

A woman with blonde hair is shown in profile, speaking. The background features a large, stylized image of a religious figure's face, possibly Jesus, wearing a crown and holding a sword. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

MYTH-MAKING ON CHRISTIANITY

ACHARYA S.

skeptiko.com

W A S

1
00:00:10,990 --> 00:00:09,049
on this episode of skeptic Oh Alex talks

2
00:00:14,930 --> 00:00:11,000
with religion and mythology scholar

3
00:00:17,180 --> 00:00:14,940
Acharya s on one hand we have these

4
00:00:19,370 --> 00:00:17,190
traditions and these myths and myth

5
00:00:21,650 --> 00:00:19,380
making but on the other hand we have the

6
00:00:24,170 --> 00:00:21,660
same characters that we see on the

7
00:00:26,269 --> 00:00:24,180
landscape today that say hey wait a

8
00:00:29,300 --> 00:00:26,279
minute maybe I can make a buck out of

9
00:00:32,690 --> 00:00:29,310
this maybe I can control things maybe I

10
00:00:35,240 --> 00:00:32,700
can make my group superior and win out

11
00:00:37,880 --> 00:00:35,250
over the other group and maybe I can use

12
00:00:40,670 --> 00:00:37,890
these myths to do it and I think unless

13
00:00:42,860 --> 00:00:40,680

we thoroughly understand that and at the

14

00:00:45,170 --> 00:00:42,870

same time thoroughly understand or

15

00:00:48,529 --> 00:00:45,180

appreciate the possibility that there is

16

00:00:51,200 --> 00:00:48,539

some genuine non-biological robot

17

00:00:52,850 --> 00:00:51,210

spiritual experience until all that's on

18

00:00:53,540 --> 00:00:52,860

the table then we can't really separate

19

00:00:55,670 --> 00:00:53,550

it out either

20

00:00:58,010 --> 00:00:55,680

so this mythos is amore mythos is

21

00:01:00,220 --> 00:00:58,020

position that that I am discussing which

22

00:01:02,869 --> 00:01:00,230

looks at some supernatural beings and

23

00:01:04,399 --> 00:01:02,879

antiquity as mythical figures not real

24

00:01:07,370 --> 00:01:04,409

people who landed on planet earth and

25

00:01:09,770 --> 00:01:07,380

did a bunch of magic tricks but this is

26

00:01:11,240 --> 00:01:09,780

a really a neutral position because you

27

00:01:13,070 --> 00:01:11,250

don't have to believe in it and you

28

00:01:15,380 --> 00:01:13,080

don't have to dismiss it you don't have

29

00:01:17,420 --> 00:01:15,390

to be a theist or an atheist you can be

30

00:01:19,789 --> 00:01:17,430

either one you can be a theist or an

31

00:01:21,950 --> 00:01:19,799

atheist to enjoy this information all

32

00:01:24,109 --> 00:01:21,960

I'm doing is collecting religious and

33

00:01:26,390 --> 00:01:24,119

mythological ideas from a far back as we

34

00:01:28,190 --> 00:01:26,400

can tell and putting them together and

35

00:01:42,020 --> 00:01:28,200

showing their influences on our thinking

36

00:01:45,810 --> 00:01:44,190

welcome to skeptic Oh where we explore

37

00:01:48,240 --> 00:01:45,820

controversial science with leading

38

00:01:50,400 --> 00:01:48,250

researchers thinkers and their critics

39

00:01:52,680 --> 00:01:50,410

I'm your host Alex Karras and on this

40

00:01:56,130 --> 00:01:52,690

episode of skeptic oh we return to the

41

00:01:58,020 --> 00:01:56,140

topic of religion which is probably fair

42

00:01:59,220 --> 00:01:58,030

since I've been pretty hard on the

43

00:02:01,110 --> 00:01:59,230

atheists lately

44

00:02:02,850 --> 00:02:01,120

and since I have been so hard on the

45

00:02:05,430 --> 00:02:02,860

atheists I think it ought to come clean

46

00:02:07,380 --> 00:02:05,440

with the fact that the atheist position

47

00:02:10,100 --> 00:02:07,390

that is the consciousness is an illusion

48

00:02:13,010 --> 00:02:10,110

you are a biological robot nonsense

49

00:02:16,260 --> 00:02:13,020

really is at the end of the day a

50

00:02:19,740 --> 00:02:16,270

reactionary position I mean it is born

51
00:02:22,020 --> 00:02:19,750
out of this religious craziness that the

52
00:02:24,060 --> 00:02:22,030
atheists feel like they need to push

53
00:02:26,370 --> 00:02:24,070
against so hard so I think it's good in

54
00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:26,380
this show that we're going to again dive

