

A  **CENTRAL** SERIES
ASSEMBLY

THE CASE FOR TRUTH

IS THERE EVIDENCE FOR JESUS OUTSIDE THE BIBLE?



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DR. WAVE NUNNALLY



“Will the Real Jesus Stand Up? A Brief Comparison of the Person, Teaching, and Works of the Jesus of the Canonical Gospels and the Apocryphal Gospels.”

Enrichment 13.4(Fall, 2008)90-98.

– [HTTPS://WAVENUNNALLY.COM/2020/08/19/WILL-THE-REAL-JESUS-PLEASE-STAND-UP/](https://wavenunnally.com/2020/08/19/will-the-real-jesus-please-stand-up/)

- **Gospel of Public Domain**
- **Gossip of the Marketplace**
 - **National Enquirer**
- **The Version on the Street**

Gospel of Public Domain

- **Non-Christian**
- **All but two sources are *anti-Christian***
- **Literary evidence**
- **Archeological evidence**
- **First and early second centuries AD**
- **Material doesn't come from NT**

“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 and to die...”

**-JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS (c. AD 37-100),
ANTIQUITIES 18:63-64**

“...And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.”

**-JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS (c. AD 37-100),
ANTIQUITIES 18:63-64**

“...Ananus [the high priest, spelled “Ananias” in Acts 23:2 and 24:1] thought that he had a favorable opportunity because [the procurator] Festus was dead and Albinus [his successor] was still on the way...”

**-JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS (c. AD 37-100),
ANTIQUITIES 20:200**

“...And so he convened the judges of the Sanhedrin and brought before them a man named James, the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them up to be stoned.”

**-JOSEPHUS FLAVIUS (c. AD 37-100),
ANTIQUITIES 20:200**

“In the third [book] of his *Histories*, Thalloos calls this darkness [that occurred at the time of Jesus’ crucifixion] an eclipse of the sun, which seems to me to be wrong.”

[cf. Mark 15:33]

-THALLOS, *HISTORIES* (c. AD 55); COMMENTED ON IN SEXTUS JULIANUS AFRICANUS (AD 160–240), *HISTORY OF THE WORLD*

“What advantage did... the Jews gain by killing their wise king, because their kingdom was taken away at that very time? ...Socrates is not dead because of Plato... nor is the wise king, because of the new teachings he laid down.”

-MARA BEN SERAPION (c. AD 73)

“...they [Christians] were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before sunrise and reciting an antiphonal hymn to Christ as God...”

-PLINY THE YOUNGER (AD 61-112), GOV. OF BITHYNIA, LETTER TO EMPEROR TRAJAN 10.96 (AD 111)

“Nero substituted as culprits and punished in the most unusual ways those hated for their shameful acts, whom the crowd called Chrestianoi. The founder of this name, Christ, had suffered the extreme penalty [crucifixion]...”

**-CORNELIUS TACITUS (c. AD 55-120),
ROMAN ANNALS 15.44.2-3**

“...during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate... Suppressed for a time, the deadly superstition erupted again not only in Judea, the origin of this evil, but also in the city [of Rome],...”

**-CORNELIUS TACITUS (c. AD 55-120),
ROMAN ANNALS 15.44.2-3**

“...where all things horrible and shameful from everywhere come together and become popular... Therefore... they were covered with the skins of wild animals and torn to death by dogs; or they were crucified and when the day ended, they were burned as torches.”

**-CORNELIUS TACITUS (c. AD 55-120),
ROMAN ANNALS 15.44.2-3**

“He [Claudius Caesar] expelled the Jews from Rome [in AD 49; cf. Acts 18:2], since they were always making disturbances because of the instigator Chrestus [a common Latin misspelling of the Greek Christos].”

**-SUETONIUS (c. AD 69–130),
LIFE OF CLAUDIUS 25.4**

“Punishment was inflicted upon the Christiani,
a class of people of a new and evil-doing
superstiton.”

**-SUETONIUS (c. AD 69–130),
LIFE OF NERO 16.2**

“[Peregrinus] was second only to that one whom they still worship today, the man in Palestine who was crucified because he brought this new form of initiation into the world...”

