



Summer Series in Apologetics

with Dr. Dave Newton

Monday July 24th

WELCOME

ἀπολογία



Saul of Tarsus had Dialogue with Skeptics

ΕΤΑΘΕΚ ΔΕ Ο ΠΑΥΛΟΣ ΕΝ ΜΟΡΩ ΤΟΥ ΔΕΙΟΥ. ΤΑΤ' ἔ-
ειπεν ἈΝΔΡΕΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΙ, ΚΑΤΑ ΠΑΝΤΑ ὅΣΑ ΕΚΙΝΑΙΜΕ-
ΝΟΙΣΤΕΡΟΝ ὙΜΑΣ ἑοράω, ΔΙΣΚΟΝΟΝΤΕΣ ΠΑΡ' ΑΝΑ-
θεορὸν ΤΑ ΣΕΒΑΣΜΑΤΑ ὙΜΩΝ, ΟΥΡΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΒΕΜΩΝ
ΕΝ ᾧ ΕΡΕΤΕΓΡΑΓΜΕΝΟΝ ΑΓΝΟΕΤΟ, ὅτι οὐκ οὐκ
ὄντες ἐκείβετε, τοιοῦτον δὲ ΚΑΤΑΓΕΓΡΑΜΜΕΝΟΝ
ἑορᾶς ποιήσας Τὸν ΚΟΣΜΟΝ, ΚΑΙ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΤΑ Εἰναι-
το, οὗτος ΟΥΡΑΝ' Ὑ ΚΑΙ Γῆς ΚΥΡΙΟΣ ὙΠΑΡΧΩΝ, ΟΥΚ ΕΝ
ΧΕΙΡΟΠΟΙΗΤΟΚ. ἸΔΟΚ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΕΙ ΟΥΔΕ ὙΔ' ΧΕΙΡΩΝ
ΑΝΘΡΩΠΩΝ, ΘΕΡΑΠΕΥΣΤΑΙ, ΠΡΟΚΑΘΟΜΕΝΟΙΣ, ΤΙ-
ΝΟΣ, Αὐτοῦ ΔΙΔΩΚΕ ΠΑΚΤΙΖΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΠΙΝΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ
ΠΑΝΤΑ· ΣΤΟΙΧΕΙΣ Τὸ ΕΞ ἑνὸς ΣΑΙΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΑΝ, ὅτι
ΑΝΘΡΩΠΩΝ ΚΑΤΟΙΚΟΝ ΕΠΙ ΓΑΛ' ΤΟΙ ΠΡΟΧΕΡΩΝ Τῆς
Γῆς, ΟΡΙΖΑΣ ΠΡΟΤΕΤΑΜΕΝΟΥΣ ΚΑΙΡΟΥΣ ΚΑΙ ΤΑ
ΟΡΩΣΟΕΙΔΑΣ Τῆς ΚΑΤΟΙΚΙΑΣ ΑὐΤῶΝ, ΕΠΙ Τὸν
ΚΥΝΩΝ, ΕΙ ΑΡΑ ΓΕ ΨΗΛΑΦΗΣΙΑΝ ΑὐΤῶΝ ΚΑΙ ΟΥΤΙ
ΕΝ, ΚΑΙΟΙΤΕ ΟΥ ΜΑΚΡΑΝ ΑΠὸ ἑνὸς ΕΚΑΣΤΟΥ ἩΜΩΝ
ὙΠΑΡΧΟΝΤΑ. ΕΝ Αὐτῷ ΤΑΡ. ΖΩΜΕΝ ΚΑΙ ΚΙΝΟΥΜΕΘΑ ΚΑΙ
ΕΚΜΕΙΝΟΜΕΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΙΝΕΣ ΤῶΝ ΚΑΘ' ὙΜΑΣ ΠΟΙΗΤΩΝ ΕΙΡΗ-
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΡ' ΑὐΤῶΝ ΕΧΜΕΝ, ΓΕΝΟΙΣ ΟΥΝ ὙΠΑΡ-
ΧΟΝΤΕΣ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ, ΟΥΚ ὀφείλομεν ΝΟΜΙΖΕΙΝ
ΧΡΥΣΟΝ, Ἡ ΑΡΓΥΡΟΝ, Ἡ ΛΑΘΗ, ΧΑΡΑΓΜΑΤΙ ΤΕΧΝΗΣ ΚΑΙ
ΕΝΘΥΜΗΣΕΟΙΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΥ, Τὸ ΘΕΙΟΝ ΕΙΝΑΙ ὉΜΟΙΩΝ
ΤΟΥΣ ΜΕΝ ΟΥΝ ΧΡΟΝΟΥΣ Τῆς ΑΓΝΟΙΑΣ ὙΠΕΡΙΩΝ
ὁ ΘΕΟΣ ΤΑΝΥΝ ΠΑΡΑΓΓΕΛΛΕΙ ΤΟΙΣ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΙΣ
ΠΑΚΤΙ ΠΑΝΤΑΧΟΥ ΜΕΤΑΝΟΕΙΝ, ΔΙΟΤΙ ΕΞΕΤΗΣΕΝ
ἩΜΕΡΑΝ, ΕΝ ἧ: ΜΕΛΛΕΙ ΚΡΙΝΕΙΝ ΤΗΝ οἰΚΟΥΜΕ-
ΝΗΝ ΕΝ ΔΙΚΑΙΟΣΥΝῃ, ΕΝ ΑΝΔΡΙ· ο, ΟΡΙΞΕ, ΠΙΣΤΙΝ
ΠΑΡΑΣΧΩΝ ΠΑΣΙΝ, ΑΝΑΣΤΗΣΑΣ ΑὐΤΟΝ ΕΚ ΝΕΚΡΩΝ.

Acts 17:22-34

What is Apologetics?

ἀπολογία = *verbal defense* *reasoned argument for the*

λόγος περί ἐλπίς = *logos peri elpis*

word regarding expectation within you

1st Peter 3:15

ἀπολογία

Logical Segue Sessions 6 to Session-7

If Absolute TRUTH - then Reliable Absolute TRUTH about Jesus of Nazareth

BIBLE has extremely detailed account of Jesus

Is this Reliable-Reasonable-Truthful resource?

Is it the only resource? Are the others?

Three BIG Questions for this evening:

- 1. Was there an Historical 1st Century AD Jesus from Nazareth?*
- 2. Did Pontius Pilate have Jesus executed on a cross?*
- 3. Was Jesus resurrected after death?*

Skeptic Immediately Assumes Bible is

Folklore, Myth, Legend, Poetic-Allegory, Fiction

but NOT true content!

