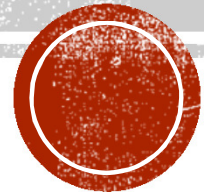


FACTS AND MYTHS

Richard Osei



THE GOSPEL

- What does the word Gospel mean? Mark 1:14-15, Luke 4:18
 - Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)
 - The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (Luke 4:18)
- What is the Gospel of Jesus Christ?
 - What exactly do Christians mean when they talk about the "*gospel* of Jesus Christ"? Since the word "gospel" means "good news," when Christians talk about the gospel, they're simply telling the *good news* about Jesus! But it's not just any good news; it *demand*s a response! It's a message from God saying, "Good news! Here is how you can be saved from my judgment!" That's an announcement you can't afford to ignore



NOW, REMEMBER THESE ARE CHRISTIANS...

- Name the four Gospels in the Bible?
- - 48% could not name the four Gospels.
- Name 5 of the Disciples?
- *And when day came, he called his disciples and chose from them twelve, whom he named apostles: Simon, whom he named **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother, and **James** and **John**, and **Philip**, and **Bartholomew**, and **Matthew**, and **Thomas**, and **James the son of Alphaeus**, and **Simon** who was called the Zealot, and **Judas** [also called Thaddeus or Jude] the son of James, and **Judas Iscariot**, who became a traitor. (Luke 6:13-16)*
- - 52% cannot identify more than two or three of Jesus' disciples.



THE TWELVE APOSTLES AND THEIR NAME MEANINGS

- Simon Peter--Aramaic--Simon (**Shim'on**)--means God has heard--Peter (Cephas/Kephas) means rock
- Andrew--A GREEK name--means Adam, man, manly--He's Peter's brother
- John--Aramaic/Hebrew--(**Yochanan**)--means God is gracious
- James/Jacob--Aramaic--(**Ya'aqov**)--means to follow, heel
- Thomas--Aramaic--(**Tau'ma**)--means twin
- Matthew--Aramaic--(**Mattiyahu**)--means gift of God
- Simon the Cananaean**--Aramaic--means the zealot or jealous one
- Philip**--A GREEK name--means lover/friend of horses
- Bartholomew**--Aramaic--means son of farmer/furrow/hill (He was also known as Nathanael)
- Judas Iscariot--Aramaic--(**Yehuda**)--means praised one
- James the younger--Aramaic--(**Ya'aqov**) means to follow, heel
- Matthias(chosen after Judas)--Aramaic--(**Matiyahu**) **variant** of Matthew--means gift of God
- Thaddaeus**--Aramaic--means heart--brother of James



NOW, REMEMBER THESE ARE CHRISTIANS...

List the 10 Commandments? Exodus 20

- 60% of American Christians can't name even five of the 10 Commandments.
- What is the Sermon on the Mount / Who gave the sermon?
Matt. 5-7
- 61% of American Christians think the Sermon on the Mount was preached by Billy Graham.
- What bible verse says "God helps those who help themselves"
- 71% of American Christians think "God helps those who help themselves" is a Bible verse.



MAYBE IT'S NOT JUST THE PREACHER YOU LISTEN TO.

- What has caused people to not have a Biblical worldview and to edit the Ten Commandments to please one's self?
- A study of 104 leading television writers and executives conducted by the center for media and public affairs found that Hollywood's views run far from the mainstream of public opinion.
- For instance while 85% of Americans believe adultery is wrong only 49% of T V's writers and executives do.
- Only 59% of Americans believe a woman has a right to an abortion compared to 97% of Hollywood's executives.
- Only 4% of Americans claim no religious affiliation but 45% of the TV writers and executives have no religious affiliation. (Reported in Newsweek 7/20/92)
- Where are you finding your world view, from the Bible or from the TV?



WHAT TYPE OF FISH?

- What type of fish swallowed Jonah? (Jonah 1:17)
- ¹⁷ Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.



WHAT YEAR DID JESUS DIE?

▪ **Clue #1: The High Priesthood of Caiaphas**

- The gospels indicate that Jesus was crucified at the instigation of the first century high priest named Caiaphas (Matthew 26:3-4, John 11:49-53).
- We know from other sources that he served as high priest from A.D. 18 to 36, so that puts Jesus' death in that time frame.

