

What is *The Mystery* of Jesus Christ ?



Col 4:3 “Speak forth the *Mystery of Christ*”

Did A Historical Jesus Even Actually Exist ?

Washington Post Dec 18,2014: “Did historical Jesus really exist? Evidence just doesn’t add up”

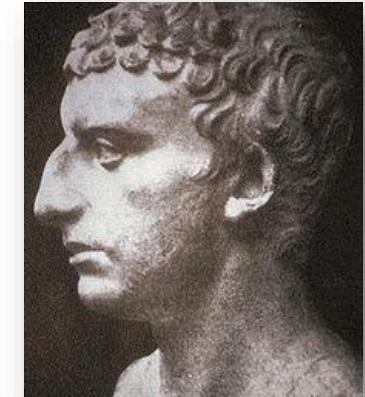
by Atheist author Raphael Lataster;
Lecturer in religious studies at the
Univ of Sydney, & author of There
Was No Jesus, There Is No God.



“The matter will likely never be resolved. In sum, there are clearly good reasons to doubt Jesus’ historical existence – if not to think it outright improbable.” Lataster

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***Josephus, Non-Christian Historian:
Jewish General & defector to the
Romans. Friend of Roman
Emperors Vespasian & Titus.***

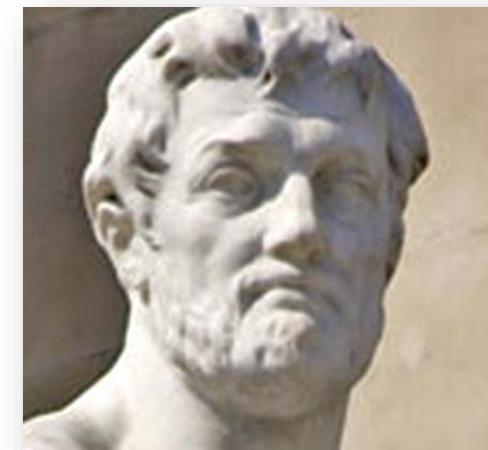


“There lived **Jesus**, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man... He was the Messiah. Pilate had condemned him to a cross... He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life... And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.”
Josephus: Jewish Antiquities, book 18. chapt 3. para 3.

Did A Historical Jesus Even Actually Exist ?

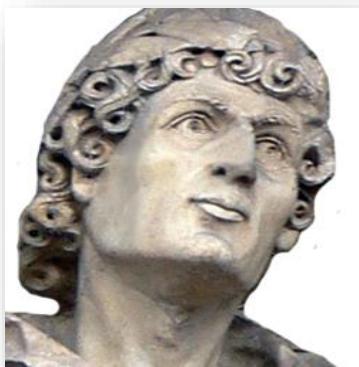
Tacitus (AD 56-AD 120), ‘Roman orator and public official, probably their greatest historian.’

Encyclopedia Britannica



“Nero .. punished 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: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of Rome also.” Annals 15.44₄

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Pliny, Governor of Bithynia AD 112 in a letter to Emperor Trajan seeking counsel on **how to treat Christians** on trial. *Epistles; Book 10, Letter 96.*

Pliny asked them to worship the image of Trajan, the gods and to “**denounce Christ**” which no true Christian would do. “They affirmed.. the whole of their guilt, was, that they were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to **Christ, as to a God**, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to any wicked deeds...”

Did A Historical Jesus Even Actually Exist ?

**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John,
Peter, Paul** all testify to the
historicity of Jesus Christ.



Matthew 1:18 Birth of **Jesus Christ** was as follows

Mark 1:14 **Jesus** came into Galilee preaching gospel

John 1:29 Saw **Jesus** & said Behold the Lamb of God

2 Peter 1:16 **Jesus Christ**.. we were **eyewitnesses**.

Paul (1 Cor 15:5-6) “Christ ... appeared to **Cephas** and
then to the **twelve** after that to more than **five hundred**
brethren at one time, **most of whom remain until now**.”

Jesus Existed and was Christ !

Old Testament Scriptures

testify to the credibility
of Jesus Christ.



