

*Is Jesus a mash, copy or mix of Appollonius or other figures like Asklepios, Dionysus, Osris, Horus, Mithra, and Krishna?*

There are similarities between Jesus and figures like Mithra, including the choice of twelve disciples, the use of baptism, and the sacrament of bread and wine[1]. Some symbols associated with Jesus, such as the dove and the fish, were also used in Persian and Egyptian mysteries[1]; but, Jesus was not simply a copy of pagan gods. Claims of Jesus being a myth or an exaggeration originated in 19th-century German theology are not taken seriously by contemporary scholars.

The historicity of Jesus is supported by various sources and arguments. A second-century Roman historian, Cornelius Tacitus, for example attested to Jesus' execution under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius[2].

Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Each person must be convinced in his own mind that Jesus was who he said he was.

Jesus claimed to be God. For instance, He said, "I and the Father are one" and "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father"[3]. Jesus also applied to himself attributes and prerogatives that correspond to God, such as being Lord of the Sabbath[3]. Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, living a sinless life, and rising from the dead[3]. He fulfilled nearly two hundred detailed prophecies written centuries before His time, including his birth in Bethlehem and his crucifixion[4]. Jesus displayed divine traits such as knowing people's thoughts, controlling nature, and healing diseases[4].

On Mars Hill, the apostle Paul preaches to the Epicureans and the Stoics reviewing the works of the true God in the past, present, and future (Ac 17:24–31). God did all that he did so that people might seek him "In the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us (v. 27)."

[1] McCannon, T. (2023). *Jesus: The Explosive Story of the 30 Lost Years and the Ancient Mystery Religions* (p. 246). Hampton Roads Publishing.

[2] Water, M. (2001). *The life of Jesus made easy* (p. 55). John Hunt Publishers Ltd.

[3] Madrigal, C. (2011). *Explaining the Trinity to Muslims: A Personal Reflection on the Biblical Teaching in Light of the Theological Criteria of Islam*. William Carey Library.

[4] Cornish, R. (2014). *5 Minute Apologist: Maximum Truth in Minimum Time*. NavPress.