▪ **Clue #2: The Governorship of Pontius Pilate**

- All four gospels agree that Jesus was crucified on the orders of Pontius Pilate (Matthew 27:24-26, Mark 15:15, Luke 23:24, John 19:15-16).
- We know from other sources when he served as governor of Judea--A.D. 26 to A.D. 36.

▪ **Clue #3: After "the Fifteenth Year of Tiberius Caesar"**

- The Gospel of Luke tells us when the ministry of John the Baptist began:
- In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar . . . the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness [Luke 3:1-2].
- This picks out a specific year: A.D. 29.
- Since all four gospels depict the ministry of Christ beginning after that of John the Baptist had begun (Matthew 3, Mark 1, Luke 3, John 1), this means that we can shave a few more years off our range.
- The death of Christ had to be in a range of seven years: between A.D. 29 and 36.



WHAT YEAR DID JESUS DIE?

▪ **Clue #4: Crucified on a Friday**

- All four gospels agree that Jesus was crucified on a Friday (Matt. 27:62, Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:42), just before a Sabbath, which was just before the first day of the week (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, Luke 24:1, John 20:1).
- We know that it was a Friday because it is referred to as "the day of preparation"--that is, the day on which Jews made the preparations they needed for the Sabbath.
- That eliminates six of the days of the week, but there are few Fridays between A.D. 29 and 36.

▪ **Clue #5: A Friday at Passover**

- The gospels also agree that Jesus was crucified in conjunction with the annual feast of Passover (Matthew 26:2, Mark 14:1, Luke 22:1, John 18:39).
- Monday, April 18, A.D. 29
- **Friday, April 7, A.D. 30**
- Tuesday, March 27, A.D. 31
- Monday, April 14, A.D. 32
- **Friday, April 3, A.D. 33**
- Wednesday, March 24, A.D. 34
- Tuesday, April 12, A.D. 35
- Saturday, March 31, A.D. 36



WHAT YEAR DID JESUS DIE?

▪ Clue #6: John's Three Passovers


- The Gospel of John records three different Passovers during the ministry of Jesus:
- Passover #1: This is recorded in John 2:13, near the beginning of Jesus' ministry.
- Passover #2: This is recorded in John 6:4, in the middle of Jesus' ministry.
- Passover #3: This is recorded in John 11:55 (and frequently mentioned afterwards), at the end of Jesus' ministry.
- There is not enough time between the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar--A.D. 29--and the next year's Passover to accommodate a ministry of at least two years. The numbers don't add up.
- As a result, the traditional date of Jesus' death--Friday, April 3, A.D. 33--must be correct.

▪ Clue #7: "The Ninth Hour"

- Matthew, Mark, and Luke each record that Jesus died about "the ninth hour" (Matthew 27:45-50, Mark 15:34-37, Luke 23:44-46).
- "The ninth hour" is what we, today, would refer to as 3:00 p.m.
- This allows us to narrow down the time of Jesus' death to a very specific point in history: **around 3:00 p.m on Friday, April 3, A.D. 33.**



HOW OLD WAS JESUS WHEN HE DIED?

- (Luke 3:23) And Jesus himself began to be **about thirty years of age**, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,
- By working backwards from this, it would appear that Jesus was born around **1 BC**. However, some scholars have calculated that if the phrase "about 30" is interpreted to mean 32 years old, this could fit a date of birth just within the reign of Herod, who died in **4 BC**.
- Herod, also known as Herod the Great and Herod I, was a Roman client king of Judea, referred to as the Herodian kingdom.
- Jesus was born between 6 BC - 4 BC (therefore older than 33) 

WHO SAW JESUS?

