

“Evidence Outside the Bible”

John 21:25



Pastor Greg Mansur

November 2-3, 2019

October 19-20 – “The Investigation of a Lifetime”

October 26-27 – “Eyewitness Evidence”

November 2-3 – “Evidence Outside the Bible”

November 9-10 – “Analyzing Jesus”

November 16-17 – “Evidence of the Resurrection”

November 23-24 – “Reaching Your Verdict”



The Case for Christ #3 : “Evidence Outside the Bible”



HOLY BIBLE

ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION

“Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.” (John 21:25)



The Case for Christ #3 : “Evidence Outside the Bible”

FOUR PRIMARY “CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

1. Matthew

2. Mark

3. Luke

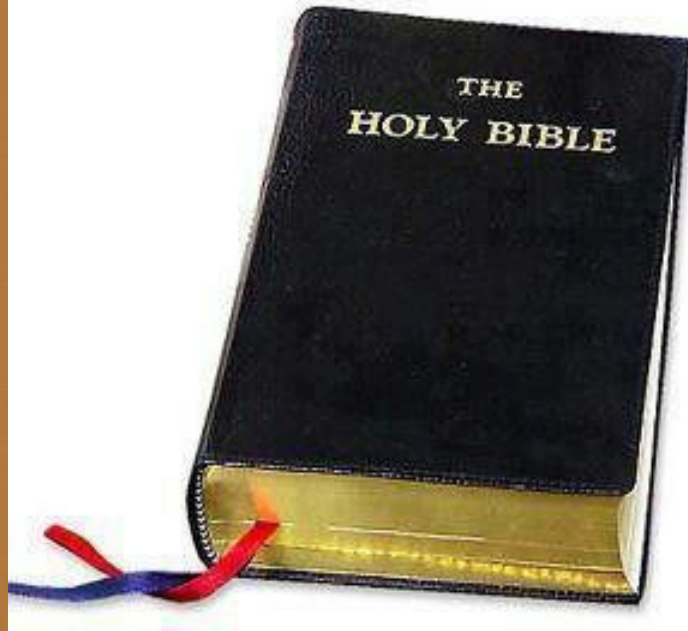
4. John

- The 4 Gospels render a 3D image of the work, ministry, and claims of Jesus
- They are not contradictory; they are complementary

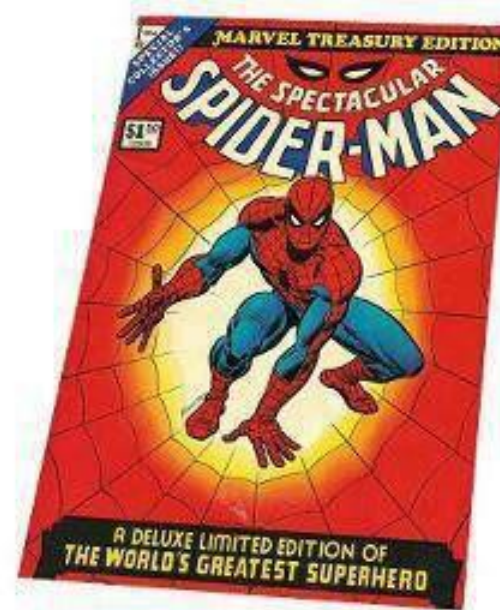




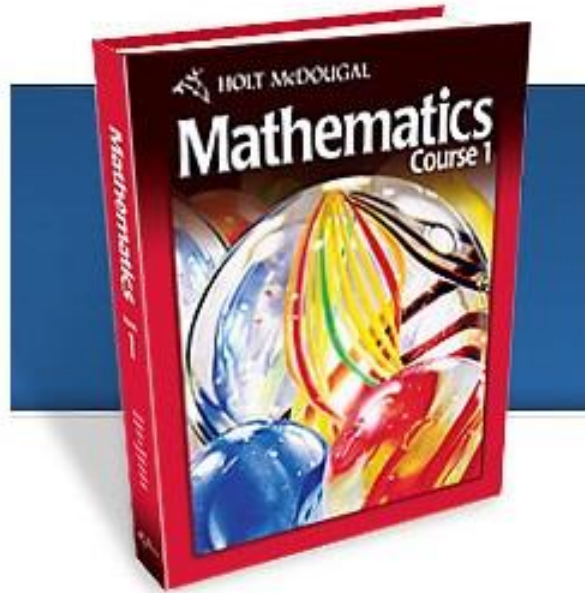
Proof that
GOD
exists.



