

— Sunday Forum —  
*Meet the Competition, Pt II*  
14th February, 9:00 | Class Description

Forum Friends,

This Sunday, on 14th February, at 9:00a, we will have the second and final part of our two part series called “Meet the Competition.” A look at the religions Peter and Paul would have encountered in Rome when they preached there in the late first century AD. Last time we tried to get our mindset into the official cults of Rome, the amazingly old official cults of temples, the augurs and diviners, and the domestic cults of hearth, home and neighborhood. We talked a lot about livers!

This time we will look at the mystery religions of the east that had found a home in Rome — the cults of Mithras, Isis, and Kybele, the Great Mother. Unlike the official cults, these mystery religions did offer the promise of personal transformation (salvation, if you want to call it that.) And they were popular. So they should make for an interesting comparison with early Christianity.

Does anyone have an interest and want to lead this with me?

Karl Belgum

**Zoom link** (should not require a pass code)

<https://nixonpeabody.zoom.us/j/82424062855?pwd=aGQwRo4yUHhlMys5TXhvOENIekNoZz09>

Meeting ID 824 2406 2855 | Password: 3Rj2YdJkuC

Dial by your location  
408 638 0968

The reading for this Sunday’s discussion on Roman mystery religions, part 2 of our *Meet the Competition series* from online *Encyclopedia Britannica*:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/mystery-religion/Mystery-religions-and-Christianity>

Near the end of the Britannica article you will find an explicit discussion of how Christianity interacted and competed with these mystery cults in the first two to three centuries AD. Very interesting. You can also find a lot of interesting material by searching on Google for Isis, Kybele, Attis, Isis, and Mithraism. After Sunday our next event on 21st March, will be a discussion of *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis. Get your copy from Amazon and start reading! You can probably get a used paperback for \$10, new is \$13.50.

<https://www.amazon.com/Screwtape-Letters-C-S-Lewis/dp/0060652934/>