- Who saw Jesus the day he was born?
 - Shepherds (Luke 8-18)
- About how old was Jesus when the Magi (wise men) found him?
 - They found them in a house not in a manger (Matt. 2:11)
 - ¹¹ They came to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their gifts and gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
 - About 2 years? (Matt. 2:16)
 - When Herod saw that the wise men had tricked him, he was furious. So he gave an order to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem and in the surrounding area who were two years old or younger. This was in keeping with the time he learned from the wise men.
- How many Magi (wise men) were there?
 - 2 or more
 - They gave 3 gifts (Matt. 2:11)



FOOD WE EAT

- What give us the permission to eat whatever we want?
 - ¹¹ And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending upon him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: ¹² Wherein were all manner of four footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. ¹³ And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. ¹⁴ But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean. ¹⁵ And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common. ¹⁶ This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.
 - ²⁸ And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean. (Acts 10 has nothing to do with food)
- From Jesus
 - Mark 5 (Jesus did not condemn the people for raising pigs)
 - ¹⁸ And he saith unto them, Are ye so without understanding also? Do ye not perceive, that whatsoever thing from without entereth into the man, it cannot defile him; ¹⁹ Because it entereth not into his heart, but into the belly, and goeth out into the draught, purging all meats? ²⁰ And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. (Mark 7:18-20)



NOAH – HOW LONG DID IT RAIN

- How many of each animals did Noah take? (Genesis 7:2-3)
 - ² You shall take with you seven each of every clean animal, a male and his female; two each of animals that *are* unclean, a male and his female; ³ also seven each of birds of the air, male and female, to keep the species alive on the face of all the earth.
- How many days were they in the ark before the flood? (Genesis 7:10)
 - ¹⁰ And it came to pass after seven days that the waters of the flood were on the earth.
- How long did it rain during the flood? (Genesis 7:12)
 - ¹² And the rain was on the earth forty days and forty nights.
- How long were they in the boat? (Genesis 7:24, 8:14)
 - ²⁴ And the waters prevailed on the earth one hundred and fifty days.
 - Year 601 Month 2 Day 27 [End date] (Genesis 8: 13-14)
 - – Year 600 Month 2 Day 17 [Begin Date] (Genesis 7;11)
 - = 1 Year 0 Months 10 Days



JESUS LOST

- How long was Jesus lost for? (Luke 2:41-52)
 - ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
 - ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. ⁴³ And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. ... ⁴⁶ **And it came to pass, that after three days**
- Where did they find him?
 - ⁴⁶ And it came to pass, that after three days they found him **in the temple**, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
- What did he say when they found him?
 - ⁴⁹ And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not **that I must be about my Father's business?** ⁵⁰ And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.



JESUS JOB

- What was his father Joseph profession? (Mark 6:3, Matthew 13:55)
 - ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. (Mark 6:3)
 - ⁵⁵ Is not this **the carpenter's son**? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? ⁵⁶ And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? (Matthew 13:55-56)
- What was Jesus profession?
 - ² And when the sabbath day was come, he began to **teach** in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? (Mark 6:2)
 - Rabbi/Teacher/Master (Mark 9:5, John 3:2, John 13:13, Luke 7:40, Luke 10:25, Matt. 23:36, Luke 12:13, Matt. 19:16, Luke 19:39, Luke 20,:21, Matt. 22:16, Luke 20:27, Matt. 22:23-24)
 - Luke 19:39 - ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.
 - **Luke 20:27** - ²⁷ Then came to him certain of the Sadducees, which deny that there is any resurrection; and they asked him, ²⁸ Saying, Master, Moses wrote unto us....



SADDUCEES / PHARISEES / SCRIBES

- Sadducees –
 - During the time of Christ and the New Testament era, the Sadducees were aristocrats. They tended to be wealthy and held powerful positions, including that of chief priests and high priest, and they held the majority of the 70 seats of the ruling council called the Sanhedrin. They worked hard to keep the peace by agreeing with the decisions of Rome.
 - 1. They were extremely self-sufficient to the point of denying God's involvement in everyday life.
2. They denied any resurrection of the dead (Matthew 22:23; Mark 12:18-27; Acts 23:8).
- Because the Sadducees were more concerned with politics than religion, they were unconcerned with Jesus until they became afraid He might bring unwanted Roman attention. It was at this point that the Sadducees and Pharisees united and conspired to put Christ to death (John 11:48-50; Mark 14:53; 15:1). Other mentions of the Sadducees are found in Acts 4:1 and Acts 5:17, and the Sadducees are implicated in the death of James by the historian Josephus (Acts 12:1-2).
- The Sadducees ceased to exist in A.D. 70. Since this party existed because of their political and priestly ties, when Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70, the Sadducees were also destroyed.
- http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/sadducees_pharisees_essenets.html
- <http://www.gotquestions.org/Sadducees-Pharisees.html>



