



BIG QUESTION

Did Jesus really exist?



Historians test anyone from the ancient world the same way, and Jesus passes. The oldest accounts of Alexander the Great were written about 300 years after he died, and nobody doubts he lived. Jesus was crucified around AD 30, and within about twenty years Paul was writing letters we still have. Paul had stayed with Peter and met “James, the Lord’s brother.”

Then come writers outside the church. Josephus, a Jewish historian, wrote around AD 93. Pliny, a Roman governor, wrote to the emperor about Christians around AD 112. And Tacitus, a Roman senator who despised Christians, wrote around AD 116 that “Christus” was put to death under Pontius Pilate.



Time line

Number these from 1 to 5, from earliest to latest. The story has the dates.

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Tacitus writes about Christus.

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The Romans crucify Jesus.

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Josephus writes about Jesus.

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Paul writes letters we still have.

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Pliny writes to the emperor about Christians.

Memory verse

“But what about you?” he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah.’”

Mark 8:29

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

Talk about it

1. Which evidence would you show a friend who thinks Jesus was made up?
2. Why would no Christian forger call his own faith “a most mischievous superstition”?
3. Who do you say Jesus is?



Watch the video