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Mithras, Precursor Of Jesus By Raymond Towers

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Introduction

There is a great controversy regarding the Roman sun god Mithras and his links with the Christian sun god Jesus. I have covered a few sun god angles before, such as Hercules as Jesus, and Apollo as Jesus, but those deities are much easier to research and to connect the dots with. As I began this intensive study into all things regarding Mithras, I soon became aware of the huge debate even among the scholars and experts on the subject. Western academics, Iranians and Indians all want first rights to claim their people created this god. This may not be far from the truth, as it seems that the original Indian Mitra went through multiple reinventions to the Persian Mithra and later the Roman Mithras. In a moment, we'll take a closer look at this controversy for ourselves.

When I undertake a study like this, I'll look at a number of different sources. I had several documentaries, discussions and books ready to go for this one. This proved to be too much and the disparity between ideas too great for me to get a good handle on them in a short span of time. Nabarz' book, for example, tallies up at 327 pages, and even the

Wikipedia page on Mithras was 33 (Masonic!) pages long. In total, I bookmarked seven long articles or books and four videos that I wanted to go through.

Sometimes, when I do research on a topic, it is because I want to include it into a fiction project I'm working on. That is the case here, as I've created a medieval fantasy world where Mithras is the primary deity instead of Yahweh or Jesus. My needs are for a decent grasp on generalities regarding Mithras, and so I've decided to set aside the books for now and to concentrate on the information I've absorbed from the videos. I may go through the books at a later date to produce a more detailed or supplementary article, but for now I think I have enough information to incorporate into my story plots that will give readers a good idea of what Mithras is all about.

Originally, I had four videos slotted for later viewing, but one proved to be too random and made unfounded claims, so I tossed that last one out. After doing another search on Youtube, I found the Nabarz interview, giving me two pro-Western viewpoints, one neutral, and one pro-Persian point of view. In this article, I want to give an outline of who Mithras was based on these multiple expert opinions and research, his origins, and his connections to the Christian god Jesus.

Mitra Before Rome

Mithras was known in both India and Persia, now modern day Iran. As Mitra, he is mentioned as a minor or major god in the Indian Vedas, depending on the scholar. There is a debate as to when the Vedas were first written. Bible apologists will say the Vedas came about in 900 BCE, when the stories found in the Old Testament were first heard in oral traditions. This implies that Indian and Jewish mythologies developed at the same time, or contemporaneously. However, other Western scholars trace the Vedas back to 1500 BCE, coinciding with the Aryan invasion of India. I have an Indian modern day Mithraist saying that from his research; Mithra was known to Iran and India in 2000 BCE. To make things even more complicated, some Vedas mention the melting of Ice Age glaciers, and that was way back in 11,000 or so BCE!

We can't really prove when Mitra / Mithra first emerged, past that it was much earlier than the advent of Jesus. We know that the Indian name of this deity was Mitra Varuna, and the Zoroastrian name was Mitra. From what Atabaki claims, and this is very possible thanks to the many waves of immigrants out of India, the Persian peoples were originally Aryans from the Indus Valley, so they may have simply carried their Indian god over when they moved and made a few changes as the years went by. Note that early Europeans are called Indo-Europeans, again alluding to an Aryan origin in India.

In Zoroastrianism, the creator god Ahura-Mazda created a son during a time before humanity. This cosmology dates back to 1300 BCE. In Persia / Iran, Mithra was a god of signing and fulfilling contracts. He is seen as a mediator and his name means friendship. The first recorded handshake comes from 1400 BCE, where we see artwork of Mithra shaking the right hand of a Hittite king as a sign of an arrangement or contract. Also, the sun was thought of as being the eye of Mithras, similar to the Egyptian Ra.

Sometime between 200 BCE and 100 CE, the mythology of Mithra spread west into the Mediterranean. Maybe merchants or soldiers brought it with them when they returned from the frontiers of the Roman Empire, or maybe it was the Roman hierarchy, or maybe it was even pirates. We simply don't know.

Mithras In Rome

In the 1st Century CE, we see an explosion of Mithraic temples in Western countries. Some say the Cult of Mithras first started in Greece, while others say it was in Rome. The Roman sect might have originated in Anatolia, Turkey. This was a widespread cult, but I have heard some researchers say it was localized and because it was so small Christianity quickly overshadowed it. However, the list of countries and regions with Mithrae (temples to Mithras) is quite extensive: Armenia, Celtic lands, Great Britain, Greece, Germany, North Africa, Palestine, Rome / Italy and Spain. Over 100 temples have been excavated, including one or several under the Vatican. The cult was prominent for only about 200 years, before Christianity eclipsed it in the 3rd Century.