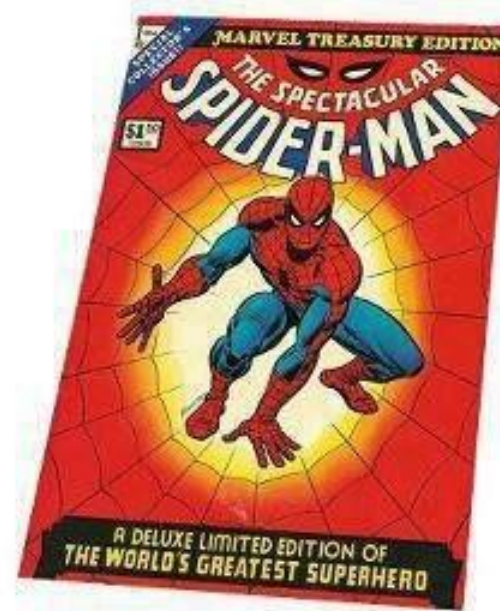
Proof that
Spiderman
exists.



Proof that
Square Root
exists.



Proof that
Spiderman
exists.



Jon Murray: “There was no such person in the history of the world as Jesus Christ. There was no historical, living, breathing human being by that name. Ever. [The Bible] is a fictional, non-historical narrative. The myth is good for business.”





N.T. Wright

“It would be easier, frankly, to believe that Tiberius Caesar, Jesus’ contemporary, was a figment of the imagination than to believe that there was never such a person as Jesus.”



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

1. The Testimony of Suetonius
2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger
3. The Testimony of Tacitus
4. The Testimony of Josephus



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

1. The Testimony of Suetonius

“[Claudius] expelled the Jews from Rome, since they were always making disturbances because of the instigator “Chrestus.”



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

1. The Testimony of Suetonius

- Jesus was identified as the Messiah and viewed as a threat to the Roman Empire.



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

“I decided to dismiss any who decided that they are or ever have been Christians when they repeated after me a formula invoking the gods and made offerings of wine and



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

“incense to your image I understand that no one who is really a Christian can be made to do these things. Other people, whose names have been given to me by an

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2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

“informer, first said they were Christians and then denied it. They said that they had stopped being Christians two or more years ago, and some more than twenty. They



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

“all venerated your image and the images of the gods as others did, and reviled Christ. They also maintained that the sum total of their guilt or error was no more than the following.



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

“They had met regularly before dawn on a determined day, and sung antiphonally a hymn to Christ as if to a god. They also took an oath not for any crime, but to keep from theft,



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

“robbery and adultery, not to break any promise, and not to withhold a deposit when reclaimed.”



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

2. The Testimony of Pliny the Younger

- Early Christians worshipped Jesus and viewed allegiance to other gods as a betrayal of Jesus.



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

3. The Testimony of Tacitus

“But neither human effort nor the emperor’s generosity nor the placating of the gods ended the scandalous belief that the fire had been ordered. Therefore, to put down the rumor,

FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

3. The Testimony of Tacitus

“Nero substituted as culprits and punished in most unusual ways those hated for their shameful acts, whom the crowd called ‘Chrestians.’ The founder of this name, Christ, had



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

3. The Testimony of Tacitus

“been executed in the reign of Tiberius by the procurator, Pontius Pilate. Suppressed for a time, the deadly superstition erupted again not only in Judea, the origin of this evil, but



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

3. The Testimony of Tacitus

“also in the city [Rome], when all things horrible and shameful from everywhere come together and become popular. Therefore, first those who admitted to it were arrested, then on



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

3. The Testimony of Tacitus

“their information a very large multitude was convicted, not so much for the crime of arson as for hatred for the human race.”