Born of a Virgin (Isa 7:14) see (Mat 1:18, 24-25)

Jewish line of David (Jer 23:5) see (Luke 3:23, 31)

Born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2a) see (Mat 2:1)

His Pre-Existence (Mic 5:2b) see (Col 1:17; Jn 1:1)

Shall be a King (Ps 2:6) see (John 18:33-38)

Miracle Ministry (Isa 35:5-6) see (Mat 9:32-33, 35)

Sold for 30 pcs of silver (Zech 11:12) see (Mt 26:15)

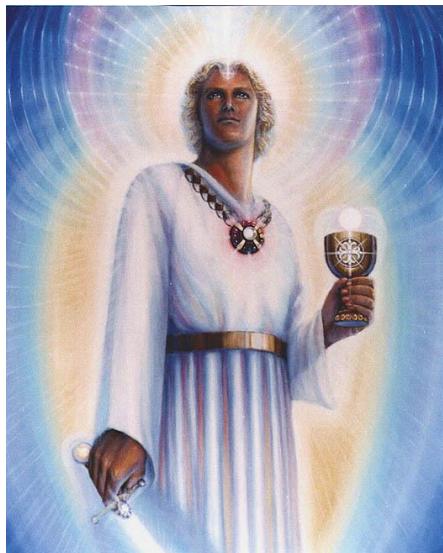
Crucified with thieves (Isa 53:12) see (Mat 27:28)

Buried in rich man's tomb (Isa 53:9) & (Mt 27:57f)

What Other Religions Say of Christ !

Jehovah's Witnesses

***Jesus is Not God, but a god (cf John 1:1)
Heb 1:8)***



**He was Michael the archangel.
He was resurrected as a spirit
and his body was destroyed.**

Contrast (Lk 24:39)

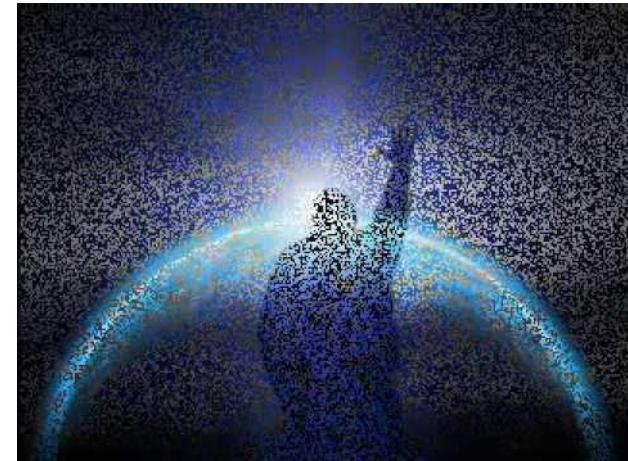
Jesus 'invisibly' came in 1914.

JW's believe only they will survive Armageddon
Watchtower 1989 Sep 1 p.19

What Other Religions Say of Christ !

Christian Science

**Jesus was NOT the Christ,
but a man who displayed
the “*Christ-Idea*.**”****



**They say “Christ means *perfection*” not a person.
They say Jesus *was not God* & God *cannot become
man or flesh* (because nothing material exists).
He could couldn’t *suffer* on a cross! (Cf. 2 John 1:7)
He did not *die* for our sins-isn’t any! (1 Cor 15:3)
He is not *coming* again. (Cf. Acts 1:11; 1 Thes 4:15f)**

What Other Religions Say of Christ !

Islam

اسلام

Jesus was a Great Prophet !

He was sinless, a great miracle worker. His virgin birth was like Adam's creation. He is Not God nor the son of God.

Moslems believe God never have dishonored His prophet by allowing Him to undergo crucifixion. But that Jesus was miraculously caught up into *heaven* and that perhaps *Judas Iscariot* took His place. *Muhammed is coming again*, not Jesus, perhaps to turn Christianity to Islam.

What Do You Say of Christ ?



**John 20:28 “Thomas said to him,
"My Lord and my GOD ! "**