From the start, Mithraism was an exclusive cult. Only a very small percentage of men were part of it, including Roman upper hierarchy and military officers. The cult has been referred to as the Mysteries of Mithras or as a Mystery School. We do find secrecy among its members, including private rituals and a select membership through multiple levels of initiation. Unfortunately, no written records exist. Most of what we know about this cult comes from the writings of rival Christians.

Mithrae were rectangular structures 10 to 20 meters long and 5 meters wide. They were built into the ground, so that a visitor would have to walk down steps as if they were entering the earth. This was a very unusual construction method for those 1st Century days. Plato wrote that the temples represented caves and metaphorically the entire world. Long, raised benches were found along the walls on the left and right, with an aisle leading up to a raised and centered altar at the back of the room. An estimated 20 to 40 worshippers could fit into a temple at one time. Most modern churches today are set up in a similar fashion.

Behind the altar, we always see a relief carving of Mithras slaying the bull. Mithras is dressed in Persian clothing, wearing a Phrygian cap, a cloak and a trouser-suit. This artwork also depicts esoteric astrological symbolism. The symbols include the bull (to represent the constellation of Taurus), the dog (Canis Major), the serpent (Serpens), a crab (Cancer) and a scorpion (Scorpio). The image as a whole appears to show the path of the sun as it enters and exits this world, and also the precession of the equinox spaced out to 1800 years. Mithras killing the bull inside of a cave (the world) could represent the end of the age of Taurus. The killing of the bull is called the Tauroctony. Over 700 artistic examples of the Tauroctony survive today.

Other artifacts also show esoteric, Mystery School leanings. Some art shows the cave surrounded with images representing the twelve signs of the zodiac. Other art shows a figure holding up a torch, and another holding the torch down. We also see solar and lunar chariots. Some carvings show Mithras holding a dagger and a torch, or a dagger and the world, while others show him holding a staff. (Not by coincidence, 1st Century Christian art shows Jesus performing miracles and healing the sick with a wand or a staff.) A carving shows Mithras shooting an arrow at a rock and having water spring out, similar to Moses striking a rock with a staff to the same effect in Exodus 17:6.

In some versions, Mithras was born from a rock. The name of this rock is Petra Genetrix. Petra means rock, and it is close to Petros, or Peter, who is considered the rock

of the Christian Church. Mithras is sometimes portrayed wearing a crown with seven sunrays on it, similar to the U.S. Statue of Liberty.

A stone carving reads that the powerful primordial bull Mithras slays is the first begotten creature. Mithras must shed the bull's blood as a sacrifice to save humanity. He struggles with the bull and carries it on his back like a shepherd carries sheep, taking it into the cave. The cave may represent the Cosmic Egg or the universe. After the sacrifice, the blood and semen of the bull rejuvenate humanity. An actual bull was not slain in the Mithrae, as there is no evidence of that. However, bull meat or meat from other animals could have been prepared elsewhere and eaten inside the temple. Animal remains have been found, suggesting that feasting did take place there.

After the slaying of the bull, Mithras ascends to heaven and rejoins his father Ahura-Mazda. Through the Mysteries of Mithras, his followers are re-born and created anew.

We don't have written records of what went on inside the temples, but we do have a lot of artwork. Carvings show people reclining on the benches or couches, and eating from low tables. New members or initiates called Ravens served food. We see processions in the art, swords, blindfolds and initiates lying down on the ground. These rituals are very similar to what is seen in Freemasonry.

Initiates went through seven stages of initiation, ranging from the first level of Raven up to the seventh level of Father. The typical level was in the middle, the Lion. Passing from one level to the next required a member having to go through some kind of ordeal, again similar to Masonry or college or military hazing. The seven levels coincide with the seven rays on the crown of Mithras, the seven visible planetary bodies and / or the seven chakras. Here is the best breakdown of the various grades I could come up with, but I don't know where the Lion Leo fits in:

1st Grade - Mercury, Raven, resurrection / rebirth

2nd Grade - Venus, male bride?

3rd Grade - Mars, soldier

4th Grade - Jupiter, lightning bolt

5th Grade - Luna, crescent moon

6th Grade - Sol, crown with 7 rays

7th Grade - Saturn, Father

The name Mithras has a numerical value of 365 in Greek. This is the number of days in a solar year. In addition, we can speculate that Mithras had commandments, because Roman Emperor Julian referred to them in his writings, but we don't know exactly what they were. There is a hotly debated claim that Constantine worshiped Mithras after he allegedly converted to Christianity. I have heard that said about Constantine worshiping Apollo as well.

