

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

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FACTS...

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?

- *Critical thinking is a higher order of thinking:* it is the practice of using a number of different advanced thinking skills in a variety of complex ways.
- *Critical thinking focuses on thought:* it looks at **how** facts are proven, arguments are formed, conclusions are reached, not just **what** the facts, argument or conclusion may be.
- *Critical thinking is self-reflexive:* it involves **reflecting** on, questioning and testing your own thinking processes.
- *Critical thinking is discipline-specific:* it engages in particular forms of reasoning, such as mathematical reasoning, historical analysis or literary interpretation, which are specific to a particular discipline.

The above is an excerpt from University of Toronto

<http://ctl.utsc.utoronto.ca/twc/sites/default/files/CriticalThinking.pdf>

How do we deal with people who criticise Jesus

Lecture

Seethe

Explain

Confront

Cry

Chastise

Laugh

Defend

Blow up

Apologize
Ignore

Debate

Feel guilty
and/or angry

Blame

Argue

Leave
Numb or tune
out

Defend

Feel hurt and
resentful

Whine /
Complain

In what types of ways do we find ourselves responding?
How do many Christians respond?

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FACTS...

The Right Approach

Reason: We base our thinking in logic, not feelings.

Is considering Jesus to exist logical?

Self-Awareness: We pay attention to our own and others' assumptions, biases and perspectives.

Is Jesus only assumed to exist by Christians?

Integrity: We care about doing our intellectual work honestly and accurately rather than about being right.

Are we honest and accurate in our review of Jesus existing?

Discipline: We put effort into doing our work comprehensively and precisely.

We say we believe Jesus existed, do we live as if we believe this?

Open-mindedness: We consider alternatives and other points of view.

Are we as Christians willing to openly investigate arguments presented against our beliefs?

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FACTS...

Is the bible the only evidence for Jesus' existence?

No!

What other evidence is there?

Plenty...see next slides

Is this other evidence as reliable as the bible?

In many cases yes, but it must be evaluated

Why do we say this?

This other evidence is also historically proven to be of the period when it is valid.

Would everyone agree?

Maybe not but critical thinkers would.

Why should people agree?

Truth stands the test of time and many investigations. These have been investigated.



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Normally people asking this question if they are not Christians then they are generally asking about evidence outside our bible... right?

Is it right to discount the biblical evidence for Jesus?

Why Not?

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N.T. Book	Author	Earliest	Latest	Most Likely
Galatians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 48	A.D. 50	A.D. 48
1 Thessalonians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 50	A.D. 52	A.D. 51
2 Thessalonians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 50	A.D. 52	A.D. 51
Mark	Mark	A.D. 45 John Wenham / John A. T. Robinson	A.D. 60 A. Harnack	A.D. 48-55
1 Corinthians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 55	A.D. 55	A.D. 55
2 Corinthians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 56	A.D. 56	A.D. 56
Romans	Apostle Paul	A.D. 57	A.D. 57	A.D. 57
James	James (half-brother of Jesus)	A.D. 38	A.D. 62	A.D. 50-60
Luke	Luke	A.D. 57-62	A.D. 57-62	A.D. 57-62
Ephesians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62
Philippians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62
Colossians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62

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N.T. Book	Author	Earliest	Latest	Most Likely
Colossians	Apostle Paul	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62
Philemon	Apostle Paul	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62	A.D. 60-62
Acts	Luke	A.D. 62-63	A.D. 62-63	A.D. 62-63
Titus	Apostle Paul	A.D. 62	A.D. 63	A.D. 63
1 Timothy	Apostle Paul	A.D. 62	A.D. 64	A.D. 63
2 Timothy	Apostle Paul	A.D. 64	A.D. 64	A.D. 64
1 Peter	Apostle Peter	A.D. 63	A.D. 68	A.D. 64-67
2 Peter	Apostle Peter	A.D. 64	A.D. 68	A.D. 65-68
Hebrews	Unknown	A.D. 40	A.D. 69	A.D. 50-68
Matthew	Apostle Matthew	A.D. 40 John Wenham / John A. T. Robinson	A.D. 110 Paul Minear	A.D. 65-70
Jude	Jude (half-brother of Jesus)	A.D. 60	A.D. 85	A.D. 65-80

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FACTS...

N.T. Book	Author	Earliest	Latest	Most Likely
John	Apostle John	A.D. 60's F. Lamar Cribbs	A.D. 90's	A.D. 90's
1 John	Apostle John	Unknown	A.D. 98	A.D. 90's
2 John	Apostle John	Unknown	A.D. 98	A.D. 90's
3 John	Apostle John	Unknown	A.D. 98	A.D. 90's
Revelation	Apostle John	A.D. 68	A.D. 97	A.D. 95-97

Based on the date Jesus died...how many years passed from them until the last piece of writing was written?

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Based on the date Jesus died...how many years passed from them until the last piece of writing was written?

JESUS IS BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED ABOUT 30-33AD

95 A.D. – 33A.D. = 62 years

World War 2 1945 A.D. – 2014A.D. = 69 years

Can we trust our information about the world war from 69 years ago?

If so... why can we not trust biblical accounts written
62years after the event?

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

New Testaments writings are valid for reviewing if
Jesus existed.

But are there
other writings,
and if so what
are they?

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Tacitus – Roman Historian (A.D.56 to A.D 117)

Mentioned superstitious “Christians” (from *Christus*, which is Latin for Christ), who suffered under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius.