55
00:02:31,890 --> 00:02:29,440
in and try and lay bare the whole topic

56
00:02:34,230 --> 00:02:31,900
of religion at the end of the day

57
00:02:36,150 --> 00:02:34,240
through all the skeptic Oh shows that

58
00:02:38,580 --> 00:02:36,160
I've done and the many interviews I've

59
00:02:41,160 --> 00:02:38,590
done with Christian folks and a couple

60
00:02:43,560 --> 00:02:41,170
of Buddhist folks and all the rest I

61
00:02:47,210 --> 00:02:43,570
come away with the conclusion that all

62
00:02:50,550 --> 00:02:47,220
religions are part divine spark in part

63
00:02:52,290 --> 00:02:50,560

Scientology hucksterism and if you leave

64

00:02:54,870 --> 00:02:52,300

either one of those out it's hard to get

65

00:02:56,790 --> 00:02:54,880

your arms around what's going on not to

66

00:02:58,110 --> 00:02:56,800

suggest that I have my arms around

67

00:02:59,670 --> 00:02:58,120

what's going on but I think it's

68

00:03:03,000 --> 00:02:59,680

impossible if you don't acknowledge

69

00:03:04,860 --> 00:03:03,010

number one the divine spark which is the

70

00:03:06,930 --> 00:03:04,870

atheist position and that takes you down

71

00:03:09,150 --> 00:03:06,940

this path where you wind up exactly

72

00:03:12,449 --> 00:03:09,160

where I said the only place you can wind

73

00:03:14,880 --> 00:03:12,459

up down that path is consciousness is an

74

00:03:17,460 --> 00:03:14,890

illusion you are a biological robot

75

00:03:19,770 --> 00:03:17,470

because if you acknowledge anything else

76

00:03:22,160 --> 00:03:19,780

other than biological robot then you

77

00:03:24,780 --> 00:03:22,170

have to leave open the possibility of

78

00:03:26,759 --> 00:03:24,790

divine spark because it's so widely

79

00:03:30,030 --> 00:03:26,769

reported across so many cultures and

80

00:03:32,370 --> 00:03:30,040

across all time if you open up that door

81

00:03:35,070 --> 00:03:32,380

I think you have to walk through it of

82

00:03:36,990 --> 00:03:35,080

course on the other side and this is

83

00:03:40,199 --> 00:03:37,000

what we're going to explore today in

84

00:03:44,290 --> 00:03:40,209

this interview with acharya s i think

85

00:03:47,980 --> 00:03:44,300

it's vital that we really examine

86

00:03:50,950 --> 00:03:47,990

the hucksterism the myth-making that is

87

00:03:52,720 --> 00:03:50,960

a natural part of any religion and I say

88

00:03:55,870 --> 00:03:52,730

it's a natural part because it does seem

89

00:03:58,870 --> 00:03:55,880

to me that we as human beings have this

90

00:04:02,020 --> 00:03:58,880

need to one kind of engage in this

91

00:04:03,670 --> 00:04:02,030

cultish behavior and number two try and

92

00:04:06,220 --> 00:04:03,680

take advantage of the fact that people

93

00:04:08,770 --> 00:04:06,230

like to engage in this cultish behavior

94

00:04:10,570 --> 00:04:08,780

so when we see the goofiness of

95

00:04:13,090 --> 00:04:10,580

Mormonism or the craziness of

96

00:04:15,720 --> 00:04:13,100

Scientology it really shouldn't be

97

00:04:18,940 --> 00:04:15,730

surprising but what probably is

98

00:04:21,160 --> 00:04:18,950

surprising is when we look back and we

99

00:04:23,080 --> 00:04:21,170

turn back history and we go all the way

100

00:04:25,870 --> 00:04:23,090

back and this show we're going to talk a

101

00:04:29,140 --> 00:04:25,880

lot about the early first century early

102

00:04:32,200 --> 00:04:29,150

Christian history we find the exact same

103

00:04:34,630 --> 00:04:32,210

kind of pattern being repeated and I

104

00:04:36,670 --> 00:04:34,640

think if we're fair and open-minded then

105

00:04:39,940 --> 00:04:36,680

we have to start asking the hard

106

00:04:42,430 --> 00:04:39,950

question how much of the religions that

107

00:04:44,710 --> 00:04:42,440

we know today that we accept that we

108

00:04:47,470 --> 00:04:44,720

dance around carefully not to offend

109

00:04:49,690 --> 00:04:47,480

anyone how much of those religions when

110

00:04:52,659 --> 00:04:49,700

we really strip away and look at them

111

00:04:56,380 --> 00:04:52,669

honestly are probably much more

112

00:05:01,150 --> 00:04:56,390

traceable to the Scientology hucksterism

113

00:05:03,940 --> 00:05:01,160

kind of camp than the divine spark so

114

00:05:06,670 --> 00:05:03,950

that's what I'm interested in exploring

115

00:05:09,850 --> 00:05:06,680

and I think I found a great guest to do

116

00:05:12,580 --> 00:05:09,860

it with and that would be Acharya s

117

00:05:16,030 --> 00:05:12,590

here's the interview today we welcome

118

00:05:19,420 --> 00:05:16,040

Acharya s - skeptic Oh Acharya whose

119

00:05:22,360 --> 00:05:19,430

real name is DM Murdock is a first-rate

120

00:05:24,700 --> 00:05:22,370

biblical scholar and expert in religious

121

00:05:27,940 --> 00:05:24,710

studies and mythology and also the

122

00:05:32,440 --> 00:05:27,950

author of numerous books including the

123

00:05:35,590 --> 00:05:32,450

Christ conspiracy who is Jesus and sons

124

00:05:38,940 --> 00:05:35,600

of God she also runs a website that is

125

00:05:41,500 --> 00:05:38,950

absolutely chock-full of high-quality

126

00:05:42,880 --> 00:05:41,510

articles and research on the topics

127

00:05:47,409 --> 00:05:42,890

we're going to talk about today that

128

00:05:49,480 --> 00:05:47,419

website is at truth be known com Acharya

129

00:05:51,310 --> 00:05:49,490

it's great to have you on skeptic oh

130

00:05:53,350 --> 00:05:51,320

thanks so much for joining me

131

00:05:56,050 --> 00:05:53,360

well it's nice to be here thanks for

132

00:05:58,080 --> 00:05:56,060

inviting me I also have a blog at

133

00:05:59,939 --> 00:05:58,090

freethought Nation calm

134

00:06:01,920 --> 00:05:59,949

and in fact you can search across my

135

00:06:04,200 --> 00:06:01,930

websites cuz I has another one stellar

136

00:06:05,909 --> 00:06:04,210

house publishing calm but if you can you

137

00:06:08,129 --> 00:06:05,919

can search across all my websites and a

138

00:06:10,310 --> 00:06:08,139

forum people are invited to ask

139

00:06:12,960 --> 00:06:10,320

questions of me in the forum as well

140

00:06:16,350 --> 00:06:12,970

great you know I'm gonna look forward to

141

00:06:17,400 --> 00:06:16,360

joining your forum after I publish this

142

00:06:19,710 --> 00:06:17,410

because I think it's going to be

143

00:06:22,310 --> 00:06:19,720

interesting hopefully we'll we'll touch

144

00:06:24,510 --> 00:06:22,320

on some things that aren't entirely

145

00:06:25,890 --> 00:06:24,520

consistent with everything you've talked

146

00:06:27,990 --> 00:06:25,900

about before and maybe get some

147

00:06:30,420 --> 00:06:28,000

interesting dialogue going on there I

148

00:06:32,700 --> 00:06:30,430

say that because one of the reasons that

149

00:06:35,310 --> 00:06:32,710

I was especially grateful for you

150

00:06:37,170 --> 00:06:35,320

accepting this invitation is because we

151

00:06:40,770 --> 00:06:37,180

did have a chance to talk a little bit

152

00:06:43,560 --> 00:06:40,780

about my skepticism of some of the new

153

00:06:45,930 --> 00:06:43,570

atheism dogma when it comes to science

154

00:06:48,030 --> 00:06:45,940

we were able in our dialogue email

155

00:06:50,940 --> 00:06:48,040

exchange beforehand to really separate

156

00:06:54,180 --> 00:06:50,950

that and say from my position Atari and

157

00:06:55,950 --> 00:06:54,190

I'm very open-minded to much of what

158

00:06:58,110 --> 00:06:55,960

you've researched appreciative of what

159

00:07:02,100 --> 00:06:58,120

of much of what you've researched and

160

00:07:06,420 --> 00:07:02,110

and that is separating out mythology

161

00:07:09,840 --> 00:07:06,430

religious dogma from history because as

162

00:07:13,409 --> 00:07:09,850

we talked about I think it's one thing

163

00:07:17,159 --> 00:07:13,419

to say like I have come to understand

164

00:07:19,200 --> 00:07:17,169

through my research that it is possible

165

00:07:22,350 --> 00:07:19,210

perhaps that people might be having

166

00:07:23,940 --> 00:07:22,360

genuine spiritual experiences and that's

167

00:07:26,100 --> 00:07:23,950

my belief that doesn't have to be your

168

00:07:28,230 --> 00:07:26,110

belief and separate that out from the

169

00:07:31,110 --> 00:07:28,240

fact that we also have to observe and

170

00:07:34,110 --> 00:07:31,120

deal with the fact that people seem to

171

00:07:38,460 --> 00:07:34,120

have this tendency to do this cultish

172

00:07:42,240 --> 00:07:38,470

myth making crazy stuff and it's going

173

00:07:44,700 --> 00:07:42,250

on in our contemporary society and it

174

00:07:47,580 --> 00:07:44,710

goes on in just about every part of

175

00:07:49,260 --> 00:07:47,590

history we can look at so I think it's

176
00:07:51,960 --> 00:07:49,270
very worthwhile to do the kind of work

177
00:07:54,750 --> 00:07:51,970
that you've done to look back and try

178
00:07:57,629 --> 00:07:54,760
and sort through this history into the

179
00:08:00,330 --> 00:07:57,639
best we can figure out where the data

180
00:08:02,520 --> 00:08:00,340
really points us in terms of what's

181
00:08:04,379 --> 00:08:02,530
historically accurate and what isn't if

182
00:08:07,170 --> 00:08:04,389
you know what I mean I do I think we're

183
00:08:11,940 --> 00:08:07,180
on a similar page because I've tried to

184
00:08:14,610 --> 00:08:11,950
clarify that my work is not atheistic

185
00:08:18,630 --> 00:08:14,620
say in that I'm just trying to debunk

186
00:08:21,240 --> 00:08:18,640
the concept of god or gods that's a

187
00:08:22,860 --> 00:08:21,250
whole different field that other people

188
00:08:26,460 --> 00:08:22,870

are engaged in like you know the Dawkins

189

00:08:28,620 --> 00:08:26,470

and Hitchens Harris group and they like

190

00:08:32,460 --> 00:08:28,630

to debate the existence of God

191

00:08:35,130 --> 00:08:32,470

whereas I don't call myself a theist or

192

00:08:37,590 --> 00:08:35,140

an atheist would prefer not to have a

193

00:08:41,310 --> 00:08:37,600

label obviously and and I don't

194

00:08:43,740 --> 00:08:41,320

disbelieve or believe I just think what

195

00:08:46,290 --> 00:08:43,750

I consider to be appropriate thoughts in

196

00:08:49,770 --> 00:08:46,300

any given moment and I'd like to give

197

00:08:54,000 --> 00:08:49,780

this example when something horrible

198

00:08:56,910 --> 00:08:54,010

happens to a small child it I think it's

199

00:08:58,260 --> 00:08:56,920

appropriate to ask yourself you don't

200

00:09:00,570 --> 00:08:58,270

have to say that out loud but in your

201
00:09:02,520 --> 00:09:00,580
own mind to say you know where is a good

202
00:09:04,380 --> 00:09:02,530
God in all this supposed to be in charge

203
00:09:05,070 --> 00:09:04,390
of everything allowing this child to die

204
00:09:06,840 --> 00:09:05,080
horribly

205
00:09:09,270 --> 00:09:06,850
I think that's an entirely appropriate

206
00:09:10,850 --> 00:09:09,280
thought to have and you can even say it

207
00:09:13,320 --> 00:09:10,860
out loud as far as I'm concerned so

208
00:09:15,210 --> 00:09:13,330
that's an atheistic type thought and

209
00:09:18,000 --> 00:09:15,220
then but then if you want to go up onto

210
00:09:20,160 --> 00:09:18,010
a mountain and and look over of that

211
00:09:21,870 --> 00:09:20,170
gorgeous valley have the sun shining

212
00:09:24,240 --> 00:09:21,880
down on you and you feel like having

213
00:09:26,550 --> 00:09:24,250

some kind of cosmic communion and want

214

00:09:29,640 --> 00:09:26,560

to call that experience with God I think

215

00:09:32,400 --> 00:09:29,650

that's also appropriate and entirely up

216

00:09:35,040 --> 00:09:32,410

to the individual so I'm not pushing

217

00:09:38,880 --> 00:09:35,050

here some kind of a Dogma or doctrine of

218

00:09:40,890 --> 00:09:38,890

what you must believe in that's like to

219

00:09:42,360 --> 00:09:40,900

say that the thoughts that are in your

220

00:09:43,920 --> 00:09:42,370

own mind are your own business you

221

00:09:46,140 --> 00:09:43,930

there's none of my business to be inside

222

00:09:48,000 --> 00:09:46,150

your brain to tell you what to think at

223

00:09:50,720 --> 00:09:48,010

any given moment that's what religions

224

00:09:53,430 --> 00:09:50,730

try to do a lot of mind-control right

225

00:09:54,750 --> 00:09:53,440

they threaten you with hell and promise

226

00:09:57,060 --> 00:09:54,760

you heaven if you think a certain way

227

00:09:59,550 --> 00:09:57,070

and this concept of mind control is

228

00:10:01,380 --> 00:09:59,560

taken even great to a greater extent by

229

00:10:03,120 --> 00:10:01,390

claiming that there was a giant being

230

00:10:06,660 --> 00:10:03,130

called God who's separate and apart from

231

00:10:09,300 --> 00:10:06,670

humanity but I'm Nishant so he's really

232

00:10:11,640 --> 00:10:09,310

inside your head and he's even certain

233

00:10:15,150 --> 00:10:11,650

cults that say that you're connected in

234

00:10:16,860 --> 00:10:15,160

a like a network to this this giant

235

00:10:18,120 --> 00:10:16,870

being but not in a good way not in a

236

00:10:21,180 --> 00:10:18,130

spiritual experience more in an

237

00:10:23,520 --> 00:10:21,190

enslaving way you're just a you know

238

00:10:25,500 --> 00:10:23,530

manipulated puppet according to that

239

00:10:28,769 --> 00:10:25,510

that meant

240

00:10:31,139 --> 00:10:28,779

so but there is this there are spiritual

241

00:10:33,030 --> 00:10:31,149

experiences that do have profound effect

242

00:10:34,980 --> 00:10:33,040

on people and what could be long-lasting

243

00:10:36,840 --> 00:10:34,990

it can change someone completely and

244

00:10:38,850 --> 00:10:36,850

dramatically and I don't have any

245

00:10:41,340 --> 00:10:38,860

problem with those concepts of those

246

00:10:44,040 --> 00:10:41,350

experiences I've experienced mystical

247

00:10:47,009 --> 00:10:44,050

things in my past intentionally to see

248

00:10:49,019 --> 00:10:47,019

what a particular religion sect or cult

249

00:10:50,850 --> 00:10:49,029

is all about a doctrine a Dogma whatever

250

00:10:54,300 --> 00:10:50,860

I've actually done a lot of meditation

251
00:10:56,370 --> 00:10:54,310
and I've gone to groups where I've done

252
00:11:01,350 --> 00:10:56,380
like out of out-of-body work all this

253
00:11:04,319 --> 00:11:01,360
kind of to see what mankind's extremely

254
00:11:08,759 --> 00:11:04,329
ancient religious traditions have meant

255
00:11:11,639 --> 00:11:08,769
to humanity you can't really understand

256
00:11:13,800 --> 00:11:11,649
what it's understand the religious mind

257
00:11:15,750 --> 00:11:13,810
in order to analyze it without having

258
00:11:17,759 --> 00:11:15,760
gone through these experiences I was a

259
00:11:20,970 --> 00:11:17,769
born-again Christian and that was a

260
00:11:24,060 --> 00:11:20,980
sincere moment that you know actually

261
00:11:27,720 --> 00:11:24,070
led me to where I am now which brings me

262
00:11:29,310 --> 00:11:27,730
back to what you were trying to

263
00:11:32,189 --> 00:11:29,320

differentiate between which is this

264

00:11:34,740 --> 00:11:32,199

notion of spirituality being a private

265

00:11:37,530 --> 00:11:34,750

domain of an individual and what has

266

00:11:40,170 --> 00:11:37,540