Such a BIAS *must be addressed Rationally - Logically*

Therefore:

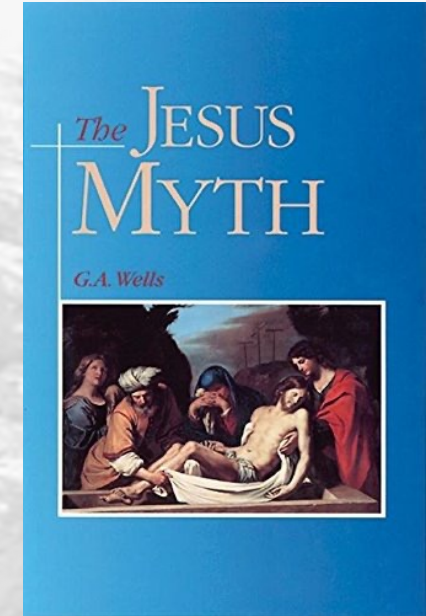
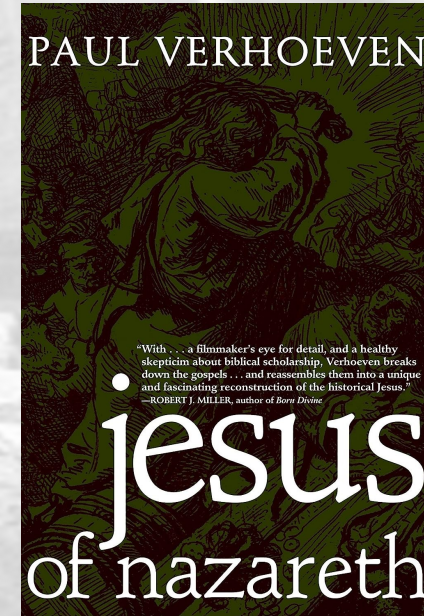
Jesus is also folklore, myth, legend, fiction

Composite character made-up by others

NOT true person in history!

This BIAS *needs to be addressed-discussed*

Rationally, Logically, Thoughtfully



JESUS

1. Was there an Historical 1st Century AD Jesus from Nazareth?

Indebted to Gary Habermas - Liberty University [dozens of articles and books]
while working on PhD at Michigan State: *"Historicity of the Resurrection of Jesus"*
3 doctoral dissertation committee members: **agnostic, agnostic-Jew, major skeptic**

Skeptic: *"Just don't say the resurrection happened because the BIBLE says so"*

THIS EVENING: We'll examine the full spectrum of *Evidence for:*

- *Historical Jesus*
- *Execution [death] on Roman cross*
- *Resurrection*

JESUS

1. Was there an Historical 1st Century AD Jesus from Nazareth?

2023 **Widely accepted by scholars, theologians, historians** that historical Jesus from Nazareth *did in fact exist* in 1st Century Judea

Very small minority question/doubt “Historical Jesus”
“*Mythicists*” say: No record of Jesus in Roman histories [NOT true]
and No archaeological evidence
Many pagan gods also die and rise again

Main skeptics-critics are: *The Jesus Seminar* - not mainstream

Remember: 4 Gospels [Luke's 2-part] + Paul's letters EXCELLENT historical accounts
Even critics concede: 4 Gospels + 7 Paul letters ARE historical
[but probably NOT inspired]

QUEST FOR HISTORICAL JESUS *1830s to present*

<i>Stage-1</i>	<i>19th Century liberal German theologians</i>	<i>[100+ years]</i>
<i>Stage-2</i>	<i>Rudolf Bultmann and Karl Barth</i> <i>“NO historical Jesus”</i>	<i>[1920s-30s-40s]</i> <i>Quest is over!</i>
<i>Stage-3</i>	<i>2nd Quest not enough history to construct life of Jesus, but keep Jesus from slipping into legend</i>	<i>[1950s-60s]</i>
<i>Stage 4</i>	<i>3rd Quest huge shift to LOTS of books about “Historical Jesus” – He’s Jewish, Middle Eastern Semite, spoke Greek & Aramaic, Jewish law</i>	<i>[1970s-present]</i>

Matthew John-Mark

Luke 2 volumes

John bar-Zebedee

Paul to Rome

Paul 2 letters to Corinth

Paul first letter to Thessalonica

Paul to Galatia Philemon Philippi

maybe 2nd Thess. Colossae Ephesus

THESE 12 ARE WIDELY ACCEPTED AS
RELIABLE HISTORICAL SOURCES:

- *Widely cited by full range of writers/historians*
- *Sermons ALL have same content Gospel*
- *90% illiterate population Focus on teaching Gospel*
- *Jesus appeared to Peter . . . 12 . . . 500 people*
James . . . Saul of Tarsus
- *VERY significant numbers from close-in timing*
could easily refute-dismiss what was written

Let me Reiterate:

I hold to 'earlier' dates for Gospels

Session-4

Mid-range dates

Many say ALL post-70 AD

Mark

50-55 AD

60-75 AD

Matthew

55-60

65-85

Luke

57-60

65-95

John

mid-60s AD

75-100

However, strong contingent: John Wenham [even James Crossley of *Jesus Seminar*]:

Mark

late 30s early-to-mid 40s AD

Matthew

late 40s

Luke

55-58

John

late-50s

ONE POINT: *No mention of destruction of Jerusalem? Paul's beheading? Peter's crucifixion?*

Consider similar timeline context writing of historical figures:

Alexander the Great died in **323 BC**

*Lucian wrote his biography of Alexander in **100 AD** +400 years*

*Arrian of Nicomedia wrote his account of Alexander in **130 AD** +450 years*

Caesar Tiberius died in **37 BC** five years after Jesus

*Tacitus Suetonius write their biographies **110-120 AD** +73-83 years*

Saul of Tarsus knew James knew Simon bar-Jonah [Petrus]

Logical that Peter and James would let Saul know if there was no Jesus

Pharisee Saul uses *very Pharisaical style* **1st Corin. 15:11** *'hoti hoti hoti' = and that*

Time and again Saul writes: *"I'm passing along to you what was passed along to me"*

- Saul did NOT invent Gospel after-the-fact

- First 5 'accepted' NT sources ALL have *exact same message!*

After Saul: - **Clement of Rome** wrote Corinthians **95 AD**

- **Ignatius** wrote 7 letters **107 AD**

- **Polycarp** wrote Corinthians **110 AD**

These 9 quote-cite-refer to Saul's **1st Corinthians** **32 times!**

Talmud: *Jesus In The Talmud* [Peter Schafer, 2009]

Rabbis were *very negative* but include Yehuda/Yeshua many times

"Jesus the Nazarene practiced magic and deceived and led Israel astray"

Finance-Econometrics has GREAT vocabulary:

- *Heteroskedasticity* - *Multicollinearity* - *Orthogonality*

History-Theology also has GREAT terms, like:

- *Verisimilitude* = [verified-similarities]
does source match what we know about people, places, history?
match other sources, archaeology, geography, topography?