**-LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA (c. AD 115–200),
THE DEATH OF PEREGRINUS 11, 13**

“...That first lawgiver of theirs persuaded them that they are all brothers the moment they transgress and deny the Greek gods and begin worshipping that crucified philosopher and living by his laws.”

**-LUCIAN OF SAMOSATA (c. AD 115-200),
THE DEATH OF PEREGRINUS 11, 13**

“...He fabricated the story of his birth from a virgin... he came from a Jewish village and from a poor country woman who earned a living by spinning...”

-CELSUS, *TRUE DOCTRINE* (WRITTEN BETWEEN AD 117-138); AS CITED IN ORIGEN'S *AGAINST CELSUS*, 1.28, 32, 38

“...she was driven out by her husband who was a carpenter by trade, when she was convicted of adultery and had a child by a soldier named Panthera after she had been driven out by her husband...”

-CELSUS, *TRUE DOCTRINE* (WRITTEN BETWEEN AD 117-138); AS CITED IN ORIGEN'S *AGAINST CELSUS*, 1.28, 32, 38

“...and while she was wandering disgracefully, she secretly bore Jesus... Because [Jesus] was poor, he hired himself out as a laborer in Egypt, and there learned certain magical powers which the Egyptians are proud to have...”

-CELSUS, *TRUE DOCTRINE* (WRITTEN BETWEEN AD 117-138); AS CITED IN ORIGEN'S *AGAINST CELSUS*, 1.28, 32, 38

“...He returned full of pride in these powers and gave himself the title of God.”

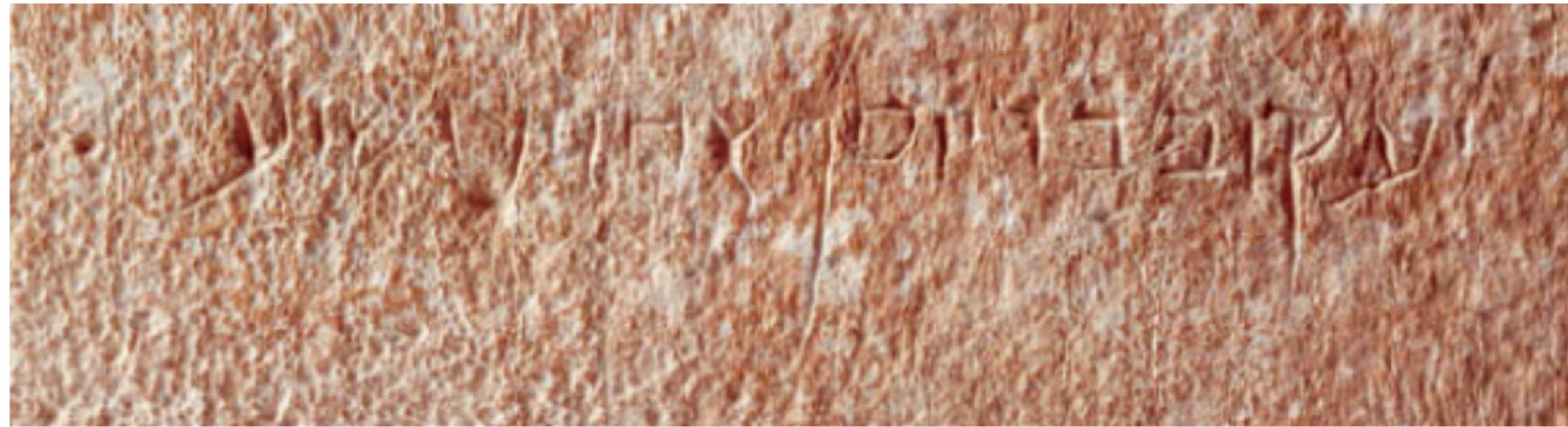
-CELSUS, *TRUE DOCTRINE* (WRITTEN BETWEEN AD 117-138); AS CITED IN ORIGEN'S *AGAINST CELSUS*, 1.28, 32, 38

