

## *Did Jesus Exist: A Look at Archeology*

By  
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Despite all of the much-touted and soon forgotten “stupendous” finds, *the historical Jesus and his disciples remain elusive to scholars: The archeological evidence for Jesus’s life just isn’t there* (emphasis, mine). (Mark) Chancy (an archeologist from Southern Methodist University) says, “It’s very hard to locate one individual, particularly one from the masses. *Nobody doubts that Jesus existed, but finding evidence in the archeological record is really an impossibility* (emphasis, mine).” (Page 66)

Think about that: There is NO evidence for Jesus’s existence but NOBODY doubts that Jesus existed. In any other science, if there was no evidence for something it would not be accepted without a doubt. The rationalization that is often used is that Jesus *had to have existed* because of the effect that he left on the world. The fact is, there are countless names who have left an impact on human-kind and it is known that they did not exist. In Egypt, for example, there is the trinity of Isis, Osiris and Horus. Their influence began before 3000 BCE and continued well into the current era. In Greece there was Heracles. In Sumer/Babylon there was Inanna/Ishtar. In India there was Krishna. In Meso-America there was Quetzacoatl. Then, in the Jewish Scriptures there was Samson, Daniel, Adam and Eve, Cain and Able and dozens of others. Archeologists know that none of these personalities existed because there is, literally, no evidence for their existence and they are part of the *mythology* of the specific cultures. But, according to archeology, Jesus existed even though there is no evidence and that more than 90% of what he was supposed to have taught is seen in extant *Pagan* and *Jewish* teachings. Further, every one of his supposed miracles is seen in extant *Pagan* and *Jewish* writings.

It is an interesting point that at one time there were many doubts about the existence of the Buddha because there was no evidence of his existence. Then, when evidence that he existed was found it was accepted. With Jesus, though, it is the opposite. Jesus’ existence is accepted even though there is no evidence of him anywhere. Why this discrepancy? It is because of political correctness and the Christian belief that they are absolutely correct.

The question is then: Do *all* archeologists feel that Jesus existed? The answer to this question is a resounding “no.” There are many archeologists who do not believe in the existence of Jesus. So, why don’t they come forward and say something? There is one main reason for their not stepping up and making any statements of doubt. That is because it is not *politically correct* to do so ... if they want to hold on to their jobs. In academia the rule is “publish or perish.” This means that if you don’t do research and publish articles and books you will lose your tenure and get fired. Now, the problem here is that if you don’t say what goes along with the current beliefs, you can’t get published. Hence, you’ll lose your job; so much for academic freedom in our colleges or universities.

Here are a couple of examples of the “publish or perish” concept. Thomas L. Thompson (see, *The Mythic Past* published by Basic Books) is a professor of the Old Testament at the University of Copenhagen. His research led him to the conclusion that there never was a united kingdom of Israel, that the biblical Israel was a literary fiction and that there was not a specific “Diaspora” in reference to Israel/Judah because this was a common practice at the time when one country was conquered by another. He first stated his views in his doctoral dissertation in 1971. Because of the prevailing beliefs, he could not get his dissertation accepted in Europe nor published in the U.S. He also couldn’t attain a teaching position in Europe or the U.S. In order to earn money he worked at odd jobs. Then, finally, in 1993 he was able to gain a position at the University of Copenhagen. The second example comes from medical research. Dr. Robert O. Becker was a medical researcher. He is best known for his studies of limb regeneration. In his book, *The Body Electric* he relates the problems he had for getting funding for his research. It seems that administrators have the say over who gets funding and for what. Virtually all administrators have no idea what is being done in laboratories around the world. If a researcher presents a grant proposal for something that an administrator doesn’t understand or, as in Dr. Becker’s case, medical “science” says can’t be done, then it gets rejected and the researcher gets no funding. So, many times the researcher will do what research can be done without funding if it is felt that the research is important enough and publish whenever it can be done. Then, even in publishing you have the problem of peer reviewing of the study. If the peers are coming from a politically correct point of view then the article will get rejected; so much for open-minded scientists. How often, though, are there articles that pass peer review and are found out later to be flawed research? An example is the recent research on the drug Ecstasy (MDMA). The original research said that Ecstasy burns-out brain cells. This was accepted because it went along with the federal government’s views about drugs. Recently, it was found out that the drug used in the research was not Ecstasy but methamphetamine. This finding completely refuted the study and the government’s point of view.

Einstein said, “Science is conditional truth.” The first point is that science is searching for the truth. In order to do so it is necessary to be open-minded but still keeping a healthy bit of skepticism. It is unfortunate that much of science is

controlled by politics. Funding is more a political issue than a scientific issue and a search for the truth.

Archeologists consider themselves scientists. Because of the “publish or perish” concept in academia they are often not allowed to express the interpretations they have of their findings. It seems to be more important to promote the fantasy of religious beliefs rather than the facts of history.

There was a statement made near the end of *The Last Temptation of Christ* when Jesus was with his two wives and met up with Paul preaching Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified, died, buried and rose from the dead. Jesus pulled Paul aside and told him, “I’m Jesus of Nazareth. I did not die on the cross and I was not raised from the dead.” Paul told him, “Look at the faces on those people. *They want to believe* (emphasis, mine). If you go out there and tell them that you’re Jesus of Nazareth and did not die on the cross, they’ll make sure you’re dead.” People *want* to believe things are true. Politicians want to make sure that those beliefs aren’t disturbed because it keeps the people occupied. When the people are occupied, they won’t be looking into what the politicians are doing. Hence, political correctness is a “smoke-screen” to promote a cultish state of mind and keep the people in ignorance. Since academia most often has government support, it must promote the political correctness of the times. Even if there is private support for a college or university, often that funding has “strings” attached and those strings are based on political correctness.

So, did Jesus exist? The history and the evidence says “no.” It is the belief of the people that say “yes.” People *want* to believe in this “miracle worker” and teacher of 2000 years ago. To promote this belief by archeologists is just not good science nor is it realistic. The purpose of science is to find the truths of the natural world. This includes the truths of history. History is written by the winner. When the evidence does not exist for an event historians need to overwhelmingly come out and say that this event did not occur. The same goes for the non-existence of an individual. It is time that history is corrected. “Science is conditional truth” means that science is amenable to change. Scientists must promote truth. How can history be correctly taught to young people when the historians and archeologists refuse to admit to the facts?

The writer is the author of *The Gospel Truth: The Heresy of History*  
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