Matthew John-Mark John bar-Zebedee Luke's 2-volume set demonstrate
strong, positive, excellent Verisimilitude [full range of scholars ALL agree]

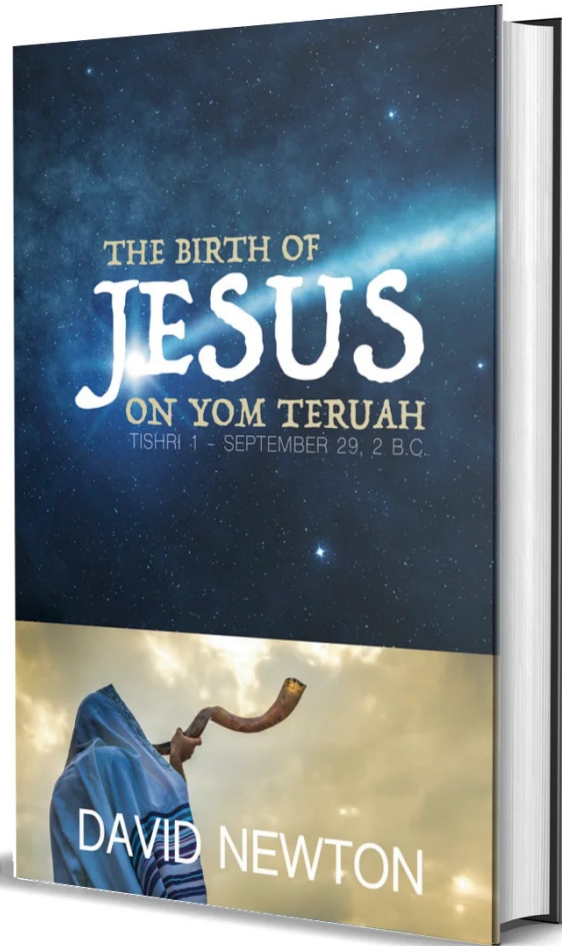
4 Gospels Acts and 6-8 Paul letters excellent 'historical' accounts

27 NT books widely-circulated 100s & 200s - long before Council of Nicaea 325 AD
by contrast gospel of Thomas [2nd Cent. AD]

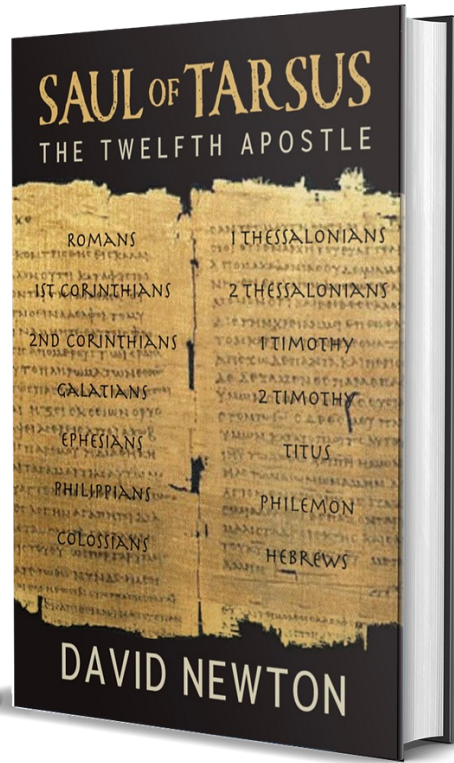
Not quoted by early writers - WHY? because it didn't exist!

Birth of Jesus exactly matches all of the O.T. prophecies about Mashiach

These are clearly in LXX almost 300 years prior



- | | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 2 BC | <i>Born in Bethlehem Ephrathah</i> | Micah 5:2 |
| 1 BC | <i>Magi from Persia-Parthia</i> | Matthew 2:1-16 |
| 2-29 | <i>Raised in Nazareth until age 30</i> | Number 4:3 Luke 3:23 |
| 29 | <i>Begins ministry: a) Nazareth synagogue b) Jordan River</i> | |
| 30 | <i>Passover-1</i> | John 2:13 |
| 31 | <i>Passover-2</i> | John 6:4 |
| 32 | <i>Passover-3</i> | John 12:1 April 6 exact date from Daniel 9 |
| | <i>Crucified by Romans, Pontius Pilate</i> Nisan 14 Passover | |
| | <i>Raised</i> Nisan 17 Feast of First Fruits 3 days + 3 nights | |
| | | Matthew 12:40 |



9 AD Born in Tarsus of Cilicia

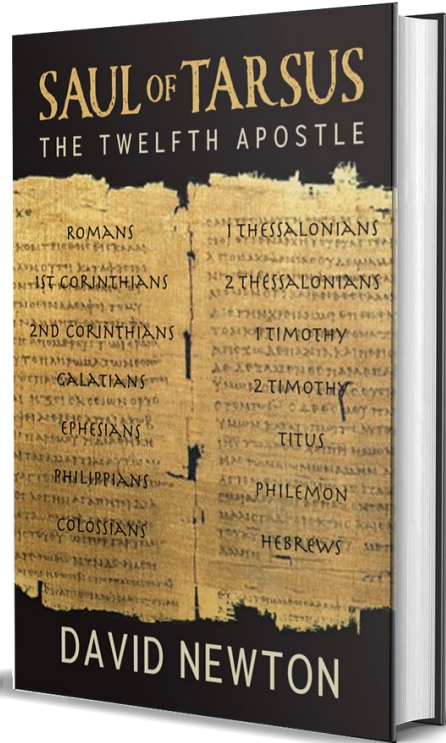
23 Jerusalem age 14 - Study with Gamaliel - Pharisee like his father

29 Six yrs into studies age 20 as Jesus turns 30 and begins His ministry

32 Zealous Pharisee age 23 as Jesus crucified on Passover Nisan-14 April-10
Very likely in Jerusalem 7 weeks later during Feast of Pentecost when
3,000 new believers were baptized.