actually happened in the third dimension

267

00:11:43,110 --> 00:11:40,180

in written physical reality these are

268

00:11:44,730 --> 00:11:43,120

separate issues well I don't know that

269

00:11:47,100 --> 00:11:44,740

I'd quite go there since you said that

270

00:11:49,470 --> 00:11:47,110

that's what I said because I totally

271

00:11:52,079 --> 00:11:49,480

agree with you in terms of someone's

272

00:11:54,660 --> 00:11:52,089

private thoughts are their own business

273

00:11:56,939 --> 00:11:54,670

they're no one's business and but I

274

00:11:59,280 --> 00:11:56,949

think that the the New Atheists

275

00:12:00,180 --> 00:11:59,290

have a point here although the point

276

00:12:02,699 --> 00:12:00,190

cuts both ways

277

00:12:06,710 --> 00:12:02,709

and that's that to the extent that our

278

00:12:09,689 --> 00:12:06,720

private beliefs work their way into our

279

00:12:12,120 --> 00:12:09,699

stated beliefs our stated values in how

280

00:12:14,100 --> 00:12:12,130

we exercise those beliefs and values in

281

00:12:16,230 --> 00:12:14,110

terms of laws we create and how we want

282

00:12:19,559 --> 00:12:16,240

to move society in one direction or

283

00:12:22,199 --> 00:12:19,569

another it is our business so I'm sure I

284

00:12:23,519 --> 00:12:22,209

am interested as you are although I

285

00:12:25,620 --> 00:12:23,529

think we might have different

286

00:12:30,449 --> 00:12:25,630

conclusions about that but probably not

287

00:12:32,879 --> 00:12:30,459

that different how we conceptualize some

288

00:12:35,429 --> 00:12:32,889

of this information that we're going to

289

00:12:38,040 --> 00:12:35,439

talk about about history and what that

290

00:12:39,270 --> 00:12:38,050

means for us so you know I'll think

291

00:12:42,060 --> 00:12:39,280

there's kind of

292

00:12:44,940 --> 00:12:42,070

different discussions we can have there

293

00:12:50,250 --> 00:12:44,950

but where I really want to get

294

00:12:52,470 --> 00:12:50,260

eventually is I want to hit the middle

295

00:12:55,650 --> 00:12:52,480

ground because I think what has happened

296

00:12:58,050 --> 00:12:55,660

in this debate this culture war debate

297

00:12:59,610 --> 00:12:58,060

over science versus religion whether we

298

00:13:01,950 --> 00:12:59,620

wanted the debate to go this way or not

299

00:13:04,470 --> 00:13:01,960

it's become polarized like all these

300

00:13:06,600 --> 00:13:04,480

debates do and I think we have you know

301
00:13:08,760 --> 00:13:06,610
these fundamentalist Christians

302
00:13:11,370 --> 00:13:08,770
fundamentals fundamentalist Muslims

303
00:13:13,680 --> 00:13:11,380
fundamentalist Jewish people take your

304
00:13:16,830 --> 00:13:13,690
pick and they're on one side and they're

305
00:13:18,600 --> 00:13:16,840
throwing out Bible verses or you know

306
00:13:20,850 --> 00:13:18,610
sacred texts or they're talking about

307
00:13:23,460 --> 00:13:20,860
Armageddon or whatever crazy stuff they

308
00:13:25,650 --> 00:13:23,470
are and the most most people are looking

309
00:13:28,350 --> 00:13:25,660
at and going hey you know that that's

310
00:13:30,480 --> 00:13:28,360
not me I can't buy into that right on

311
00:13:32,580 --> 00:13:30,490
the other hand and I think I think

312
00:13:35,460 --> 00:13:32,590
sometimes the Atheist community doesn't

313
00:13:37,800 --> 00:13:35,470

realize that that sometimes the atheists

314

00:13:39,630 --> 00:13:37,810

come across as wacky you know when

315

00:13:41,790 --> 00:13:39,640

they're telling us that we're biological

316

00:13:44,100 --> 00:13:41,800

robots and life is meaningless and you

317

00:13:45,780 --> 00:13:44,110

have no free will and the majority of

318

00:13:49,110 --> 00:13:45,790

people are sitting there and going I

319

00:13:51,990 --> 00:13:49,120

know that's bull too you know and

320

00:13:55,980 --> 00:13:52,000

they're trying to sort out right thing

321

00:13:59,520 --> 00:13:55,990

between these you extremist positions

322

00:14:02,250 --> 00:13:59,530

and what I see you doing is in a very

323

00:14:04,800 --> 00:14:02,260

sober scholarly way going back and

324

00:14:07,260 --> 00:14:04,810

saying okay I know my position isn't

325

00:14:10,350 --> 00:14:07,270

very popular here and saying I'm going

326

00:14:13,440 --> 00:14:10,360

to openly consider the possibility that

327

00:14:16,590 --> 00:14:13,450

Jesus was a myth and that it looks more

328

00:14:18,630 --> 00:14:16,600

like other myths of the time I know that

329

00:14:21,360 --> 00:14:18,640

isn't popular but I'm gonna go and sort

330

00:14:24,660 --> 00:14:21,370

through the best historical data and try

331

00:14:27,300 --> 00:14:24,670

and lay that bear you know that's the

332

00:14:30,060 --> 00:14:27,310

kind of stuff I think more people in the

333

00:14:32,130 --> 00:14:30,070

middle need to open themselves up to and

334

00:14:33,420 --> 00:14:32,140

say hey I'm gonna take that in I don't

335

00:14:35,220 --> 00:14:33,430

know exactly what I'm gonna do with it

336

00:14:38,490 --> 00:14:35,230

but I'm just gonna kind of take it in

337

00:14:40,920 --> 00:14:38,500

and I'm gonna taken in not saying that

338

00:14:42,600 --> 00:14:40,930

that has to lead me towards atheism or

339

00:14:44,310 --> 00:14:42,610

that I have to do this or that I'm just

340

00:14:46,650 --> 00:14:44,320

gonna take it in and see what happens

341

00:14:49,170 --> 00:14:46,660

right yeah that's what I'm trying to

342

00:14:50,699 --> 00:14:49,180

distinguish that's what I meant when I

343

00:14:52,519 --> 00:14:50,709

say what's happening in the privacy of

344

00:14:54,199 --> 00:14:52,529

your own mind of course I always

345

00:14:56,360 --> 00:14:54,209

qualify that by saying it's not my

346

00:14:59,329 --> 00:14:56,370

business until it spills out delete

347

00:15:01,999 --> 00:14:59,339

eriously on to others so you know if you

348

00:15:04,790 --> 00:15:02,009

can sit there and think of some glorious

349

00:15:06,590 --> 00:15:04,800

concept in your brain but if you can

350

00:15:09,610 --> 00:15:06,600

keep it there without insisting and

351

00:15:12,590 --> 00:15:09,620

imposing it on the rest of us through

352

00:15:15,199 --> 00:15:12,600

all kinds of means that we've seen and

353

00:15:17,840 --> 00:15:15,209

this is part of my work is separating

354

00:15:22,269 --> 00:15:17,850

the pathological chaff from the wheat of

355

00:15:25,009 --> 00:15:22,279

man man's religious traditions or

356

00:15:27,829 --> 00:15:25,019

another metaphor elix uses the trimming

357

00:15:29,449 --> 00:15:27,839

of man's religious tree which has deep

358

00:15:31,460 --> 00:15:29,459

roots going back thousands of years but

359

00:15:33,410 --> 00:15:31,470

there's these pathological dead ends

360

00:15:36,079 --> 00:15:33,420

that need to be cut away for the for it

361

00:15:37,400 --> 00:15:36,089

to really blossom thoroughly and so

362

00:15:38,989 --> 00:15:37,410

that's basically what I'm doing I'm not

363

00:15:41,509 --> 00:15:38,999

telling people what to believe or what

364

00:15:43,699 --> 00:15:41,519

to disbelieve I'm analyzing what has

365

00:15:45,319 --> 00:15:43,709

really happened on earth and if it

366

00:15:47,929 --> 00:15:45,329

didn't happen on earth what does it mean

367

00:15:50,629 --> 00:15:47,939

because we know if we look back at the

368

00:15:53,329 --> 00:15:50,639

world's religions around the globe

369

00:15:55,819 --> 00:15:53,339

they're now considered mythology by many

370

00:15:57,889 --> 00:15:55,829

people because of the teachings of

371

00:16:00,259 --> 00:15:57,899

Christianity for example or Islam or

372

00:16:05,540 --> 00:16:00,269

Judaism these three monotheistic

373

00:16:07,340 --> 00:16:05,550

Abrahamic cults Asst expressions they're

374

00:16:10,809 --> 00:16:07,350

telling I said everything else is a myth

375

00:16:15,379 --> 00:16:10,819

so you're looking at the cultures of

376

00:16:18,530 --> 00:16:15,389

Rome Greece your Central America Asia of

377

00:16:21,259 --> 00:16:18,540

course India all these myths lots of

378

00:16:24,470 --> 00:16:21,269

parts of Africa they're there all the

379

00:16:27,829 --> 00:16:24,480

religions are all myths okay so that's

380

00:16:31,519 --> 00:16:27,839

what these monotheistic cults are trying

381

00:16:33,889 --> 00:16:31,529

to tell us of course so we want to look

382

00:16:36,110 --> 00:16:33,899

back at those myths and figure out what

383

00:16:39,939 --> 00:16:36,120

do they mean and if since their myths

384

00:16:43,369 --> 00:16:39,949

why are the supernatural tales of

385

00:16:46,490 --> 00:16:43,379

Christianity Judaism and Islam not myths

386

00:16:48,290 --> 00:16:46,500

and so I'm looking at those other

387

00:16:51,199 --> 00:16:48,300

supernatural tales and I'm saying you

388

00:16:53,569 --> 00:16:51,209

know what these are myths and they're

389

00:16:56,299 --> 00:16:53,579

traceable to the pre-christian pre

390

00:16:58,669 --> 00:16:56,309

Judaic pre-islamic world and what do

391

00:17:01,629 --> 00:16:58,679

they mean why were they try were they

392

00:17:03,740 --> 00:17:01,639

told why were they created what do these

393

00:17:06,079 --> 00:17:03,750

personifications represent we have

394

00:17:08,720 --> 00:17:06,089

personifications of clearly

395

00:17:10,970 --> 00:17:08,730

natural beings that in my mind can be

396

00:17:12,529 --> 00:17:10,980

demonstrated to be mythological let me

397

00:17:14,449 --> 00:17:12,539

stop you there because you've kind of

398

00:17:16,870 --> 00:17:14,459

wandered into this topic that I think is

399

00:17:19,880 --> 00:17:16,880

an important one and I think it also

400

00:17:23,059 --> 00:17:19,890

comes up again and again in your work in

401

00:17:25,970 --> 00:17:23,069

I think a very convincing an important

402

00:17:29,600 --> 00:17:25,980

way and that's to maybe restate what you

403

00:17:33,500 --> 00:17:29,610

just did is that one of the ways to test

404

00:17:36,230 --> 00:17:33,510

the claim that gets made by folks who

405

00:17:38,240 --> 00:17:36,240

are a lot of times are pretty secular

406

00:17:41,000 --> 00:17:38,250

folks you know who are just kind of

407

00:17:43,399 --> 00:17:41,010

going through life but are trying to fit

408

00:17:45,110 --> 00:17:43,409

their worldview in with the common

409

00:17:47,750 --> 00:17:45,120

culture and they'll say things like you

410

00:17:49,580 --> 00:17:47,760

know Christianity has done a lot of good

411

00:17:52,159 --> 00:17:49,590

through the age or sometimes what you'll

412

00:17:55,519 --> 00:17:52,169

hear is that even among secular people

413

00:17:59,210 --> 00:17:55,529

that Jesus is a model of a good teacher

414

00:18:02,149 --> 00:17:59,220

we may not accept the Bible that it's

415

00:18:05,960 --> 00:18:02,159

inerrant that it's perfect but we can

416

00:18:08,539 --> 00:18:05,970

accept Jesus and that he was a model for

417

00:18:11,060 --> 00:18:08,549

kind of how we should be and I think

418

00:18:13,220 --> 00:18:11,070

what your work does you kind of go right

419

00:18:15,409 --> 00:18:13,230

to the heart of some of those claims

420

00:18:18,289 --> 00:18:15,419

like you just talked about one of the

421

00:18:21,230 --> 00:18:18,299

claims that kind of slips in there a lot

422

00:18:26,240 --> 00:18:21,240

of times is this idea that Christianity

423

00:18:27,830 --> 00:18:26,250

is somehow special somehow unique that

424

00:18:30,019 --> 00:18:27,840

this moment and you'll hear Christians

425

00:18:32,389 --> 00:18:30,029

say that that this moment in time was

426

00:18:34,820 --> 00:18:32,399

really special and what happened during

427

00:18:36,889 --> 00:18:34,830

Jesus's life never happened before in

428

00:18:40,010 --> 00:18:36,899

history and I think you have some really

429

00:18:42,169 --> 00:18:40,020

strong evidence that just directly

430

00:18:43,669 --> 00:18:42,179

refutes that just kind of blows that out

431

00:18:45,740 --> 00:18:43,679

of the water and I think that's a really

432

00:18:47,690 --> 00:18:45,750

important point and I think part of that

433

00:18:50,480 --> 00:18:47,700

is what you're talking about with the

434

00:18:52,519 --> 00:18:50,490

pre-christian cross but I think part of

435

00:18:53,870 --> 00:18:52,529

it is also what you just talked about

436

00:18:56,830 --> 00:18:53,880

and I hope you can go into it and more

437

00:19:00,440 --> 00:18:56,840

depth is that when you really dig into

438

00:19:02,480 --> 00:19:00,450

Christian doctrine we see patterns that

439

00:19:04,010 --> 00:19:02,490

are being repeated over and over again

440

00:19:05,930 --> 00:19:04,020

and of course we can say the same thing

441

00:19:08,630 --> 00:19:05,940

about Islam we can say that say the same

442

00:19:09,860 --> 00:19:08,640

thing about Judaism it's not just that

443

00:19:11,870 --> 00:19:09,870

we're picking on the Christians but

444

00:19:14,779 --> 00:19:11,880

let's pick on the Christian since it's

445

00:19:17,950 --> 00:19:14,789

such a dominant force in our culture so

446

00:19:19,910 --> 00:19:17,960

you want to pick up on that thread sure

447

00:19:23,810 --> 00:19:19,920

well first of all and

448

00:19:27,530 --> 00:19:23,820

really pick on people that's my word

449

00:19:28,910 --> 00:19:27,540

okay okay no it's IDO I have to make

450

00:19:31,610 --> 00:19:28,920

this clarification because when I

451
00:19:34,100 --> 00:19:31,620
critique Islam invariably is so middles

452
00:19:36,289 --> 00:19:34,110
a bashing Muslims and that is just

453
00:19:38,419 --> 00:19:36,299
completely fallacious if we are

454
00:19:40,940 --> 00:19:38,429
criticizing Christianity are we bashing

455
00:19:43,240 --> 00:19:40,950
Christians no in fact we're criticizing

456
00:19:45,860 --> 00:19:43,250
we're looking at we're analyzing an

457
00:19:48,080 --> 00:19:45,870
ideology we're not abusing the people

458
00:19:49,610 --> 00:19:48,090
who follow it unless of course they're

459
00:19:51,500 --> 00:19:49,620
behaving badly and then we can say

460
00:19:54,370 --> 00:19:51,510
something about that individually as an

461
00:19:57,650 --> 00:19:54,380
individual issue but to analyze an

462
00:20:00,799 --> 00:19:57,660
ideology and and say and see its flaws

463
00:20:03,230 --> 00:20:00,809

is important it's not picking on someone

464

00:20:06,620 --> 00:20:03,240

or bashing or abusing it's important

465

00:20:09,740 --> 00:20:06,630

it's important because the blind

466

00:20:12,590 --> 00:20:09,750

following of that ideology in this case

467

00:20:15,799 --> 00:20:12,600

Christianity has caused immense

468

00:20:17,180 --> 00:20:15,809

suffering so when we say Christianity

469

00:20:20,049 --> 00:20:17,190

has brought this and that and this and

470

00:20:24,110 --> 00:20:20,059

that you might be able to find a few

471

00:20:26,150 --> 00:20:24,120

seeds in the bag of dog poo but you

472

00:20:28,250 --> 00:20:26,160

might as well just go buy a big bag of

473

00:20:30,650 --> 00:20:28,260

seeds instead of trying to pick through

474

00:20:32,810 --> 00:20:30,660

the other we need something new and

475

00:20:35,030 --> 00:20:32,820

fresh and different yeah yeah maybe but

476

00:20:37,730 --> 00:20:35,040