Christian Plagiarism

Atabaki put it best. The Sun (Jesus), is born of Virgo (the Virgin), with Orion (the Three Kings) standing by. Shepherds make the big announcement and celebrate with bread and wine. All of these are parallels to Mithras. Church fathers and apologists such as Justin, Origen and Tertullian acknowledged many of these parallels, but they blamed the Devil for them. The Devil is a crafty fellow, you know. Sure, some of you can deny

one or two of these ‘coincidences,’ but this isn’t just one or two. Have a look at the Big List of Christian Plagiarism from earlier Mithraism:

* Mithras was born of a virgin on Dec. 25th. (This is the Persian version. In Rome, we see Mithras being born from a rock or a Cosmic Egg. Dec. 25th is the Winter Solstice and when the festival of Saturnalia took place. The date represents, are you ready, the birth or rebirth of the Sun. According to 2 sources, the original birth date of Jesus was January 6th, but the Church of Rome later changed the date.)

- * Shepherds bearing gifts present at birth.
- * He was attended by 12 figures.
- * Good Shepherd
- * Great Teacher
- * Messiah
- * Identified with the lamb and the lion.
- * By worshiping Mithras, man can achieve salvation / immortality.
- * Defender of Righteousness
- * Forgiveness of Sins
- * Performed Miracles
- * Baptism
- * Eucharist / Oblation / Holy Communion
- * Holy Meal / Lord’s Supper / Last Supper on Sunday
- * Holy Water
- * Made a sacrifice for world peace.
- * Buried in a tomb for three days (unverified)
- * Resurrection celebrated annually (unverified)
- * Festival became Easter, with a Passover (unverified)
- * Worshiped on Sundays
- * Monotheism
- * Fish symbol (unverified)
- * Holy Cross (two sources, unverified)

Note: By unverified, I mean only one source is saying it, but I usually find that source to be very accurate (and entertainingly cynical). In this case, that would be Michael Connor of Aeon Byte Gnostic Radio. The example of the Holy Cross I have not yet seen in the Mithras research, but both Atabaki and Connor say it is there.

The biggest differences from Christianity are that Mithraism was male dominated. Well, whoop-de-do! Have a look at Judaism or Islam, peeps. Also, Christians made it a point to help widows, orphans and the poor, but we don’t know if the same was true for Mithraists because the Catholics went and destroyed all their writings. Lastly, the Mithras cult accepted other gods as secondary, while Christians refused to believe in any other gods.

While we’re on the subject of lists, here are a couple more of them.

Sun gods born on December 25th:

- * Attus
- * Dionysus

- * Jesus
- * Krishna
- * Mithras
- * Nimrod (mortal that claimed he was god)
- * Quetzalcoatl (unverified)
- * Osiris
- * Tammuz

Madonna and Child, or Mother of God and God motifs:

- * Aphrodite and Adonis (Greek)
- * Ashtoreth / Astarte and Molech / Baal (Canaan, I dispute this one)
- * Mary and Jesus (Christianity)
- * Semiramus and Tammuz (Babylon)

Conclusion

I don't know, but to me it looks like the apologists don't have much here to make a counterclaim. The best they can do is nitpick at the details such as the virgin / rock / Cosmic Egg birth, while ignoring that different countries had different evolved or adapted versions. The rest of this is pretty cut and dry, and that's without even bringing up Apollo, Hercules, Ra, Horus and Osiris. Of course there are going to be regional differences, just like we have dialect and cultural differences in different parts of the U.S. Compare a Texas drawl to a Joysey accent, for example. The same thing happens with religions, as shown by the estimated 10,000 separate Christian sects presently in this country. Jesus was the new black, while Mithras went back some 1300 to 1500 years before anybody even thought of Jesus. I said this in a previous post; you can't take the body of Mithras, put a new face on it and call it an entirely new god. I understand Jesus as a spirit or thought-form through my metaphysical dealings, but as far as religion and politics go, I have to say that Jesus was an inside job.

Source Posts

Ancient Rome: Mithras - Lord Of The Cosmos
 Ancient Rome: Round Table On The Cult Of Mithras
 Andre Atabaki: The Bible Of Mithra And The Science Of Light
 Payam Nabarz: The Savior God Mithras

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(Due to ongoing censorship on Youtube, I am also including my source notes for this article. Too many times, I have gone back to reference certain videos only to find they've been taken down, and sometimes even the channel that posted them is gone. All entries are also found on my Truth blog at Verum Et Inventa.)

Ancient Rome: Mithras - Lord Of The Cosmos - Rover Films (2013)

Run time: 32 minutes. Here are my notes from this documentary. I am jotting all this info down in preparation for a future article on the cult of Mithras. Notice the bias at the beginning, where Westerners want to credit Rome with making the Cult of Mithras their invention, saying it was 'newly created,' as if Persians weren't intellectual enough to come up with the advanced concepts on their own. These egocentric scholars say, sure, Mithras came from India, but we made him so much better than they did! Really, we did! Of course, this is nonsense. We only have to look at truly spiritual religions like Buddhism and Hinduism to dispel that notion. What a coincidence that both of those religions came out of India, the same as Mithraism!

