinity (He and the Father are one, etc...)
- Acts 2:33-36 = Jesus has been raised to God's right hand, from which he has poured forth the Holy Spirit
- Luke's Divine Titles: Messiah (Acts 3:20f), Servant of God (Acts 3:13, 26; 4:27), the promised Prophet like Moses (Acts 3:22; 7:37), the Prince of Life (Acts 3:15; 5:31), the Holy & Righteous One, & the "stone" of prophecy (Psalm 118:22)

5) Paul's Law vs. Jesus's Law:

- Matthew 5:17-18 = "*Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets*" vs. Paul saying he did (Col. 2:14)
- Jesus is referring to the ceremonial and ritual laws of Moses (Col.2:13-15), & it is these Paul says to abolish
- Jesus establishes the Moral law in Matthew 5:17- 44 (i.e. verses 21-22, 27-28, 31-32, 33-34, 38-39, & 43-44)

6) Salvation by Faith

- Paul alone speaks of salvation thru faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9) vs. Christ's thru works (Luke 18:20)
- Luke 18:20 (vss 18-30) Jesus tells the young ruler that works is not enough, but he must sell all and follow him
- Ephesians 2 Paul speaks of faith followed by good works, the two going 'hand in hand'
- Jesus speaks of salvation by faith in John 3:14-15, salvation thru faith in Jesus, the Son.

Jesus, the founder, laid down his life that you might live. Paul, the expounder, laid down his life that you might hear. Are we willing to lay down our lives that others can hear and live as well?

might not be the thing to try down our eyes and others can not see it as well.