

Here is another writing of Josephus that show us that Jesus did exist, that He walked this earth. Again, in his book Antiquities of the Jews Josephus speaks of the death of James, the half-brother of Jesus. He wrote, "As therefore Ananus (the High Priest) as of such a disposition, he thought he had now a good opportunity, as Festus (the Roman Procurator) was now dead, and Albinus (the new Procurator) was still on the road; so he assembles a council of judges, and brought before it the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ, whose name was James, together with some others, and having accused them as law-breakers, he delivered them over to be stoned."

Let me share one more with you, and there are others, but this is from a North African Christian teacher named Julius Africanus. He wrote this in 215 A. D. What Julius did was record the writing of a pagan historian by the name of Thallus.

Thallus lived in 52 A. D., only some 20 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and thus, an eyewitness to these events. What Thallus wrote about was the darkness that covered the land. This is what Julius wrote, "Thallus, in the third book of his histories, explains away this darkness as an eclipse of the sun – unreasonably, as it seems to me (unreasonably, of course, because a solar eclipse could not take place at the time of the full moon, and it was at the season of the Paschal full moon that Christ died.)"

So there are extra Biblical accounts of Jesus and His life!

4. THE DEITY OF JESUS

JESUS CLAIMED TO BE GOD

Luke 4:16-21 – Ministry in Nazareth

Matthew 22:41-46 – Son of David

John 10:22-33 – I and My Father are One

John 5:16-23 – Claiming to be equal with God

John 8:51-59 – I AM statement

John 1:1-4, 14 – Jesus is the Eternal God

John 17:1-5 – Jesus received the glory of God

John 1:18 – Only Jesus has seen the Father

THE SEVEN "I AM" STATEMENTS MADE BY JESUS

John 6:35 - I AM the Bread of Life

John 8:12, 9:5 – I AM the Light of the world

John 10:7-10 – I AM the Door

John 10:11 – I AM the Good Shepherd

John 11:25 – I AM the Resurrection and the Life

John 14:6 – I AM the Way, the Truth and the Life

John 15:5 – I AM the Vine

WHAT OTHERS SAID OF JESUS

Matthew 16:15-17 – You are the Christ

II Peter 1:1 – God and Savior Jesus Christ

John 20:24-29 – My Lord and my God

Titus 2:13 - Great God and Savior Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:15-17 – Image of the invisible God

Colossians 2:9 – In Christ the fullness of the Godhead

Hebrews 1:3 – express image of His Person

I John 5:20 – True God

Isaiah 9:6 – Mighty God

Romans 9:5 – Eternally blessed God

Mark 14:61-64 – Son of the Blessed

John 18:4-6 – I AM

Mark 1:23-24 – Demon "Holy One of God"

Matthew 1:20-23 – Angel "God with us"

Daniel 7:13-14 – Son of Man

Hebrews 1:8-9 – God the Father calls Jesus God

I think you can clearly see from the Scriptures that Jesus is Almighty God, the second person of the Holy Trinity! And let me give you this to think about. As you study what is out there, you will find that there is overwhelming evidence for the existence of Jesus Christ, both in secular and Biblical history. But, perhaps the greatest evidence that Jesus did exist is the fact that literally thousands of Christians in the first century A. D., including the twelve apostles, were willing to give their lives as martyrs for Jesus Christ. People will die for what they believe to be true, but no one will die for what they know to be a lie. As Jesus said, "**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.**" John 8:24. May you believe that Jesus is Almighty God, the Savior of the world!



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What the Bible says about . . . Jesus

Jesus Christ is Almighty God, the Second person of the Holy Trinity. Many see Jesus as a great prophet, a great teacher, a good man, but not Almighty God. If you feel that way, if you deny the deity of Jesus Christ, that He is God, you are still dead in your trespasses and sins. You are not saved. I realize that is a harsh statement, but if it is true, and it is, then why would you want to believe a lie and be eternally separated from God? Let me show you how even Jesus said that if you deny that He is God you will die in your sins.

In John 8:24 Jesus said, "**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

Now please understand that the word "**He**" is in italics and thus, it was not in the original writing. This verse is better translated, "**Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am, you will die in your sins.**" In other words, Jesus is saying that He is the great I AM of Exodus chapter 3, the EGO EIMI, the voice from the burning bush, Almighty God.

Now you don't have to believe what I have to say, but let me share with you what the Scriptures have to say regarding the deity of Jesus Christ!

1. DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST- HIS ATTRIBUTES

ETERNAL – Isaiah 9:6, Micah 5:2, John 1:1-3

OMNIPOTENCE – ALL POWERFUL
JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEATH –
Luke 7:11-16, 8:49-56, John 11:36-44

JESUS HAS POWER OVER NATURE –
Matthew 8:23-27

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DISEASE –
Luke 4:38-40, Matthew 9:1-8

JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE SINS –
Mark 2:3-12

JESUS HAS POWER OVER DEMONS –
Luke 4:31-37

JESUS HAS THE POWER TO CREATE –
Colossians 1:15-17, Matthew 14:13-21

OMNISCIENCE – ALL KNOWING

JESUS KNOWS ALL THINGS –
John 16:30, John 21:17

**JESUS KNOWS THE HISTORY OF
INDIVIDUALS** – *John 16:19, 1:43-51*

**JESUS KNOWS OUR SECRET
THOUGHTS** – *Luke 5:22-23, John 2:23-25*

OMNIPRESENCE – PRESENT EVERYWHERE

**HE IS PRESENT WHEREVER HIS
DISCIPLES GATHER** – *Matthew 18:20*

**HE IS PRESENT WHEREVER HIS
DISCIPLES GO** – *Matthew 28:18-20*

IMMUTABILITY – UNCHANGING

JESUS IS UNCHANGING – *Hebrews 13:8,
Hebrews 1:10-12*

When you look at the attributes of Jesus you can clearly see that they are the same attributes spoken of God the Father and thus, Jesus must be God and He is! Now, in the Incarnation, when God became flesh and dwelt among us, He was still fully God and now He was also fully man. Let me show you the humanity of Jesus.

2. HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST

HE WAS BORN OF A WOMAN –
Galatians 4:4, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:30-38

**HE WAS SUBJECT TO THE LAWS OF
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** – *Luke 2:40,
Luke 2:52*

**HE POSSESSED THE ESSENTIAL
ELEMENTS OF HUMAN NATURE**

HE POSSESSED A BODY – *1 John 1:1,
Matthew 26:12, John 2:18-22, Luke 24:36-40*

HE POSSESSED A SOUL –
Matthew 26:38, John 12:27, Acts 2:25-33

HE POSSESSED A SPIRIT – *Mark 2:8,
Mark 8:12, John 13:21*

**HE WAS SUBJECT TO HUMAN PHYSICAL
LIMITATIONS**

HE BECAME WEARY – *John 4:6*

HE SLEPT – *Matthew 8:24-25*

HE HUNGRED – *Matthew 4:2*

HE SUFFERED PHYSICAL AGONY –
Luke 22:44

**HE EXPERIENCED INTENSE SORROW
AND DISTRESS** – *John 11:35, Isaiah 53:3,
Luke 13:34-35*

HE DIED – *Matthew 27:50 Mark 15:37,
Luke 23:46, John 19:30-37,
1 Corinthians 15:3*

JESUS WAS SUBJECT TO TEMPTATION –
*1 Peter 1:18-19, Matthew 4:1-11, Hebrews 2:18,
Hebrews 4:15*

I realize it is hard to understand how Jesus can be fully God and fully man in the Incarnation, but that is exactly what the Scriptures teach us. This story is told of Daniel Webster when he was in the prime of his manhood. He was dining with a company of literary men in Boston. During the dinner the conversation turned upon the subject of Christianity. Mr. Webster frankly stated his belief in the divinity of Christ and his dependence upon the atonement of the Saviour.

One said to him, "Mr. Webster, can you comprehend how Christ could be both God and man?" Mr. Webster promptly replied, "No sir, I cannot comprehend it. If I could comprehend him, he would be no greater than myself. I feel that I need a super-human Saviour."

- Christian Witness

3. EXTRA BIBLICAL ACCOUNTS OF JESUS

Many people complain that there are no extra Biblical statements about Jesus, but that is not true. First of all, if you want eyewitness accounts you have to go to the Bible because we have eyewitness accounts of the existence of Jesus. But if you want historical evidence outside the Bible, you go to historians and people that were antagonistic towards Christianity, because they have nothing to gain by speaking of Jesus, only stating that facts that He did exist!

Yes, there are not volumes written of Jesus outside the Scriptures, but understand that He was nobody important who came from a hick town. In the Roman world He was not worth writing about, but we have some writings regarding Jesus outside of the Scriptures. Many negate what these historians have written because they want to deny that Jesus existed. Let me just give you a couple to show you that there was extra Biblical accounts of Jesus!

Josephus ben Mattathias was also known as Flavius Josephus. Flavius was his Roman name and Josephus his Jewish name. This man was a Pharisee and a priest living in Jerusalem. He was born in 37 A. D. and died sometime after 100 A. D. He saw first hand all the events leading up to the destruction of the Temple by the Romans. In fact, he was a general of the Jewish rebel forces in Galilee fighting against Rome.

Then Josephus was captured by the Romans at the fall of the city of Jotapata and ended up being friends with the Roman General, Vespasian. Then, in Rome of 94 A. D., Josephus published his study of the Jewish people and called it Antiquities of the Jews. In this book is a passage that has caused great debate and concern whether or not it is accurate.

Please understand, the only reason it is being questioned is because it mentions Jesus as an orthodox Jew. That is not a good reason! Listen carefully to what he wrote, "Now 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, and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among 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."