This bias continues throughout the documentary. At one point, one scholar poo-hooes the idea that Christians adopted Mithraic rituals and symbolism for 'market share,' as he puts it. To debunk this idea, all you have to do is read through the Old Testament, where you see the Cult of Jehovah in a constant rivalry with cults of Baal, Dagon and Molech, and also with the gods of Egypt. The apologist idea that Christianity developed in a vacuum is ludicrous. All of these pagan religions contributed in some way or another to the official religion that Emperor Constantine established for the Roman Empire in the 4th Century CE.

The Cult of Mithras can be traced back to the 1st Century CE. Its prominence lasted for about two hundred years, when it was eclipsed by the dawn of Christianity. Very little detailed information remains for this cult. It was a syncretism from Persian and Indian sources, and was adopted by Rome to include rituals and astrological references. Much of what we know about Mithraism today comes from what rival Christians wrote about it.

Originally, Mitra was the name given to an Indo-European deity. Mitra dates back to 2000 BCE in Persia and India. The Indian name is Mitra Varuna. In Zoroastrianism he was also known as Mitra. This deity is associated with the Mitras of the later Greeks. We are told that the original Persian attributes of this god were modified, by Greek and Roman culture, in the same way the Egyptian Isis and Osiris were culturally adapted.

The Roman cult may have first emerged in Anatolia (Turkey), where a large religious center to Mithras has been excavated. Raised benches for worshipers to sit on were found in Mithraic temples, which was very unusual for the 1st Century. Temples were partly built into the ground to create a subterranean feel. Temple sizes were 10 to 20 meters long and 5 meters wide. The temples were referred to as 'caves,' and represented our world according to Plato.

Despite the speculation, there are no written records showing what went on inside the temples. Animal remains have been found, suggesting feasting. Carvings show people in the temples reclining on couches and eating from low tables. The food servers were new members called 'ravens.' The new members must have known about the religion, as only initiates could enter the temple. One carving shows an archer shooting an arrow at another man, and at the rock behind him. Another carving shows a procession. It is assumed these carvings show what took place within the temple. Frescoes show swords, blindfolds and initiates lying down on the ground. All of these inferences point to Masonic ritual. It is possible that lights and sounds were used to create effects for the people in the temple.

The image of Mithras killing the bull is comparable to the Christian Cross, as far as religious importance goes. Below the image of Mithras and the bull are the following: a dog, a crater or mixing bowl, a serpent, a crab and a scorpion. Some artifacts show

Mithras killing the bull inside a rocky cave. Around the cave image is a band showing all the signs of the zodiac. Other symbolism includes a figure holding a torch up on one end, while opposite we find a similar figure holding a torch down. (As above, so below; Masonic.) Also shown are a solar chariot and a lunar chariot. (Also Masonic.) Note that the same sort of symbolism that is described here can be found on a Ouija Board.

Deciphering the symbolism from the image. The dog represents Canis Major. The crater apparently also signified a former constellation. The entire image appears to show the entrance and exit of the sun into this world. The sun's path also relates to the precession of the equinox, spaced out to 1800 years, from Taurus (pre-Rome), to Aries (Roman Age) to Aquarius (today). Mithras killing the bull could theoretically show the end of the age of Taurus. Note that many ancient religions from all over the world saw the connection between astronomical science and religion.

Another important aspect is the idea of the soul. If the soul is virtuous, it will rise up towards the moon after the body dies. Note that alternative researchers such as David Icke and Santos Bonacci have also made reference to the moon as a place where souls go to after death.

Similarities to Jesus and Christianity

Mithras was born to a virgin on the 25th of December.

He was attended to by 12 figures.

By worshiping Mithras, man could achieve salvation.

Holy Communion / Holy Sacrament

Holy Meal / Last Supper

Baptism

Monotheism

Differences from Jesus and Christianity

Mithraism was male dominated (compare to Judaism, Masonry, also male dominated)

Christianity was aimed at a wider community, including women

Christians aided widows, orphans and the poor

Mithraism accepted other gods; Christians did not

Some images apparently show Mithras born from an egg

Let me add that I see Mithraism as a Mystery School religion. In that light, the cult had no aspirations to be spread out over the entire world, the way Christianity did after the Council of Nicea was meant to influence all of Rome.

Here is a part that I particularly disagree with. One speaker states that the original Christians met in synagogues and were later thrown out by Jews, causing the outcasts to establish their own Judaic-based religion. From my studies in Gnosticism, I think it more likely that the first Christians were Gnostic, meaning they met in public places like meadows or hills, or in private homes, and away from Judaism altogether. Because the Christians were meeting away from Roman or Judaic temples, Rome could not keep an eye on them and that is why Constantine and the emperors that came before him worked

so hard to unify all of Rome under one religious banner. Constantine was not the first emperor to try to bring the various faiths together.

