



Myth Made Fact with Dr. Louis Markos

Lesson 8: Jason

Outline:

Jason

- Jason was a foundling, who was a royal child who grew up as a peasant.
- Jason was son of Eason. Eason was king until Pelias threw him into exile, also sending Jason away.
- When he came of age he decided to go to fulfill his destiny. On his way to the palace he helped an old man cross a river.
- When Jason arrived he came with only one sandal, as the other had been ripped off in the river.
- Pelias had been warned, “Beware the man with one sandal.”
- Pelias challenges Jason to go and bring back the Golden Fleece.
- About a generation or so earlier there had been a cruel king who tried to gain favor with the gods by sacrificing a boy and a girl.
 - Before he could do it, the gods sent a rescue mission. They sent a golden ram with a golden fleece that could fly. The ram flew Phrixos and Helle away.
 - The ram came to Colchis, in the southeast corner of the Black Sea. Helle slipped and fell and drowned in the Hellespont, which means Helle’s bridge (between Europe and Asia).
 - Phrixos sacrificed the ram and gave the fleece as a gift to the people of Colchis, to King Aetes.
 - The Golden Fleece gives King Aetes power.
- Jason builds the Argo. The Argonauts are the sailors of the Argo. Jason and the Argonauts go on the journey to get the Golden Fleece.
- Many of the Argonauts are the fathers of the soldiers of the Trojan War.
- This is probably a story about a migration.
- These are the first people to meet the Sirens. The Argonauts survived the Sirens thanks to Orpheus playing to drown out the Sirens.
- They helped a poor blind prophet named Phineas, from whom the Harpies steal food.
- Eventually they arrive at Colchis for the Golden Fleece, but King Aetes won’t give it away.
- Medea falls in love with Jason, and she ends up helping Jason betray her father (Aetes).
- Aetes sets an impossible task to yoke fire-breathing bulls, plow a furrow, and take dragon teeth and sow the furrows. The dragon’s teeth spring up into



- earth men. Medea tells Jason to throw a rock amongst them. The earth men turn on each other and kill each other.
- The Golden Fleece was protected by a dragon. Medea puts them to sleep and Jason takes the fleece.
 - Medea kills her brother and cuts him up and throws his body part for his father to pick up and bury in order to keep her father from catching up to Jason.
 - Medea, out of love, helped Jason, but she used black magic.
 - White magic is about sympathy, trying to restore a broken division. Sympathetic magic is redeemable.
 - Black magic is all about power, manipulation, spells, incantation, and potions. Black magic always ends up destroying.
 - Jesus never has a conversation with the devils. Jesus rebukes them.
 - The story of Medea is a cautionary tale, be careful what you meddle with. There is good spirituality and bad spirituality.
 - Medea wants to get revenge against Pelias. She gathers the daughters of Pelias. She takes an old ram, puts it in the pot and out jumps a lamb. She says she will do the same thing to Pelias, but she leaves the daughters having slaughtered their father.
 - There is a play by Euripides called The Medea, and it shows that Jason and Medea did not have a good ending.
 - Medea and Jason and their sons went to Corinth. Medea and Jason become polarized, and they tear each other to pieces.
 - Medea is saying that men and women are different, but we need to respect that.
 - Jason gets colder, and he becomes a sophist. Medea becomes driven by revenge and passion.
 - Medea kills the princess of Corinth and her father.
 - Medea kills her own children as a way of punishing Jason.
 - Medea escapes by getting in a chariot pulled by dragons, she is given shelter by Aegeus, king of Athens. She tries to get Aegeus to kill his own son Theseus.