that's a it's the usual sidetrack

477

00:20:39,200 --> 00:20:37,740

throwing mud across the street at each

478

00:20:40,730 --> 00:20:39,210

other kind of thing I've been in that

479

00:20:43,520 --> 00:20:40,740

debate I know you've been in that debate

480

00:20:45,620 --> 00:20:43,530

rather than saying okay let's look at

481

00:20:47,360 --> 00:20:45,630

this claim that Christianity is

482

00:20:49,880 --> 00:20:47,370

something special in history and that it

483

00:20:52,130 --> 00:20:49,890

happened that this part of history was

484

00:20:53,960 --> 00:20:52,140

never repeated sure I've been picking

485

00:20:56,210 --> 00:20:53,970

apart the Gospel story and its various

486

00:20:59,000 --> 00:20:56,220

components for decades now and I've

487

00:21:02,539 --> 00:20:59,010

pretty much taken every element of it

488

00:21:04,010 --> 00:21:02,549

and shown the vast majority of it anyway

489

00:21:05,600 --> 00:21:04,020

you know there may be a few details here

490

00:21:07,460 --> 00:21:05,610

and there that we're required to weave

491

00:21:10,909 --> 00:21:07,470

the story together but I've shown that

492

00:21:13,820 --> 00:21:10,919

basically what the writers of the story

493

00:21:15,470 --> 00:21:13,830

have done has taken numerous elements

494

00:21:18,770 --> 00:21:15,480

from pre-christian religion and

495

00:21:22,730 --> 00:21:18,780

mythology from Greece Italy of course

496

00:21:25,430 --> 00:21:22,740

the Romans Egypt and other parts India

497

00:21:26,930 --> 00:21:25,440

even other parts of the known world at

498

00:21:30,169 --> 00:21:26,940

the time the Mediterranean which had a

499

00:21:32,580 --> 00:21:30,179

very large amount of cultural exchange

500

00:21:35,340 --> 00:21:32,590

going on for thousands of years

501
00:21:37,169 --> 00:21:35,350
and in fact one of the major ways of

502
00:21:39,779 --> 00:21:37,179
disseminating religious ideas was

503
00:21:42,240 --> 00:21:39,789
through the wine trade and that becomes

504
00:21:45,149 --> 00:21:42,250
a really huge factor in this that's a

505
00:21:47,669 --> 00:21:45,159
story for another subject but those wine

506
00:21:49,470 --> 00:21:47,679
elements Jesus's blood as the blood of

507
00:21:52,440 --> 00:21:49,480
the grape in the communion we're

508
00:21:56,519 --> 00:21:52,450
drinking wine is his blood and so

509
00:21:58,799 --> 00:21:56,529
forth all of that wine emphasis is

510
00:22:01,200 --> 00:21:58,809
traceable to the Dionysian cult which

511
00:22:03,630 --> 00:22:01,210
should not surprise us if anybody knows

512
00:22:06,570 --> 00:22:03,640
anything about Dionysus in fact it's

513
00:22:08,639 --> 00:22:06,580

practically lifted right out of Dionysus

514

00:22:10,740 --> 00:22:08,649

worship that would be one aspect of

515

00:22:12,560 --> 00:22:10,750

looking at the elements of the Gospel

516

00:22:15,690 --> 00:22:12,570

story and finding their precedent in

517

00:22:18,450 --> 00:22:15,700

pre-christian mythology one of the

518

00:22:19,950 --> 00:22:18,460

reasons I like to do this also is part

519

00:22:21,960 --> 00:22:19,960

of this trimming of pathological

520

00:22:25,919 --> 00:22:21,970

branches on the world's great religious

521

00:22:29,340 --> 00:22:25,929

tree is that these earlier renditions

522

00:22:32,880 --> 00:22:29,350

actually had sensible reason for a lot

523

00:22:36,350 --> 00:22:32,890

of these mythical motifs and their

524

00:22:39,860 --> 00:22:36,360

culture has been basically usurped

525

00:22:42,510 --> 00:22:39,870

dominated destroyed had its myths and

526

00:22:45,389 --> 00:22:42,520

religious traditions ripped off and

527

00:22:48,539 --> 00:22:45,399

repackaged and many people are

528

00:22:51,600 --> 00:22:48,549

completely oblivious to ancient religion

529

00:22:53,519 --> 00:22:51,610

and mythology because of the bias and

530

00:22:55,019 --> 00:22:53,529

bigotry of Christianity if we're going

531

00:22:56,669 --> 00:22:55,029

to speak about that give us some

532

00:22:58,560 --> 00:22:56,679

examples that people could really wrap

533

00:23:00,060 --> 00:22:58,570

their arms around well yeah I just I was

534

00:23:01,680 --> 00:23:00,070

talking about the wine the business

535

00:23:03,930 --> 00:23:01,690

about wine because wine of course was

536

00:23:06,299 --> 00:23:03,940

the blood of Dionysus before it became

537

00:23:08,519 --> 00:23:06,309

the blood of Jesus you know so that's

538

00:23:10,470 --> 00:23:08,529

it's a pretty important main just the

539

00:23:12,840 --> 00:23:10,480

main element the blood of Christ is not

540

00:23:15,120 --> 00:23:12,850

original to the Christianity then we

541

00:23:18,870 --> 00:23:15,130

have the pre-christian God on the cross

542

00:23:21,289 --> 00:23:18,880

and this long study I've done about 35

543

00:23:24,120 --> 00:23:21,299

pages or something like 40 pages of

544

00:23:25,590 --> 00:23:24,130

figures in cruciform meaning that

545

00:23:28,289 --> 00:23:25,600

they're either hung on a cross or in

546

00:23:31,680 --> 00:23:28,299

cross shape and in between two thieves

547

00:23:35,850 --> 00:23:31,690

in fact this is a solar symbol there are

548

00:23:39,810 --> 00:23:35,860

many impressions of a divine figure in

549

00:23:42,529 --> 00:23:39,820

the center between two other elements -

550

00:23:44,410 --> 00:23:42,539

they generally are humans or

551
00:23:47,140 --> 00:23:44,420
anthropomorphised

552
00:23:50,980 --> 00:23:47,150
and so that there's this trio of images

553
00:23:52,660 --> 00:23:50,990
and that is a solar symbol the image in

554
00:23:55,300 --> 00:23:52,670
the center the cross in the middle is

555
00:23:57,670 --> 00:23:55,310
the Sun in its totality and then on

556
00:23:59,500 --> 00:23:57,680
either side is the Sun in the morning

557
00:24:02,260 --> 00:23:59,510
and the Sun in the evening also

558
00:24:04,090 --> 00:24:02,270
interpreted as the Sun as it goes

559
00:24:06,010 --> 00:24:04,100
towards the vernal equinox the Sun as it

560
00:24:07,180 --> 00:24:06,020
goes towards the or I'm sorry the winter

561
00:24:08,560 --> 00:24:07,190
solstice and the summer solstice it

562
00:24:11,260 --> 00:24:08,570
could also be the equinoxes but it's a

563
00:24:13,540 --> 00:24:11,270

very solar symbol this cross with two

564

00:24:15,340 --> 00:24:13,550

crosses on either side you can find this

565

00:24:17,230 --> 00:24:15,350

going back thousands of years in some

566

00:24:19,570 --> 00:24:17,240

form or another and in your book you

567

00:24:22,960 --> 00:24:19,580

actually have reproduced photographs of

568

00:24:25,180 --> 00:24:22,970

have relics and and and what is the

569

00:24:27,300 --> 00:24:25,190

evidence that we have of that evidence

570

00:24:29,770 --> 00:24:27,310

that you present there yeah I have both

571

00:24:31,630 --> 00:24:29,780

photographs and line drawings of

572

00:24:33,660 --> 00:24:31,640

artifacts I have a lot of them in here

573

00:24:36,520 --> 00:24:33,670

showing different cross shapes from

574

00:24:37,750 --> 00:24:36,530

before the Common Era or into the Common

575

00:24:39,340 --> 00:24:37,760

Era but having nothing to do with

576

00:24:41,020 --> 00:24:39,350

Christianity that's one thing people

577

00:24:42,460 --> 00:24:41,030

must understand that when we say the

578

00:24:44,110 --> 00:24:42,470

turn of the Common Era which is people

579

00:24:48,070 --> 00:24:44,120

that other people call Christian era

580

00:24:52,360 --> 00:24:48,080

which would be the BC BCE ad c e

581

00:24:56,020 --> 00:24:52,370

timeline just because something is after

582

00:24:57,400 --> 00:24:56,030

that artificially-created timeline does

583

00:24:59,440 --> 00:24:57,410

not mean that it's automatically

584

00:25:01,660 --> 00:24:59,450

influenced by Christianity there are

585

00:25:03,250 --> 00:25:01,670

still places in the world today 2,000

586

00:25:04,390 --> 00:25:03,260

years later that have never heard of

587

00:25:06,130 --> 00:25:04,400

Christianity this is like a hundred

588

00:25:07,930 --> 00:25:06,140

uncle'd you note untouched tribes

589

00:25:09,970 --> 00:25:07,940

uncontacted drives around the world

590

00:25:12,040 --> 00:25:09,980

they've never heard Christianity they

591

00:25:14,290 --> 00:25:12,050

are living in pre-christian times then

592

00:25:16,270 --> 00:25:14,300

so just because something came after

593

00:25:18,870 --> 00:25:16,280

that dividing line does not mean that it

594

00:25:22,150 --> 00:25:18,880

was influenced by Christianity we have

595

00:25:25,300 --> 00:25:22,160

crucifixes that are a post common era

596

00:25:28,330 --> 00:25:25,310

and they're clearly not influenced by

597

00:25:30,190 --> 00:25:28,340

Christianity so this is not and then but

598

00:25:33,880 --> 00:25:30,200

we have also all these other images of

599

00:25:36,220 --> 00:25:33,890

gods and and heroes or other sacred

600

00:25:39,610 --> 00:25:36,230

figures or legends or whatever in

601
00:25:43,870 --> 00:25:39,620
cruciform or hanging on a cross using

602
00:25:46,420 --> 00:25:43,880
the same words as Christ's crucifixion

603
00:25:49,330 --> 00:25:46,430
the same Greek words I have a lot of

604
00:25:52,720 --> 00:25:49,340
analysis in original languages in my

605
00:25:55,710 --> 00:25:52,730
work because I I read a dozen or more

606
00:25:56,920 --> 00:25:55,720
languages so that's an important aspect

607
00:25:59,080 --> 00:25:56,930
that

608
00:26:01,420 --> 00:25:59,090
you can't get in a lot of other other

609
00:26:03,730 --> 00:26:01,430
writings on these subjects you know you

610
00:26:05,500 --> 00:26:03,740
also make a point related to this that I

611
00:26:07,690 --> 00:26:05,510
was hoping you could kind of expound on

612
00:26:10,660 --> 00:26:07,700
a little bit and that's that even very

613
00:26:13,240 --> 00:26:10,670

early on first century if you will

614

00:26:16,510 --> 00:26:13,250

there's this myth making going on and

615

00:26:18,670 --> 00:26:16,520

some of the other religious groups are

616

00:26:20,860 --> 00:26:18,680

kind of complaining to the Christians

617

00:26:22,780 --> 00:26:20,870

and the Christians are dialoguing back

618

00:26:25,660 --> 00:26:22,790

with them and it kind of creates an

619

00:26:27,820 --> 00:26:25,670

interesting kind of a window into how

620

00:26:29,140 --> 00:26:27,830

this whole process is happening do you

621

00:26:30,760 --> 00:26:29,150

want to talk about that a little bit

622

00:26:33,670 --> 00:26:30,770

right I think you think you've Justin

623

00:26:36,400 --> 00:26:33,680

Martyr when he is addressing the

624

00:26:37,840 --> 00:26:36,410

polemics against Christianity that would

625

00:26:39,190 --> 00:26:37,850

be in the second century when

626

00:26:42,430 --> 00:26:39,200

Christianity really starts to become

627

00:26:46,300 --> 00:26:42,440

known to the outside world so to speak

628

00:26:50,350 --> 00:26:46,310

and Justin Martyr was a early church

629

00:26:53,620 --> 00:26:50,360

father around 150 who had to address

630

00:26:57,820 --> 00:26:53,630

some of the complaints of his

631

00:27:00,430 --> 00:26:57,830

unbelieving friends and in his first

632

00:27:02,860 --> 00:27:00,440

apology he has a section chapter one

633

00:27:06,340 --> 00:27:02,870

called the analogies to the history of

634

00:27:08,500 --> 00:27:06,350

Christ he really just admits against

635

00:27:12,000 --> 00:27:08,510

interest left and right talking about

636

00:27:14,080 --> 00:27:12,010

how Jesus's death and resurrection and

637

00:27:16,900 --> 00:27:14,090

virgin birth and so forth

638

00:27:20,470 --> 00:27:16,910

he is expounding nothing different from

639

00:27:23,110 --> 00:27:20,480

what the pagans believed regarding those

640

00:27:25,330 --> 00:27:23,120

whom they esteemed sons of Jupiter I'm

641

00:27:27,910 --> 00:27:25,340

no worse than you guys I mean that's the

642

00:27:30,670 --> 00:27:27,920

defense yeah it is he's basically saying

643

00:27:33,160 --> 00:27:30,680

that he's saying we propound nothing

644

00:27:36,400 --> 00:27:33,170

different from the pagan belief systems

645

00:27:38,410 --> 00:27:36,410

so why are you making fun of me and you

646

00:27:39,580 --> 00:27:38,420

do find this throughout the first or the

647

00:27:41,710 --> 00:27:39,590

second rather the second and third

648

00:27:43,510 --> 00:27:41,720

centuries where there the Christian

649

00:27:45,730 --> 00:27:43,520

defenders are constantly admitting that

650

00:27:47,320 --> 00:27:45,740

their ridiculous beliefs are no more

651
00:27:50,380 --> 00:27:47,330
ridiculous than the ridiculous beliefs

652
00:27:53,110 --> 00:27:50,390
are the pagans and so it's kind of like

653
00:27:54,640 --> 00:27:53,120
you know a battle between people who

654
00:27:58,450 --> 00:27:54,650
like Superman and people who like

655
00:28:01,330 --> 00:27:58,460
spider-man and they're having this big

656
00:28:03,940 --> 00:28:01,340
battle of course the people who like the

657
00:28:05,560 --> 00:28:03,950
the judeo-christian Superman are the

658
00:28:07,900 --> 00:28:05,570
ones who won out and that's a whole

659
00:28:09,880 --> 00:28:07,910
other story but I think this is really

660
00:28:10,159 --> 00:28:09,890
one of to me this is one of the most

661
00:28:13,729 --> 00:28:10,169
come

662
00:28:15,440 --> 00:28:13,739
pelling parts of your work is that no

663
00:28:17,149 --> 00:28:15,450

matter how you come out and sort

664

00:28:20,509 --> 00:28:17,159

everything out at the at the very end

665

00:28:23,269 --> 00:28:20,519

one of the things you clearly establish

666

00:28:26,989 --> 00:28:23,279

is this idea we have of quote unquote

667

00:28:28,849 --> 00:28:26,999

the early Christians is dramatic history

668

00:28:31,009 --> 00:28:28,859

tells us that it's dramatically

669

00:28:34,099 --> 00:28:31,019

different than what we need to believe

670

00:28:35,779 --> 00:28:34,109

in it you know for example you touch

671

00:28:37,129 --> 00:28:35,789

down a couple of things there that I

672

00:28:40,399 --> 00:28:37,139

want to get back to I want to get back

673

00:28:43,190 --> 00:28:40,409

to Josephus and who he was why we might

674

00:28:45,109 --> 00:28:43,200

not take what we think we know about him

675

00:28:46,970 --> 00:28:45,119

and swallow that whole so maybe you can

676

00:28:49,759 --> 00:28:46,980

touch on that but I also want to talk

677

00:28:52,159 --> 00:28:49,769

about Paul because of course Paul is

678

00:28:54,649 --> 00:28:52,169

really the person responsible for the

679

00:28:56,599 --> 00:28:54,659

Christian Church as we know it and but

680

00:28:59,629 --> 00:28:56,609

in particular to get back to this point

681

00:29:03,169 --> 00:28:59,639

that I was raising about your work is

682

00:29:05,960 --> 00:29:03,179

who is Paul writing these letters to

683

00:29:08,359 --> 00:29:05,970

because most Christians just kind of

684

00:29:10,220 --> 00:29:08,369

accept that there's all these Christian

685

00:29:12,229 --> 00:29:10,230

churches that are formed and Paul is

686

00:29:14,840 --> 00:29:12,239

running around to them and all that but

687

00:29:17,389 --> 00:29:14,850

that's not really the case is it so in

688

00:29:20,149 --> 00:29:17,399

this pre-christian God on a cross

689

