

“3BQ”

Three Big Questions

CLASS 1

“DID JESUS EXIST?”

“Always be prepared to give an answer
to everyone who asks you to give the
reason for the hope that you have.”

-(1 Peter 3:15 NIV11)

HAHAHA!



YOU ARE A

LOSER

“But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.”

-(1 Peter 3:15 -16 NIV11)

TACITUS

55/56 -c. 118 C.E.



116-117 C.E.

[illegible]

nero . Quercus.

Christiani

Tibia
post pilat

Nervio octo

“Neither human effort nor the emperor's generosity nor the placating of the gods ended the scandalous belief that the fire had been ordered by Nero. Therefore, to put down the rumour, Nero substituted as culprits and punished in the most usual ways those hated for their shameful acts ... whom the crowd called “Chrestians.” The founder of this name, Christ [Christus in Latin], had been executed in the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius pilate ... Suppressed for a time, the deadly superstition erupted again not only in Judea, the origin of this evil, but also in the city [Rome], where all things horrible and shameful from everywhere come together and become popular.”

-Book XV of the “Annals”

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

“Neither human effort nor the emperor's generosity nor the placating of the gods ended the scandalous belief that the fire had been ordered by Nero. Therefore, to put down the rumour, Nero substituted as culprits and punished in the most usual ways those hated for their shameful acts ... whom the crowd called “Chrestians.” The founder of this name, Christ [Christus in Latin], had been executed in the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius pilate ... Suppressed for a time, the deadly superstition erupted again not only in Judea, the origin of this evil, but also in the city [Rome], where all things horrible and shameful from everywhere come together and become popular.”

WE KNOW THIS ABOUT JESUS

- Christus existed
- Founded the movement
- Gave his 'name' to the movement
- Executed by Roman governor of Judea
- During governorship of Pontius Pilate
- During reign of Tiberius
- Christianity spread to Rome
- Christianity began in Judaea



JOSEPHUS

37-38 - early 2ndC C.E.

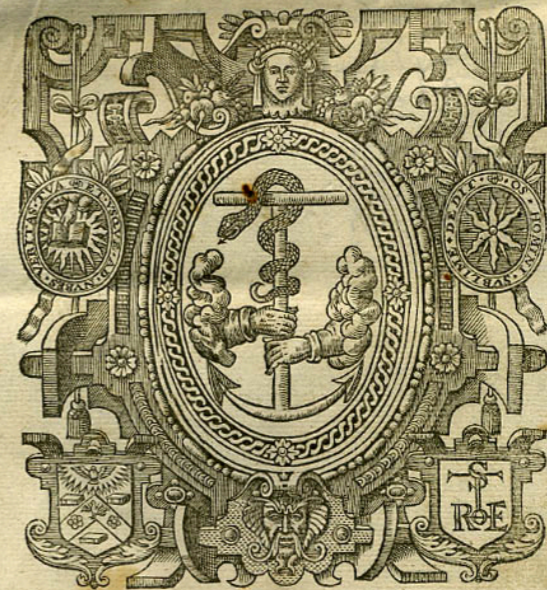
JEWISH ANTIQUITIES 93-94 C.E.

FAMOUS AND MEMORABLE WORKS OF JOSEPHUS, A MAN OF MUCH HONOUR AND LEARNING AMONG THE JEWS.

Faithfully translated out of the Latin, and French, by
Tho. Lodge, Doctor in Physick.

Whereunto are newly added the references of the Scriptures
throughout the History, and afterwards collected into a Table.

*Bernardus Epistola ad Sugerium.
Tunc recentia jucundius bona clarescent, cum fuerint malis comparata
prioribus.*



LONDON,
Printed by *J. L.* for *Andrew Hebb*, and are to be sold
at the signe of the Bell in Saint Pauls
Church-yard. 1640.

“Being therefore this kind of person [i.e. a heartless Sadducee], Ananias, thinking that he had a favourable opportunity because Festus had died and Albinus was still on his way, called a meeting [literally, “Sanhedrin”] of judges and brought into it the brother of Jesus-who-is-called-Messiah...James by name, and some others. He made the accusation that they had transgressed the law, and he handed them over to be stoned.”

-*“Jewish Antiquities” Book 20*

“Around this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, *if indeed one ought to call him a man*. For he was one who did surprising deeds, and a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. *He was the Messiah*.

When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by men of the highest standing among us, had condemned him to be crucified, those who in the first place came to love him did not give up their affection for him, *for on the third day, he appeared to them restored to life*.

The prophets of God had prophesied this and countless other marvellous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, so-called after him, have still to this day not died out.”

-“*Jewish Antiquities*” Book 18

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT JESUS?

