



Title: Pagan Influence on Christianity, an Evolving View

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Abstract:

Christianity is the most followed religion on the planet. Everyone from Roman Emperors, to Medieval Kings, to the founding fathers of the United States of America was influenced by this religion. However, the question of from where this religion obtained its aspects is seldom asked. It is a known assumption that influences on early Christianity, which arose from spiritual leaders such as Jesus and the other apostles, were Jewish. However, this assumption may be in fact an incomplete view. Another view is that Christianity was heavily influenced by Ancient Greece, specifically ancient mystery cults. The goal of this paper is to explore the multiple influences on early Christianity, particularly in its developing ritual and certain theological ideas. This greatly matters because we should see the emergence of Christianity as a confluence of multiple cultural traditions, not a linear progression of events. This suggests a reason why Christianity has appealed to people across the world and not just people from one cultural context.