

WAS JESUS REALLY HISTORICAL?

I. What Documentary Evidence Would You _____?

A. Reports from _____?

1. _____ have survived on _____ subject

2. There is evidence they _____

B. How about _____, who _____ mentions Jesus?

1. He lived and wrote in _____

2. He wrote on _____ and _____ thought

C. Most other writers would have had _____

D. The absence of _____ is not evidence of _____

II. Early Non-Christian References to Jesus

A. Ancient _____ writers

1. Cornelius Tacitus (born AD 52-54) mentions Christ's execution by _____ in Judea in the reign of

Tiberius

2. Lucian of Samosata (2nd century) _____ those who _____ "the man who was _____ in

Palestine"

3. Flavius Josephus (born AD 37) mentions Jesus _____

4. Suetonius (AD 120) blames _____ for instigating disturbances that forced the expulsion of the _____ from Rome

5. Pliny the Younger (AD 112) explained that he made Christians “_____ Christ, which a _____ Christian cannot be induced to do”

6. Tertullian (AD 197) claimed Tiberius knew the _____ of Christ’s divinity and defended the Christians before the _____

7. Thallus (AD 52) assumed the darkness on the day of Christ’s _____ was an _____

8. Phlegon (1st century) mentions the remarkable “_____ of the sun during a _____” during the time of Tiberius

9. Letter of Mara Bar-Serapion (post AD 73) to warn his son not to persecute _____ men like Socrates, Pythagoras and _____

B. References from the _____

1. Admitted Jesus performed _____ and _____

2. Confirmed that Jesus was _____ by “_____”

3. Tried to refute reports of Jesus’ _____

4. Include reference to Jesus as a _____ with _____

C. Encyclopedia Britannica _____ to the historicity of Christ

III. The _____ of Jesus

A. Much of His teaching _____ is similar to the rabbinic

B. Many of His statements have _____ in rabbinic literature

C. He was unique in His insistence on _____

D. No later Gentile church could have _____ a Jesus so
thoroughly _____ or placed Him in a culture so
_____ with His times