

Jesus On
XMAS & Easter

I. Scripture Sources – Eyewitness Testimony

Matthew 28

1: early morning (dawn)

1: two Marys came to tomb

5-6: "He is risen" . . . empty tomb

8-9: met Jesus, worshipped

10: He talked

10...16: Galilee

17: some doubted

18: He spoke

19-20: sent to all nations

Mark 16

1: came to anoint His body

2: risen sun

3-4: stone problem

9: first appearance: Mary Mag.

11: disciples did not believe

12-13: two walk to Emmaeus;
rush to Jerusalem; unbelief

14: appeared to eleven apostles

Luke 24

7: angels quote what Jesus said

8-10: four women remember

25-28: rebukes two men; village

29: near evening; enters house

30: recline; meal

36-37: disciples; fear

39: shows wounds

41-45: eats; teaches

48: witnesses

51: witness ascension

John 20-21

20:6-8, see linen clothes/face cloth

20:19, fear of Jews . . .

20:24-29, 'doubting' Thomas

20:30-31, John speaks for all

21: the lake effect

Variety of post-resurrection appearances (1/2):

Men / women singly

Men / women in groups

Inside / outside

Judea, Galilee, country, city

Morning / evening

Close up / at a distance

By prior appointment / unexpectedly

Variety of post-resurrection appearances (2/2):

In a garden . . . On a hill

By a lake . . . On a road

In a room

Sitting / standing / walking

While talking / silent

To believers / unbeliever (1 Co.15:7)

He always talks

He eats with them

Range of senses He affected:

1. They heard, 1 Jn.1:1
2. They saw, beheld, 1 Jn.1:1
3. They touched, 1 Jn.1:1
4. They smelled, Jn.21:4, 9, 12
5. They tasted, Jn.21:12-13

A 'shocking' sequence

1. Disciples: He was crucified.
2. Pilate: He was already dead (Mk.15:44).
3. Disciples & enemies: He was raised

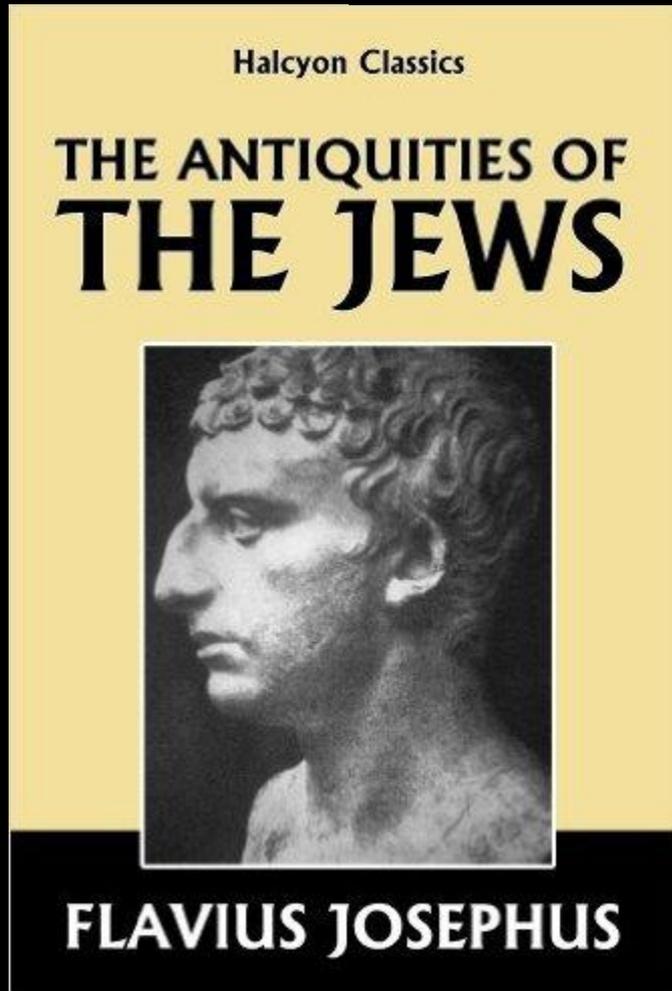
His death stirs Joseph to bury His body

His resurrection stirs disciples to proclaim 'He lives!' (Ac.2...)

I. Scripture Sources – Eyewitness Testimony

II. Secular Sources –
Hostile Testimony

Jewish historian



AD 37 – c. 100

Antiquities XVIII.63-64

⁶³Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, [*if it be lawful to call him a man,*] for he was a doer of wonderful works –a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. [*He was [the] Christ;*]

⁶⁴and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had condemned him to the cross, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, [*for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him;*] and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this day.