00:29:20,599 --> 00:29:20,159

book booklet ebook that I have on my

690

00:29:22,519 --> 00:29:20,609

website

691

00:29:26,479 --> 00:29:22,529

Stella house publishing calm you can get

692

00:29:28,879 --> 00:29:26,489

i'm also discussing the Orphic Dionysian

693

00:29:31,700 --> 00:29:28,889

cult that was extremely popular I

694

00:29:34,729 --> 00:29:31,710

touched on it as it spread with the wine

695

00:29:36,320 --> 00:29:34,739

production wine was very popular and

696

00:29:37,820 --> 00:29:36,330

very important all around the

697

00:29:40,149 --> 00:29:37,830

Mediterranean a major part of the

698

00:29:44,210 --> 00:29:40,159

economy as it is today part of this

699

00:29:47,419 --> 00:29:44,220

Orphic Dionysus proselytizing required

700

00:29:49,789 --> 00:29:47,429

and it also tells the legend of Orpheus

701
00:29:51,049 --> 00:29:49,799
it was not a real person but there may

702
00:29:53,029 --> 00:29:51,059
have been I mean there were several

703
00:29:54,830 --> 00:29:53,039
people going around the Mediterranean

704
00:29:58,759 --> 00:29:54,840
proselytizing the cult of Dionysus

705
00:30:02,210 --> 00:29:58,769
but Orpheus is a fictional demigod

706
00:30:05,989 --> 00:30:02,220
character and oddly enough he is

707
00:30:08,930 --> 00:30:05,999
depicted as going around the almost the

708
00:30:13,369 --> 00:30:08,940
same places where Paul is depicted as

709
00:30:17,239 --> 00:30:13,379
going to proselytize the word of Bacchus

710
00:30:18,769 --> 00:30:17,249
or Dionysus so Orpheus is depicted it's

711
00:30:21,470 --> 00:30:18,779
like they just took the story of Orpheus

712
00:30:23,390 --> 00:30:21,480
and reworked it as Paul was there a

713
00:30:25,190 --> 00:30:23,400

historical Paul

714

00:30:28,760 --> 00:30:25,200

yes there was somebody who wrote those

715

00:30:31,370 --> 00:30:28,770

letters but the character in the New

716

00:30:33,260 --> 00:30:31,380

Testament is another fictional

717

00:30:36,560 --> 00:30:33,270

compilation of characters in this case

718

00:30:40,850 --> 00:30:36,570

there would be a person doing this

719

00:30:44,630 --> 00:30:40,860

proselytizing but he is buried in with

720

00:30:49,220 --> 00:30:44,640

the axe of Orpheus elements out of

721

00:30:53,600 --> 00:30:49,230

Josephus possibly the Saul of Josephus

722

00:30:55,400 --> 00:30:53,610

in fact and other other in individuals

723

00:30:57,320 --> 00:30:55,410

other figures so we have a kind of

724

00:30:59,720 --> 00:30:57,330

compilation in our impression of what

725

00:31:03,010 --> 00:30:59,730

Paul was but and these picked these

726
00:31:07,250 --> 00:31:03,020
letters may have been a kind of standard

727
00:31:09,799 --> 00:31:07,260
proselytizing format formula that was

728
00:31:11,930 --> 00:31:09,809
being taught at mystery schools these

729
00:31:16,040 --> 00:31:11,940
places where he goes to in the story

730
00:31:18,890 --> 00:31:16,050
Ephesus and along the Levant in the

731
00:31:23,330 --> 00:31:18,900
Levant and turkey Turkey Asia Minor area

732
00:31:27,410 --> 00:31:23,340
these have Brotherhood seats or schools

733
00:31:29,210 --> 00:31:27,420
there for centuries so basically what

734
00:31:30,830 --> 00:31:29,220
we're seeing when he's addressing the

735
00:31:32,360 --> 00:31:30,840
so-called churches is he's addressing

736
00:31:34,490 --> 00:31:32,370
these Brotherhood centers that are

737
00:31:37,880 --> 00:31:34,500
already in existence and had been for a

738
00:31:41,240 --> 00:31:37,890

long time and those texts are reworked

739

00:31:44,150 --> 00:31:41,250

there's a lot of Gnosticism in them they

740

00:31:47,510 --> 00:31:44,160

are the Pauline epistles are we work to

741

00:31:50,270 --> 00:31:47,520

give it a more dense appearance of

742

00:31:52,090 --> 00:31:50,280

historicity whereas he could be talking

743

00:31:55,669 --> 00:31:52,100

about ideas that were already in place

744

00:31:57,620 --> 00:31:55,679

there's no no need for a historical

745

00:32:00,980 --> 00:31:57,630

founder of what he's talking about

746

00:32:04,040 --> 00:32:00,990

there are all these epithets for divine

747

00:32:08,000 --> 00:32:04,050

beings that they use like so tear which

748

00:32:10,490 --> 00:32:08,010

means Savior or healer or any of these

749

00:32:13,580 --> 00:32:10,500

ideas any of these epithets that are

750

00:32:16,340 --> 00:32:13,590

that Jesus is called by King Prince Lord

751

00:32:20,299 --> 00:32:16,350

these are all applied to pre-christian

752

00:32:22,520 --> 00:32:20,309

gods all over the place so when you have

753

00:32:23,990 --> 00:32:22,530

someone proselytizing and Vokoun a being

754

00:32:26,840 --> 00:32:24,000

by these epithets it does not

755

00:32:28,520 --> 00:32:26,850

immediately indicate it's Christianity

756

00:32:29,810 --> 00:32:28,530

that they're or that it's a real person

757

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:29,820

they're talking about or that it was a

758

00:32:34,160 --> 00:32:32,010

historical founder if he's saying the

759

00:32:35,120 --> 00:32:34,170

Lord did this and that in pre-christian

760

00:32:37,010 --> 00:32:35,130

times you would be talking about

761

00:32:37,480 --> 00:32:37,020

possibly Yahweh in the Bible you'll be

762

00:32:40,029 --> 00:32:37,490

talking

763

00:32:42,430 --> 00:32:40,039

Zuse you'd be talk about Dionysus every

764

00:32:45,580 --> 00:32:42,440

was called the Lord all over all over

765

00:32:48,549 --> 00:32:45,590

the Levant where the Old Testament draws

766

00:32:50,500 --> 00:32:48,559

its mythology from the gods all over

767

00:32:52,720 --> 00:32:50,510

they're called Lord there's Lord Baal

768

00:32:55,600 --> 00:32:52,730

and there's just so many of them in fact

769

00:32:58,090 --> 00:32:55,610

if you go back to these Canaanite texts

770

00:33:00,250 --> 00:32:58,100

such as a trois chambre the Ugaritic

771

00:33:02,500 --> 00:33:00,260

texts you'll find a whole pile of what

772

00:33:05,350 --> 00:33:02,510

are considered to be Christian motifs

773

00:33:07,480 --> 00:33:05,360

and elements in there there's a God

774

00:33:10,840 --> 00:33:07,490

fought God the Father that's the god el

775

00:33:14,169 --> 00:33:10,850

there's a Virgin Mother her name is Anat

776

00:33:16,120 --> 00:33:14,179

and there's a son of God who dies and

777

00:33:18,340 --> 00:33:16,130

resurrects from the dead his name is

778

00:33:20,139 --> 00:33:18,350

ball he's a fertility God and then speak

779

00:33:22,510 --> 00:33:20,149

to for a minute because I take two

780

00:33:26,260 --> 00:33:22,520

things out of what you're saying is even

781

00:33:29,139 --> 00:33:26,270

if someone isn't convinced of the Jesus

782

00:33:31,510 --> 00:33:29,149

is a myth I think the very least one has

783

00:33:34,029 --> 00:33:31,520

to take away from this research and they

784

00:33:36,039 --> 00:33:34,039

really need to pick up this book and or

785

00:33:38,380 --> 00:33:36,049

go to the website truth be known and

786

00:33:41,649 --> 00:33:38,390

really look at the extent to which you

787

00:33:43,690 --> 00:33:41,659

document this and the numerous scholars

788

00:33:46,409 --> 00:33:43,700

that are on board with what you've said

789

00:33:48,430 --> 00:33:46,419

and the rigor that you put into

790

00:33:51,850 --> 00:33:48,440

documenting this from numerous sources

791

00:33:53,440 --> 00:33:51,860

the the in a very scholarly way but what

792

00:33:55,330 --> 00:33:53,450

I was getting back to is saying you know

793

00:33:58,180 --> 00:33:55,340

the very least I think someone has to

794

00:34:01,930 --> 00:33:58,190

come to is say wow this picture that's

795

00:34:04,169 --> 00:34:01,940

emerging of this period of time when

796

00:34:06,519 --> 00:34:04,179

Christianity was supposed to form is

797

00:34:09,040 --> 00:34:06,529

definitely a lot different than I

798

00:34:11,079 --> 00:34:09,050

thought it was because what we walk away

799

00:34:12,879 --> 00:34:11,089

with is it seeped into our culture even

800

00:34:15,820 --> 00:34:12,889

people who are not Christian have this

801
00:34:17,649 --> 00:34:15,830
idea that boom this religion sprung up

802
00:34:20,079 --> 00:34:17,659
organically because there was this

803
00:34:22,419 --> 00:34:20,089
important historical figure that was

804
00:34:24,940 --> 00:34:22,429
unlike anyone who ever came before and

805
00:34:27,790 --> 00:34:24,950
everyone just kind of gravitated around

806
00:34:30,399 --> 00:34:27,800
his ideas in this religion was formed so

807
00:34:33,280 --> 00:34:30,409
whether or not you believe in historical

808
00:34:36,220 --> 00:34:33,290
Jesus that myth that I just said I think

809
00:34:38,800 --> 00:34:36,230
is blown apart by right what you're just

810
00:34:43,020 --> 00:34:38,810
talking about yeah absolutely that is a

811
00:34:45,490 --> 00:34:43,030
really incomplete picture of the world

812
00:34:47,230 --> 00:34:45,500
that's part of what motivates me because

813
00:34:48,980 --> 00:34:47,240

these ancient cultures have been

814

00:34:52,159 --> 00:34:48,990

unfairly derogated

815

00:34:53,899 --> 00:34:52,169

and buried and hidden from sight and to

816

00:34:56,300 --> 00:34:53,909

me what I'm picking up I've always been

817

00:34:57,680 --> 00:34:56,310

a digger it started two years old I was

818

00:34:59,600 --> 00:34:57,690

fascinated with digging in the ground I

819

00:35:02,690 --> 00:34:59,610

saw I actually did archaeological

820

00:35:06,500 --> 00:35:02,700

excavation but this kind of work to me

821

00:35:08,420 --> 00:35:06,510

is also excavation and digging and it's

822

00:35:10,760 --> 00:35:08,430

very exciting to find like what I just

823

00:35:14,450 --> 00:35:10,770

told you about the God the Father Virgin

824

00:35:17,780 --> 00:35:14,460

Mother and dying and rising son of God

825

00:35:19,970 --> 00:35:17,790

in the ancient Ugaritic texts it's very

826

00:35:22,250 --> 00:35:19,980

exciting to me to find this information

827

00:35:25,190 --> 00:35:22,260

I'm not threatened by it at all I find

828

00:35:27,620 --> 00:35:25,200

it fascinating and it's I think it's

829

00:35:29,900 --> 00:35:27,630

important it restores humanity to these

830

00:35:31,640 --> 00:35:29,910

other cultures as well and the only way

831

00:35:34,280 --> 00:35:31,650

that you that we could have been so

832

00:35:36,800 --> 00:35:34,290

ignorant to believe in that fictional

833

00:35:39,470 --> 00:35:36,810

tale of the great dawning of divine

834

00:35:41,720 --> 00:35:39,480

revelation upon this people you know in

835

00:35:44,600 --> 00:35:41,730

the in the dark world all surrounding

836

00:35:46,850 --> 00:35:44,610

them it's just it's so fake the only way

837

00:35:50,420 --> 00:35:46,860

that that could be promulgated is to

838

00:35:53,300 --> 00:35:50,430

force people to be ignorant of the

839

00:35:55,849 --> 00:35:53,310

religion and mythology in pre-christian

840

00:35:58,460 --> 00:35:55,859

times in the appropriate areas you have

841

00:36:00,500 --> 00:35:58,470

to bury that information you have to

842

00:36:02,900 --> 00:36:00,510

drive people away from it you have to

843

00:36:05,810 --> 00:36:02,910

force them not to be interested in it

844

00:36:08,390 --> 00:36:05,820

also physically there was a massive

845

00:36:10,730 --> 00:36:08,400

amount of destruction of these artifacts

846

00:36:11,630 --> 00:36:10,740

to keep this information from from

847

00:36:14,710 --> 00:36:11,640

leaking out

848

00:36:18,380 --> 00:36:14,720

burying up covering up they would build

849

00:36:20,030 --> 00:36:18,390

churches over temples pagan temples so

850

00:36:23,150 --> 00:36:20,040

that no one would ever see the those

851

00:36:25,940 --> 00:36:23,160

tables again and to add into it gets

852

00:36:29,420 --> 00:36:25,950

even worse they would move deranged

853

00:36:31,310 --> 00:36:29,430

crazy monks in there to live on the

854

00:36:34,790 --> 00:36:31,320

temple sites the pagan temple sites and

855

00:36:37,490 --> 00:36:34,800

to you know actually physically abuse

856

00:36:41,180 --> 00:36:37,500

them by defecating on them and so this

857

00:36:44,240 --> 00:36:41,190

was this was how our great religious

858

00:36:47,660 --> 00:36:44,250

traditions that apply to numerous

859

00:36:50,480 --> 00:36:47,670

cultures the cultural loss is enormous

860

00:36:53,330 --> 00:36:50,490

and if we take a step back and if we try

861

00:36:56,180 --> 00:36:53,340

and bring it into modern-day times we

862

00:36:58,400 --> 00:36:56,190

have a well-documented history of how

863

00:36:59,990 --> 00:36:58,410

that happens and how that you know if

864

00:37:02,180 --> 00:37:00,000

we're going to promote our own interests

865

00:37:02,720 --> 00:37:02,190

in our own culture we eventually get to

866

00:37:04,640 --> 00:37:02,730

this

867

00:37:07,150 --> 00:37:04,650

hard decision that we make that the best

868

00:37:09,770 --> 00:37:07,160

way to do that is to just steamroll over

869

00:37:12,800 --> 00:37:09,780

mm-hmm when else's culture so in a way

870

00:37:15,109 --> 00:37:12,810

in a very cold analytical way of looking

871

00:37:16,970 --> 00:37:15,119

at it the picture you paint makes a lot

872

00:37:20,109 --> 00:37:16,980

of sense in terms of what we know about

873

00:37:22,960 --> 00:37:20,119

how we work in how societies advance

874

00:37:25,790 --> 00:37:22,970

let's just pick up on a couple of little

875

00:37:29,210 --> 00:37:25,800

examples of what you're talking about in

876

00:37:30,800 --> 00:37:29,220

terms of this obfuscation of history

877

00:37:33,620 --> 00:37:30,810

rewriting of history because you

878

00:37:36,530 --> 00:37:33,630

mentioned Josephus a minute ago

879

00:37:39,620 --> 00:37:36,540

tell us who Josephus is and what we

880

00:37:42,320 --> 00:37:39,630

quote unquote know about Josephus is

881

00:37:44,450 --> 00:37:42,330

writing on Jesus well Josephus was a

882

00:37:47,210 --> 00:37:44,460

Jewish historian it was a general

883

00:37:50,240 --> 00:37:47,220

actually first of the first century

884

00:37:56,480 --> 00:37:50,250

whose major works were compose

885

00:37:59,500 --> 00:37:56,490

throughout 90 100 AD and in them appears

886

00:38:05,210 --> 00:37:59,510

the infamous testimony 'm Flavian 'm is

887

00:38:08,859 --> 00:38:05,220

a short passage that abruptly interrupts

888

00:38:13,190 --> 00:38:08,869

the surrounding texts and briefly

889

00:38:17,000 --> 00:38:13,200

introduces Jesus Christ in a very short

890

00:38:19,310 --> 00:38:17,010

statement of faith essentially that he

891

00:38:20,780 --> 00:38:19,320

was the Messiah and he still has

892

00:38:22,940 --> 00:38:20,790

followers of blah blah blah it's a

893

00:38:24,859 --> 00:38:22,950

everybody knows this is so infamous I

894

00:38:26,630 --> 00:38:24,869

should I say right because when you run

895

00:38:29,150 --> 00:38:26,640

across Christians and this just happened

896

00:38:31,340 --> 00:38:29,160

to be the other day I was I was out in

897

00:38:33,320 --> 00:38:31,350

the soccer field with with my daughter

898

00:38:34,760 --> 00:38:33,330

and this person comes up and we start

899

00:38:36,050 --> 00:38:34,770

engaging in this conversation a little

900

00:38:38,120 --> 00:38:36,060