In trying to debunk the connections, one speaker says that the number 12 doesn't hold up connecting Mithraism to Christianity. This is nonsense. The 12 tribes of Israel are not 12 by accident. The number 12 appears in numerous religions before and after the 1st Century, such as in Romulus and his 12 followers (Rome), Hercules and his 12 labors (Greek) before that era. After the 1st Century, we have Robin Goodfellow and his band of 12 men and King Arthur and his 12 knights of the Round Table. Not to mention the witch's coven of one warlock and 12 witches. This number always represents the 12 months of the year, so the debunker and his nonsense argument are debunked. By incorporating rituals, key dates and numbers, Christianity as a pure religion that sprung out of a sort of holy vacuum is debunked.

I also don't agree that the 2nd Century rise of Christianity caused the demise of the pagan religions. We still had festivals to Isis and Saturnalia going on, didn't we? The Romans didn't like their Jesus without a female counterpart like Ishtar or Isis, so they complained until they got the Virgin Mary. What this documentary is trying to show us is that Christianity did not evolve from Mithraism. I agree with that. Christianity came from all sorts of other religions as well, including Canaanite, Egyptian, Indian, Judaism, Roman and probably even Druidism. If you toss in the origins of the Gnostic Jesus, then you've got a whole bunch of other influences, most importantly including Buddhism, the Mushroom Cult of the Essenes and the Archon / Evil Yahweh sect that believed this world was hell, and that by coming here we were sinners that had to redeem our souls by living virtuous lives. Yeah, that's where the part of us having to 'save' our souls came from, from the Gnostics and definitely NOT from the self-serving Jews.

Jesus came from Mithras as an amalgamation, that included other key figures such as the Good Shepherd Apollo and another half man, half deity sun god in Hercules. This idea that Jesus and Christianity are somehow 'different' than what came before them, or what was going on at the same time Gnosticism was taking root, is in effect putting on blinders and deliberately ignoring the tons of evidence that is out there waiting to be looked at. Taking the body of Mithras and sticking the face of Jesus on top of it doesn't really create a whole new god, now does it?

Ancient Rome: Round Table On The Cult Of Mithras (2012)

Category: History, Mythology

Run time: 42 minutes.

Academics mentioned in this discussion include Greg Woolf, University of St. Andrews, Almut Hintze and John North, both from the University of London. Having three experts on the subject was very good. Also, there was less Western bias when compared to other videos I've seen, and they did mention when certain findings are disputed. Points not covered before:

1:15 - The host states that the Roman Cult of Mithras began in the 1st Century CE. Before I get into the talk, I just want to say that this sounds like an incorrect statement. We know that the concept of Mithras came from India, but that isn't the entire story either. In case the conversation veers off in another direction, I want to remind the reader that there were a number of other cults competing for followers at that time, including those of Jesus, John the Baptist, Simon Magnus, Apollonius of Tyre (I think?) and the

Essenes. Also, the Romans had dozens of gods, and other cultures such as Egypt and India also had dozens of gods, all vying for the same limited number of people within the expansive Roman Empire. Most Western historians will narrow down these options into the cult of Jesus and one or two others, but that's not true. This huge number of gods was what prompted the Roman emperors into unifying all religions into the 'universal' Catholic Church.

1:50 - Note that all or nearly all religions performed ritualistic sacrifices. I think the only group not doing this was the Gnostics, because they thought the god of this world, i.e. Yahweh, was the Demiurge bad guy.

4:00 - The first Roman temples of Mithras were discovered in Frankfurt, Germany and along the Danube. Wolf hints that it mysteriously popped up in several places at once, late in the 1st Century. He hasn't mentioned the India connection yet. Right after, the cult also appears in places such as the Rhineland, Israel, Italy, Spain and Africa.

6:20 - The Indian Mithra is one of the oldest deities in the Indo-Iranian pantheon. He dates back to 1300 BCE. Kings swore upon his name, and also a few others including Varuna, when signing contracts.

7:30 - In Iran, Mithra was more of a primary god, and was mentioned in contracts along with Ahura-Mazda from Zoroastrianism.

9:50 - The Western view is to start with Western ideas / evidence and reverse-engineer them going backwards in time. The contrary point of view is to start with Ancient India or Iran and move forward. I will look at both sides of the coin, but I don't like the idea that history has to conform to modern Western standards. To me, those standards are too set in stone, too set in their bias and ignoring too many potential clues. We've seen too many examples, such as in ancient archeology and human evolution, where if the pieces don't fit the Western model, they are disregarded or even hidden away.

