

## Jesus Lived 1Corinthians 15:1-11

### I Believe

Jesus of Nazareth is central to our faith - That He lived, died and was raised is The Gospel  
Considered many aspects of Jesus - Look at historical figure from 1st Century Palestine

### Jesus Lived

Some consider Jesus as just a "myth"

Popular among some 1800s scholars

Today no serious historian disputes Jesus existed

Only among those ignorant of facts or who suppress evidence

**H. G. Wells** - atheist, spoke of Jesus in book, Outline Of History - "...one is obliged to say, 'Here was a man. This part of the tale could not have been invented.'"

**Will Durant** Ex-professor Philosophy of History Columbia Univ. - Spent two chapters in The Story Of Our Civilization depicting Jesus as a historical figure right along with the Caesars

**Encyclopedia Britannica** used over 20,000 words to describe Jesus - More than Aristotle, Cicero, Alexander, Julius Caesar, Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, or Napoleon

### Evidence For Jesus

Among "pagan" sources

**Thallus** (a Samaritan historian, ca. 52 A.D.) - Wrote attempting to give a natural explanation for the darkness which occurred at the crucifixion of Jesus. He did not deny the existence of Jesus, but only tried to explain away the strange circumstances surrounding His death

**Letter Of Mara-Serapion** (written to son, 73 A.D.) - He tells of the deaths of Socrates, Pythagoras, and of Jesus. "What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king?...Nor did the wise king die for good; he lived on in the teaching which he had given."

**Cornelius Tacitus** (Roman historian, 112 A.D.) - Writes of Jesus in his Annals "Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberias."

**Pliny The Younger** Governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor, 112 A.D. - Wrote to emperor Trajan about Christians and devotion to Christ

**Seutonius** (Court official and annalist under Hadrian, 120 AD) - "As the Jews were making constant disturbance at the instigation of Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome." - **Acts 18:1-2**

Among "Jewish" sources

**The Talmud** - 2 books of Jewish law, written from 100-500 A.D. - Speaks frequently of Jesus of Nazareth; Unfriendly terms, but never disputing status as historical figure

**Flavius Josephus** Jewish general turned Roman historian, 37 A.D. - Makes several references to Jesus in his History Of The Jews - "...and brought before it the brother of Jesus, the so-called Christ, whose name was James."

Solid foundation

We can intelligently believe Jesus actually lived and died in 1st Century Palestine

Significant enough to be noted by historians; Will I be listed in history books?

Exposes those who try to paint Him as just a myth

Does not prove He is the Son of God!

Scripture proves that as seen in previous lessons - **Romans 10:17**

### Implication Of Jesus Lived

Forced to answer: Who is He? - **Matthew 16:15**

What does He want? - **Hebrews 11:6**

Peter reveals - **Acts 2:22-36**

Paul's Gospel - **1Corinthians 15:12-19**

Jesus will return as Judge - **2Peter 3:10-18**