

A real man

BIG QUESTION

Was Jesus a real person?



Nearly every historian, Christian or not, agrees that Jesus really lived. He was a Jewish teacher, he gathered followers, and the Romans crucified him around AD 30.

Two famous writers who were not Christians wrote about him: the Jewish historian Josephus, around AD 93, and the Roman senator Tacitus, around AD 116.

Diggers keep finding names from the Gospels. In 1961, a stone at Caesarea turned up carved with “Pontius Pilatus... Prefect of Judea.” In 1990, workers found a bone box marked “Joseph son of Caiaphas,” the high priest at Jesus's trial.

And we have more than 5,800 old copies of the New Testament in Greek, so we know what the writers really wrote.

Time line

Number these from 1 to 5, from longest ago to most recent. The story has the dates.

- ☐ Archaeologists find Pilate's name carved in stone.
- ☐ Tacitus writes about Christ.
- ☐ The Romans crucify Jesus.
- ☐ Workers find the bone box of Caiaphas.
- ☐ Josephus writes about Jesus.

Answers: 1. The Romans crucify Jesus. 2. Josephus writes about Christ. 3. Tacitus writes about Christ. 4. Archaeologists find Pilate's name carved in stone. 5. Workers find the bone box of Caiaphas.

Memory verse

“But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.”

John 20:31

Fill it in: “But these are _____ that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have _____ in his name.” John 20:31

I can say it! ☆ ☆ ☆ Color a star each time you say it.

★ Bonus verse

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14



Look it up!

Find each verse in a Bible. Write the answer on the line.

Luke 3:1

Who was governor of Judea?

John 11:49

Who was high priest that year?

John 9:7

Where did Jesus tell the blind man to wash?

Mark 2:5

What did Jesus tell the paralyzed man?

Talk about it

1. Why does it help that people who weren't Christians wrote about Jesus?
2. Why would finding Pilate's name in stone matter?
3. Jesus told a man, “Your sins are forgiven.” Who can forgive sins?

Answers: 1. Pontius Pilate 2. Caiaphas 3. the Pool of Siloam 4. Son, your sins are forgiven



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