**BE PREPARED TO ANSWER**

***Telling the Greatest Story Ever Told***

**Week 5 – These Stories about Jesus Are Myth, not History**

**February 21, 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

* Have you ever read a myth? After reading one, what impressions are left?
* No myth I know is set into the timeline of history
* What about Islam? This religion has the testimony of one man, Mohammad. His writings have many historical errors. For instance, the Qu’ran says that Christians include Mary as a member of the Holy Trinity.

**I. In the Fullness of Time, God Sent his Son**

* When were Romulus and Remus born?
* Caesar Augustus
* Nazareth
* The Birth of Christ
* Merry Christmas not Lo Saturnalia
* AD [or even CE] not AUC

**II. Luke and History**

* In the 15 year of the reign of Tiberius – Luke’s setting events into historical time [Luke 3:1, 2]
* Luke 1:1-4
* Luke anchors his account in history with verifiable facts, names, places.
* He invites and challenges historians, archeologists, and scholars.
* The Easter Account

**III. How to Convince others of the Historicity of Jesus’ Life**

* Invite the person to read the Gospel eye-witness accounts
* Notice the details: 12 baskets full of left-overs; the water vessels in Cana; the many details
* How about the irrelevant things people said that were included
* The truth is in the details, often, in troubling details
* Point out the historical intersections
* Compare a myth and its style of telling the story with the Bible
* If this is a myth, would a hated tax collector to Jews be the one who wrote the gospel to the Jews?
* If this was a myth, would the primary witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection be women in the culture of that day and age?
* Would they have included the embarrassing moments and constant misunderstandings of the apostles, men they were trying to establish as pillars of the emerging church?
* The Case for Christ
* The apparent discrepancies between the 4 gospels – no seeming attempt to get their stories straight, as it were
* The scope of such a big hoax if the Bible is one
* “Other” so called writings people want to place on the same level as the Gospel [Pseudepigraphal books]

**CONCLUSION**: The documentary evidence and the historicity of Jesus’ life is TRUE!

* 2 Peter 1:16
* 1 John 1:1

***NEXT WEEK: What Is Your God Like?***