32-34 After resurrection, age 23-to-25, actively hostile toward new religion
“The Way”. Likely time Saul was present at the stoning of Stephen.

Writers



34-36 Age 25-to-27 builds reputation – Zealous persecution

36 Age 27 at Damascus with letters from Council in Jerusalem

36-39 Does not immediately go into full-time ministry of Gospel

Acts 9:22 In Damascus right after his conversion

Acts 9:26 Initial short trip to Jerusalem

Galatians 1:17 Into Arabia [2 years] then back to Damascus [age 30 in 39 AD]

Acts 9:30 Sailed from Caesarea-to-Tarsus

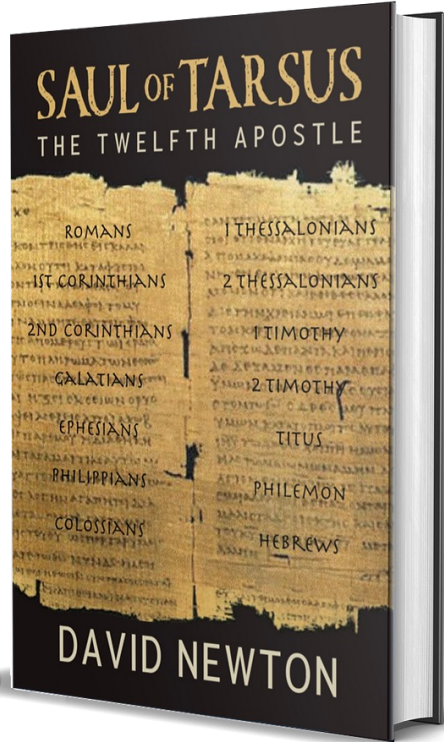
Acts 11:25 Barnabas goes to Tarsus to find Saul

Acts 11:26 Returns to Syrian-Antioch [stays 1 year]

Galatians 1:18 After three years he went to Jerusalem Gal. 2:9 John too!

39-67 *Saul blessed with 28 years to minister throughout Mediterranean Basin*

Writers



Mid 46 - late 47AD

First Mission Trip

Mid 51 - Mid 54

Second Mission Trip

- First letter to Thessalonica 51/52 2nd letter 52/53
- First Corinth letter 54 from Ephesus

Mid 54 - Mid 57

Third Mission Trip

- Letter to Galatia 54/55 from Ephesus
- Second Corinth letter 55 from Philippi
- Letter to Romans 57 from Corinth

61-62

House Arrest in Rome

- Letter to Philemon 61/62 from Rome
- Letters to Ephesus Philippi Colossae 62 from Rome

63-67

After House Arrest . . . Then to Mamertine

- First letter to Timotheus 62 from Macedonia
- Letter to Titus 62 from Macedonia
- Letter to Hebrew nation 62/63 from Macedonia
- Second letter to Timotheus 64/65 from Mamertine in Rome

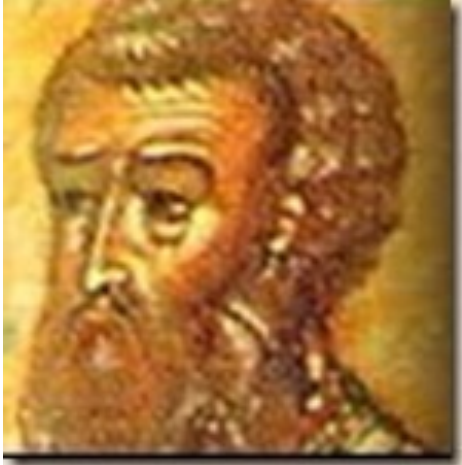


55 AD

Writings of Thallus lost - but quoted by Julius Africanus in 220
re: physical darkness in **sky at the crucifixion of Jesus:**

*“On the whole world there pressed a most **fearful darkness**
and the rocks were rent by **an earthquake**, and many places in
Judea and other districts were **thrown down**, this darkness
Thallus in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me
without reason, **an eclipse of the sun**”*

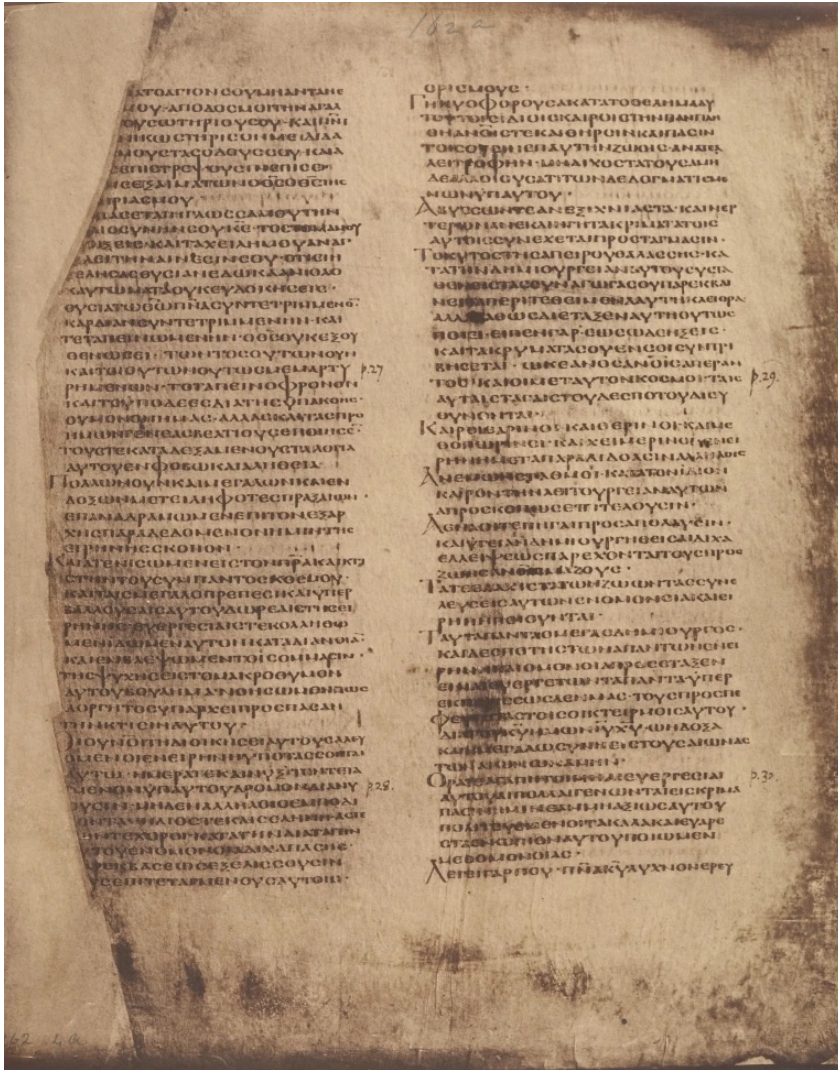
Woodcut-etching of Julius Africanus [1493]