ARCHAEOLOGY

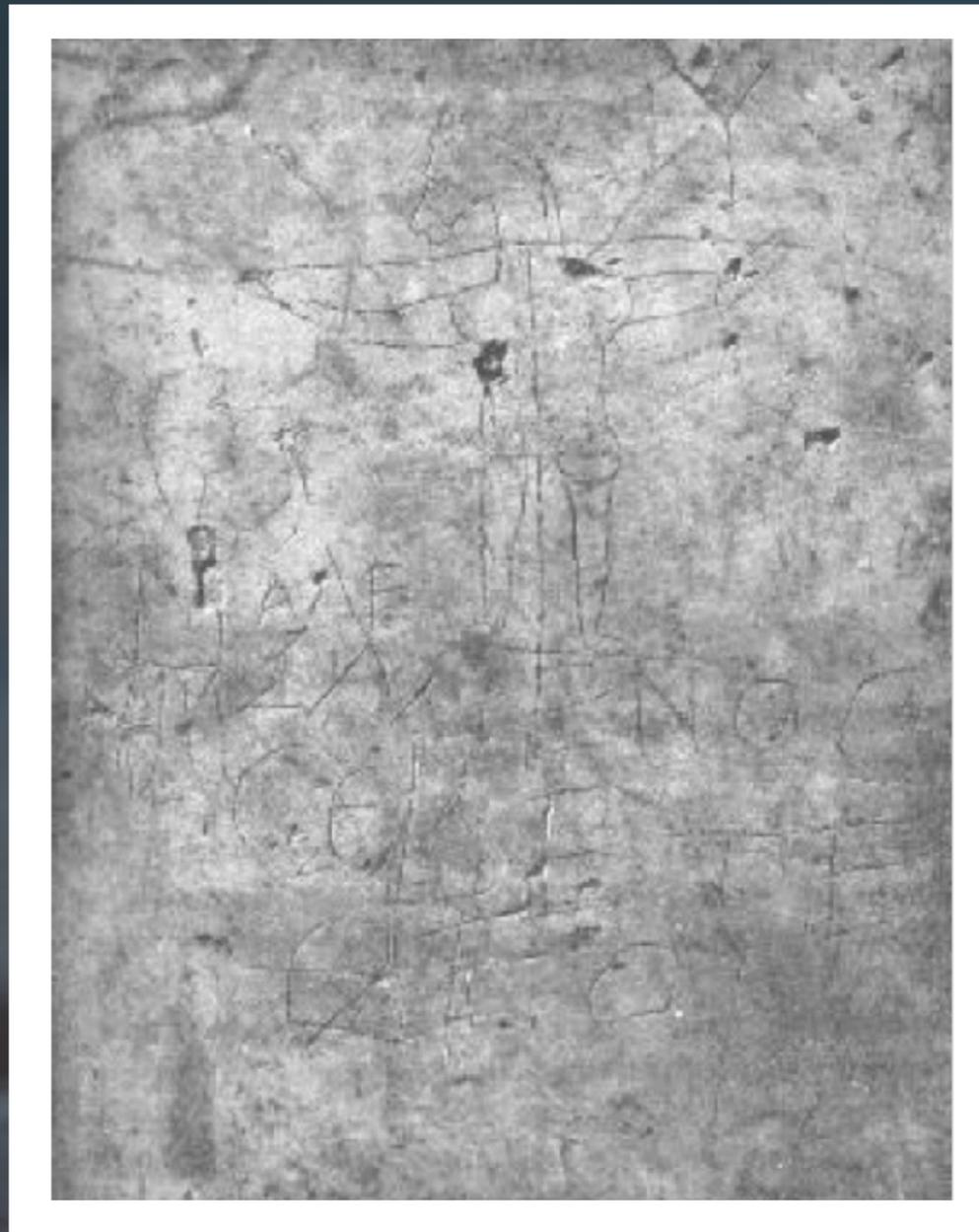
The Ossuary of James (AD 62)