10:30 - From my previous research into Zoroastrianism, I agree with the point that there is no clear evidence that Mithras was dualistic, while Zoroaster and Ahura Mazda were.

10:45 - North mentions that Mithras killing the bull does not convey a sense of good versus evil. I agree with this. The bull killing to me is more astrology or a new power overcoming an old power.

There follows a semi-garbled reasoning into where Mithras came from, with some acknowledgement to Eastern religions. This is another example of the isolationism that Western scholars continually promote. Of course Rome knew about Zoroaster and the Vedas! These people were trading goods and migrating all over the place, similar to how we know about Buddha or Krishna today. The Cult of Mithras surely went through changes in Rome, but as the speaker mentions, in the carvings Mithras is wearing Persian attire, with a Phrygian cap, a cloak and tunic.

13:35 - A good point is made. Christianity sprouted out of Judaism, while Mithraism sprouted in a similar way from Persia. Mithras and Jesus are both sun gods, with the costuming or window dressing colored by the customary beliefs of their respective founders.

19:00 - Only males were allowed to worship Mithras. They went through seven stages of initiation, beginning with Raven level and advancing to Father. Passing from

one level to the next is described as an ordeal. This reminds me of college hazing and Masonry. Suggested is that the levels represent astrological knowledge or lore.

22:00 - Each small temple had an estimated 20 to 40 male worshipers.

(I have to mention the depths of Christian stupidity here. Earlier, we heard that the Devil planted evidence of Mithras before Jesus came around, in order to defame later Christianity. This is as ludicrous as the idea that the Devil created dinosaur bones to give the 'false' impression that the Earth is over 6,000 years old. If Christians can't accept it or can't refute it, always blame the Devil! Christianity is a religion for babies.)

25:40 - The seven grades correspond to the seven visible celestial bodies. They are: Sol, Luna, Mars, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn. Note that the highest level, the Father, is linked to Saturn. That brings up a whole new slew of esoteric connections, but I won't get into it here.

28:10 - The typical, middle grade was that of Leo the Lion.

30:45 - Mithras' attire is described as a 'trouser-suit.'

31:10 - The serpent represents evil, while the dog represents good.

Andre Atabaki: The Bible Of Mithra - Persian Astrology (2015)

Category: History, Mythology, Spirit.

Run time: 1 hour, 8 minutes.

I've been doing research for a series of medieval fantasy books I've titled the Savage Lands. In this fictional world I'm creating, the Roman deity Mithras is the salient god for the population, instead of his later derivative Jesus. The Roman god is a very enigmatic figure, but he does have origins in India, the same as many of our modern day Western deities and religious figures. Basically, I bookmarked any video results for the Roman Mithras or the Indian Mithra that were at least 20 minutes long, and slowly I'm making my way through the list.

I'm very surprised and pleased by how this lecture starts off, as speaker Atabaki right away hits on the false premise of organized religion. It seems this talk is more about the spiritual side of Mithra than the historical aspect, so let's see what this is all about.

5:00 - Mithra is mentioned in the Vedas, and was known from ancient India to Iran. From the start, we are told this is a god of light.

5:30 - I've done previous research on how the Indus River dried up, but this guy gives us a very good condensed version. The people to the east of the Indus became the Hindus. The people on the west of the Indus Valley became the Aryans, later known as the Persians.

6:25 - Mithra sounds like a god of Enlightenment, ahem, Jesus. His worship spread to the Greeks, Armenians, Celts and Romans.

6:45 - The Roman elite, or the top 1%, turned to Mithras. 100 ruins of Mithraic temples have been found from Great Britain to Palestine.

7:20 - Many Mithras temples are found under the Vatican. That's a big one, people! Mithra was Aryan / Persian / Indian before he became the Jewish Jesus! Also, note the Roman Catholic routine of building their temples over the temples that already existed in those places. My studies elsewhere suggest Mithras was a Mystery School religion, compared to how Atabaki mentions that the rich and powerful wanted to keep this religion secret to themselves.

8:20 - Mithraic rituals include baptism, communion, resurrection, and celebrating the winter solstice, which just happens to be the birthday of Jesus. Atabaki claims the Holy Cross is borrowed from Mithras, but I haven't heard that before, I don't think.

9:15 - The Mystery School reference comes in. That's exciting for me! Why? Because my research into the Mystery Schools goes back to Egypt and Rome, but it gets hazy earlier than that when I get to Biblical figures such as Solomon and Nebuchadnezzar. That's where Masonry, Numerology, Kabbalah and Magic come in. I have read that MS teachings may have come from India, but haven't been able to establish a link, so this might be it.