Antiquities XX.9.1

Festus was now dead, and Albinus was but upon the road; so he assembled the sanhedrin of judges, and brought before them the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ, whose name was James, and some others, [or, some of his companions]; and when he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, he delivered them to be stoned

[Jn.7:2-5; 1 Co.15:7]

TACITUS, AD 55-120



Greatest Roman Historian

Annals XV.44

(To suppress rumor that he (Nero) burned Rome): ‘falsely charged w. the guilt, and punished with the most exquisite tortures, the persons commonly called Christians, who were hated for their enormities.

Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius”

SUETONIUS, c. 69-122



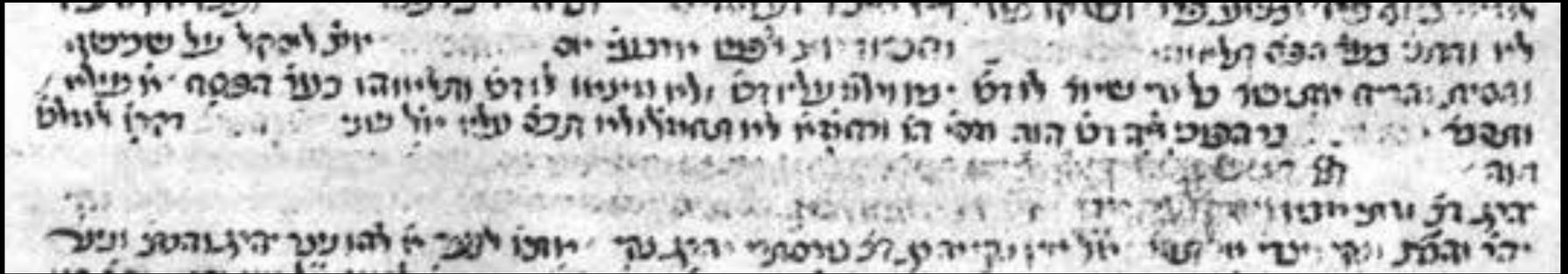
Roman historian

Life of Claudius, XXV.4

“As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he [Claudius] expelled them from Rome”

“And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them” – Acts 18:2

Munich Talmud: Jesus' Charge Sheet



Munich Talmud

“On the Eve of Passover they hung Jeshu the Nazarine. And the herald went out before him for 40 days [saying]: ‘Jeshu the Nazarine will go out to be stoned for sorcery and misleading and enticing Israel. Any who knows [anything] in his defense must come and declare concerning him.’ But no-one came to his defense so they hung him on the Eve of Passover.”

I. Scripture Sources – Eyewitness Testimony

II. Secular Sources – Hostile Testimony

III. Silence Of Scriptures –
Accept Testimony

It is right to believe in Jesus...

...but His word says nothing about celebrating His birthday.

No one on earth knows His birthdate

...but His word says nothing about celebrating Easter.

Acts 12:4 (KJV). Passover (NKJV)

“In later Christian usage *the Easter festival*” - BDAG

Barnes on Acts 12:4 (1/3)

Intending after Easter - There never was a more absurd or unhappy translation than this. The original is simply after the Passover...The word "Easter" now denotes the festival observed by many Christian churches in honor of the resurrection of the Saviour. But the original has no reference to that, nor is there the slightest evidence that any such festival was observed at the time when this book was written. The translation is not only unhappy, as it does not convey at all the meaning of the original, but because it may contribute to foster an opinion that such a festival was observed in the time of the apostles.

Barnes on Acts 12:4 (2/3)

The word “Easter” is of Saxon origin, and is supposed to be derived from “Eostre,” the goddess of Love, or the Venus of the North, in honor of whom a festival was celebrated by our pagan ancestors in the month of April (Webster). Since this festival coincided with the Passover of the Jews, and with the feast observed by Christians in honor of the resurrection of Christ, the name came to be used to denote the latter.

Barnes on Acts 12:4 (3/3)

In the old Anglo-Saxon service-books the term “Easter” is used frequently to translate the word “Passover.” In the translation by Wycliffe, the word “paske,” that is, “Passover,” is used. But Tyndale and Coverdale used the word “Easter,” and hence, it has very improperly crept into our King James Version.”

Dt.4:2; Mk.7

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ – Col.2:8

- Why acknowledge Jesus' resurrection while perverting the way He instructs us to worship Him?
- Jesus was raised on first day of week.
- His disciples remembered Him every week (Acts 20:7; 1 Co.16:1-2 – 'on the first day of every week...' – ESV; NASB).

Acts 20:7

Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come
– ESV.