**PROVING THE PAGES**

Proving the historical reliability of the New Testament

Northern Hills Church of Christ, March 18th, 2015

THE CLAIM

**There is ABUNDANT evidence from historical sources which is adequate to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and the Bible is the Word of God!**

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| Christianity Is….   * A Space-Time Religion * A Historical religion * A researched & recorded religion * An eyewitness religion * A contextual religion | The Bible Is…   * God’s Word * Inspired * Factual * Historical * Eyewitness Testimony * Accurate |

What is FAITH?

* FACTS
* ACTIONS
* INDIVIDUAL
* TRUST
* HOPE

FACTS TO PROVE

* Jesus was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person who existed in time & space
* Jesus was not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ by his followers

PAGAN SOURCES

* **THALLUS**
  + Reference to eclipse at time of Jesus’ crucifixion referenced by Julius Africanus

*“On the whole world there pressed a most fearful darkness; and the rocks were rent by an earthquake, and many places in Judea and other districts were thrown down. This darkness Thallus, in the third book of his History, calls, as appears to me without reason, an eclipse of the sun. For the Hebrews celebrate the passover on the 14th day according to the moon, and the passion of our Savior falls on the day before the passover; but an eclipse of the sun takes place only when the moon comes under the sun. And it cannot happen at any other time but in the interval between the first day of the new moon and the last of the old, that is, at their junction: how then should an eclipse be supposed to happen when the moon is almost diametrically opposite the sun? Let opinion pass however; let it carry the majority with it; and let this portent of the world be deemed an eclipse of the sun, like others a portent only to the eye. Phlegon records that, in the time of Tiberius Caesar, at full moon, there was a full eclipse of the sun from the sixth hour to the ninth--manifestly that one of which we speak. But what has an eclipse in common with an earthquake, the rending rocks, and the resurrection of the dead, and so great a perturbation throughout the universe? Surely no such event as this is recorded for a long period.”*- Africanus, *A History of the World,* XVIII.1

<http://christianthinktank.com/jrthal.html>

* **MARA-BAR SERAPION**

*“What benefit did the Athenians obtain by putting Socrates to death? Famine and plague came upon them as judgment for their crime. Or, the people of Samos for burning Pythagoras? In one moment their country was covered with sand. Or the Jews by murdering their wise king?. . . after that their kingdom was abolished. God rightly avenged these men. . . the wise king. . . lived on in the teachings he enacted.*” - British Museum, Syriac Manuscript, Additional 14,658

* **CORNELIUS TACITUS**

*“Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate…”-*Annals, Book 15:44

* **PLINIUS SECUNDUS (Pliny the Younger)**

*“They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang an anthem to Christ as God, and bound themselves by a solemn oath not to commit any wicked deed…after which it was their custom to separate, and then to meet again to partake food, but food of an ordinary and innocent kind.”* –Epistles, 10:96

* **SUETONIUS**

*“As the Jews were making constant disturbances at the instigation of Chrestus, he expelled them from Rome.”* –Life of Claudius, 25:4

JEWISH SOURCES

* **The Talmud**
  + Mishnah & Gemeras
  + Contains \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ references to Christ throughout
* **Flavius Josephus** 
  + References Pilate, Quirinius of Syria, Caesars, Herods, Pharisees & Sadducees, Annas, Caiaphas, Felix, Festus, Jesus’ brother James, death of John the Baptist, & Jesus among others

*“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 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.”-* Josephus’ Antiquities, 18:3.3.

<http://www.ccel.org/j/josephus/works/ant-18.htm>

What generally makes something historically verifiable?

**TAKE HOME**

* Existence is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ proof of His deity

“Consider that men do not receive such recognition among the great men of history merely because they exist.”- Ed Wharton

* New Testament is the single source of the fullness of Jesus’ greatness
* Existence means New Testament is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES**

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