73 AD

Mara bar-Sarapion - *Stoic philosopher in Syrian Province of Roman Empire. Taken captive by Rome - From prison wrote a letter in Syriac language to his son 3 years after the fall of Jerusalem:*

*“What advantage did the Athenians gain by murdering Socrates?
or the people of Samos by the burning of Pythagoras?
or the Jews by **killing their wise king**, because their kingdom was taken
away at that very time? God justly repaid the wisdom of these three:
Athenians died of famine - Samians completely overwhelmed by the sea
Jews left desolate driven from their land, scattered through every nation”*



50-157 AD

- *Didache 50-70* explains how Christians should act and **teachings of Jesus**, instructions for celebrating communion to remember His death and resurrection
- *Clement of Rome 70-97* Many statements about **Jesus**
- *Barnabas epistle 100* Cites **Matt. 22** exact same Greek
- *Papias 95-110* **learned of Jesus** from those who heard Him
- *Ignatius of Antioch* wrote the *Smyrna* in **110 AD**
Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate and Herod Tetrarch
- *Polycarp* wrote *Philippi* **110-140** **Jesus** lived and died
- *Quadratus* wrote emperor *Hadrian* **117-138** “works of our Savior were always present, for they were genuine”
- *Justin Martyr First Apology 155-157* **Jesus** was a teacher, he was crucified, he died and rose again

First Epistle of Clement - Codex Alexandrinus - British Museum.

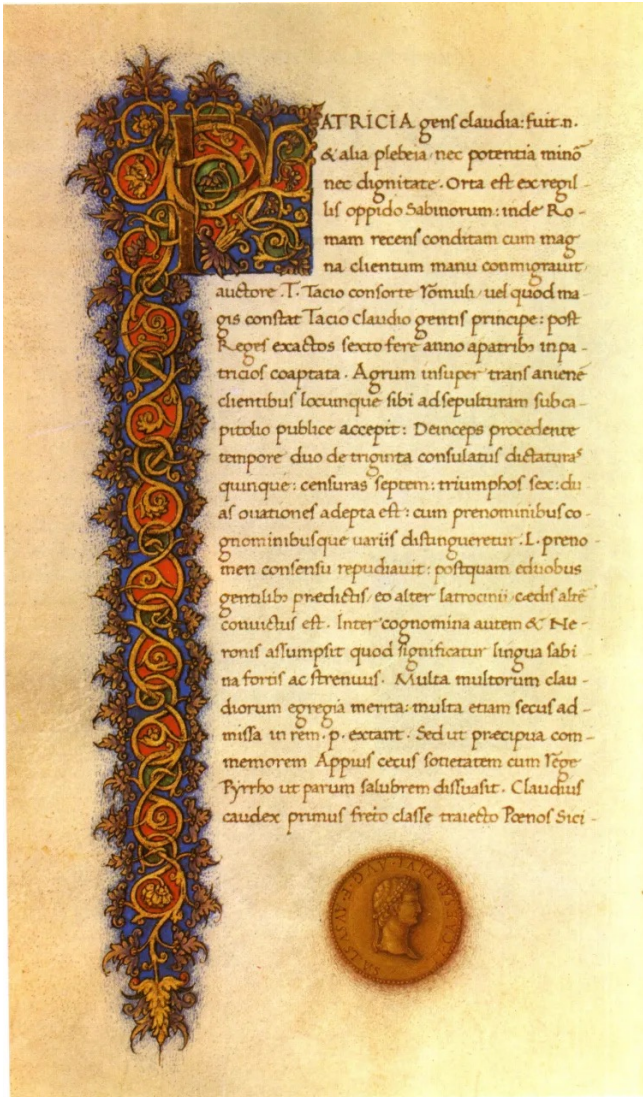


93 AD

- Renowned Jewish-Roman historian Flavius Josephus makes famous reference to Jesus in his work "Antiquities of the Jews"
- Virtually all historians, Christian and non-Christian, agree this passage in Greek was edited by a Christian scribe after the fact because the devout Jew Josephus would not have written:

"He [Jesus the Nazarene] was **the Christ**"

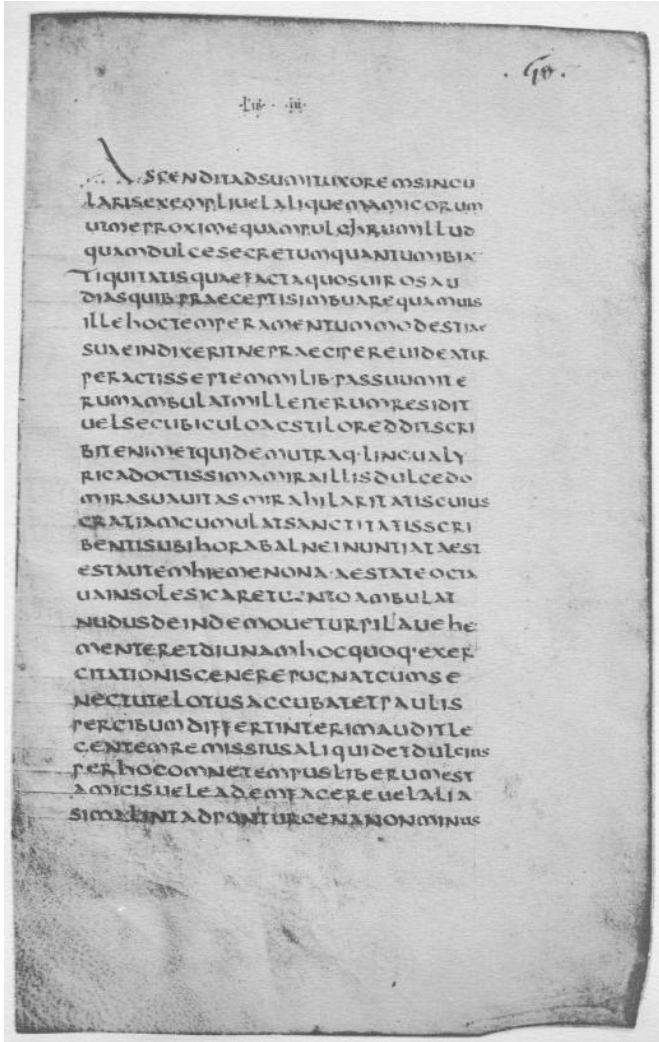
but it remains an excellent extra-Biblical source that makes reference to Jesus as being the 'Mashiach' [Anointed one].



