

# Evidence for Jesus Christ

## Secular evidence for the Existence of Jesus

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Christianity is based upon the historically documented life of Jesus. His story has been told for more than 2,000 years and was prophesied for hundreds more. Churches

honoring Jesus have been built in every corner of the world in remembrance of His crucifixion and love for humanity. If you travelled the world and asked the question, “Who is Jesus?” Most people would reply by saying that Jesus was a man, a prophet and some may even say, He was the Son of God. Modern and early historians are unanimous in their account that a man known as Jesus lived in the first century. He is referred to as a teacher, a man of wonderful works, a person with abundant radical followers. His crucifixion and his resurrection are documented by these very historians. These individuals were mostly pagan and hostile towards Christianity. They discuss mystical occurrences credited to Jesus and often attribute the miracles and wonders to sorcery.

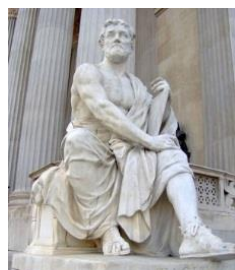
There is an abundance of non-biblical, historical evidence that supports the existence of Jesus. Following are ten examples of non-Christian sources documenting the existence of Jesus and His group of believers known as Christians. Modern scholars, secular and non, universally acknowledge the authenticity of these references, thus proving without doubt, the historical evidence of the existence of Jesus.

### 1. Emperor Nero AD 15-68.

Nero blamed the Christians (the name given to the followers for their belief in Jesus Christ) for the fire that destroyed Rome in 64 AD.

### 2. Tacitus (a Roman senator) 55-120 AD.

Scholars consider Tacitus’s references of the execution of Jesus by Pontius Pilate to be both authentic and of historical value as an independent Roman source. His writings refer to the Christians’ superstitions, their punishments and subsequent torture.



Tacitus Vienna Parliament

### 3. Suetonius (a Roman court official) 49 AD.

He recorded that there were Christians in Rome less than 20 years after Jesus’s execution. He reported that they were suffering and dying for their faith and conviction that Jesus lived, died, and rose from the dead.

### 4. Pliny the Younger (the Roman governor) 112 AD.

He wrote to Emperor Trajan, seeking advice as to how to treat the Christians. He recounts that he had killed Christian men, women and children. He explained his concern that Christians chose death over bowing to a statue of the emperor or cursing Jesus.

### 5. Thallus (a secular historian) AD 52.

He was quoted by other historians of the time as saying the darkness enveloped the land during the late afternoon hours when Jesus died by crucifixion.

### 6. Phlegon (a secular historian) AD 80.

He comments in his chronicles on the darkness at the time of Christ’s crucifixion.

### 7. Mara Bar-Serapion (a Syrian philosopher) 70 AD.

He compared Jesus to the philosophers Socrates and Pythagoras.

### 8. Lucian of Samosate (a Greek satirist) AD 120-180.

He spoke scornfully of Jesus and the Christians. He said, “the Christians worship a man to this day...the person who introduced their novel rites, and was crucified on that account.”

### 9. The Babylonian Talmud – (A vast collection of Jewish laws and traditions (non-Christian)) Written

between the 2nd-5th century. Traditions taught that Jesus was accused of practicing sorcery and that he was hanged on the eve of the Passover (hanged was another term for crucifixion).

### 10. Josephus (a Jewish priest & historian) AD 37-100.

He refers to Jesus’s works, followers, and His crucifixion. Josephus wrote: “Now there was a man about this time, Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call Him a man, for He was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher of men as to receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews and Gentiles. He was the Christ, and when Pilate at the suggestion of the principal men among us had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again the third day; as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him, and the tribe of Christians so named from him are not extinct at this day.”