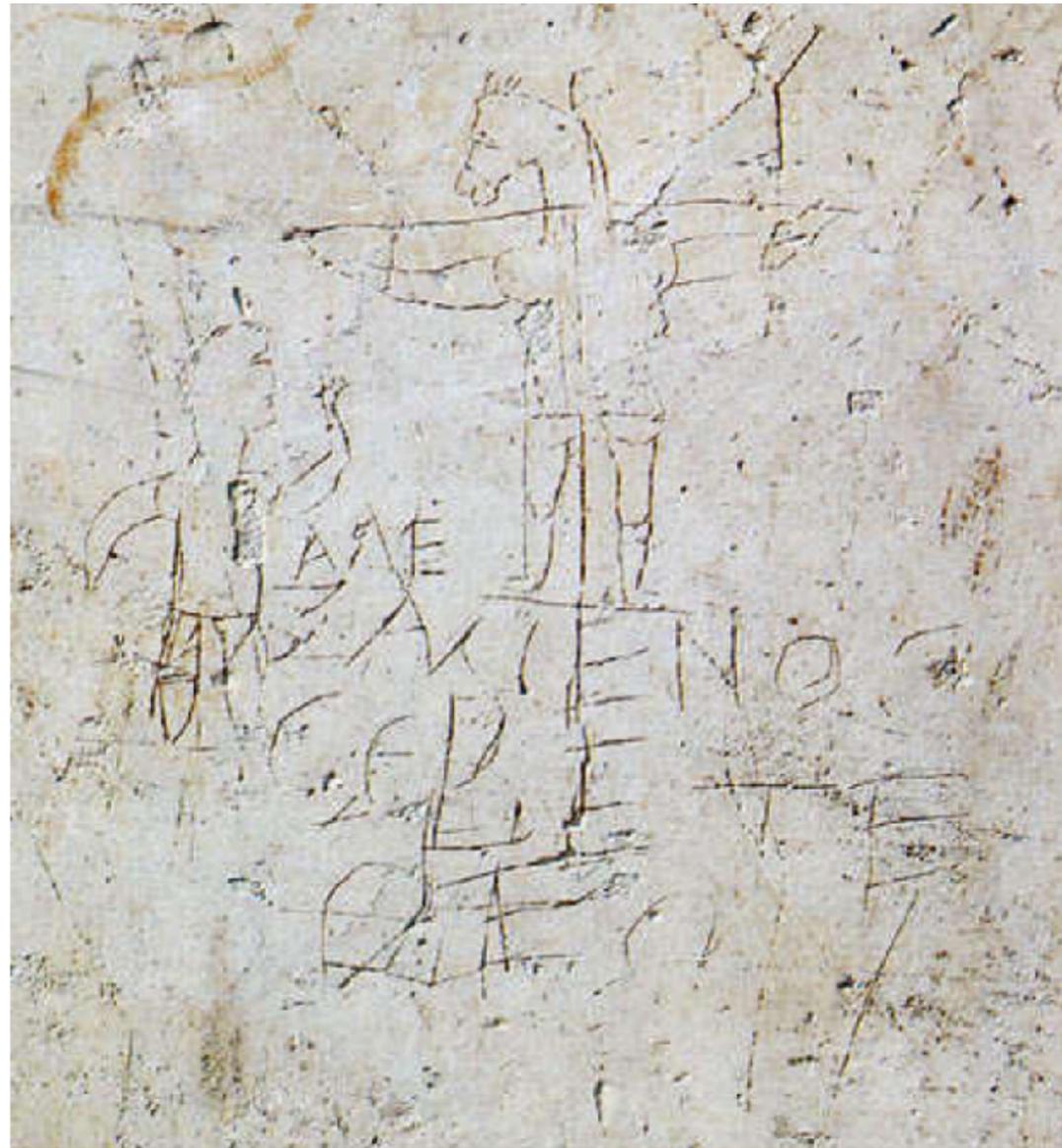
The Ossuary of James (AD 62)