The next section is very interesting. Instead of going toward the direction of Alchemy, we are diverted toward Meditation and Disassociation. That's worlds away from the esoteric teachings of Hermes / Thoth.

The next part is called The Final Stage. In this section, we are told that advanced awareness leads to being drawn inward and away from identity. Personally, I'm in this tug of war between wanting to let go and reaching that kind of Enlightenment, and having to deal with everyday issues and turmoil. I feel I have to advance in my physical life to find happiness or contentment before I can relax and tune in toward higher vibrations. I've been butting heads with my spirit guides for years on this.

As the talk goes on, Atabaki describes our individuality and experience. This goes right along with my own ideas regarding Hologram Universe Theory and Quantum Physics. We are given an analogy that we are the sun that everything revolves around. That's like when I say we are the stars in the movie of our life. From our personal perspective, the universe does revolve around each and every one of our consciences. That's the whole deal with the New Age belief that we are all Creators, as opposed to religious doctrine that demands we become uniform and subservient to an authority figure. If God is within us, and if we can find that God, we don't need anyone to be our pastor that has to herd us up like sheep. There's a saying; church is for those who can't find God by themselves.

32:40 - 'Your existence comes before the existence of the universe.' - That's a very profound quote. If you believe in the idea of an eternal soul, it has to be true because the theorized Big Bang was a starting point for all that exists in the physical realm. Your soul wasn't born with the Big Bang, right?

33:00 - When you go to sleep, do you go there or does sleep come to you? Do you go to the next day and night, or do they come to you? That's the kind of deep philosophical concepts I got from reading the Mahabharata. Give me a second... Let me see if I can find some other similar Hindu queries I jotted down...

Here are some examples I included in my novel Avalon 1 - The Search For God, in order from easiest to hardest to contemplate:

What is quicker than wind? The answer is thought.

What can cover the Earth? The answer is darkness.

What is more numerous, the living or the dead? The answer is the living, because the dead are no longer.

What came first, the day or the night? The answer is the day, but it was only a day ahead.

What is an example of grief? The answer is ignorance.

* What is an example of poison? The answer is desire.

- * What is an example of defeat? The answer is victory.
- * Why do men revolt? To find beauty, either in life or in death.

What is inevitable? Happiness.

What is your opposite? Yourself.

I can write full articles on my personal deeper meanings for the items I marked. The grief / ignorance and the last two give me brain farts. About the inevitable / happiness bit, let me toss this in here as well. King Cyrus was about to burn King Croesus at the stake, after Croesus tried to invade his kingdom. Cyrus asked, 'What is the meaning of happiness?' Croesus replied that a life could not be counted as happy unless we know how it ended. Cyrus didn't burn Croesus after all, and they became good buddies after that.

Now, I get that Croesus would have a crappy end to his life if he was burned to death, but I'm from the 'hood, okay? One of my credos is 'today is a good day to die,' no matter what's going on, sunny day, rainy day, whatever. So, if I were Croesus, I would have tried that invasion and failed, but as I was about to go down in flames, I would have thought, you know, I gave it my best shot so I have no regrets. To me, the revolt / beauty example contradicts the inevitable / happiness idea. See what I mean?

33:40 - Another profound concept: We dream that we are awake, or asleep, or unconscious. This has to be correct if we are eternal souls, because the soul has to become immersed into a condition or theater of reality. Can you imagine how complex our Hologram Universe has to be to accommodate an estimated 9 billion human individual realities within it? That doesn't even count animals, vegetation, weather fluctuations or even dirt and rocks, which are also going through their own experiences of reality at a much faster or slower rate that we are.

37:00 - As synchronicity, Atabaki mentions theater and hologram in close proximity right around this time. He states that Mithra is the Film Projector, and by attaining a oneness with him, we are both the Projected and the Projector.

Atabaki gives an eloquent description of Mithra as Sol. Yeah, I can see how a lot of the qualities he describes could be seen as human attributes, but I think Sol is more a part of the holographic construct than a sentient being watching over us like some kind of protector. I mean I could be wrong here, but Sol communicates through subtle forms of electromagnetic energy and radiation, and less like a parent / father figure. Calling Sol a father is demeaning it, I feel, and dumbing things down for the masses, because human attributes are being assigned to a non-human entity. Of course, nearly every religion in history has a sun god with human reactions and motivations in it, including the Christian Jesus and the Greek / Roman Heracles / Hercules.

49:20 - I would dispute that all civilizations worshiped Sol as their sun. The Golden Age of Greece and the Roman Saturnalia come to mind, and there is good theorizing that Saturn was once the most prominent star in our Earth sky, even among the Electric Universe crowd. To listen to Atabaki, you'd think the solar system was always the way we see it today, but I don't think this was always the case, unless it is a false origin meant for the people coming into the Hologram Universe. Is it possible that we'll have a new sun arriving with the Age of Aquarius?