bit I don't normally get into these

901
00:38:40,370 --> 00:38:38,130
things but a little bit and one of the

902
00:38:43,310 --> 00:38:40,380
first things this person said was

903
00:38:45,400 --> 00:38:43,320
Josephus hey we're Christians part of

904
00:38:50,570 --> 00:38:45,410
the reason we know that Jesus is real is

905
00:38:53,510 --> 00:38:50,580
this ancient historical text Josephus he

906
00:38:55,550 --> 00:38:53,520
was a Roman and he even acknowledges

907
00:38:58,640 --> 00:38:55,560
that Jesus lived so for anyone who

908
00:39:01,250 --> 00:38:58,650
doesn't this is a common apologetic kind

909
00:39:03,740 --> 00:39:01,260
of cornerstone of the whole Jesus thing

910
00:39:05,599 --> 00:39:03,750
so I'm sorry please continue right so

911
00:39:08,180 --> 00:39:05,609
I've written pretty extensively on this

912
00:39:11,840 --> 00:39:08,190
subject I have I have a page I mean I

913
00:39:14,030 --> 00:39:11,850

have a full draft of a book that on the

914

00:39:15,690 --> 00:39:14,040

Josephus issue alone but it's - it's

915

00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:15,700

gonna require a while every time I write

916

00:39:19,920 --> 00:39:18,010

you can imagine it takes me forever but

917

00:39:23,280 --> 00:39:19,930

because it's heavy-duty stuff I'm

918

00:39:25,109 --> 00:39:23,290

analyzing Greek on my freethought nation

919

00:39:27,000 --> 00:39:25,119

if you go through pre thought nation

920

00:39:29,040 --> 00:39:27,010

calm if you just look up Josephus you'll

921

00:39:32,640 --> 00:39:29,050

find some significant writings on this

922

00:39:35,240 --> 00:39:32,650

issue and first of all there are many

923

00:39:38,190 --> 00:39:35,250

reasons to claim that this is an

924

00:39:39,420 --> 00:39:38,200

interpolation and you know I don't want

925

00:39:41,880 --> 00:39:39,430

to go into all those arguments of why

926
00:39:44,609 --> 00:39:41,890
it's an interpolation but I am convinced

927
00:39:47,160 --> 00:39:44,619
and I have shown I believe reasonably

928
00:39:50,430 --> 00:39:47,170
and scientifically that the passage is

929
00:39:52,500 --> 00:39:50,440
not original to Josephus that Josephus

930
00:39:55,410 --> 00:39:52,510
had never heard of this individual

931
00:39:57,030 --> 00:39:55,420
scholars for a long time as you point

932
00:39:58,740 --> 00:39:57,040
out one of the back once you make I

933
00:40:00,750 --> 00:39:58,750
think that's very compelling is to say

934
00:40:02,790 --> 00:40:00,760
hundreds and hundreds of years it's kind

935
00:40:05,069 --> 00:40:02,800
of been accepted that this probably

936
00:40:06,660 --> 00:40:05,079
isn't real yeah there's the partial

937
00:40:08,520 --> 00:40:06,670
interpolation in Syria there's a whole

938
00:40:09,960 --> 00:40:08,530

total interpolation then there are

939

00:40:11,190 --> 00:40:09,970

people who believe the entire thing is

940

00:40:13,770 --> 00:40:11,200

real the people who believe the entire

941

00:40:16,050 --> 00:40:13,780

thing is real are not among the scholars

942

00:40:19,890 --> 00:40:16,060

these days in as far as the majority

943

00:40:22,020 --> 00:40:19,900

goes the the majority of the common folk

944

00:40:23,870 --> 00:40:22,030

so to speak may believe that the entire

945

00:40:26,849 --> 00:40:23,880

thing is real but most scholars today

946

00:40:28,500 --> 00:40:26,859

even devoted Christians will say will

947

00:40:32,190 --> 00:40:28,510

adhere to the partial interpolation

948

00:40:35,730 --> 00:40:32,200

theory but previously there had been for

949

00:40:37,730 --> 00:40:35,740

at least 100 200 years - it was accepted

950

00:40:40,650 --> 00:40:37,740

as a forgery because it had been

951
00:40:43,620 --> 00:40:40,660
thoroughly demonstrated to be such in

952
00:40:45,210 --> 00:40:43,630
toto and by the end of their by the

953
00:40:47,940 --> 00:40:45,220
beginning of the 20th century people

954
00:40:51,150 --> 00:40:47,950
were writing about it as if it had been

955
00:40:53,190 --> 00:40:51,160
proved to be a forgery but as I say in

956
00:40:56,720 --> 00:40:53,200
any event even if we allow that it isn't

957
00:40:58,950 --> 00:40:56,730
it still does not serve as contemporary

958
00:41:00,930 --> 00:40:58,960
evidence of the existence of this

959
00:41:02,730 --> 00:41:00,940
individual okay but but before you go

960
00:41:04,620 --> 00:41:02,740
down that path I want to also put this

961
00:41:05,970 --> 00:41:04,630
in a little bit of context for people

962
00:41:07,859 --> 00:41:05,980
who maybe haven't dug into this as

963
00:41:09,510 --> 00:41:07,869

thoroughly as you have because I can

964

00:41:12,839 --> 00:41:09,520

hear in your explanation you're kind of

965

00:41:15,630 --> 00:41:12,849

leaving room for all this detailed

966

00:41:18,089 --> 00:41:15,640

detailed debate on it which is good but

967

00:41:20,640 --> 00:41:18,099

I think the big picture is it probably

968

00:41:23,579 --> 00:41:20,650

ain't real folks and one of the things

969

00:41:25,349 --> 00:41:23,589

that we can use to understand that is to

970

00:41:28,740 --> 00:41:25,359

put it in the context of all the other

971

00:41:29,309 --> 00:41:28,750

stuff we know that was created after the

972

00:41:30,809 --> 00:41:29,319

fact

973

00:41:32,519 --> 00:41:30,819

one of the things I always point folks

974

00:41:35,069 --> 00:41:32,529

to who loved a kind of rattle off

975

00:41:37,439 --> 00:41:35,079

Scripture is you know John eight and

976
00:41:40,140 --> 00:41:37,449
when Jesus says you know that he is who

977
00:41:42,209 --> 00:41:40,150
is without sin cast the first stone and

978
00:41:43,859 --> 00:41:42,219
you know I always tell people look in

979
00:41:44,969 --> 00:41:43,869
your Bible and I think down of the bomb

980
00:41:47,789 --> 00:41:44,979
out of the page you'll see a little

981
00:41:50,039 --> 00:41:47,799
asterisk there and then you'll follow

982
00:41:53,609 --> 00:41:50,049
that asterisk and you'll find that this

983
00:41:55,529 --> 00:41:53,619
like so many things in the Bible when we

984
00:41:58,170 --> 00:41:55,539
really have dug into it have said you

985
00:42:00,029 --> 00:41:58,180
know we're not really so sure that that

986
00:42:01,769 --> 00:42:00,039
was really in there and if you dig

987
00:42:04,019 --> 00:42:01,779
further what they've what they say is

988
00:42:05,519 --> 00:42:04,029

now that really wasn't in there like the

989

00:42:07,079 --> 00:42:05,529

resurrection in the book with the Gospel

990

00:42:08,579 --> 00:42:07,089

of Mark this scholarship I actually

991

00:42:11,309 --> 00:42:08,589

discuss a lot of this scholarship in my

992

00:42:12,989 --> 00:42:11,319

book who was Jesus which does not talk

993

00:42:14,969 --> 00:42:12,999

about the mythology behind it very much

994

00:42:17,579 --> 00:42:14,979

just dresses the Gospels on their face

995

00:42:19,199 --> 00:42:17,589

so that book is quite useful for that

996

00:42:23,099 --> 00:42:19,209

kind of discussion it also talks about

997

00:42:25,609 --> 00:42:23,109

the other supposed witnesses or you know

998

00:42:28,349 --> 00:42:25,619

writers from pagan antiquity like

999

00:42:30,329 --> 00:42:28,359

Suetonius Tacitus Pliny and so forth who

1000

00:42:33,719 --> 00:42:30,339

supposedly serve as evidence of the

1001
00:42:36,479 --> 00:42:33,729
existence of Jesus of Nazareth but I

1002
00:42:38,219 --> 00:42:36,489
analyzed all of those claims too and I

1003
00:42:40,979 --> 00:42:38,229
analyzed the claim of whether or not

1004
00:42:42,689 --> 00:42:40,989
there was any place called Nazareth that

1005
00:42:44,189 --> 00:42:42,699
he could have been from yeah talk a

1006
00:42:48,089 --> 00:42:44,199
little bit about that yeah I have

1007
00:42:50,579 --> 00:42:48,099
another article that I wrote called it

1008
00:42:53,880 --> 00:42:50,589
appears in our book refuting Bar

1009
00:42:56,099 --> 00:42:53,890
gehrman's attack on us by Frank Sindelar

1010
00:42:57,959 --> 00:42:56,109
so we talked about Nazareth and I go

1011
00:42:59,759 --> 00:42:57,969
through and analyze the usages of the

1012
00:43:02,609 --> 00:42:59,769
word that it's the phrase that is now

1013
00:43:04,439 --> 00:43:02,619

being translated Jesus of Nazareth and I

1014

00:43:08,160 --> 00:43:04,449

discover that that phrase really isn't

1015

00:43:09,989 --> 00:43:08,170

is barely in the New Testament most of

1016

00:43:13,279 --> 00:43:09,999

the time they're identifying Jesus as a

1017

00:43:17,930 --> 00:43:13,289

Nazarene which is a pre-christian sect

1018

00:43:20,069 --> 00:43:17,940

interestingly enough of carpenter's hmm

1019

00:43:22,469 --> 00:43:20,079

and there's another there's another

1020

00:43:24,390 --> 00:43:22,479

fascinating motif that I go into detail

1021

00:43:27,509 --> 00:43:24,400

about this whole idea that Jesus was a

1022

00:43:30,359 --> 00:43:27,519

carpenter well unknownst to the masses

1023

00:43:33,150 --> 00:43:30,369

their entire entire carpenter guilds

1024

00:43:35,400 --> 00:43:33,160

with the God as a carpenter this idea of

1025

00:43:38,219 --> 00:43:35,410

God as a carpenter or a craftsman God

1026
00:43:40,319 --> 00:43:38,229
himself a god any God there's God's in

1027
00:43:42,059 --> 00:43:40,329
every culture there's one Ugaritic

1028
00:43:43,200 --> 00:43:42,069
culture there's one in Egypt these are

1029
00:43:46,950 --> 00:43:43,210
craftsman gods and

1030
00:43:48,329 --> 00:43:46,960
it's tau its Kassar and if i'm

1031
00:43:51,750 --> 00:43:48,339
pronouncing that right in the Ugaritic

1032
00:43:53,339 --> 00:43:51,760
so there's the carpenter god motif is

1033
00:43:55,680 --> 00:43:53,349
also pre-christian when you say he's a

1034
00:43:58,109 --> 00:43:55,690
carpenter I analyzed this word Tecton I

1035
00:44:01,950 --> 00:43:58,119
go into practically every detail of the

1036
00:44:04,859 --> 00:44:01,960
story but to get back to Nazareth okay

1037
00:44:06,810 --> 00:44:04,869
right well it turns out in my mind that

1038
00:44:09,810 --> 00:44:06,820

what they're doing here is incorporating

1039

00:44:12,870 --> 00:44:09,820

the Nazarene factor very important group

1040

00:44:15,510 --> 00:44:12,880

of people who are kind of hidden a lot

1041

00:44:19,650 --> 00:44:15,520

of these these mystery schools and sects

1042

00:44:24,740 --> 00:44:19,660

are not overtly named in the gospel but

1043

00:44:27,720 --> 00:44:24,750

they're indicated by their their

1044

00:44:29,160 --> 00:44:27,730

landmarks their artifacts that identify

1045

00:44:31,200 --> 00:44:29,170

them for example this whole carpenter

1046

00:44:32,430 --> 00:44:31,210

thing in an instant just identifying him

1047

00:44:36,270 --> 00:44:32,440

as a carpenter you've you've

1048

00:44:39,120 --> 00:44:36,280

incorporated the Nazarenes most of the

1049

00:44:40,710 --> 00:44:39,130

skills in antiquity would have a god

1050

00:44:43,200 --> 00:44:40,720

attached to them there's a smith cult

1051
00:44:45,900 --> 00:44:43,210
and the Greek we know that God the Smith

1052
00:44:48,150 --> 00:44:45,910
God by the name of Hephaestus there's

1053
00:44:50,730 --> 00:44:48,160
the Mason cult

1054
00:44:53,460 --> 00:44:50,740
there's the carpenter cult there's the

1055
00:44:54,900 --> 00:44:53,470
wine cult it goes on and on and on this

1056
00:44:56,640 --> 00:44:54,910
is how this is how the ancient world

1057
00:44:58,829 --> 00:44:56,650
looked this is where you're where

1058
00:45:00,990 --> 00:44:58,839
everybody's missing the MIDI or the

1059
00:45:06,349 --> 00:45:01,000
background when they see this just you

1060
00:45:09,120 --> 00:45:06,359
know divine Christian revelation concept

1061
00:45:12,480 --> 00:45:09,130
and also I think an important point you

1062
00:45:14,970 --> 00:45:12,490
make related to that is you kind of

1063
00:45:18,180 --> 00:45:14,980

dispel another myth and that's that

1064

00:45:21,359 --> 00:45:18,190

they're in this time period there isn't

1065

00:45:24,839 --> 00:45:21,369

a lot of communication between different

1066

00:45:27,089 --> 00:45:24,849

sects and groups about these traditions

1067

00:45:29,099 --> 00:45:27,099

myths whatever you want to call them and

1068

00:45:32,250 --> 00:45:29,109

you really kind of blow that apart and

1069

00:45:34,170 --> 00:45:32,260

there's all sorts of information flow

1070

00:45:36,329 --> 00:45:34,180

going back and forth about this stuff

1071

00:45:38,900 --> 00:45:36,339

people really care about this stuff they

1072

00:45:40,920 --> 00:45:38,910

talk about it they share ideas right

1073

00:45:45,660 --> 00:45:40,930

yeah they right sitting around watching

1074

00:45:46,829 --> 00:45:45,670

TV you know if you cut out TV you can

1075

00:45:49,440 --> 00:45:46,839

see that there's a whole different world

1076
00:45:51,359 --> 00:45:49,450
out there that you know people are gonna

1077
00:45:53,400 --> 00:45:51,369
be fascinated with and it affects them

1078
00:45:56,520 --> 00:45:53,410
profoundly and depends on where you're

1079
00:45:59,580 --> 00:45:56,530
living for example the people in north

1080
00:46:02,310 --> 00:45:59,590
Europe are subjected to a significant

1081
00:46:05,130 --> 00:46:02,320
amount of darkness per year and so the

1082
00:46:07,830 --> 00:46:05,140
sudden coldness and the Sun to them is a

1083
00:46:10,830 --> 00:46:07,840
magnificent Savior and healer and they

1084
00:46:13,680 --> 00:46:10,840
rejoice every day the Sun is in their

1085
00:46:16,200 --> 00:46:13,690
presence that would mean in the morning

1086
00:46:19,020 --> 00:46:16,210
and at the end of the winter especially

1087
00:46:21,750 --> 00:46:19,030
and of course the the winter solstice is

1088
00:46:24,360 --> 00:46:21,760

marking the beginning of the rebirth of

1089

00:46:25,740 --> 00:46:24,370

the new Sun a lot of people had their

1090

00:46:27,840 --> 00:46:25,750

year's cultures had their year's

1091

00:46:29,400 --> 00:46:27,850

beginning at the winter solstice which

1092

00:46:33,090 --> 00:46:29,410

we celebrated as the birth of Jesus

1093

00:46:36,210 --> 00:46:33,100

mm-hmm so what about these practices in

1094

00:46:37,470 --> 00:46:36,220

India and in Egypt making their way over

1095

00:46:39,330 --> 00:46:37,480

I think there's always been the

1096

00:46:42,180 --> 00:46:39,340

implication that gosh there's no way

1097

00:46:46,350 --> 00:46:42,190

that anything from India could have made

1098

00:46:48,210 --> 00:46:46,360

its way into you can only claim that by

1099

00:46:48,600 --> 00:46:48,220

utter ignorance of the history of the

1100

00:46:51,620 --> 00:46:48,610

region

1101
00:46:56,160 --> 00:46:51,630
for one thing there were already Indians

1102
00:46:58,010 --> 00:46:56,170
the Mitanni in the Turk tricky area the

1103
00:47:00,090 --> 00:46:58,020
Asia Minor and there were other

1104
00:47:02,340 --> 00:47:00,100
indo-europeans the Hittites and the

1105
00:47:03,990 --> 00:47:02,350
Hittites made their way to what is now

1106
00:47:07,350 --> 00:47:04,000
known as Jerusalem they were right in

1107
00:47:09,570 --> 00:47:07,360
the southeastern border of that area and

1108
00:47:12,300 --> 00:47:09,580
in fact they're mentioned in the Bible

1109
00:47:14,190 --> 00:47:12,310
as being the descendants of the

1110
00:47:15,770 --> 00:47:14,200
Israelites the Hittites the amorite s'