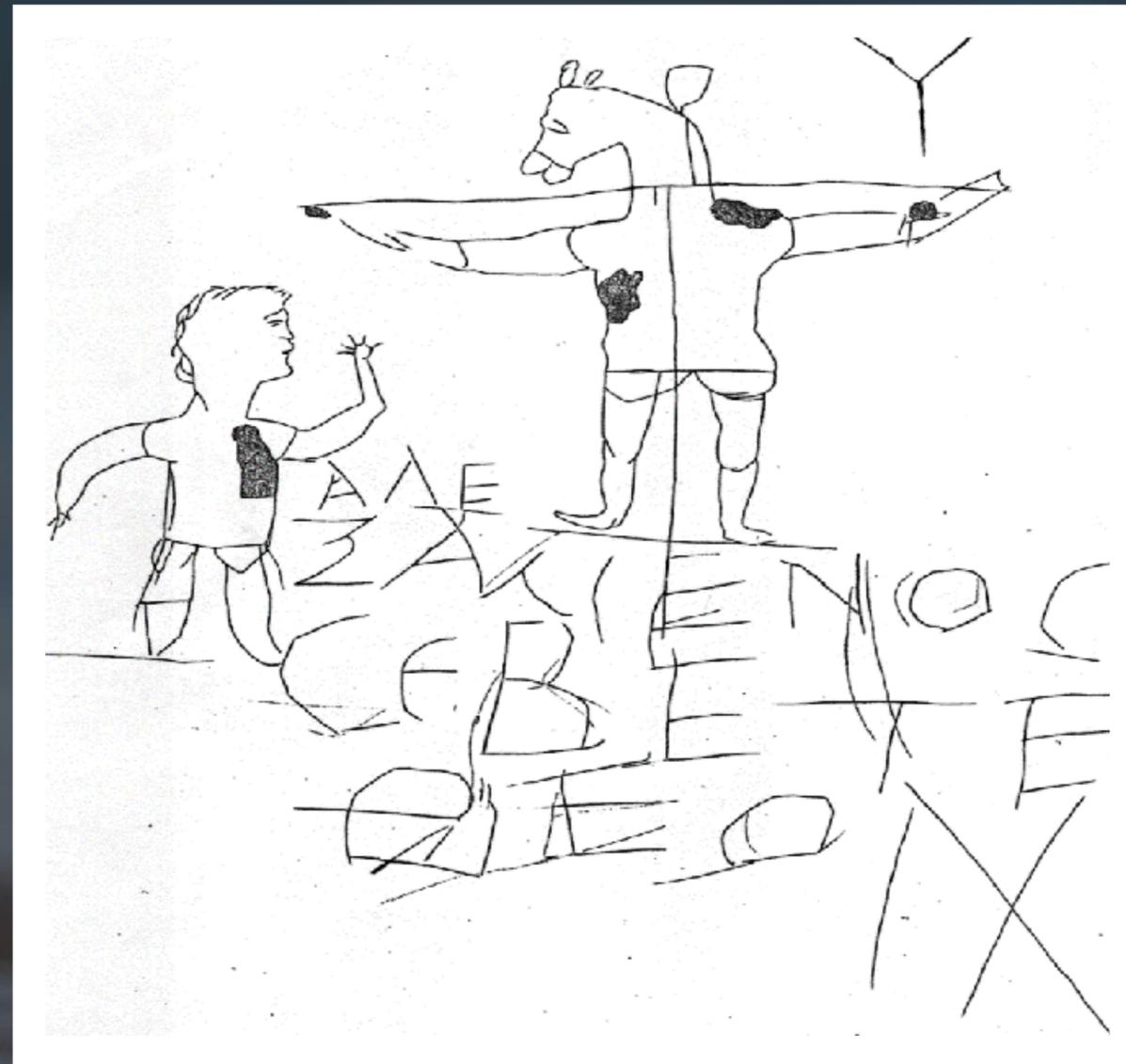
Grafitto of Alexamenos (c. AD 150)



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“Alexamenos worships [his] gods, Christ.”

THE EARLY RABBIS

“It is taught that Rabbi Eliezer said to the Sages, ‘Did not Ben Stada bring spells from Egypt in a cut in his flesh?’ Ben Stada is Ben Pantera... The mother was Miriam the dresser of women’s hair... she was false to her husband.”

