

Myth and the Message

I. THE ATTACK

A. Mythic Parallels

1. Adam and Adapa
2. Noah and Ziusudra
3. Moses and Sargon
4. Jesus and Dumuzi

B. Basic Argument

1. Bible includes older myth
2. Biblical stories are not to be taken as literal history

C. Opposition Views

1. Biblical Skeptics: Use myth to attack scripture
 - a. Joseph Campbell
 - b. Stephen Harris
 - c. Richard Carrier
2. World Religions and Cults: Use myth to attack orthodox doctrine
 - a. Islam
 - b. Unitarianism
 - c. Jehovah's Witnesses
3. Modern Theologians: Use myth to discredit orthodoxy and the historic Christian faith
-Rudolf Bultmann and the De-Mythologizing of scripture

II. BIBLICAL STORIES ARE MYTHS

- A. Accept the Premise
- B. Define Myth (Nature of Myth)
- C. Myth Does Not Destroy Historicity
 - 1. Historicity can be established independently of genre
 - 2. Myth can include numerous genre
 - 3. Bible includes numerous Genre

III. UNDERSTANDING THE PARALLELS

- A. Starting Point – Worldviews
 - 1. Argument for Theism
 - 2. Implications of Theism
- B. Deductive Argument for Biblical Reliability and Truth
- C. Persuasion Does Not Equal Proof
 - 1. Argument sounds convincing
 - 2. No argument will weaken a sound deductive proof
 - 3. There must be another way to understand the parallels
- D. Epistemology
 - 1. Non-negotiable ground
 - 2. General revelation and Natural theology (Romans 1)
 - a. revelation in nature as sufficient

- b. rejection and corruption of perfect revelation
- c. revelation in man – moral and spiritual
- d. image-bearers and idol-makers

3. Man the Myth Maker

- a. Human Nature and Universal Concerns
 - i. Study of Origins as a Quest for Purpose
 - ii. Cosmological questions
 - iii. Death and cycles of nature
 - iv. Morality
 - v. Man – evidence of Sin and search for Hope

- b. Quest for Understanding – Rationality

4. Interpretive Theories

- a. Externalist
- b. Internalist
Archetypal Theory

E. God's Perfect Plan

- 1. Perfect God cannot have a flawed plan
- 2. Omniscient God cannot have unforeseen scenarios
- 3. Omnipresent and Good God prepares His salvation for all men
- 4. Christ – the Eternal Archetype

IV. MYTH – A SPRINGBOARD FOR WORLD EVANGELISM