

WHAT IS JEWISH MYTHOLOGY?

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Unbelievers often tell Christians that the Bible is nothing but Jewish mythology. That claim is their alleged reason not to accept the Bible as God's Word. But is their claim true? **NO!**

The various mythologies of antiquity all taught polytheism (that there were *many* gods), and most of it included beliefs and practices that came from the "fertility cult"— an ancient system of belief in which people worshipped fertility by means of immoral practices. The mythologies of different nations borrowed and shared ideas from each other, and each made its own "salad" of such ideas.

The Jews of Old-Testament times *had* a mythology, but their mythology was **NOT** what the Bible teaches. It was the worship of Baal (1 Kings chap. 16-18). The Baal cult had all the characteristics of the mythology of surrounding nations, including the use of prostitution and human sacrifice as means of worship. But that religion was only followed in Israel during periods of their history when the nation was *unfaithful* to the true God. The prophets, of whom the Bible shows approval, *always denounced* Baal worship. Therefore one cannot say that the Bible is Jewish mythology, because there were periods when the Jews *had* a mythology, but it was not what the Bible teaches.

Here's what is remarkable about the contrast. All the mythologies on antiquity followed what was *popular*, what was "in" in the religions of antiquity. But what happened to them all? They died out even before Christ came to earth. Did you ever meet anyone who worships Jupiter? Or Ra? Or Marduk? Those religions went *with* the current, and they all died out more than two thousand years ago.

On the other hand, the teachings of the Bible always went *against* the current. It's known from history that nations around Israel tended to despise the Jewish faith because it taught belief in *only one* God. They thought that to be a mark of inferiority. Yet, though the truth of God's Word has always gone against the current, it's still "going strong" today.