-TOSEFTA, *SHABBAT* 11:15; BT *SHABBAT*, 104B

“Jesus escaped to Egypt...And a teacher has said, ‘Jesus the Nazarene practiced magic and ‘led Israel astray’” [cf. Deuteronomy 13:6].

-BABYLONIAN TALMUD, *SANHEDRIN* 107B

“Rabbi Yochanan said, ‘In the beginning [he was] a prophet and in the end [he was] a diviner.’ Rabbi Papa said, ‘This is what they say: She was the descendant of princes and governors, but played the harlot with carpenters.’”

–BABYLONIAN TALMUD, *SANHEDRIN* 106A

“The rabbis taught: Jesus had five disciples
Mattai, Naqai, Netser, Buni, and Todah.”

–BABYLONIAN TALMUD, *SANHEDRIN* 43A

“A baraita recounts an incident involving ben Dama in which a snake bit him... Following the attack, Ya’akov of K’far Sekhanya who was a heretic, a disciple of Jesus the Nazarene, came to heal him...

-BABYLONIAN TALMUD, AVODAH ZARAH 27B

“Rabbi Eliezer said, “Once I was walking in the upper marketplace of Tzipori, and I found a man who was one of the disciples of Jesus the Nazarene, and his name was Ya’akov of K’far Sekhanya. He said to me: Jesus the Nazarene taught me the following...””

-BABYLONIAN TALMUD, AVODAH ZARAH 17A

“They crucified him on the Eve of Passover...
because he practiced magic and enticed Israel
to go astray.”

–BABYLONIAN TALMUD, *SANHEDRIN* 43A, 67A

“Onkelos... went and raised Jesus the Nazarene from the grave through necromancy... This was His sin: He mocked the words of the sages.”

-BABYLONIAN TALMUD, *GITTIN* 57A

“Woe to him who makes himself alive by the name of God!”

–BABYLONIAN TALMUD, *SANHEDRIN* 106A

In Summary...

There was a man called Jesus [All 21]

He was from a Jewish village [Celsus]

His earthly father was a carpenter [Celsus; Rabbis]

His mother's name was Mary/Miriam [Rabbis]

Mary was of royal (Davidic) ancestry [Rabbis]

He and His family were poor [Celsus]

In Summary...

His opponents claimed that Mary was unfaithful
[Celsus; Rabbis]

His opponents claimed that He was illegitimate
[Celsus; Rabbis]

He claimed virgin birth [Celsus]

He escaped to Egypt and later returned to Israel
[Celsus; Rabbis]

In Summary...

He had a brother called “James/Jacob” [Archeology, Josephus]

He was known to be wise [Josephus; Mara; Lucian]

He was known to be virtuous and godly [Josephus]

He was known as a teacher [Josephus; Lucian; Rabbis]

He was known as a prophet [Rabbis]

He had disciples [Josephus; Rabbis]

In Summary...

**He founded a new community of “brothers”
based on his “laws”=“teachings” [Mara, Lucian]**

**He worked miracles, though opponents claimed
He used magic [Josephus, Celsus; Rabbis]**

**His opponents claimed that He
“led Israel astray” [Rabbis]**

In Summary...

He was called “the Christ” [Josephus; Pliny; Tacitus; Suetonius; Alexamenos Graffito]

He claimed divinity [Celsus]

He was worshipped by his followers as God [Pliny; Lucian; Alexamenos Graffito]

He was condemned by a Jewish court [Mara] on the Eve of Passover [Rabbis]

In Summary...

**However, He was crucified... [Lucian; Alexamenos
Graffito; Rabbis]**

**...By the Roman governor Pontius Pilate [Josephus;
Tacitus]**

**His earliest followers claimed He was resurrected
from the dead [Josephus; rabbis]**

He “was perhaps the Messiah” [Josephus]

In other words, every major assertion of New Testament authors about Jesus' biography (WHO He was and WHAT He did) is supported by first- and second-century evidence outside the Bible!

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