

APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2014 - "APRIL FOOL'S DAY"

"THIS IS THE DAY UPON WHICH WE ARE REMINDED OF WHAT WE ARE ON THE OTHER 364 DAYS."

QUOTE BY: MARK TWAIN

HELLO WORLD,

GREETINGS IN PEACE. MY TOPIC ON THIS "APRIL FOOL'S DAY" MAY BE A VERY TOUCHY ONE, ESPECIALLY TO MY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS AND SISTERS, BUT ONE THAT I WILL ADDRESS NONETHELESS.

AS MENTIONED BEFORE, I ATTEND COLLEGE IN PRISON, AND ONE OF MY CLASSES THIS SEMESTER IS "ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY". FOR MY "FINAL PAPER", I DECIDED TO DO A RESEARCH/EXPOSITORY ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECT: WHAT IF JESUS CHRIST IS A MYTH?

IN THIS ESSAY, I GATHERED INFORMATION FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES AND I EXPLORED AND CONNECTED VARIOUS IDEAS, MADE DISCOVERIES, AND SOUGHT EXPLANATIONS, DEFINITIONS, OR INTERPRETATIONS OF MY FINDINGS IN ORDER THAT MY EXPOSITORY WRITING WAS "FACTUAL". THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT OF MY ESSAY.

MANY CHRISTIANS ASSUME THAT "JESUS" EXISTED AND AUTOMATICALLY EXCEPT THIS POPULAR STEREOTYPICAL BELIEF. THE BIBLE TELLS A STORY ABOUT JESUS TO MAKE THE POINT THAT HE IS "THE SON OF GOD". MY OWN EXPERIENCE AS A "CHRISTIAN", FOR MANY YEARS, LEFT ME WITH MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VALIDITY OF "JESUS", SO THIS CLASS ESSAY PROVIDED ME THE

VENUE TO OBJECTIVELY INVESTIGATE THIS QUESTION OF WHICH I'VE PONDERED SINCE CHILDHOOD.

THIS IS THE METHOD I PROPOSED TO FOLLOW IN THE ANALYSIS OF THIS SUBJECT, WHETHER JESUS IS A MYTH. SO LET US SUPPOSE THAT A "SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY STUDENT" ATTENDING COLLEGE, LET'S SAY IN THE YEAR 2099, DESIRED TO DO A RESEARCH ESSAY ON "ABRAHAM LINCOLN" TO MAKE SURE HE REALLY EXISTED AND PERFORMED ALL THE THINGS ASCRIBED TO HIM. HOW WOULD THIS STUDENT OF THE FUTURE GO ABOUT THIS RESEARCH?

ON THE ONE HAND, EVERY PERSON MUST HAVE A "BIRTHPLACE". ON THE OTHER HAND, EVERY PERSON MUST HAVE A "BIRTHDAY." FOR EXAMPLE, AS A MUSLIM, I HAVE ACTUAL PROOF AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE FACTS THAT THE PROPHET AND FOUNDER OF "al-ISLAM", MUHAMMED, WAS BORN IN THE TOWN OF "MECCA" IN THE YEAR OF "570 AD". SAME GOES FOR "LINCOLN", ALL THE RECORDS AGREE AS TO WHERE (ILLINOIS) AND WHEN LINCOLN WAS BORN (1809). ALTHOUGH THIS MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO PROVE EITHER OF THESE TWO MEN'S HISTORICITIES, IT DOES PROVIDE AN IMPORTANT LINK IN THE CHAIN.

HOWEVER, WHILE THEY RARELY ADMIT AS MUCH, CHRISTIANS OFTEN TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT JESUS WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AROUND 6 BC, IN THE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM. NEVERTHELESS, RECORDS SHOW THAT NEITHER THE PLACE NOR THE TIME OF JESUS' BIRTH IS ACTUALLY OR ACCURATELY KNOWN. ADDITIONALLY, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY UNANIMITY OR CONSENSUS ABOUT THIS MATTER. THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE **BLE** CONFUSION AND CONTRADICTION AS TO IF "DECEMBER 25" IS HIS BIRTHDATE. I'VE OBSERVED THAT DIFFERENT DATES AT VARIOUS TIME HAVE

BEEN CELEBRATED BY THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AS TO THE "BIRTHDAY OF JESUS". CONVERSELY, THE "GOSPELS" (MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN) IN THE BIBLE GIVE NO DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH AND ~~THERE~~ APPEARS TO BE MUCH "UNCERTAINTY" SURROUNDING IT. HOW CAN THAT BE WHEN THE "GOSPELS" WERE PURPORTEDLY WRITTEN AND RECORDED BY JESUS' MOST INTIMATE COMPANIONS; YET, DURING THE LIFETIME OF JESUS' BROTHERS AND HIS MOTHER, MARY, THEIR COLLECTIVE SILENCE ON THAT MATTER IS CLEARLY SIGNIFICANT. WHY WAS THAT?

