

I have been asked to speak about recent developments in Biblical Criticism. Biblical Criticism is a very large subject. Primarily it refers to examinations of literary qualities and literary authenticity. In the case of a book that claims to present truth this cannot be divorced == separated from judgments as to historical accuracy and dependability.

Under the general theme of recent developments in Biblical criticism we refer to the book by *Hugh* Schonfeldt ~~et~~ published in _____ which has gone through many printings and has been distributed in paper back all over the English speaking world. This book called the Passover Plot explains the statements ~~of~~ of the Gospel as being based on the situation where people were expecting a Messiah and a young Galilean worked out a clever scheme to convince ~~people~~ people that he was the one predicted. According to the book he found that the OT predicted that the Messiah would die and be ~~raised~~ raised from the dead and therefore arranged with his followers to trick Judas into betraying Him expecting that He would survive the time on the cross and would then pretend to have been raised ~~from~~ from the dead. According to the book he underestimated his strength and unexpectedly died. On the face of it the idea seems very far fetched but Schonfeldt has drawn inferences from many Gospels statements and made what at first sight looks like a very strong case. Dr. Gary Cohen at the BST has written an extensive critique of Schonfeldt's book/copies of which can be received by application to the school.

More recent than Schonfeldt's *ieldt's* book though probably not quite as influential is the book written by Prof. Allegro of Manchester University in England called the Sacred Mushroom. [Please investigate and find out when this book was written and get a review or summary of it. I would suggest that if you could see Mr. Taylor he would very likely know of about when it was published and might have read a review of it that you could find in the library.] About 10 yrs. ago I read in TIME mag. a statement that Prof. Allegro had given a broadcast over -- on the BBC