

Concessions of Christ's Critics



I. Challenges Of Christ's Critics

1. Wars of Bible disprove God

- If no God, what standard condemns war?
- Gn.15:13-16

God has right to punish sin

- Do atheists oppose all wars?

2. Death of innocents

- Midianite males, Nu.31
- We have no right to take life – we cannot restore it

God does. 2 Sm.12; Lk.16

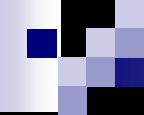
Job's wish. Job 3

3. Suffering

- No one has proven that suffering is without benefits
- Ro.5¹ Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

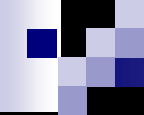
4. Hell

- ❑ Does God have right to punish evil in hell for one minute? . . .
- ❑ How do we know that belief in hell does not deter worse evils?

- 
1. War
 2. Death of innocents
 3. Suffering
 4. Hell

5. Deny existence of Jesus

“Some writers may toy with the fancy of a ‘Christ-myth,’ but they do not do so on the ground of historical evidence. The historicity of Christ is as axiomatic for an unbiased historian as the historicity of Julius Caesar. It is not historians who propagate the ‘Christ-myth’ theories” – F. F. Bruce

- 
1. War
 2. Death of innocents
 3. Suffering
 4. Hell

5. Deny existence of Jesus

“born c. 6–4 bce, Bethlehem—died c. 30ce, Jerusalem), religious leader revered in Christianity, one of the world’s major religions ” – Britannica



I. Challenges Of Christ's Critics

II. Concessions Of Christ's Critics

Enemies do not preserve testimony for Jesus and against themselves

- Sennacherib's Assyrian Chronicles
- Rahab (Josh.2); Philistines [1 Sm.4-6]
- "Biased writers of NT" [Jn.20:19 ... 24 ...]
 - They were changed men. Why? (Ac.1-2)
 - What motive to preach gospel? (Ac.3-5)
 - NT: Lord's contemporaries; most reliable of all ancient documents. (2 Pt.1:19)
 - Enemies of Christ have spoken, too.

Talmud

1. Jesus, said to be born out of wedlock
2. learned magic in Egypt
3. able to perform marvelous works, deceive
4. called Himself God
5. tried by Sanhedrin as deceiver, teacher of apostasy
6. executed on eve of Passover
7. had five disciples

Tacitus (Annals) 56 – c.120

“Christus the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign Of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief Originated, but through the city of Rome also, where all things Hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their Center and become popular. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.”



Pliny, the Younger, d. 113

“They also declared that the sum total of their guilt or error amounted to no more than this: they had met regularly before dawn on a fixed day to chant verses alternately amongst themselves in honor of Christ as if to a god, and also to bind themselves by oath, not for any criminal purpose, but to abstain from theft, robbery, and adultery...”

Scribes from Jerusalem

Mk.3²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebub,” and, “By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons.”

- Jesus expelled demons in presence of multitudes (eyewitnesses)
- He changed demoniacs
- Crowds could not deny facts
- Scribes’ damage control: “Beelzebub”
- BUT: enemies admit His miracle

Judas ... could write tell-all book...

- Mt.26:14-16, greed
- But: Mt.27 –
 - 3, regret, have remorse
 - 4, confessed sin; *innocent blood*
 - 5, returned money; suicide
 - 4-10, enemies unconcerned, unchanged

Pilate / wife (Mt.27:19, 24)

- Wife: dream, at beginning – Mt.27:19
- Pilate: water, at end – Mt.27:24
 - Both declare Him innocent

Pilate

Luke: enemy's declarations of innocence

- 23:4
- 23:14
- 23:15
- 23:16
- 23:20
- 23:22
- 23:41
- 23:47
- 23:51

History:

- ✓ Jn.19:12, friend of Caesar?
- ✓ Pilate's patron (Sejanus) was dead? (AD 31)

Sanhedrin

(corruption, dishonesty)

- Jn.11, resurrection of Lazarus

Admission, 47

Too many eyewitnesses to deny it, 48

Resort to cover-up, 49-53

- Ac.3-4, healing of lame man

Admission, 4:16

Too many eyewitnesses to deny it, 4:16

Resort to cover-up, 17-22 (Ac.6:7)

Saul, Ac.9, persecutor → preacher

Light...voice...blind...Ananias...revelations...
miracles... 2 Co.12:12

- Unexpected miracle:
 1. Lord's greatest enemy
 2. Among fellow enemies
 3. Midday . . . murder mission
 4. Forever changed him

Saul didn't have to take
another's word for it

Four possible explanations

- Liar. 2 Tim.4:6-8
- Hallucinated. Cause? For life?
- Deceived. Who? How? Why?
- Truth. Christ is risen; Bible is true.

But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? – Lk.6:46