1111
00:47:19,020 --> 00:47:15,780
the Jebusites

1112
00:47:21,930 --> 00:47:19,030
and so there's already indo-european

1113
00:47:25,410 --> 00:47:21,940

influence India the conference between

1114

00:47:27,500 --> 00:47:25,420

India and the West's had been going on

1115

00:47:32,280 --> 00:47:27,510

for thousands of years as far as

1116

00:47:36,180 --> 00:47:32,290

distances go if you follow the genetic

1117

00:47:40,260 --> 00:47:36,190

paradigm of humanity's exodus out of

1118

00:47:42,420 --> 00:47:40,270

Africa there the main stream right now

1119

00:47:44,520 --> 00:47:42,430

is claiming you know at least 70,000

1120

00:47:47,430 --> 00:47:44,530

years ago human beings started migrating

1121

00:47:49,380 --> 00:47:47,440

Out of Africa and they did it to the

1122

00:47:51,300 --> 00:47:49,390

east they did it up along the Nile they

1123

00:47:53,040 --> 00:47:51,310

did it through the Sinai desert and

1124

00:47:55,740 --> 00:47:53,050

exactly the region we're talking about

1125

00:47:58,290 --> 00:47:55,750

where all of his stuff Egypt where all

1126

00:48:00,990 --> 00:47:58,300

of this stuff you know percolated for

1127

00:48:03,330 --> 00:48:01,000

tens of thousands of years and in this

1128

00:48:05,040 --> 00:48:03,340

case we don't even need humanity per se

1129

00:48:08,100 --> 00:48:05,050

we don't need large numbers of people

1130

00:48:10,020 --> 00:48:08,110

I need a handful of people with some

1131

00:48:12,420 --> 00:48:10,030

ideas and books that

1132

00:48:13,950 --> 00:48:12,430

get transmitted to other people and then

1133

00:48:16,050 --> 00:48:13,960

that gets transmitted right and we don't

1134

00:48:18,420 --> 00:48:16,060

need a large migration of people to have

1135

00:48:21,180 --> 00:48:18,430

these ideas come across right in fact

1136

00:48:22,860 --> 00:48:21,190

what happened with many of these ideas

1137

00:48:24,840 --> 00:48:22,870

and again we go back to Dionysus

1138

00:48:27,060 --> 00:48:24,850

significantly because within the night

1139

00:48:31,260 --> 00:48:27,070

out and Dionysus rituals are the death

1140

00:48:34,700 --> 00:48:31,270

and resurrection of the god you know in

1141

00:48:38,810 --> 00:48:34,710

text before the Christian era and the

1142

00:48:41,760 --> 00:48:38,820

main we would call this diffusion ism of

1143

00:48:44,070 --> 00:48:41,770

culture it's not always the same it's

1144

00:48:46,170 --> 00:48:44,080

not gonna be the same every time a myth

1145

00:48:47,790 --> 00:48:46,180

hits the shores or mountains of a

1146

00:48:49,380 --> 00:48:47,800

particular area because as I was saying

1147

00:48:51,840 --> 00:48:49,390

earlier you depends on where you're

1148

00:48:53,550 --> 00:48:51,850

located the people in northern Europe

1149

00:48:56,580 --> 00:48:53,560

greeting the Sun the people in the

1150

00:48:58,710 --> 00:48:56,590

desert regions of Arabia are not keen

1151

00:49:00,330 --> 00:48:58,720

with the Sun at all they wanted their

1152

00:49:02,850 --> 00:49:00,340

sleeping during the day and they're

1153

00:49:04,710 --> 00:49:02,860

going out at night and so their gods are

1154

00:49:06,960 --> 00:49:04,720

more focused at the night sky we have a

1155

00:49:10,320 --> 00:49:06,970

lot of lunar and stellar mythology

1156

00:49:12,960 --> 00:49:10,330

within Islam and Judaism and there's a

1157

00:49:16,020 --> 00:49:12,970

lot of solar religion in the European

1158

00:49:18,930 --> 00:49:16,030

cultures of course but the main

1159

00:49:19,850 --> 00:49:18,940

diffusion estatic wa t seemed to be the

1160

00:49:23,430 --> 00:49:19,860

Phoenicians

1161

00:49:26,010 --> 00:49:23,440

who were named by that term by the

1162

00:49:28,500 --> 00:49:26,020

Greeks probably about 3000 years ago but

1163

00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:28,510

they existed long before that

1164

00:49:33,180 --> 00:49:30,640

we can call them Canaanites Syrians

1165

00:49:37,560 --> 00:49:33,190

bibley UNS from the town of byblos their

1166

00:49:40,200 --> 00:49:37,570

city they were in cultural exchange with

1167

00:49:43,160 --> 00:49:40,210

Egypt for thousands of years you're

1168

00:49:46,440 --> 00:49:43,170

talking maybe seven thousand years ago

1169

00:49:48,840 --> 00:49:46,450

doing exchange back and forth with Egypt

1170

00:49:52,670 --> 00:49:48,850

again it's not an extraordinary concept

1171

00:49:56,280 --> 00:49:52,680

they're very close together in terms of

1172

00:49:58,470 --> 00:49:56,290

mileage but and then knowing that

1173

00:50:00,180 --> 00:49:58,480

everybody comes from up the Nile pretty

1174

00:50:01,920 --> 00:50:00,190

much and you know the Sugoï back and

1175

00:50:05,550 --> 00:50:01,930

forth there it's not that big of a deal

1176

00:50:08,130 --> 00:50:05,560

but there are you know Cedars of Lebanon

1177

00:50:09,690 --> 00:50:08,140

in Egypt that prove this exchange going

1178

00:50:11,880 --> 00:50:09,700

on so you have these two cultures

1179

00:50:14,610 --> 00:50:11,890

empowering each other and the

1180

00:50:18,660 --> 00:50:14,620

Phoenicians of course became amazing

1181

00:50:21,630 --> 00:50:18,670

sailors they built incredible ships from

1182

00:50:23,120 --> 00:50:21,640

these massive Cedars and they settled in

1183

00:50:25,610 --> 00:50:23,130

the region because

1184

00:50:28,190 --> 00:50:25,620

of the Cedars of course and they became

1185

00:50:31,010 --> 00:50:28,200

extremely wealthy and they were able to

1186

00:50:33,440 --> 00:50:31,020

sail all around the Mediterranean and

1187

00:50:35,480 --> 00:50:33,450

then eventually they went around the tip

1188

00:50:37,520 --> 00:50:35,490

of Africa as well and there are

1189

00:50:39,170 --> 00:50:37,530

indications they made it to Great

1190

00:50:41,180 --> 00:50:39,180

Britain and we're mining the tin mines

1191

00:50:44,300 --> 00:50:41,190

there and then of course there's the

1192

00:50:45,740 --> 00:50:44,310

whole you know America issue which is a

1193

00:50:48,230 --> 00:50:45,750

completely different show and I won't

1194

00:50:50,660 --> 00:50:48,240

get into that right now but in sailing

1195

00:50:52,460 --> 00:50:50,670

around the Mediterranean they exchanged

1196

00:50:54,410 --> 00:50:52,470

culture tremendously and eventually of

1197

00:50:56,480 --> 00:50:54,420

course they invented the alphabet which

1198

00:50:59,330 --> 00:50:56,490

you know that what the alphabet did for

1199

00:51:01,580 --> 00:50:59,340

the world is mind-blowing and so you can

1200

00:51:04,160 --> 00:51:01,590

see that where the Phoenicians went

1201

00:51:05,960 --> 00:51:04,170

where they're writing went they were

1202

00:51:10,280 --> 00:51:05,970

then they were able to record other

1203

00:51:12,110 --> 00:51:10,290

people's cultural details and elements

1204

00:51:14,090 --> 00:51:12,120

and they didn't take this along with

1205

00:51:15,410 --> 00:51:14,100

them they brought wine with them they

1206

00:51:18,440 --> 00:51:15,420

brought the wine coat they brought the

1207

00:51:19,760 --> 00:51:18,450

wine God vine growing this is all part

1208

00:51:21,980 --> 00:51:19,770

of the same thing everything was

1209

00:51:23,780 --> 00:51:21,990

considered to be divine the serpent the

1210

00:51:25,700 --> 00:51:23,790

snake is involved in this because the

1211

00:51:27,560 --> 00:51:25,710

serpent is seen to help the soil and

1212

00:51:29,030 --> 00:51:27,570

help and the serpent was seen as a

1213

00:51:31,850 --> 00:51:29,040

symbol of resurrection because it would

1214

00:51:34,340 --> 00:51:31,860

go underground where people were buried

1215

00:51:37,250 --> 00:51:34,350

you know and it would come back up alive

1216

00:51:40,340 --> 00:51:37,260

I saw they used that as a symbol serpent

1217

00:51:42,470 --> 00:51:40,350

is another huge aspect look Jesus is

1218

00:51:45,050 --> 00:51:42,480

compared to the serpent that Moses

1219

00:51:46,940 --> 00:51:45,060

raises up the serpent brazen serpent of

1220

00:51:49,700 --> 00:51:46,950

bronze I'm always a little bit reluctant

1221

00:51:52,160 --> 00:51:49,710

when we start saying this is what this

1222

00:51:54,980 --> 00:51:52,170

means and this is why that means this

1223

00:51:56,570 --> 00:51:54,990

but but I'll kind of grant you that but

1224

00:51:58,910 --> 00:51:56,580

we know these things from ancient texts

1225

00:52:01,340 --> 00:51:58,920

so it's not that difficult - well let's

1226
00:52:02,570 --> 00:52:01,350
talk about that for a minute because one

1227
00:52:04,700 --> 00:52:02,580
of the things that we have in

1228
00:52:06,650 --> 00:52:04,710
contemporary research is we can have

1229
00:52:09,290 --> 00:52:06,660
people who have hallucinogenic

1230
00:52:11,780 --> 00:52:09,300
experiences and bring up some of these

1231
00:52:13,460 --> 00:52:11,790
same motifs that seem to come from other

1232
00:52:16,040 --> 00:52:13,470
cultures and can't really explain how

1233
00:52:18,350 --> 00:52:16,050
they did that there's a lot more mystery

1234
00:52:20,330 --> 00:52:18,360
to the mystery than I think we know

1235
00:52:22,370 --> 00:52:20,340
about but that's my hunch you know and

1236
00:52:24,050 --> 00:52:22,380
you can have a hunch that no we can

1237
00:52:26,950 --> 00:52:24,060
really explain the mystery by people

1238
00:52:29,360 --> 00:52:26,960

just interacting with their natural

1239

00:52:31,070 --> 00:52:29,370

environment and nature and that explains

1240

00:52:32,780 --> 00:52:31,080

the mystery so I don't even want to get

1241

00:52:34,790 --> 00:52:32,790

into that debate but I think there's a

1242

00:52:37,070 --> 00:52:34,800

real debate to be had there what I do

1243

00:52:38,630 --> 00:52:37,080

want to do is address this question

1244

00:52:41,090 --> 00:52:38,640

that I think has to be popping up in

1245

00:52:43,910 --> 00:52:41,100

people's mind and that is how do you

1246

00:52:46,640 --> 00:52:43,920

know what you know we didn't really talk

1247

00:52:49,100 --> 00:52:46,650

a lot about your credentials people

1248

00:52:52,760 --> 00:52:49,110

might be surprised to see that there

1249

00:52:56,090 --> 00:52:52,770

isn't a PhD after your name but as many

1250

00:52:58,690 --> 00:52:56,100

have said your books probably represent

1251
00:53:01,430 --> 00:52:58,700
at least a couple of pretty darn good

1252
00:53:03,890 --> 00:53:01,440
dissertations there if they were ever

1253
00:53:06,230 --> 00:53:03,900
published in that form so it's people

1254
00:53:09,950 --> 00:53:06,240
need to just go and look at the body of

1255
00:53:12,590 --> 00:53:09,960
the work analyze the scholarship the

1256
00:53:15,200 --> 00:53:12,600
rigor that you use and not worry about

1257
00:53:15,890 --> 00:53:15,210
the letters after your name well first

1258
00:53:18,320 --> 00:53:15,900
of all I did

1259
00:53:19,550 --> 00:53:18,330
I am alumna excuse me of the American

1260
00:53:21,170 --> 00:53:19,560
School of Classical Studies at Athens

1261
00:53:24,290 --> 00:53:21,180
Greece where I did excavate there and

1262
00:53:27,680 --> 00:53:24,300
that is a very good institution and so

1263
00:53:29,720 --> 00:53:27,690

my scholarship has been given no stamp

1264

00:53:33,380 --> 00:53:29,730

of approval you also have to remember

1265

00:53:35,090 --> 00:53:33,390

that great scholars like Joseph Campbell

1266

00:53:36,560 --> 00:53:35,100

did not have a PhD he got a master's

1267

00:53:39,020 --> 00:53:36,570

degree but when he went started to go

1268

00:53:41,270 --> 00:53:39,030

into a ph.d program he said I forget

1269

00:53:44,510 --> 00:53:41,280

about it you'll you'll stifle me so I

1270

00:53:46,100 --> 00:53:44,520

know exactly how he feels and so that

1271

00:53:48,680 --> 00:53:46,110

you know then letters have the name

1272

00:53:50,360 --> 00:53:48,690

there there give the giving away by

1273

00:53:53,630 --> 00:53:50,370

universities and colleges it started out

1274

00:53:58,490 --> 00:53:53,640

as Christian theological seminaries so

1275

00:54:01,700 --> 00:53:58,500

they're not going to get we've touched

1276

00:54:03,920 --> 00:54:01,710

on so many topics tell folks if they go

1277

00:54:06,350 --> 00:54:03,930

to your website truth be known and they

1278

00:54:08,420 --> 00:54:06,360

find your books what do you think is a

1279

00:54:10,730 --> 00:54:08,430

good starting point for people what are

1280

00:54:14,090 --> 00:54:10,740

some of the most popular books that you

1281

00:54:16,610 --> 00:54:14,100

have or articles that people might use

1282

00:54:19,550 --> 00:54:16,620

to kind of shoehorn their way into this

1283

00:54:21,290 --> 00:54:19,560

thing well there's a lot of articles for

1284

00:54:24,740 --> 00:54:21,300

free on there that can whet appetites

1285

00:54:26,990 --> 00:54:24,750

for various of my writings otherwise I

1286

00:54:30,980 --> 00:54:27,000

have ebooks I have Kindle I have some

1287

00:54:36,020 --> 00:54:30,990

video I've got several books I think for

1288

00:54:38,030 --> 00:54:36,030

a mild the Christian person who's still

1289

00:54:42,230 --> 00:54:38,040

involved in Christianity they really

1290

00:54:45,710 --> 00:54:42,240

want to know the issues with the Gospels

1291

00:54:48,350 --> 00:54:45,720

themselves and what mainstream scholars

1292

00:54:50,270 --> 00:54:48,360

and theologians and New Testament

1293

00:54:50,690 --> 00:54:50,280

scholars and experts and so forth are

1294

00:54:52,880 --> 00:54:50,700

talking

1295

00:54:55,630 --> 00:54:52,890

about in discussing my book who was

1296

00:54:59,359 --> 00:54:55,640

Jesus fingerprints of the Christ is a

1297

