

6. "How do you know Jesus even existed?"

Of course, the New Testament, which has proven to be a reliable historical record, attests to Jesus' life. On top of that, at least 39 sources outside of the Bible attest to more than a hundred facts regarding Jesus' life, teachings, crucifixion, and resurrection.<sup>10</sup> For example, Flavius Josephus, a first-century Jewish historian, affirms not only that Jesus lived but also that He was "a doer of amazing deeds," that "Pilate condemned Him to be crucified to die," that He was a teacher who "won over many Jews and many of the Greeks," and that He was reportedly seen alive by His disciples after His crucifixion.

The Babylonian Talmud is a collection of ancient Jewish writings. This extra-biblical source also mentions Jesus, even saying that He was killed on the eve of Passover, just as the biblical account describes. Other non-canonical sources include the Roman historian Tacitus, the Didache, Pliny the Younger, Suetonius, and the Gnostic Gospels (such as the Gospel of Thomas). The Encyclopedia Britannica, fifteenth edition, devotes 20,000 words to the person of Jesus Christ and never once hints that He didn't exist. The evidence is certain. Jesus of Nazareth was a real person.

On Jesus:

"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 to die. And those who had become His disciples did not abandon His discipleship. They reported that He had appeared to them three days after His crucifixion and that He was alive."

Flavius Josephus (AD 37—100), first-century Roman historian. *The Antiquities of the Jews*, 18:3