

Neither of these gospels is especially helpful in reconstructing the history of Jesus.

That inventory brings to twenty-three the number of gospels from which data may be extracted for reconstructing a profile of the historical Jesus.

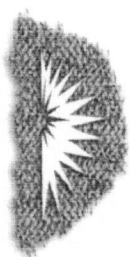


### Other Sources

**Eusebius** (?260–?340) was bishop of Caesarea and confidant of the Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicea (325 CE). His most important work is his *Ecclesiastical History*, which is the principal source for our knowledge of the history of Christianity from the apostolic age to his own day.

**Hegesippus** was a Jewish-Christian church historian of the second century CE (precise dates unknown), who wrote five *Books of Memoirs* in opposition to the Gnostics. His works have disappeared, although they are quoted extensively by Eusebius in his *Ecclesiastical History*.

**Flavius Josephus** (?37–?100) was a Jewish historian who wrote two major histories: *The Jewish War*, which is an account of events leading up to and including the Jewish war with the Romans, 66–73 CE. The second work is called *The Antiquities of the Jews* in twenty books (scrolls), which sketches the history of the Jews from the creation to the beginning of the Jewish war.



## Historical Evidence for Jesus of Nazareth Beyond Christian Texts

Tacitus, *Annals* 115.44 (112–113 CE)

The “Anointed one,” the founder of the name [of the sect], during the rule of Tiberias was put to death by the procurator Pontius Pilate. Restrained for the moment, the deadly superstition broke out again, not only throughout Judea, the origin of the evil, but also through the city in which everything nasty and naughty flows and grows.

Suetonius, *Claudius* 125 (121 CE)

Claudius expelled from Rome Jews who were constantly rioting at the instigation of a certain Chrestus.

*b Sanhedrin* 43a

On the eve of the Passover Yeshu was hanged. For forty days before the execution took place, a herald went forth and cried, “He is going forth to be stoned because he has practiced sorcery and enticed Israel to go astray. Let any one who can say anything in his defense, come and plead on his behalf.” But since nothing was brought in his defense he was hanged on the eve of the Passover.

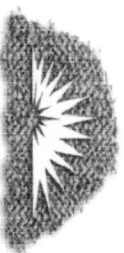
Yeshu had five disciples, Matthai, Nakai, Netzer, Buni and Todah.

Josephus, *Antiquities* 18.63–64 (93–94 CE)

Around this time there was a wise man Jesus, if one could call him a man. For he was a performer of

extraordinary deeds, a teacher of people who take pleasure in the truth. He won over many Judeans and many from the Greek world. He was the "Anointed." Although Pilate, on the indictment of the first men among us, condemned him to the cross, those who loved him from the first did not stop. For he appeared alive again to them on the third day as the sacred prophets had spoken of these and many other wonders about him. Even now the clan of the Anointed One, named after him, has not declined.\*

\*Regular type indicates what most scholars consider historical. The italic may be later Christian insertion.



## Reports of the Jesus Seminar

*The Complete Gospels*. Ed. Robert J. Miller. 4th Edition. Polebridge Press, 2010.

*The Complete Gospel Parallels*. Eds. Arthur J. Dewey & Robert J. Miller. Polebridge Press, 2012.

These volumes are indispensable for those interested in the quest. They feature the Scholars Version translation of twenty-three gospels. *The Complete Parallels* allows for an easy comparison of the gospel traditions.



The primary reports of the Jesus Seminar containing color-coded evaluations of all the words and deeds ascribed to Jesus are:

*The Five Gospels: The Search for the Authentic Words of Jesus*. Robert W. Funk, Roy W. Hoover, and the Jesus Seminar. Macmillan/Polebridge Press, 1993.

In *The Five Gospels*, the Jesus Seminar examined approximately 1,500 versions of 500 sayings, parables, and dialogues attributed to Jesus. The results of the Seminar's deliberations are reported by color-coding the texts of all five gospels (Mark, Matthew, Luke, John and Thomas).

*The Acts of Jesus: The Search for the Authentic Deeds of Jesus*. Robert W. Funk and the Jesus Seminar. HarperSanFrancisco/Polebridge Press, 1998.

In *The Acts of Jesus*, the Fellows reviewed 387 reports of 176 events reported in all the gospels. They again reported the results of their debates by color-coding all 387 anecdotes.