53:00 - Note the parallels to the fable of Jesus- birth: The Sun / Jesus, born of Virgo / the Virgin, with the Belt of Orion / Three Eastern Kings standing by. Shepherds make

the big announcement and celebrated with bread and wine. That's all from pagan Mithraism, before the Holy Church of Rome adopted it!

55:15 - The video moves on to moon goddess Anahita. This is good stuff! While men follow Mithra, women are initiated into the cult of Anahita, the Mother Goddess or Divine Feminine.

56:15 - Anahita is associated with water. It can be scientifically proven that Luna affects all living things through their water. Anahita influences creativity, psychic powers and intuition. She represents consciousness. It makes me wonder if we are conscious because of the water content in our bodies. Mithra and Anahita are not in opposition, as many other philosophies suggest, but work as a team.

This presentation is just what I needed. I'm in line with some 90% of the material already. I think I'm going to stick a watered down version of these concepts into the story collection I'm working on, so my characters can roll them around in their heads. The conclusion is as strong as the start, and the tenets sound to be more full of meaning for me personally, than what I've heard from Mystery School deals such as Egypt, Greek, Gnostic, Rosicrucian, Zoroastrian and others. My previous spiritual ideals came from Buddhism, Hinduism and Gnosticism, and I have to say that Mithraism as described here is right in there with them.

Payam Nabarz: The Savior God Mithras (2015)

Category: History, Mythology

Run time: 1 hour, 9 minutes.

The guest was really difficult to understand as the interview went on! Points worth considering:

4:00 - Connor's list of savior gods born on Dec. 25th: Jesus, Osiris, Dionysus, Quetzalcoatl, Krishna, Attus, Tammuz and Mithras.

6:00 - Constantine worshiped Mithras after his conversion to Christianity. This was disputed in a previous discussion.

7:55 - Connor's comparison between the Persian Mithras and Jesus:

- * Born of a virgin on Dec. 25th, in a cave.
- * Shepherds bearing gifts attended his birth.
- * Considered a great teacher / master.
- * He had 12 companions / disciples.
- * Followers were promised immortality.
- * He performed miracles.
- * He sacrificed himself for world peace.
- * Buried in a tomb, rose after 3 days.
- * His resurrection is celebrated annually.
- * He was called the Good Shepherd, identifying with the lamb and the lion.
- * He was considered the Light and the Messiah.
- * His sacred day was Sunday, when he had his Last Supper.
- * His main festival later became Easter.
- * He had a Eucharist / Communion, a Lord's Supper and a Last Supper.
- * He had a Passover.

15:40 - In Persia, Mithras was considered the god of contracts. The name translates as 'friendship.' Later, he is called a mediator.

16:25 - The sun is seen as the eye of Mithras.

18:00 - The handshake may have first started up in 1400 BCE, when Mithras went to shake the right hand of a Hittite king.

20:30 - Roman soldiers may have brought the god from the fringes of the empire into the hub of society, circa 100 CE - 200 BCE. An exiled Roman ruler or even pirates may have also done this. This is interesting because we see many of the Mithraic temples springing up all at once in the 1st Century.

27:00 - In Greek, the name Mithras has a numerical value of 365, the number of days in the solar year, as compared with 360 in a lunar year. Connor tells us this is the same for another ancient deity named Abraxas. (I haven't studied him yet, but hopefully I will!)

30:00 - Souls originate from the Milky Way. Earlier, Nabarz mentioned that the blood of the sacrificed bull also represented the Milky Way.

32:00 - Mithra was considered a savior god in Rome and Persia. In Persia, he was born to a virgin woman. (In Rome, he came from a Cosmic Egg or was born from a rock.)

37:30 - Mithras carried a staff. I've seen pictures of 1st Century Christian carvings showing Jesus with a wand or staff while performing miracles. (So did the Good Shepherd Apollo.)

38:40 - Modern churches are still designed similar to the Mithraic temples. The Mithrae had two long benches facing each other, with a centered, raised altar way in the back. Modern churches have their pews on either side, with the altars or pulpits in the same place.

Some of Nabarz' speech comes out garbled and is difficult for me to understand. There are similarities to modern Islamic Sufism, but that takes me off the subject. I am having to repeat sections here, especially when it comes to the grades of initiation.

1st Grade - Raven, resurrection (Mercury?)

2nd Grade - Venus (male bride?)

3rd Grade - Mars, soldier

4th Grade - Jupiter, lightning bolt

5th Grade - Luna, crescent moon

6th Grade - Sol, crown with 7 rays

7th Grade - Saturn, Father

Nabarz has the annoying habit of rambling his words together, and sometimes laughing at the end of it. The last half hour was a real chore to get through.