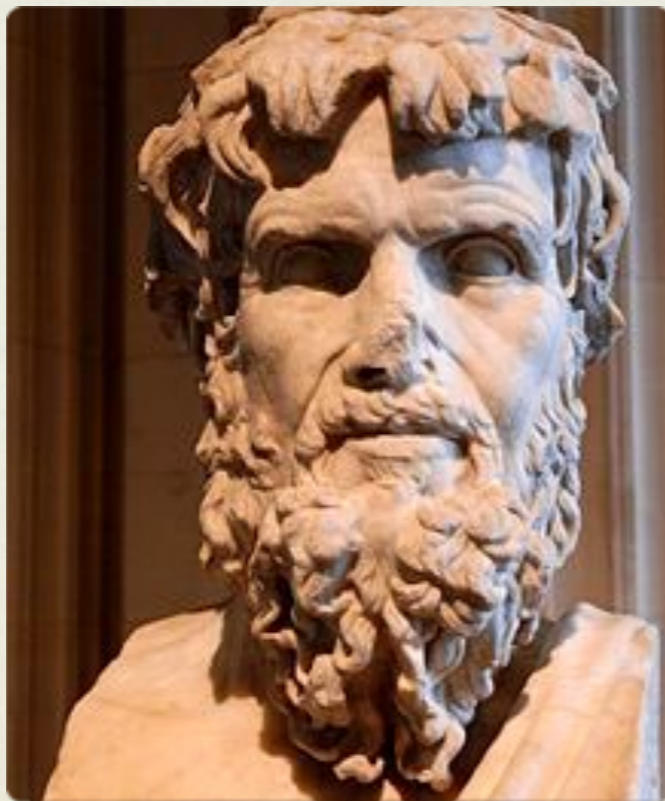
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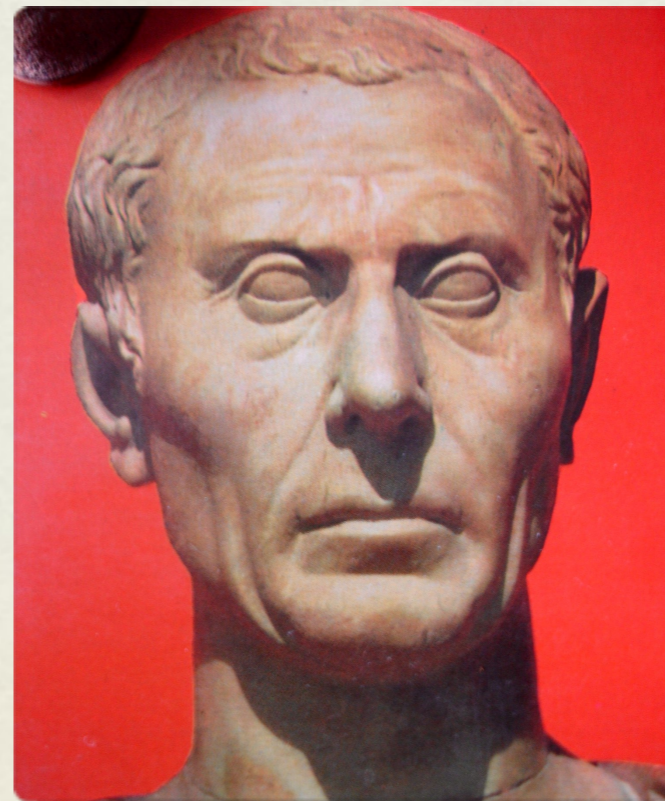
WE KNOW THIS ABOUT JESUS

- Jesus existed as a man.
- He was called “Jesus”.
- He was known as someone who did “surprising deeds”.
- He was known as a teacher of truth.
- His ministry was effective with Jewish people and Greeks.
- He was accused by ruling Jewish authorities.
- Pilot sentenced him to crucifixion.
- His followers continued their discipleship.
- His followers were called Christians.
- He was known as Messiah.
- He founded a new movement.
- It was still thriving at the time of writing.

Lucian of Samosata Pliny the younger Mara bar Serapion



Celsus



Suetonius

“If any Jewish writer were ever in a position to know about the non-existence of Jesus, it would have been Josephus. His implicit affirmation of the existence of Jesus has been, and still is, the most significant obstacle for those who argue that the extra-biblical evidence is not probative.”

-Robert Van Voorst

NO DISPUTE

- Early writers
- Romans
- Rabbinic Judaism

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS

1. How does this evidence effect your view of Jesus?
2. How does this evidence effect your view of Christianity?
3. Would you like to know more?

“Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.”

-(John 7:17 NIV11)



TACITUS



JOSEPHUS

“3BQ”

Next week: “Did Jesus Rise?”