

May 25 & 26, 2019

REASONS to BELIEVE

Just because I don't have an answer, doesn't mean there are no answers.

2 Peter 1:16 *We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

Cleverly invented stories = Pseudepigrapha
= False writing
= Fake News

Clever Story 1: The Collusion Theory

The disciples stole the body.

The religious leaders colluded with the Roman soldiers who guarded the tomb, bribing them to say that the disciples stole the body of Jesus.

Clever Story 2: The Conspiracy Theory

Jesus faked His death.

A drug that gave Him the appearance of being dead

Clever Story 3: The Visa to France

Jesus had a wife and children.

1. *The Gospel of Jesus' Wife* claimed Jesus had a wife.
2. The Gospel of Philip is alleged to say that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalen.
3. They fled to France.

Response to The Visa to France

1. *The Gospel of Jesus' Wife* turned out to be a forgery.
2. The actual reading of the Gospel of Philip:

As for the Wisdom who is called "the barren," she is the mother of the angels. And the companion of the [...] Mary Magdalene. [...] loved her more than all the disciples, and used to kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples [...]. They said to him "Why do you love her more than all of us?" The Savior answered and said to them, "Why do I not love you like her? When a blind man and one who sees are both together in darkness, they are no different from one another. When the light comes, then he who sees will see the light, and he who is blind will remain in darkness."

3. The kiss was a kiss of “fellowship.”
4. The Gospel of Philip is a very damaged text of “Fake News.”

It was not written by one of the Philips of the NT.

It was not written until 300 years after Jesus.

If you read it, you won’t compare it to Matthew, Mark, Luke or John.

5. If Jesus was married, Paul would have said so.

1 Corinthians 9:5 Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas.

6. If they were married, Jesus would have answered, “Why do you love her more?” with “Because she is my wife!”

Clever Story 4: The Twin Theory

Jesus switched places with someone.

John 11:16 Then Thomas (called Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

1. Thomas is Aramaic for “twin.”

2. Didymus is Greek for “twin.”

3. Thomas the Contender has this quote:

The savior said, "Brother Thomas ... it has been said that you are my twin and true companion..."

4. Thomas died on the cross, not Jesus.

5. Other candidates include Judas Iscariot, Simon of Cyrene or an unnamed disciple as the “twin.”

Response to The Twin Theory

1. The NT has no hint of a substitute for Jesus.
2. The Contender of Thomas is fake news.

The real substitute is Christ died for us.

Matthew 20:28 ... just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."