

AND GOD SAYS . . .

Sponsored by the Melrose Alliance Church

In 2005, Brian Fleming, once a fundamentalist Christian but now an atheist activist, produced a film entitled, “The God Who Wasn’t There.” According to Wikipedia, “Most of the film is a presentation of the argument for the Jesus myth hypothesis.” However, the arguments are not really new nor are they really very persuasive to those who really look at the facts.

But my purpose is not to debate Fleming. While I am ready to defend the gospel to all who sincerely want to know the truth, in my opinion it is really not the gospel of Christ that is the issue here. As I have listened to and read excerpts of the film, I believe the issue is about a man driven by bitterness because of the failure of religion to answer his questions and meet his needs. I wonder what I wonder, what tragedy or painful experience he went through to cause him to be so bitter.

The answers to life-and-death issues are not found in religion, they are found in the person of Jesus Christ Himself—the very one whom Fleming tries to prove is a myth. To understand the answers is more than knowing about Jesus, it is experiencing Jesus. The old hymn “He Lives” got it right. It says, “You ask me how I know He lives. He lives within my heart.”

All the arguments in the world can be made against Christ. That Fleming does this is not new or even noteworthy. It has been going on since Jesus was born of a virgin. Nor do we need to waste time trying to answer all the critics. Like Noah, who put down his critics by building the ark, we just need to continue to be faithful to Christ, living a life of love and grace, so that our accusers will glorify Him on the day He appears (see 1 Peter 2:11-12).

You see, we can believe what we want to about Christ. We all are given that right. But remember— that Jesus is not dependent upon what we believe to carry out His work. For me, Jesus gives meaning to life, worth to me as a person, and hope for the future. If I am wrong, I have still benefitted. But if I am right, then Mr. Fleming will pay a dear price, whether he believes it or not. Are you prepared to take that risk?