112 AD

Suetonius - Roman historian - Most famous work *De vita Caesarum* [the Lives of the Caesars] Wrote a history about first 12 Caesars Julius Caesar to Domitian. In chapter on life of Emperor Claudius [41-54 AD] clearly stated the reason for the decision to expel all Jews from Rome [which is also found in **Acts 18:2**] he writes:

“Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of **Chrestus**, he expelled them from Rome”



112 AD

Pliny the Younger - Roman Governor of Bithynia Asia Minor.
Wrote to the Emperor Trajan asking for advice:

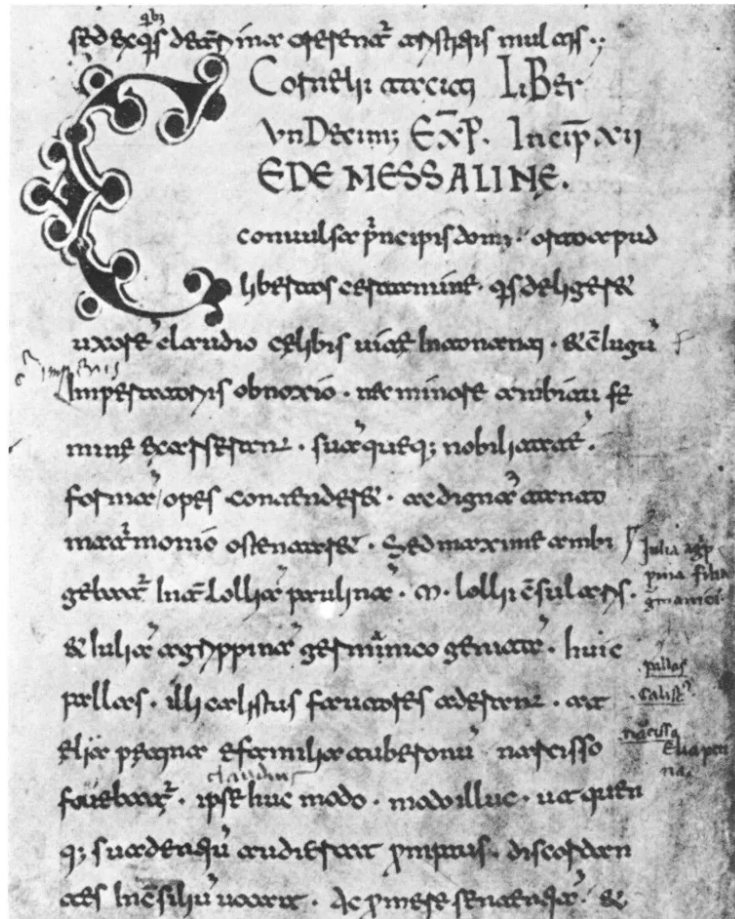
“... how to deal with these **‘Christians’** whom I am prosecuting for they are accustomed to meet before daybreak and to recite a hymn among themselves **to their Christ**, as though he were a god”

116AD

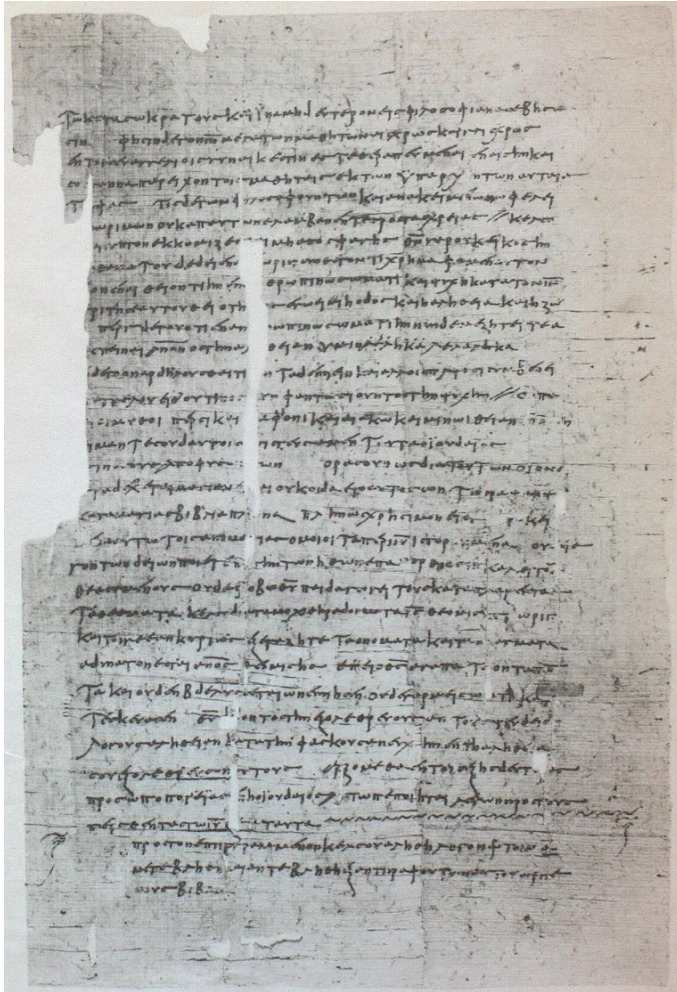
Famous Roman historian Tacitus - 2 primary essays:

a) *Annals* [Roman Empire 14-68 AD] b) *Histories* [69-96]

In the *Annals* Tacitus recounts:



“... open suspicions and accusations that Caesar-Nero was responsible for the burning of Rome - and he placed the blame and guilt, as well as devastating torture on one class of people he hated for their abominations – those called ‘Christians’ by the populace – **this man Christus**, from whom their name had its origin, **suffered the extreme penalty** during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus”



140 AD

Phlegon of Tralles book of history no longer exists but Origen cites several passages of Phlegon referring to Jesus:

*“Now Phlegon, in the thirteenth or fourteenth book, I think, of his Chronicles, not only **ascribed to Jesus** a knowledge of future events but also testified that the result corresponded to His predictions”*