00:55:04,310 --> 00:54:59,369

csi-type analysis of this current

1298

00:55:07,250 --> 00:55:04,320

scholarship which finds issues with with

1299

00:55:12,200 --> 00:55:07,260

the claim that the New Testament is the

1300

00:55:14,630 --> 00:55:12,210

inerrant Word of God and so I quote it's

1301

00:55:17,870 --> 00:55:14,640

an almost all Christian bibliography in

1302

00:55:20,540 --> 00:55:17,880

that book John Ankerberg Craig Blomberg

1303

00:55:23,990 --> 00:55:20,550

FF Bruce William Lane Craig I cite these

1304

00:55:26,089 --> 00:55:24,000

I cite these individuals as showing the

1305

00:55:27,560 --> 00:55:26,099

skip they have some skeptical

1306

00:55:29,690 --> 00:55:27,570

commentaries that people should know

1307

00:55:32,180 --> 00:55:29,700

about so that's a good book to start

1308

00:55:34,210 --> 00:55:32,190

with who is Jesus for people who are

1309

00:55:36,380 --> 00:55:34,220

still involved in Christianity to any

1310

00:55:37,970 --> 00:55:36,390

extent and then of course for people who

1311

00:55:40,910 --> 00:55:37,980

are trying to debate with Christians it

1312

00:55:43,040 --> 00:55:40,920

contains a lot of factual research on

1313

00:55:45,740 --> 00:55:43,050

that front then people who are

1314

00:55:49,599 --> 00:55:45,750

interested in the astral mythology

1315

00:55:52,370 --> 00:55:49,609

behind these ideas my book sons of God

1316

00:55:57,370 --> 00:55:52,380

Krishna Buddha and Christ unveiled shows

1317

00:56:00,440 --> 00:55:57,380

the solar nature of many deities and

1318

00:56:02,569 --> 00:56:00,450

legendary heroes and so forth and so

1319

00:56:05,390 --> 00:56:02,579

that one is good the Christ conspiracy

1320

00:56:08,150 --> 00:56:05,400

I'm I'm actually going I'm in the

1321

00:56:09,770 --> 00:56:08,160

process of doing a revision of it but

1322

00:56:10,849 --> 00:56:09,780

that's my most popular book and then

1323

00:56:12,559 --> 00:56:10,859

there's my book called

1324

00:56:14,839 --> 00:56:12,569

the Gospel according to acharya s which

1325

00:56:17,020 --> 00:56:14,849

is a little different approach it's a

1326

00:56:20,300 --> 00:56:17,030

series of what essentially were rants

1327

00:56:22,339 --> 00:56:20,310

from about 20 years ago that where i go

1328

00:56:26,480 --> 00:56:22,349

into you know what is prayer

1329

00:56:30,010 --> 00:56:26,490

is belief in God righteous the abuse of

1330

00:56:32,120 --> 00:56:30,020

women in the mainstream religions and

1331

00:56:34,520 --> 00:56:32,130

many different subjects that are a

1332

00:56:38,030 --> 00:56:34,530

little more spiritual talking about what

1333

00:56:40,579 --> 00:56:38,040

what is God and whether or not we should

1334

00:56:42,740 --> 00:56:40,589

be following an organized religion and

1335

00:56:44,540 --> 00:56:42,750

things like that but that book has been

1336

00:56:46,460 --> 00:56:44,550

very helpful to a lot of people it's

1337

00:56:49,730 --> 00:56:46,470

easy to read it's then kind of just

1338

00:56:52,910 --> 00:56:49,740

helps them get away from what I call the

1339

00:56:54,890 --> 00:56:52,920

organized cults okay anything that's try

1340

00:56:56,990 --> 00:56:54,900

to coerce you into believing in it is a

1341

00:57:00,440 --> 00:56:57,000

cult in my mind if they're if they're

1342

00:57:04,460 --> 00:57:00,450

dangling you know promises of heaven and

1343

00:57:07,460 --> 00:57:04,470

and trying to smack you in the butt with

1344

00:57:09,110 --> 00:57:07,470

with threats of hell it's a cult if

1345

00:57:10,640 --> 00:57:09,120

they're telling you that you're going to

1346

00:57:12,170 --> 00:57:10,650

hell if you leave you're going to help

1347

00:57:14,420 --> 00:57:12,180

you don't believe you're going to be

1348

00:57:17,390 --> 00:57:14,430

killed if you're an apostate any of that

1349

00:57:19,880 --> 00:57:17,400

rubbish it's a cult one of the things

1350

00:57:21,830 --> 00:57:19,890

that your work is really important in

1351
00:57:24,590 --> 00:57:21,840
doing and it's something we didn't talk

1352
00:57:28,930 --> 00:57:24,600
enough about I think but that's a real

1353
00:57:32,480 --> 00:57:28,940
thorough analysis of the power and

1354
00:57:36,670 --> 00:57:32,490
practices of cults of cultish kind of

1355
00:57:39,560 --> 00:57:36,680
behavior of power formation power

1356
00:57:42,230 --> 00:57:39,570
manipulation because I think unless we

1357
00:57:45,020 --> 00:57:42,240
really come to grips with that we can't

1358
00:57:47,240 --> 00:57:45,030
then separate out what happened to

1359
00:57:49,460 --> 00:57:47,250
because on one hand we have these

1360
00:57:51,680 --> 00:57:49,470
traditions and these myths and myth

1361
00:57:53,960 --> 00:57:51,690
making but on the other hand we have the

1362
00:57:56,510 --> 00:57:53,970
same characters that we see on the

1363
00:57:56,900 --> 00:57:56,520

landscape today that say hey wait a

1364

00:57:58,850 --> 00:57:56,910

minute

1365

00:58:02,090 --> 00:57:58,860

maybe I can make a buck out of this

1366

00:58:05,210 --> 00:58:02,100

maybe I can control things maybe I can

1367

00:58:07,520 --> 00:58:05,220

make my group superior and win out over

1368

00:58:10,100 --> 00:58:07,530

the other group and maybe I can use

1369

00:58:12,980 --> 00:58:10,110

these myths to do it and I think unless

1370

00:58:15,170 --> 00:58:12,990

we thoroughly understand that and at the

1371

00:58:17,450 --> 00:58:15,180

same time thoroughly understand or

1372

00:58:21,200 --> 00:58:17,460

appreciate the possibility that there is

1373

00:58:23,840 --> 00:58:21,210

some genuine non-biological robot

1374

00:58:25,520 --> 00:58:23,850

spiritual experience until all that's on

1375

00:58:26,780 --> 00:58:25,530

the table then we can't really separate

1376

00:58:28,520 --> 00:58:26,790

it out either because then we come to

1377

00:58:29,960 --> 00:58:28,530

the conclusion that oh the Eskimos would

1378

00:58:32,930 --> 00:58:29,970

have done it better well we don't know

1379

00:58:35,630 --> 00:58:32,940

no but that's not what I'm saying an

1380

00:58:39,760 --> 00:58:35,640

individual living on particular in a

1381

00:58:42,020 --> 00:58:39,770

particular area just investigating the

1382

00:58:43,760 --> 00:58:42,030

there's no there's no need for

1383

00:58:45,350 --> 00:58:43,770

organization that all I can go up to a

1384

00:58:47,830 --> 00:58:45,360

mountain here you know and have is there

1385

00:58:49,850 --> 00:58:47,840

any kind of nature worshipping

1386

00:58:53,150 --> 00:58:49,860

traditions with it maybe I'll go and

1387

00:58:55,880 --> 00:58:53,160

look for that but just just in this way

1388

00:58:57,140 --> 00:58:55,890

though and most of this has to do then

1389

00:58:59,000 --> 00:58:57,150

with observations that cannot be

1390

00:59:01,720 --> 00:58:59,010

controlled by others for example this so

1391

00:59:03,950 --> 00:59:01,730

all the solar mythology this part of

1392

00:59:05,240 --> 00:59:03,960

astrobiology I have these Astro theology

1393

00:59:07,100 --> 00:59:05,250

calendars by the way they have some

1394

00:59:09,410 --> 00:59:07,110

really nice pictures and data about this

1395

00:59:10,790 --> 00:59:09,420

kind of information I find them you know

1396

00:59:12,710 --> 00:59:10,800

I'm not asking anybody to believe in any

1397

00:59:14,900 --> 00:59:12,720

of it what I'm just doing is writing a

1398

00:59:17,840 --> 00:59:14,910

factual recitation of what has happened

1399

00:59:18,200 --> 00:59:17,850

in these places and but they but they're

1400

00:59:21,020 --> 00:59:18,210

it's very

1401
00:59:22,730 --> 00:59:21,030
empowering to know this stuff and also

1402
00:59:24,200 --> 00:59:22,740
in the long run when we were talking

1403
00:59:26,420 --> 00:59:24,210
about at the beginning we're talking

1404
00:59:30,859 --> 00:59:26,430
like being in the in the middle between

1405
00:59:33,020 --> 00:59:30,869
extremists on either side and so this

1406
00:59:36,410 --> 00:59:33,030
mythos is amor mythos disposition that

1407
00:59:38,150 --> 00:59:36,420
that I am discussing which looks at many

1408
00:59:40,849 --> 00:59:38,160
you know it looks at supernatural beings

1409
00:59:42,440 --> 00:59:40,859
and antiquity as mythical figures not

1410
00:59:45,440 --> 00:59:42,450
real people who landed on planet earth

1411
00:59:47,630 --> 00:59:45,450
and did a bunch of magic tricks but this

1412
00:59:50,060 --> 00:59:47,640
is a really a neutral position because

1413
00:59:51,920 --> 00:59:50,070

you don't have to believe in it and you

1414

00:59:54,859 --> 00:59:51,930

don't have to dismiss it you don't have

1415

00:59:56,960 --> 00:59:54,869

to be a theist or an atheist you can you

1416

00:59:58,790 --> 00:59:56,970

can think you can be a either one you

1417

01:00:00,950 --> 00:59:58,800

can be a theist or an atheist to enjoy

1418

01:00:02,390 --> 01:00:00,960

this information all I'm doing is

1419

01:00:05,440 --> 01:00:02,400

collecting religious and mythological

1420

01:00:07,760 --> 01:00:05,450

ideas from a far back as we can tell and

1421

01:00:10,250 --> 01:00:07,770

putting them together and showing their

1422

01:00:12,349 --> 01:00:10,260

influences on our thinking today and so

1423

01:00:13,940 --> 01:00:12,359

it doesn't require any kind of belief or

1424

01:00:17,720 --> 01:00:13,950

any kind of joining or any kind of

1425

01:00:20,839 --> 01:00:17,730

control well it's an impressive body of

1426

01:00:23,990 --> 01:00:20,849

work I think anyone who goes to truth be

1427

01:00:25,760 --> 01:00:24,000

known calm and from their branches on to

1428

01:00:28,280 --> 01:00:25,770

any of your work picks up some of your

1429

01:00:30,800 --> 01:00:28,290

books hopefully or bounces over to your

1430

01:00:32,599 --> 01:00:30,810

blog on the freethought nation or join

1431

01:00:34,099 --> 01:00:32,609

the forum and I can promise you I'm

1432

01:00:36,829 --> 01:00:34,109

gonna be on that forum after this shows

1433

01:00:38,960 --> 01:00:36,839

published I'd love to exchange ideas

1434

01:00:39,380 --> 01:00:38,970

with some of the folks who follow your

1435

01:00:41,660 --> 01:00:39,390

work

1436

01:00:43,960 --> 01:00:41,670

but it's been absolutely great having

1437

01:00:46,430 --> 01:00:43,970

you on Acharya thank you so much and

1438

01:00:48,829 --> 01:00:46,440

again thanks for joining me on skeptic

1439

01:00:50,599 --> 01:00:48,839

oh well Alice I really appreciate being

1440

01:00:52,550 --> 01:00:50,609

able to discuss this important

1441

01:00:54,530 --> 01:00:52,560

information with someone who is erudite

1442

01:00:57,589 --> 01:00:54,540

and thoughtful so thank you for having

1443

01:00:59,720 --> 01:00:57,599

me on thanks again to Acharya s for

1444

01:01:01,370 --> 01:00:59,730

joining me today on skeptic oh I'd like

1445

01:01:03,200 --> 01:01:01,380

to tee up a couple of questions from

1446

01:01:05,480 --> 01:01:03,210

this interview the first would be the

1447

01:01:09,020 --> 01:01:05,490

point I touched on at the beginning how

1448

01:01:11,270 --> 01:01:09,030

much of Christianity is divine spark and

1449

01:01:14,240 --> 01:01:11,280

how much is Scientology style

1450

01:01:17,440 --> 01:01:14,250

hucksterism and question number two

1451

01:01:21,380 --> 01:01:17,450

which is related that question is is

1452

01:01:24,440 --> 01:01:21,390

Christianity special is it different if

1453

01:01:26,839 --> 01:01:24,450

so how is it special how is it different

1454

01:01:29,570 --> 01:01:26,849

from other religions how is it different

1455

01:01:31,760 --> 01:01:29,580

from the other religions that acharya s

1456

01:01:34,370 --> 01:01:31,770

talks about that Christianity

1457

01:01:36,770 --> 01:01:34,380

clearly trampled over in order to

1458

01:01:39,680 --> 01:01:36,780

promote itself this stature that it's

1459

01:01:41,240 --> 01:01:39,690

enjoyed over the last 2000 years so a

1460

01:01:42,860 --> 01:01:41,250

couple of questions there hopefully

1461

01:01:44,750 --> 01:01:42,870

Michael can sort that down into

1462

01:01:47,030 --> 01:01:44,760

something that looks reasonable and post

1463

01:01:48,770 --> 01:01:47,040

that on the skeptical forum by the way

1464

01:01:51,470 --> 01:01:48,780

the skeptical forum is a great place to

1465

01:01:53,960 --> 01:01:51,480

continue this conversation this dialog

1466

01:01:56,420 --> 01:01:53,970

to answer these questions you can click

1467

01:01:57,950 --> 01:01:56,430

on over and join us over there of course

1468

01:01:59,870 --> 01:01:57,960

if you want to just leave a comment on

1469

01:02:02,030 --> 01:01:59,880

the website you can do that as well

1470

01:02:06,800 --> 01:02:02,040

right there at skeptic Oh calm and

1471

01:02:08,540 --> 01:02:06,810

that's skeptic Oh SK EP tik Oh while

1472

01:02:11,330 --> 01:02:08,550

you're there you can also check out our

1473

01:02:13,730 --> 01:02:11,340

over 200 previous shows and find a

1474

01:02:15,290 --> 01:02:13,740

Facebook and an email link to me well

1475

01:02:17,750 --> 01:02:15,300

that's going to do it for this episode I

1476

01:02:20,090 --> 01:02:17,760

have several interesting episodes coming

1477

01:02:22,550 --> 01:02:20,100

up gonna dive into the UFO topic I have

1478

01:02:24,740 --> 01:02:22,560

I have a handful of really interesting

1479

01:02:27,500 --> 01:02:24,750

interviews that I've done kind of

1480

01:02:29,960 --> 01:02:27,510

driving into a very narrow but I think

1481

01:02:32,360 --> 01:02:29,970

important little nook and cranny of that

1482

01:02:35,210 --> 01:02:32,370

whole field I hope you'll stay with me