

## Let Me Introduce You

*“To the Historical Jesus”*

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Thread: **Let me introduce you to the historical Jesus.**

### **Flavius Josephus (37-100AD)**

“At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus, and his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and the other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon their loyalty to him. They reported that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion, and that he was alive. Accordingly they believed that he was the Messiah, concerning whom the Prophets have recounted wonders.”

### **Josephus second quote**

“Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the Sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned.”

*“When this happened, I did not rush out to consult with any human being. <sup>17</sup> Nor did I go up to Jerusalem to consult with those who were apostles before I was. Instead, I went away into Arabia, and later I returned to the city of Damascus. <sup>18</sup> Then three days. <sup>19</sup> The only other apostle I met at that time was James, the Lord’s brother. <sup>20</sup> I declare before God that what I am writing to you is not a lie.”* **Galatians 1:16-20 NLT**

*<sup>55</sup> Then they scoffed, “He’s just the carpenter’s son, and we know Mary, his mother, and his brothers—James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas.”* **Matthew 13:55 NLT**

### **Cornelius Tacitus (56-117AD)**

“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 Judaea, 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. Accordingly, an arrest was first made of all who pleaded guilty; then, upon their information,

an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.”

### **Thallus (5AD-60AD)**

“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.” (Julius Africanus, Chronography, 18:1)

*<sup>44</sup> By this time it was about noon, and darkness fell across the whole land until three o’clock. <sup>45</sup> The light from the sun was gone. And suddenly, the curtain in the sanctuary of the Temple was torn down the middle.* **Luke 23:44-45 NLT**

### **Pliny the Younger (61-113AD)**

“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.”

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

“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.”

### **What do we learn from outside sources?**

“Jesus was born and lived in Palestine. He was born, supposedly, to a virgin and had an earthly father who was a carpenter. He was a teacher who taught that through repentance and belief, all followers would become brothers and sisters. He led the Jews away from their beliefs. He was a wise man who claimed to be God and the Messiah. He had unusual magical powers and performed miraculous deeds. He healed the lame. He accurately predicted the future. He was persecuted by the Jews for what He said, betrayed by Judah Iscariot. He was beaten with rods, forced to drink vinegar and wear a crown of thorns. He was crucified on the eve of the Passover and this crucifixion occurred under the direction of Pontius Pilate, during the time of

Tiberius. On the day of His crucifixion, the sky grew dark and there was an earthquake. Afterward, He was buried in a tomb and the tomb was later found to be empty. He appeared to His disciples resurrected from the grave and showed them His wounds. These disciples then told others Jesus was resurrected and ascended into heaven. Jesus' disciples and followers upheld a high moral code. The disciples were also persecuted for their faith but were martyred without changing their claims. They met regularly to worship Jesus, even after His *death*." **Is There Any Evidence for Jesus Outside the Bible? - Wallace**

### **Challenges:**

1. Is there anything that you are resisting God about that He has asked you to do or to stop doing?
2. This is about gaining confidence that what we have in the Bible is trustworthy. Your faith is not in vain.
3. This is about helping others who do have these questions.

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