

JESUS – MAN OR MYTH? EVIDENCE IN DEFENSE OF CHRISTIANITY

ERICH KLEINSCHMIDT – 2016

What in the world does the word “apologetics” mean?



THE SERIES PLAN

Week One – Reasons for this study series & evidence for Jesus' existence


Week Two - Jesus' miracles – reality or legend?

Week Three – Proof from Old Testament that Jesus is the Messiah

Week Four – The resurrection of Jesus



TODAY'S TOPICS

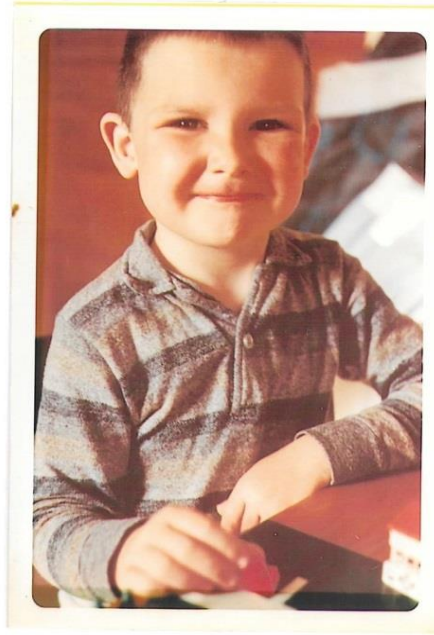
- Introductions
 - Why study evidences for Christianity?
 - My background and my reasons for doing this
 - Evidence for the reality that Jesus was real (not a myth)
- 

DOUBT HAPPENS



LUKE 7:16-23







AllHatNoCattle.com 4-28-05

HOW WOULD YOU PROVE JESUS EXISTED?



JESUS IN SOURCES OUTSIDE THE BIBLE

From the Talmud – 1st & 2nd century rabbinical teachings and commentaries:

“On the eve of the Passover, they hanged Yeshu and the herald went before him for forty days saying (Yeshu) is going forth to be stoned in that he practiced sorcery and beguiled and led astray Israel” Babylonia Sanhedrin 43a

What is this not saying?



Roman historian, Cornelius Tacitus (AD 55-120)

Wrote two major works covering Roman political history (Annals & Histories) that occurred mainly during his lifetime

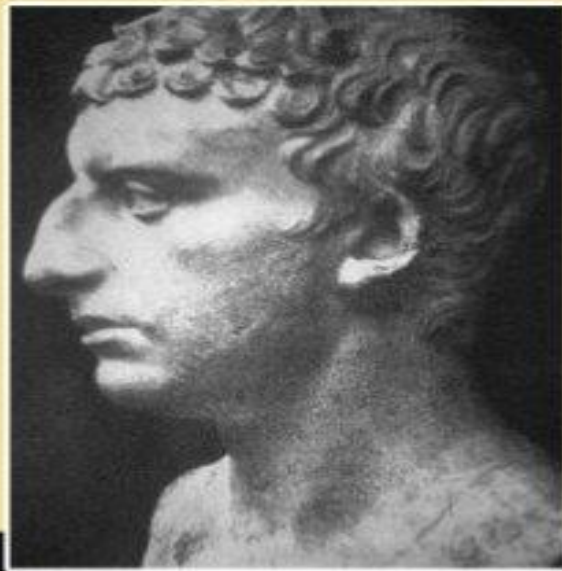
“...nor all the atonements which could be presented to the gods, availed to relieve Nero from the infamy of being believed to have ordered the conflagration, the fire of Rome. Hence to suppress the rumor, he falsely charged with the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities. **Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius:** but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time, broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also.”

Cornelius Tacitus, Annals, XV, 44



Halcyon Classics

THE ANTIQUITIES OF **THE JEWS**



FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS

Testimonium Flavianum

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Christ. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared. Flavius Josephus: Antiquities of the Jews, Book 18, Chapter 3, 3[52]

JESUS - NOT MYTH OR LEGEND

Virtually no modern historian would claim that Jesus did not exist

Bible is a record of history as well as the foundation of our faith

Can't deny Jesus existed – now what will you do?

Next week – miracles of Jesus – fact or fiction?



FOR FURTHER READING:

The Case for Christ – Lee Strobel

Reasons For Belief – John M. Oakes (check IPI books)

His website: evidenceforchristianity.org

Compelling Evidence for God and the Bible - Douglas A. Jacoby

Numerous other references for further readings within these books

