

Proof Jesus Christ Lived – Outside Of Bible Prophecy

Although the religious leaders hated Jesus Christ and denied that He was the prophesied Messiah, they were forced by the very fact of His miracles and influence among the people to give recognition to Him in their records.

Jesus Christ is often referred to in the Jewish Talmud.

The Talmud is a record of Jewish debates, doctrines, stories and traditions covering a period from before the birth of Jesus Christ to the centuries immediately following.

In the Talmud Jesus Christ is scornfully referred to as “that man,” “dead dog,” “the hanged one” and “the sorcerer.”

[The Jewish Encyclopaedia lists places where Jesus Christ is referred to in the Talmud.]

The Talmud records Jesus Christ’s healings of the blind, the lame and the leprous.

It also mentions His walking on the sea.

But the Talmud also speaks of Jesus Christ as having learned sorcery in Egypt, [Matthew 2:13-15; Matthew 12:24], in an attempt to discredit His miracles and His claim to be the very Son of God.

The Talmud also records a full list of references to Jesus’ mother, Mary, but in a derogatory sense.

The envious religious leaders finally succeeded in having Jesus Christ arrested by the Roman authorities under trumped-up charges that He was plotting to overthrow the Roman government and other false accusations.

This event was recorded by the Roman historian Tacitus, who lived less than a hundred years after Jesus Christ.

Tacitus wrote “*Christus* [the Latin spelling of Christ] *from whom the name Christians had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty* [crucifixion] *during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate...*” [Annals, XV, 44].

As a Roman historian, Tacitus had access to government records of the Roman Empire. He was able to examine official historical documents showing that Jesus Christ was crucified.

Suetonius, another Roman historian and a contemporary of Tacitus, also refers to Jesus Christ. He tells us that in AD49 the Emperor Claudius banished all Jews from the city of Rome, [Acts 18:2] and that Jesus Christ’s followers were blamed.

Suetonius wrote “*He expelled the Jews from Rome on account of the riots in which they were constantly indulging, at the instigation of Chrestus*” [a common misspelling of the name of Jesus Christ].

Reference ‘*The Lives of the Caesars,*’ book V, 25.

Reference to Jesus Christ is also made by the non-Christian Jewish historian Flavius Josephus of the first century AD.

Writing about the death of James, Josephus calls him, “The brother of Jesus who was called Christ,” [*Antiquities of the Jews,* xx:9, 1].

These men were non-Christians, their writings are neutral, historical evidence of Jesus Christ’s life and crucifixion by the Romans.

An early reference to Jesus Christ was also made by Pliny the Younger, who was governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor.

He wrote many letters to the Emperor Trajan concerning how Christians should be dealt with. One such letter, written about AD 111-113, provides conclusive evidence concerning Jesus Christ’s existence and His followers, Christians, who were put to death for not renouncing their belief in Jesus Christ and their refusal to curse Him.

In his letter, Pliny describes Christians coming together at fixed seasons and singing a hymn to “Christ, as to a God.”

This phrase clearly shows that Pliny considered Jesus Christ to have been a historical figure.

Pliny had no reason to doubt Jesus Christ’s existence for he knew that Jesus Christ was a real person who had lived and taught in the Roman Empire less than a hundred years earlier!