Origen's Contra Celsum (Against Celsus) - Egyptian Museum



166 AD

*Lucian of Samosata - Famous Greek satirist - Referred to Jesus in classic work *The Death of Peregrine*, as he mocks **Christians**:*

*“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites and **was crucified on that account** . . . it was impressed on them by their original lawgiver that they are all brothers from the moment that they are converted, and deny the gods of Greece, and **worship instead the crucified sage**”*



175 AD

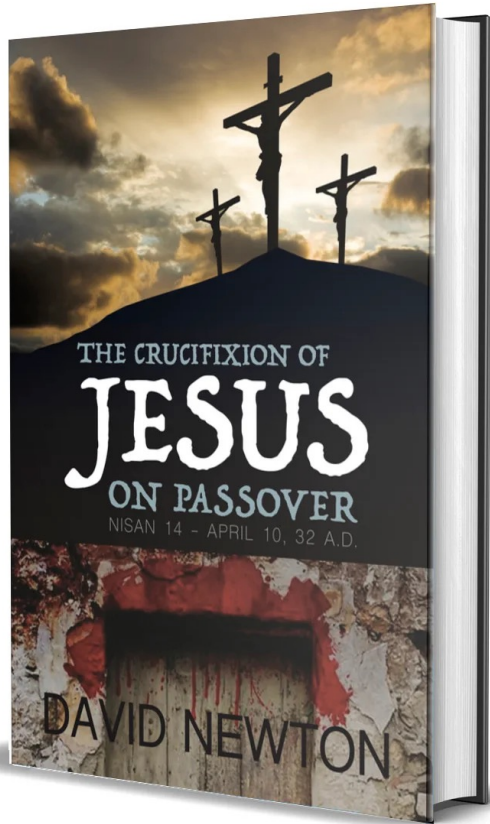
Celsus writes of a Jew who has direct discussion with **Jesus**

*“Who speaks in a very childish manner, altogether unworthy of the grey hairs of a philosopher, so let me endeavour, to the best of my ability, to examine his statements, and show that he does not maintain, throughout the discussion, the consistency due to the character of a Jew, for he represents him disputing with **Jesus**, and confuting Him, as he thinks, on many points”*

2. *Did Pontius Pilate have Jesus executed on a cross?*

- Overwhelming majority of scholars-theologians-historians agree:
Jesus WAS executed on Roman cross by Governor Pontius Pilate
- Very common death sentence execution [*dozens of Roman sources*]
- *Pilate* confirmed Governor of Syrian Province **26-36 AD**

Jesus crucified
Passover, Nisan-14
April 10 in **32 AD**



*Caesarea Maritima
stone found 1961*

JESUS

2. Did Pontius Pilate have Jesus executed on Roman cross?



- Newton photo from: Israel Museum, Jerusalem
- Photo below: 2nd Cent. AD near Cambridgeshire, England
- Jesus died *hanging low* [unable to push up to breath]
- Then *pierce heart* or *break legs* to speed up asphyxiation
- 2007 Italy 2,000 yr-old skeleton evidence of crucifixion
- Jesus buried “It’s what you do with dead people” [Habermas]
- Why specifically name 2 obscure no-names:
Joseph Arimathea + Nicodemus unless they DID bury Jesus
- Why set ‘story’ in Jerusalem? Worst location to pull off lie!
Smaller obscure = Bethany, Capernaum, Nazareth
Jerusalem: LOTS of people LOTS of Roman soldiers

JESUS

Roman crucifixion?

1. 2007 Italy 2,000 yr-old skeleton [2018 Archaeology and Anthropological Sciences]

2. Caiaphas ossuary *Kayafa son of Joseph* Flavius Josephus: “Joseph Caiaphas during the time of Jesus”



Contained 2 rusted iron nails *from a crucifixion*



3. Tombs found in 1968 has ossuary with broken tibia and fibula + both heel bones had nail driven thru [7 AD]

Newton photo Israel Museum, Jerusalem



Photo Golgotha from 1920 shows eyes, nose mouth of skull

Matt. 27:33 Mark 15:22 John 19:17

“near city but outside its walls” John 19:12 Hebrews 13:12

Probably crucified in front of ‘skull’



Newton photo 2022

[currently bus station-depot parking lot]

Located just outside city wall

Be Careful of more than 25 nails on display
around the world, ***all supposedly used to
crucify Jesus*** [Rome, Aachen, Prague, Venice . . .]

JESUS

3. Was Jesus Resurrected after Death?

- Jesus was executed by crucifixion and **DEAD** *Nails, asphyxiation, spear*
- Jesus was embalmed and **BURIED** *Joseph Arimathea Nicodemus*
- Tomb was guarded by professional Roman soldiers *Sanhedrin specific request*
- Tomb was **EMPTY** *Jerusalem hardest place to hide dead body [so many people]
Jerusalem easiest place to locate body [so many people]*
- “Passover Plot” [Hugh Schonfield, 1965] *Swoon theory entirely discredited in mid-1800s
Impossible for Jesus to simply be unconscious - Embalmed? Roll away the stone?*
- Mass hallucinations? *Certainly individual can hallucinate, but NEVER all have same*
- Wrong tomb? *Certainly Romans and Sanhedrin knew which sepulcher was for Jesus*



Garden Tomb, Jerusalem

1867 *discovered/unearthed*

1894 *purchased by charitable trust in UK*

2022 *right next to Golgotha 'skull' in bus-depot*

John 19:41 *at the place where Jesus was crucified there was a garden - and in the garden a new tomb in which no-one had ever been laid"*

Dr. Newton **YouTube** channel has 2 videos from Oct-2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N87dD9iTtwQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEe-AqeH7Fw>

JESUS

Resurrected?

‘See’ physical Jesus alive vs. ‘Believe saw’ Jesus alive?

One thing to *literally actually SEE* Jesus alive vs. “I believe I saw Jesus”

Gospel is NOT “*we believe Jesus was a special man, insightful teacher, great prophet*”
“*we think we saw Him*”

Gospel IS “*we saw Jesus alive AFTER He was executed by Roman crucifixion*”

Paul **1st Corin. 15** *Gospel is Jesus died Jesus buried according to OT scriptures*
Jesus raised to life again according to OT

v. 12-19 *If Jesus has not been raised, preaching is in Vain. Faith in Vain*
We are all false witnesses! Your faith is worthless

Hundreds of people *could have* halted Gospel right at its founding after resurrection

What of Peter? James was major skeptic? Saul hostile adversary?

Peter [**Acts 2:29-32**] and Saul [**Acts 13:29**] specifically emphasize that the body of Jesus
DID NOT decompose – contrast to Jewish King David *fulfills* **Psalms 16:10**

JESUS

Resurrected?

