

Cornelius Tucru

Jesus of Nazareth

By

Cornelius Tucru

Certified First-Class Historian at the Court of the Good King Louis the Fourteenth

StunoBooks

Historical References

Flavius Josephus (37 - 97)

Joseph Ben Matthias the Priest, better known as **Flavius Josephus**, was a "Romanized" Jewish historian of the first century (37–100).

A priest and a Pharisee, he was a Jewish military commander during the war against Rome. He surrendered to the Roman general **Vespasian** during the siege of Jotapata, while many of his companions committed suicide rather than surrender. His collaboration with the Romans made him hated by his fellow Jews.

As a Jewish historian, he wrote "**The Jewish War**" (75–79) and "**Jewish Antiquities**" (93).

“...Jesus, who was a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man, for he was one who performed surprising feats... When Pilate, upon hearing him accused by the leading men among us, condemned him to the cross... he appeared to them alive again on the third day...” (*Antiquities*, 18.3.3)

“Ananus the younger, who had received the high priesthood... convened a Sanhedrin, brought before it James, the brother of Jesus who is called the Christ, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them up to be stoned.” (*Antiquities*, 20.8.1)

Note: Critics (without denying that Josephus mentioned Jesus) have questioned the complete historical authenticity of the passage in *Antiquities* 18.3.3.

Additional Historical Mentions:

- **Syriac Manuscript No. 14658 (British Museum)** (dated around 73 CE)
A letter sent by a Syrian named **Mara Bar-Serapion** to his son Serapion while imprisoned. He encourages his son to pursue wisdom, pointing out that persecutors of the wise often suffer consequences. He cites the deaths of Socrates, Pythagoras, and Christ.

“...What advantage did the Jews gain from executing their wise king?
Their kingdom was destroyed shortly after...”

- **Suetonius** (69–125)
Archivist at the court of Emperor Hadrian. Disgraced in 122, he then devoted himself to historical writings.

“Since the Jews constantly made disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he (Claudius) expelled them from Rome.” (*Life of Claudius*, XXV.11)

“He punished the Christians, a class given to a new and mischievous superstition.” (*Life of Nero*, XVI.3)

These passages don’t directly prove Christ's existence, but they do show that, under Nero—about thirty years after Christ's death—there were people claiming allegiance to Christ. It’s hard to imagine this happening if Christ had never existed.

- **Cornelius Tacitus** (55–118)

Considered the greatest historian of Imperial Rome.

In describing the great fire of Rome in 64, he notes that Christians were scapegoated by Nero. Writing around 116:

“The name ‘Christian’ comes from Christ, who was executed during the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius Pilate...” (*Annals*, 15.44)

- **Pliny the Younger** (61–114)

Latin writer and governor of Bithynia (in northwest Turkey) in 112. In a letter to Emperor Trajan, he seeks advice on how to deal with Christians:

“Those who denied being Christians or having been such, if they invoked the gods following my formula and offered incense and wine before your image, which I had ordered brought for this purpose, along with statues of the gods—and if they cursed Christ, which they say real Christians cannot be made to do—I thought it proper to release them...

[Those who claimed to be Christians] asserted that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn, to sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god...”

(*Letters and Panegyric to Trajan: X/96/5-7*)

This text doesn’t directly confirm Jesus Christ's existence, but it does so indirectly—it proves that in the early 2nd century, men and women firmly believed in him.

- **Lucian of Samosata** (125–192)

Greek satirical writer. He refers to Christ as:

“The one who is worshiped in Palestine, where he was crucified for bringing this new cult to mankind... The first lawgiver [of the Christians] also convinced them that they were all brothers. Once they convert, they reject the gods of the Greeks and worship the crucified sophist whose laws they follow.”

(*The Death of Peregrinus*, paragraphs 11–13)

- **Celsus** (2nd century CE)

A Platonic philosopher and Roman author of "**The True Word**", a harsh critique of Christianity. He wrote:

“You present to us as a god a man who ended a shameful life with a miserable death.”

Note: His writings are known only through **Origen**'s refutation in *Against Celsus* (7.53).