Suetonius, chief secretary to Emperor Hadrian (A.D.69-A.D.122)

Wrote that there was a man named Chrestus (or Christ) who lived during the first century (*Annals* 15.44).

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html#ixzz2q8Scif4N>

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

Flavius Josephus – Jewish historian (A.D.36 to A.D.100)

In his *Antiquities* he refers to James, “the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ.” There is a controversial verse (18:3) that says, “Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats....He was [the] Christ...he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him.”

One version reads, “At this time there was a wise man named Jesus. 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. But those who became his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he had 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.”

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html#ixzz2q8TfMSgZ>

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

Julius Africanus - celebrated orator in the reign of Nero condemned by Tiberius in 32 AD

Quotes the historian Thallus in a discussion of the darkness which followed the crucifixion of Christ (*Extant Writings*, 18).

Pliny the Younger – (A.D.61 to A.D.112)

in *Letters* 10:96, recorded early Christian worship practices including the fact that Christians worshiped Jesus as God and were very ethical, and he includes a reference to the love feast and Lord's Supper.

The Babylonian Talmud (Sanhedrin 43a) A.D.200 to A.D.500

confirms Jesus' crucifixion on the eve of Passover and the accusations against Christ of practicing sorcery and encouraging Jewish apostasy.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html#ixzz2q8U5ni00>

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

Lucian of Samosata was a second-century Greek writer (A.D 125 – A.D.180)

Admits that Jesus was worshiped by Christians, introduced new teachings, and was crucified for them. He said that Jesus' teachings included the brotherhood of believers, the importance of conversion, and the importance of denying other gods. Christians lived according to Jesus' laws, believed themselves to be immortal, and were characterized by contempt for death, voluntary self-devotion, and renunciation of material goods.

Mara Bar-Serapion - Stoic philosopher in the Roman province of Syria-Letter A.D.73

Confirms that Jesus was thought to be a wise and virtuous man, was considered by many to be the king of Israel, was put to death by the Jews, and lived on in the teachings of His followers.

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html#ixzz2q8V5NPKr>

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GNOSTIC MANUSCRIPTS

Discovered at Nag Hammadi are *generally dated* to the 4th century
Dates of the writings are not yet well defined however

There is some debate regarding the *original* composition of the texts.

A wide range and the majority of scholars date authorship of the Gnostic gospel of Nag Hammadi to the 2nd and 3rd century. Scholars with a focus on Christianity tend to date the gospels mentioned by Irenaeus to the 2nd century, and the gospels mentioned solely by Jerome to the 4th century

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

JESUS did exist!

The facts say so...
..but what did he do?

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

From **non-biblical sources** we can
construct the following summary

Jesus was called the Christ (Josephus), did
“magic,” led Israel into new teachings, and
was hanged on Passover for them
(*Babylonian Talmud*) in Judea (Tacitus), but
claimed to be God and would return
(Eliezar), which his followers believed,
worshipping Him as God (Pliny the Younger).

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/did-Jesus-exist.html#ixzz2q8Xo9np9>

DID JESUS REALLY EXIST FACTS...

From **biblical sources** we can construct
the following summary

Jesus was called the Christ (*Romans 1*) did
“miracles” (*Matthew, Mark, Luke, John*) led Israel
into new teachings (*Luke 11*), and was hanged
on Passover (*John 19, Matthew 27, Luke 23, Mark 15*)
for them in Judea.

Jesus claimed to be God (*John 1:1, John 10:33, Col
2:9*) and would return (*Rev 20*) which his
followers believed, worshipping Him as God.

JESUS DID REALLY EXIST

A very early writing Nicene Creed A.D.325 formally adopted this truthful statement about Jesus.

Written and agreed by a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in AD 325

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the only-begotten of his Father, of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten), not made, being of one substance with the Father. By whom all things were made, both which be in heaven and in earth. Who for us men and for our salvation came down [from heaven] and was incarnate and was made man. He suffered and the third day he rose again, and ascended into heaven. And he shall come again to judge both the quick and the dead. And [we believe] in the Holy Ghost. And whosoever shall say that there was a time when the Son of God was not or that before he was begotten he was not, or that he was made of things that were not, or that he is of a different substance or essence [from the Father] or that he is a creature, or subject to change or conversion—all that so say, the Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes them.

http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Nicene_Creed

This is who Jesus is ...but what did he want?

Curses

JESUS WANTED

²⁸ One of the teachers of the law came and heard the Sadducees arguing. He noticed that Jesus had given the Sadducees a good answer. So he asked him, *“Which is the most important of all the commandments?”*

²⁹ Jesus answered, *“Here is the most important one.*

Moses said, ‘Israel, listen to me. The Lord is our God. The Lord is one. ³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. Love him with all your mind and with all your strength.’

³¹ *And here is the second one.*

‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’

There is no commandment more important than these.”

³² “You have spoken well, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one. There is no other God but him. ³³ To love God with all your heart and mind and strength is very important. So is loving your neighbor as you love yourself. These things are more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

³⁴ Jesus saw that the man had answered wisely. He said to him, “You are not far from God’s kingdom.”

From then on, no one dared to ask Jesus any more questions.

WHAT DO WE WANT?

Love the Lord your God with all our heart and with all our soul. Love him with all our mind and with all our strength.'

'Love our neighbor as we love ourselves.'

There is no commandment more important than these."

At SGC we need to do this by assisting our neighbours and showing them love. Our actions need to be our greatest words. We are assisting our neighbours unconditionally because they are worthy of our love and of Gods love, even if they reject us. We thank God for the opportunity and look for way to extend his love into the world.

That's what we do...right?