



Evidence for Jesus Outside The Bible

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1. Claudius (Reigned AD 41-AD 54)

Claudius was an Emperor of the Roman Empire from AD 41-AD 54. He had a limp and slight deafness from a childhood illness. He is known for his prowess as a builder.

He wrote about the fire of Rome in AD 64 in which the Christians were blamed and subsequently tortured:

“Nero inflicted punishment on the Christians, a sect given to a new and mischievous religious belief.”

Lives of the Caesars, 26.2/Seutonius (69-122 AD)

Describing the Expulsion of the Jews in AD 49

“Because the Jews at Rome caused constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus (Christ), he (Claudius) expelled them from the city (Rome).”

-Life of Claudius, 25:4/Seutonius (69-122 AD)



2) Pliny the Younger (61-113AD)

Pliny the Younger was not a Christian and wrote to the Emperor Trajan describing Christians at the time.



“They (the Christians) were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food—but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.”

-(Epistulae X.96)

3) *Mara Bar-Serapion* (70AD)

He was a Syrian who wrote a letter to his son. He described Jesus among other noted historical figures and referred to him as a “wise king” of the Jews.

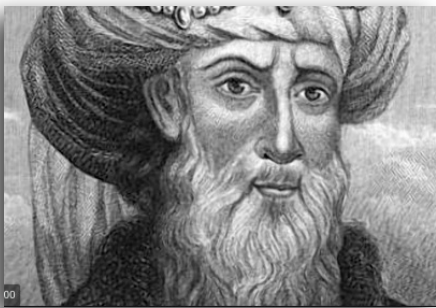


“What benefit did the Athenians obtain by putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as judgment for their crime. Or, the people of Samos for burning Pythagoras? In one moment their country was covered with sand. Or the Jews by murdering their wise king?...After that their kingdom was abolished. God rightly avenged these men...The wise king...Lived on in the teachings he enacted.”

- Syriac Manuscript, Additional 14,658 (British Museum)

4). *Josephus* (37-101AD)

Josephus was a Roman Jewish historian and was eyewitness to much of what he recorded.



“Now around this time lived Jesus, a wise man. For he was a worker of amazing deeds and was a teacher of people who gladly accept the truth. He won over both many Jews and many Greeks. Pilate, when he heard him accused by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, (but) those who had first loved him did not cease (doing so). To this day the tribe of Christians named after him has not disappeared”).

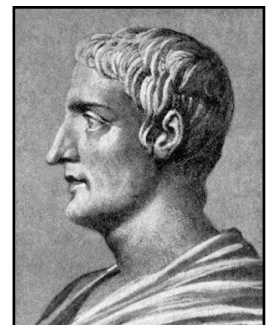
Jewish Antiquities (18.3,3 Pg 63)

On an unlawful execution, Josephus identifies the victim, James, as the “brother of Jesus-who-is-called-Messiah”

- *Jewish Antiquities* (Book 20, Chapter 9, 1)

5) *Tacitus* (56-120AD)

Cornelius Tacitus is a highly regarded historian of his day. He was a senator and proconsul for a season, and had a keen eye for analysis of historical documents.



“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of

Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their centre and become popular.”

—*The Annals*, Book 15, chapter 44



original
converted, and
his laws. All
worldly goods

Lucian, *The*

6) Lucian of Samosata: (115-200 A.D.)

Lucian was a Greek who wrote satirical literature. But in doing so he testifies to Jesus.

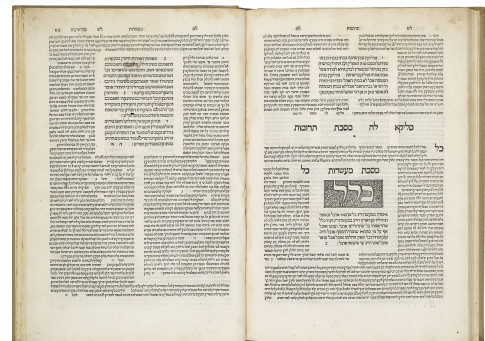
“The Christians, you know, worship a man to this day—the distinguished personage who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account....You see, these misguided creatures start with the general conviction that they are immortal for all time, which explains the contempt of death and voluntary self-devotion which are so common among them; and then it was impressed on them by their lawgiver that they are all brothers, from the moment that they are deny the gods of Greece, and worship the crucified sage, and live after this they take quite on faith, with the result that they despise all alike, regarding them merely as common property.”

Death of Peregrine. 11-133

7) The Babylonian Talmud (AD 70-200)

The Babylonian Talmud was the commentary and opinions of the rabbis in Babylon.

On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald ... cried, "He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to apostasy."



—*The Babylonian Talmud*, transl. by I. Epstein (London: Soncino, 1935), vol. III, Sanhedrin 43a, 281, cited in Habermas, *The Historical Jesus*, 203.

8) **Phlegon (80-140AD)**

Julius Africanus mentions the historian Phlegon who wrote around AD 140. Phelgon is also mentioned by Origen who was an educated early church father and influential for his time.

“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 Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 14

“And with regard to the eclipse in the time of Tiberius Caesar, in whose reign Jesus appears to have been crucified, and the great earthquakes which then took place ... ”

Origen Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 33

“Jesus, while alive, was of no assistance to himself, but that he arose after death, and exhibited the marks of his punishment, and showed how his hands had been pierced by nails.”

Origen Against Celsus, Book 2, Chapter 59