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

3. The Testimony of Tacitus

- Jesus was from Judea, crucified by Pontius Pilate, and a “deadly superstition” circulated after his death.



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

4. The Testimony of Josephus

“Around this time lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed it is right to call him a man. For he was a worker of amazing deeds and was a teacher of people who accept the truth with pleasure.”



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

4. The Testimony of Josephus

“He won over many Jews and many Greeks. He was the Messiah. Pilate, when he heard him accused by leading men among us, condemned him to the cross, but those who first loved



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4. The Testimony of Josephus

“him did not cease. For on the third day he appeared to them alive again, because the divine prophets had prophesied these and a myriad of other things about him. To this day



FOUR PRIMARY “NON-CHRISTIAN” SOURCES:

4. The Testimony of Josephus

“the tribe of Christians named after him has not disappeared.”

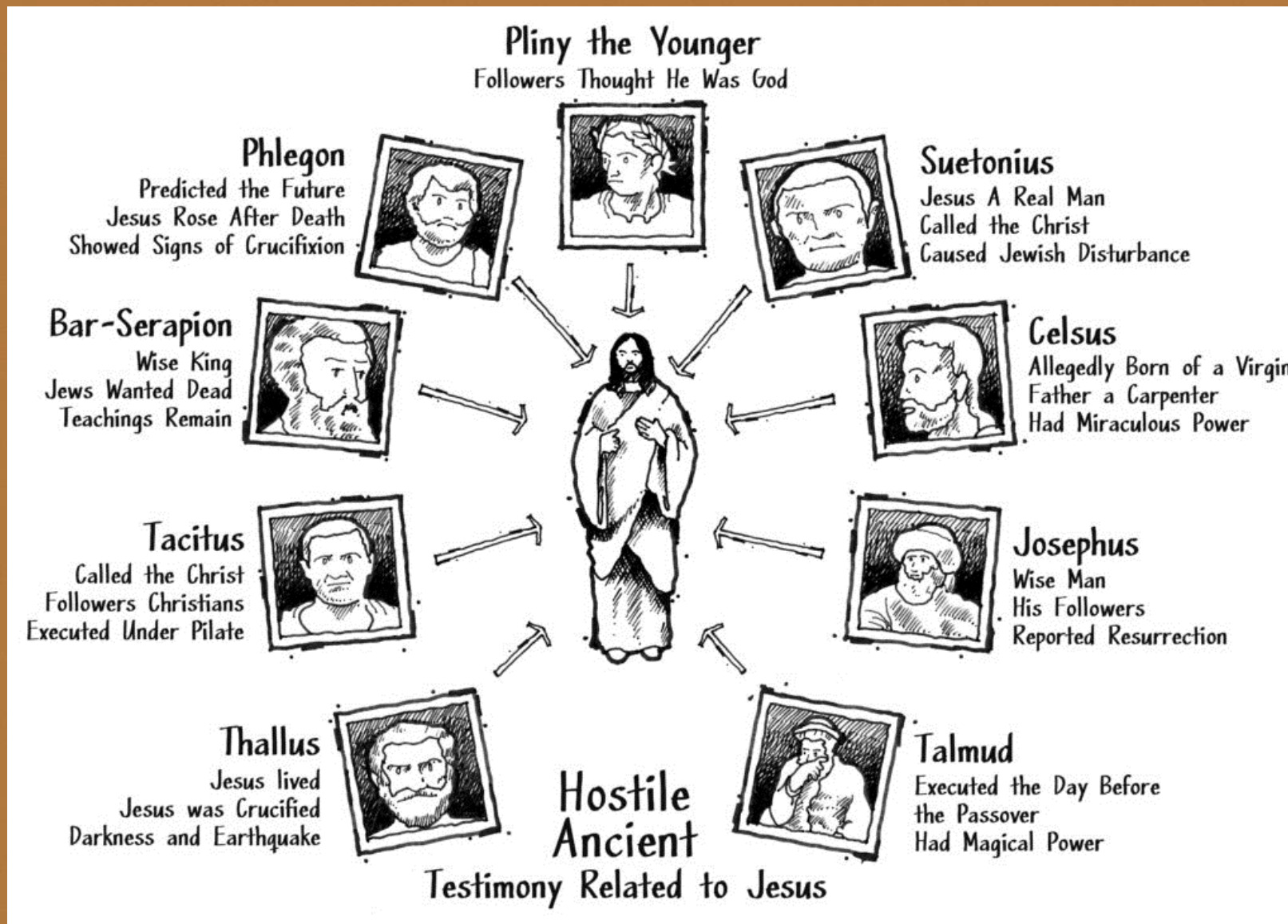


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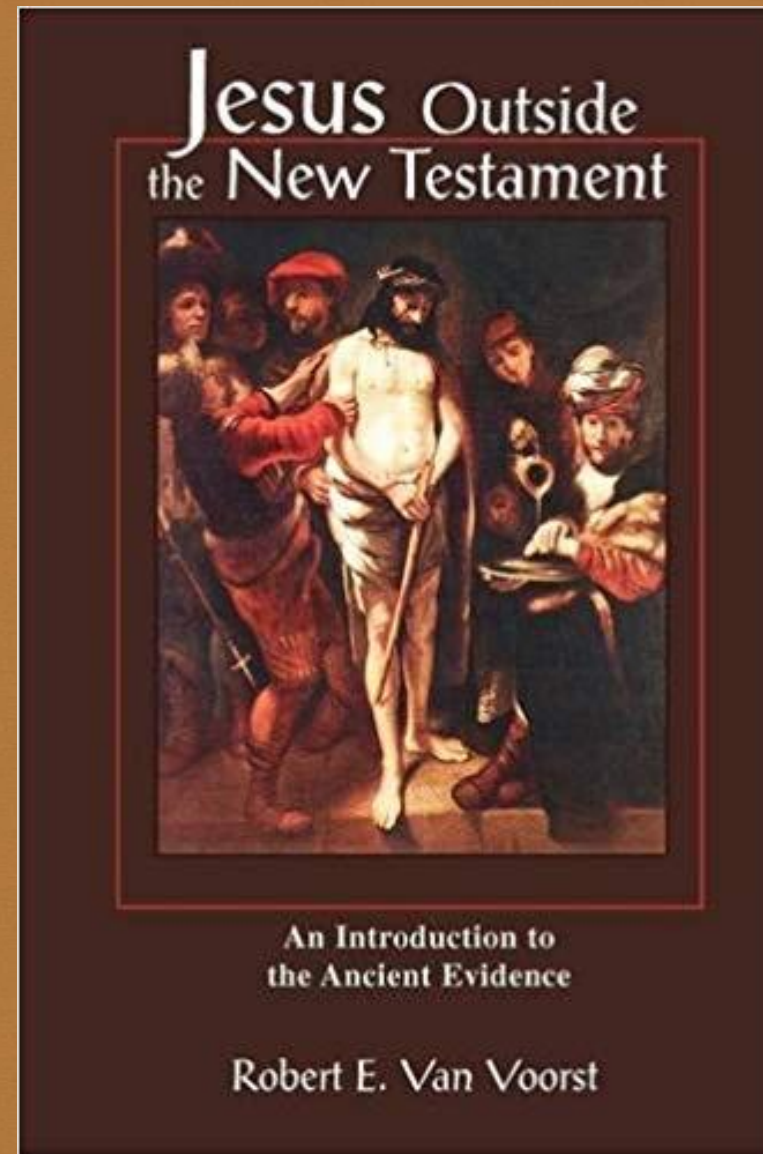
4. The Testimony of Josephus

- Jesus was a miracle worker and teacher, believed to be the Messiah, crucified by Pilate, and seen alive by his followers three days after his death.





“Our study of
Jesus outside the
New Testament
points at the end
of the day to
Jesus inside the
New Testament.”





N.T. Wright

“The Jesus I know in prayer is the same Jesus I meet in the historical evidence.”



THE CASE FOR Christ

LEE
STROBEL

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR



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