Charles Colson and several forensic detectives agree: *FALSE testimony always implodes to avoid penalties for lying* - WHY would Peter, James, Jude, John, Saul die for a lie?

If Jesus resurrected after death . . . He would HAVE to be God

Jesus used **"Son of Man"** of Himself - from **Daniel 7:13-14** VERY prophetic title

Jesus as **"Son of God"** Others said this of Jesus [*demons, centurion, angel, Nathanael
Jews, rabbis, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees*]

Jesus confirms **John 8:58** **Matt. 16:15-17** **Luke 1:35 22:70** **John 10:36 11:34 20:31**

JESUS: Option-1 *Jesus never claimed this*

Option-2 *Jesus claimed this - it wasn't true and knew it = LIAR*

Option-3 *Jesus claimed this - it wasn't true but He believed it = LUNATIC*

Option-4 *Jesus claimed this - it is true = HE IS GOD*

NO other religion states: *Our leader-founder was dead and then resurrected to life*
Abraham, Buddha, Muhammed, Zarathustra

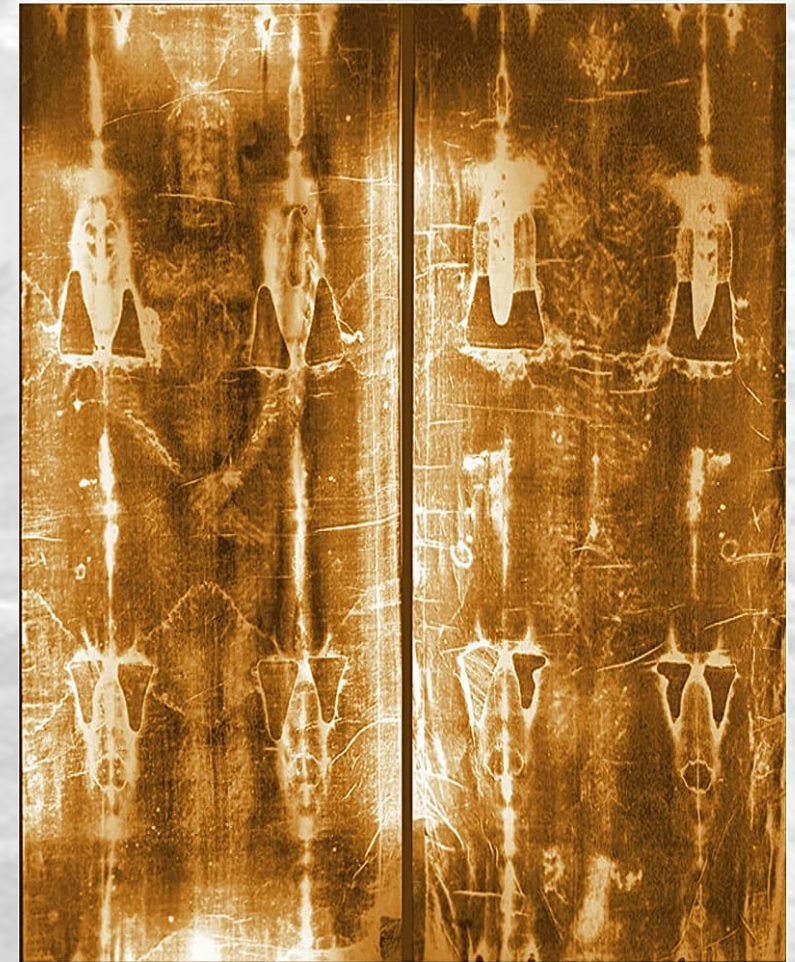
One very interesting-provocative Archaeological Debate about Jesus

Shroud of Turin

Literally dozens of scientific tests-experiments cannot explain how the image got melded into the fabric.

Multiple independent studies have attempted to replicate image-transfers to fabric, but all unsuccessful.

Books, videos, scientific conferences, DVDs, television specials, journal articles CONTINUE the debate



Another interesting-provocative Archaeological Debate about Jesus

James Ossuary

*Found in 2002 in
Kidron Valley below
Temple Mount*

Dates to 1st Century AD
Aramaic inscription:



Yaakov bar Yoseph akhui d Yeshua

Jacob son Joseph brother of Jesus
[James]

*Chemical and spectroscopy
tests of limestone stone and patina
some confirm vs. others say 'hoax'*

Take Aways

- *Significant amount and strong content evidence for Jesus, from Nazareth, executed by Roman Pontius Pilate, and Raised from the dead*
- *VERY small minority says no such person + NT books non-historical*
- *We are in 4th stage: “3rd Quest for Historical Jesus”*
- *Gospels - Acts - Paul’s Letters generally accepted as HISTORICAL accounts*
*Excellent “**Verisimilitude**” confirms reliable content and contexts*
- *Close in 1st + 2nd Century AD writers/historians strong support for NT Books*
- *Jesus + Saul timelines very strong historical “fit” with Roman calendar of events*
- *Numerous Extra-Biblical writers reference 1st Century Jesus*
- *Strong evidence of Pontius Pilate and Roman crucifixion in **32 AD** Judea*
- *Strong evidence of a) Death b) Burial c) Empty Tomb d) Eye-witness sightings*

LET’S NOT FORGET! Calendar of the planet is based on birth of Jesus

Jesus of Nazareth

Gary Habermas

Evidence for the Historical Jesus [2020]

The Historical Jesus [1996]

McDowell+Williams

Evidence for the Historical Jesus [2011]

Jeff Sheler

Is The Bible True? [1989] chapters 17-22 'Historical Jesus'

Paul Maier

Genuine Jesus: Evidence from History and Archaeology [2021]

APOLOGETICS

E.P. Sanders

The Historical Figure of Jesus [1993]

Eastman and Smith

The Search for Messiah [1993]

Ehrman and Evans

Can We Trust the Bible on the Historical Jesus? [2020]

απολογία

Lee Strobel

The Case for Christ [1998]

Titus Kennedy

Excavating the Evidence for Jesus [2022]

Ian Wilson

The Bible is History [2000]

Robert Hutchinson

Searching For Jesus [2015]



Summer Series in Apologetics

with Dr. Dave Newton

NEXT STUDY - Monday July 31st

Logical Segue Session-7 to Session-8

Is there such thing as Evil?

WHY is there pain, suffering, death?

What about Morality, Reason, Critical-Thinking, Logic?

ἀπολογία