

EXTRA-BIBLICAL QUOTES REGARDING JESUS BEFORE AD 200.

- **Flavius Josephus (Roman historian, c. 93).** “Now there was 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 such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was [the] Christ. And when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst 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.” (*Antiquities of the Jews*, 18:3:3)
- **Pliny the Younger to Trajan (letter to Emperor, c. 110).** “However, they assured me that the main of their fault, or of their mistake was this: That they were wont, on a stated day, to meet together before it was light, and to sing a hymn to Christ, as to a god, alternately; and to oblige themselves by a sacrament [or oath], not to do anything that was ill: but that they would commit no theft, or pilfering, or adultery; that they would not break their promises, or deny what was deposited with them, when it was required back again; after which it was their custom to depart, and to meet again at a common but innocent meal.”
- **Tacitus (Roman historian, c. 115-120).** “To dispel the rumor, Nero substituted as culprits, and treated with the most extreme punishments, some people, popularly known as Christians, whose disgraceful activities were notorious. The originator of that name, Christus, had been executed when Tiberius was Emperor, by order of the procurator Pontius Pilatus. But the deadly cult, though checked for a time, was now breaking out again not only in Judea, the birthplace of this evil, but even throughout Rome, where all the nasty and disgusting ideas from all over the world pour in and find a ready following.” (*Annals* 15:44)
- **Suetonius (Roman historian, c. 125).** “As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he [Claudius] expelled them from Rome.”
- **Lucian (Roman playwright, c. 150)** “...They (the Christians) still worship, the man who was crucified in Palestine because he introduced this new cult to the world. ...They have thrown over and denied the gods of Greece and have done reverence to that crucified sophist himself and live according to his laws.”
- **Celsus (anti-Christian philosopher, c. 170).** “Jesus had come from a village in Judea, and was the son of a poor Jewess who gained her living by the work of her own hands. His mother had been turned out of doors by her husband, who was a carpenter by trade, on being convicted of adultery. Being thus driven away by her husband, and wandering about in disgrace, she gave birth to Jesus, a bastard. Jesus, on account of his poverty, was hired out to go to Egypt. While there he acquired certain (magical) powers which Egyptians pride themselves on possessing. He returned home highly elated at possessing these powers, and on the strength of them gave himself out to be a god.” (*True Discourse*)
- **Julius Africanus (Christian historian, c. 240).** Though written after AD 200, Africanus quotes two Roman historians well-known during his day whose writings are lost to us today. “On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus [c. 75], in the third book of his *History*, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun. ...Phlegon [c. 75] records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour to the ninth—manifestly that one of which we speak. But what has an eclipse in common with an earthquake, the rending rocks, and the resurrection of the dead, and so great a perturbation throughout the universe? Surely no such event as this is recorded for a long period.” (*History of World*, XVIII.1) [For more information, visit <http://www.christian-thinktank.com>]

“The general consensus of both liberal and conservative scholars is that Luke is very accurate as a historian. He’s erudite, he’s eloquent, his Greek approaches classical quality, he writes as an educated man, and archaeological discoveries are showing over and over again that Luke is accurate in what he has to say.” —Dr. John McRay

“The New Testament documents have more manuscripts, earlier manuscripts, and more abundantly supported manuscripts than the best ten pieces of classical literature combined.”

—Dr. Norman Geisler, *I Don’t Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist*, 225

Jesus Called God: *God with us* (Matt 1:23); *The Word was God* (Jn 1:1); *God blessed forever* (Rom 9:5); *God in the flesh* (1 Tim. 3:16); *Fullness of the Godhead bodily* (Col. 2:9); *God and Savior* (Titus 2:13; 2 Pet 1:1); *our glorious Lord* (Jm. 2:1); *True God and eternal life* (1 Jn 5:20); *My Lord and My God* (Jn 20:28); *First and Last* (Rev. 1:8); *Mighty God and Everlasting Father* (Is. 9:6); *Brightness of God's glory and the exact representation of God's being* (Heb. 1:3); *God* (Heb. 1:8).

Titles of YHWH and Jesus: *First and Last* (Is. 41:4, 44:6; Rev 1:8, 22:13, 16); *I AM* (Ex 3:14, Is 43:10; Jn 8:58); *Judge* (Gen 18:25; 2 Tim 4:8); *Light* (Is 60:19; John 1:9, 8:12); *Savior* (Is 43:11, 45:21; Titus 3:4,6); *Shepherd* (Ps 23; Jn 10:11,16); *Creator* (Gen 1:1; Is 44:24; Col 1:16, Jn 1:3); *Rock* (Deut 32:4; 1 Cor 10:4); *Lord* (Deut 6:4; 1 Cor 12:3; Rev 17:14); *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* (Ps. 24:10; Dan. 2:47; Rev. 19:16).

Actions of Jesus: *Forgives sin* (Mk 2:5-10; Acts 5:31); *Receives worship* (Matt 14:33; Heb 1:6); *Receives prayer* (Jn 14:14; Acts 7:59); *Receives glory* (Rom 11:36 w/ 2 Pet 3:18); *Gives life* (Jn 1:4, 11:25; 14:6); *Gives eternal life* (Jn 17:2); *Gives peace* (Jn 14:27 w/ Rom 15:33); *Upholds all things* (Col 1:17); *Demands obedience* (Lk 6:46-49); *Commands angels* (Mt. 13:41); *All creation bows to Him* (Is. 45:22-23; Phil. 2:9-11).

Parallels of Father-Son. *Son gives life to whom He will as Father gives life* (Jn 5:21); *Honor the Son as honor the Father* (Jn 5:23); *To know Son is to know the Father* (Jn. 8:19, 24); *Trust in God, trust in Jesus* (Jn. 14:1); *See Jesus, see the Father* (Jn. 14:9); *Only Son knows the Father* (Mt. 11:27); *All things exist through the Father and the Son* (1 Cor. 8:6); *Eternal and self-existent* (Ex. 3:14; Ps. 90:2; Heb. 1:10-12; 13:8; Rev. 1:8); *Holy, holy, holy* (Isaiah 6:3; Rev. 4:8 w/ 1:8).

All divine names and titles are applied to Him. He is called God, the mighty God, the great God, God over all; Jehovah; Lord; the Lord of lords and King of kings. All divine attributes are ascribed to Him. He is declared to be omnipresent, omniscient, almighty, and immutable, the same yesterday, today, and forever. He is set forth as the creator and upholder and ruler of the universe. All things were created by Him and for Him; and by Him all things consist. He is the object of worship to all intelligent creatures, even the highest; all the angels...are commanded to prostrate themselves before Him. He is the object of all the religious sentiments; of reverence, love, faith, and devotion. ...He required that man should honor Him as they honored the Father; that they should exercise the same faith in Him that they do in God. He declares that He and the Father are one; that those who had seen Him had seen the Father also. He calls all men unto Him; promises to forgive their sins; to send them the Holy Spirit; to give them rest and peace; to raise them up at the last day; and to give them eternal life. God is not more, and cannot promise more, or do more than Christ is said to be, to promise, and to do. He has, therefore, been the Christian's God from the beginning, in all ages and in all places.

—Charles Hodge (1797-1878), Principal of Princeton Theological Seminary

I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creation of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour, millions of men would die for Him.

—Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821)

I am a historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.

—H.G. Wells (1866-1946)

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic...or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

—C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)