THE EVIDENCE ALSO SHOWS THAT THE SELECTION OF DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AS THE BIRTHDAY OF JESUS IS NOT ONLY AN ARBITRARY ONE, BUT THAT DATE, HAS BEEN LONG DEDICATED TO "THE SUN" (WINTER EQUINOX), WITH THE VERY UNCANNY INFERENCE THAT "THE SON OF GOD" AND "THE SUN OF HEAVEN" BOTH ENJOY THE SAME BIRTHDAY. ALTHOUGH NOT ALL CHRISTIANS THINK ALIKE, SOME OF THEM WILL PROBABLY DISPUTE MY CLAIMS THAT AT JESUS' DEATH "THE SUN DARKENED", AND THAT THE DATE OF HIS RESURRECTION (EASTER) IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH THE POSITION OF THE SUN IN THE SKY DURING THE "VERNAL" EQUINOX. THESE FINDINGS HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BROADER DOMAIN OF THE STORY OF THE BIRTH, DEATH, AND THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS, WHICH PARALLELS THE ANCIENT AND NEARLY UNIVERSAL "SUN-GOD MYTH" OF MANY EUROPEAN AND NORTH AFRICAN CULTURES, INSTEAD OF VERIFIABLE "HISTORICAL EVENTS." IN FACT, THIS ANCIENT "SUN-GOD MYTH" IS THE STARTING POINT OF NEARLY ALL RELIGIONS, FROM THE DAYS OF EGYPT INTO OUR CURRENT CENTURY.

THE DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH, AND THE SUPPOSED RESURRECTION ON EASTER "SUNDAY", IS A POPULAR CLICHE' WITHIN.

CHRISTENDOM; STILL IT IS NOT VERIFIABLE INFORMATION. WHY IS IT THAT THESE EXACT DATES ARE UNKNOWN? JUST AS IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY IS THE DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH A MATTER OF SPECULATION, BUT THE YEAR IN WHICH HE WAS BORN IS SUBJECT TO CONJECTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, WITHIN THE GOSPEL OF "MATTHEW", HE SUGGESTS THAT JESUS WAS BORN DURING THE REIGN OF KING HEROD (ROMAN KING OF JUDEA BETWEEN 37-4 BC). IT WAS THIS KING, WHO LEARNED FROM THE "MAGI'S", THAT THE "KING OF THE JEWS" WAS BORN AND HE DECIDED TO DESTROY HIM. HOWEVER, WITHIN THE GOSPEL OF "LUKE" HE CITES THE DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH DURING QUIRINUS' REIGN AS THE RULER OF JUDEA. IN SHORT, IF THIS IS TRUE, IT MAKES THE DATE OF JESUS' BIRTH ABOUT 14 YEARS LATER THAN THE DATE GIVEN BY "MATTHEW". CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS DISCREPANCY?

THIS DISTINCTION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE THE POWER OF THIS "STEREOTYPE" HAS BIASED AND INFLUENCED THE PERCEPTIONS OF CHRISTIANS FOR OVER 2000 YEARS, AND THIS "AUTOMATIC ACTIVATION" WITHIN THEIR COGNITIVE, CULTURAL, MOTIVATIONAL, AND PERSONAL FACTORS ONLY FURTHERS TO TRIGGER THE ILLUSORY CORRELATIONS AND SELF-FULFILLING PROPHECIES OF THEIR COLLECTIVE BELIEFS.

INDEED, IT IS HIGHLY LIKELY THAT BECAUSE OF THESE LONG-STANDING CHRISTIAN BELIEFS AND STEREOTYPINGS, WHEN IT COMES TO JESUS, INEVITABLE, DESPITE THE EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY TO THIS INTENTIONAL DOGMA? I BELIEVE, THEREFORE, THAT THIS DOGMA IS COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED. BUT ALLOW ME TO EXPLAIN HOW I ARRIVED AT THIS CONCLUSION.

IN ALL HISTORICAL MATTERS, WE CANNOT ASK FOR MORE THAN A "REASONABLE ASSURANCE" CONCERNING ANY GIVEN

QUESTION. IN FACT, "ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY" IN ANY BRANCH OF THE SCIENCES OR KNOWLEDGE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MATHEMATICS, PERHAPS, IS IMPOSSIBLE. HUMAN BEINGS ARE FINITE BEINGS, LIMITED IN ALL OUR POWERS; THEREFORE, OUR CONCLUSIONS ARE NOT ONLY "RELATIVE", BUT THESE CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE HELD TO STRICT SCRUTINY AND SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS. TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, WHEN OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND COURTS SENDS A MAN (OR WOMAN) TO THE "DEATH CHAMBER" LOCATED AT THIS PRISON, THE COURTS CAN HAVE NO MORE THAN A "REASONABLE ASSURANCE" THAT PERSON IS TRULY GUILTY; AND WHEN THEY ACQUIT A PERSON, THEY CAN HAVE NO MORE THAN A "REASONABLE ASSURANCE" THAT PERSON IS INNOCENT. ERGO, POSITIVE ASSURANCE IS UNATTAINABLE. STILL AND ALL, CHRISTIAN DOGMATISTS ARE THE ONLY ONE'S WHO CLAIMS TO POSSESS "ABSOLUTE CERTAINTY." MY DATA CONFIRMS THAT THESE CLAIMS, AS DESCRIBED HERE IN, IS NO MORE THAN GROUNDLESS ASSUMPTIONS BASED UPON "MOTIVATIONS" AND UNDERLYING ISSUES.

THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS SCHOOL OF THOUGHT MAY BE INTERESTED TO KNOW THAT THE REAL AUTHOR OF TODAY'S BIBLE IS "PAUL". MY OWN VIEW, HOWEVER, IS THAT PAUL WAS "MOTIVATED" IN BEING THE EARLIEST AND GREATEST OF CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS. NEVERTHELESS, NOT ONLY WAS HE IGNORANT OF THE GOSPEL STORIES OF JESUS' BIRTH AND MIRACLES, BUT HE WAS EQUALLY AS IGNORANT OF THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS. ANYONE FAMILIAR WITH THE GOSPELS SHOULD AGREE THAT JESUS AUTHORED THE "SERMON ON THE MOUNT", "THE LORD'S PRAYER", "THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON", "THE GOOD SAMARITAN", ETC.; SO IS IT REALLY CONCEIVABLE THAT "A PREACHER AND ADVOCATE OF JESUS" COULD TRAVEL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO CONVERT PEOPLE TO CHRISTIANITY, AS PAUL DID, WITHOUT EVER QUOTING A  
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SINGLE WORD OF JESUS' SAYINGS? DOESN'T THAT STRIKE YOU AS ODD? BUT DON'T TAKE MY WORD ON THIS, CHECK FOR YOURSELF IN ANY "KING JAMES VERSION" OF THE BIBLE.

INDEED, HAD PAUL ACTUALLY KNOWN THAT JESUS HAD EVER PREACHED A SERMON OR FORMULATED A PRAYER, OR SAID ANY INSPIRED TEACHINGS ABOUT THIS LIFE AND THE HEREAFTER, THEN HOW COULD HE HAVE NOT QUOTED, EVERY NOW AND THEN, FROM THE "WORDS OF HIS MASTER?" ACCORDINGLY, IF CHRISTIANITY COULD HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED WITHOUT PAUL'S KNOWLEDGE OF THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS, WHY THEN, DID JESUS COME TO TEACH IN THE FIRST PLACE, AND WHY WERE HIS TEACHINGS PRESERVED BY "DIVINE INSPIRATION?" CONSEQUENTLY, IF A KNOWLEDGE OF THESE TEACHINGS OF JESUS ARE INDISPENSABLE TO MAKING "CONVERTS", THEN PAUL, THE GREATEST OF ALL CHRISTIAN SCHOLARS, GIVES NOT THE LEAST EVIDENCE OF POSSESSING SUCH KNOWLEDGE.

IN CONCLUSION, WHAT WOULD WE SAY OF A DISCIPLE OF GANDHI FOR EXAMPLE, WHO COMES TO AMERICA IN ORDER TO MAKE CONVERTS TO GANDHI'S "NON-VIOLENT APPROACH", BUT NEVER ONCE QUOTED ANYTHING THAT GANDHI HAD SAID? THINK ABOUT IT. SIMILARLY, WHAT WOULD WE THINK OF THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES WHO TRAVELS TO INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN, AND AFRICA TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, IF THEY NEVER MENTIONED TO THESE PEOPLE IN THESE COUNTRIES THE "SERMON ON THE MOUNT", "THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON", "THE LORD'S PRAYER", "THE GOOD SAMARITAN" — NOR QUOTED A SINGLE WORD FROM THE GOSPELS? WOULD YOU NOT BE THE LEAST BIT SKEPTICAL? WHEREAS, PAUL, THE FIRST MISSIONARY, DID THE VERY THING WHICH WOULD BE INEXPLICABLE IN A MODERN MISSIONARY, TODAY.

ALTHOUGH SOME READERS MAY OBJECT TO MY HYPOTHESIS, I WOULD ANSWER THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE "RATIONAL" EXPLANATION FOR THIS MYSTERY: THE "JESUS" THAT PAUL WROTE ABOUT WAS "A MYTH"; NO ONE TRULY KNOWS WHERE OR WHEN HE WAS ACTUALLY BORN. IT WAS ONLY AFTER HIS LIFE THAT PAUL'S JESUS WAS - AND I HAVE TO USE A CONCISE WORD HERE - INVENTED!

IF, AFTER READING THIS, YOU FEEL THAT MY ESSAY HAS SEVERAL FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OR YOU CAN PROVIDE "FACTS" TO DISPUTE MY CRITIQUES, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO LEAVE COMMENTS AND/OR WRITE ME DIRECTLY AT MY RETURN MAILING ADDRESS.

HEAR WHAT IS ... SAID,  
RETAIN WHAT IS ... IMPORTANT,  
SPEAK WHAT IS ... WORTHY.

BE A "SEEKER OF THE TRUTH" ...

PEACE,

"ZAKEE"