SADDUCEES / PHARISEES / SCRIBES

- Pharisees –
 - In contrast to the Sadducees, the Pharisees were mostly middle-class businessmen, and therefore were in contact with the common man. The Pharisees were held in much higher esteem by the common man than the Sadducees. Though they were a minority in the Sanhedrin and held a minority number of positions as priests, they seemed to control the decision making of the Sanhedrin far more than the Sadducees did, again because they had the support of the people.
- Religiously, they accepted the written Word as inspired by God. Evolving over the centuries, these traditions added to God's Word, which is forbidden (Deuteronomy 4:2), and the Pharisees sought to strictly obey these traditions along with the Old Testament. The Gospels abound with examples of the Pharisees treating these traditions as equal to God's Word (Matthew 9:14; 15:1-9; 23:5; 23:16, 23; Mark 7:1-23; Luke 11:42). However, they did remain true to God's Word in reference to certain other important doctrines. In contrast to the Sadducees, they believed the following:
 - 1. They believed that God controlled all things, yet decisions made by individuals also contributed to the course of a person's life. | 2. They believed in the resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:6). | 3. They believed in an afterlife, with appropriate reward and punishment on an individual basis. | 4. They believed in the existence of angels and demons (Acts 23:8).
- Though the Pharisees were rivals of the Sadducees, they managed to set aside their differences on one occasion—the trial of Christ. It was at this point that the Sadducees and Pharisees united to put Christ to death (Mark 14:53; 15:1; John 11:48-50).
- http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/sadducees_pharisees_essenes.html
- <http://www.gotquestions.org/Sadducees-Pharisees.html>



SADDUCEES / PHARISEES / SCRIBES

▪ Scribes –

- In the New Testament era, scribes were often associated with the sect of the **Pharisees**, although not all **Pharisees** were scribes (see **Matthew** 5:20; 12:38). They were teachers of the people (Mark 1:22) and interpreters of the Law.
- Scribes in ancient Israel were learned men whose business was to study the Law, transcribe it, and write commentaries on it. They were also hired on occasions when the need for a written document arose or when an interpretation of a legal point was needed. Ezra, “a teacher well versed in the Law of Moses,” was a scribe (Ezra 7:6).
- The scribes took their job of preserving Scripture very seriously; they would copy and recopy the Bible meticulously, even counting letters and spaces to ensure each copy was correct.
- The scribes went beyond interpretation of Scripture, however, and added many man-made traditions to what God had said. They became professionals at spelling out the letter of the Law while ignoring the spirit behind it.
- Sermon on the Mount.
²⁰ For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.
(Matt. 5:20)



B.C. AND A.D.

- It is commonly thought that B.C. stands for “before Christ” and A.D. stands for “after death.” This is only half correct. How could the year 1 B.C. have been “before Christ” and A.D. 1 been “after death”? B.C. does stand for “before Christ.” A.D. actually stands for the Latin phrase *anno domini*, which means “in the year of our Lord.” The B.C./A.D. dating system is not taught in the Bible. It actually was not fully implemented and accepted until several centuries after Jesus’ death.
- It is interesting to note that the purpose of the B.C./A.D. dating system was to make the birth of Jesus Christ the dividing point of world history. However, when the B.C./A.D. system was being calculated, they actually made a mistake in pinpointing the year of Jesus’ birth. Scholars later discovered that Jesus was actually born around 6—4 B.C., not A.D. 1
- A.D. - Anno Domini or Year of our Lord
- B.C. - BC is Before Christ
- C.E. – Common Era
- B.C.E. – Before Common Era



CREATION

- When did God create the Sun? (Genesis 1:14-18)
 - The Sun was created on Day Four.
 - ¹⁴ Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; ¹⁵ and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. ¹⁶ Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. *He made the stars also.* ¹⁷ God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, ¹⁸ and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that *it was good.* ¹⁹ So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.
- What was this light then? (Genesis 1:3)
 - ³ Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴ And God saw the light, that *it was good*; and God divided the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.

