

*"Some writers may toy with the fancy of a 'Christmyth,' but they do not do so on the grounds of historical evidence. The historicity of Christ is as axiomatic for an unbiased historian as the historicity of Julius Caesar. It is not historians who propagate the 'Christ-myth' theories." – F.F. Bruce, **The New Testament Documents: Are they Reliable?***

### **(I) WHAT WE CAN KNOW ABOUT JESUS, JUST FROM SECULAR SOURCES?**

(A) Let's just talk about what we know about Jesus from ancient, \_\_\_\_\_ (1);  
ancient, nonChristian sources:

### **(II) THE EVIDENCE: (SECULAR WRITINGS FROM 30 AD - 130 AD REFERRING TO JESUS' LIFE)**

(A) If we pull out the sources (nonChristian sources only) that mention Jesus, you have about a \_\_\_\_\_ (2) sources:

(1) A couple of \_\_\_\_\_ (3)

(2) Trajan and \_\_\_\_\_ (4)

(3) A couple of major Roman \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

(4) Tacitus and Suetonius

(5) A \_\_\_\_\_ (6) historian

(6) Josephus

(7) Jewish references in their sacred commentary on the \_\_\_\_\_ (7) Testament, the Talmud.

(B) If we use \_\_\_\_\_ (8) these nonChristian writings and count what they say about Jesus; If we put these all together and ask "What do we know about Jesus just from these nonChristian sources, regarding His life, His teachings, His publish ministry, even His miracles, His death, His resurrection, and some things about the earliest church, we have about \_\_\_\_\_ (9) items.

(1) These writings exist without every opening the Bible, without ever opening a single Christian book.

(C) Contrary to popular opinion, Jesus is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ (10) people in the ancient world.

(1) The one that's reported about most frequently is his \_\_\_\_\_ (11). About \_\_\_\_\_ (12) of those sources mention his \_\_\_\_\_ (13).

### **(III) DO THESE SECULAR TEXTS LEAVE OUT THE MIRACULOUS?**

(A) Actually, they \_\_\_\_\_ (leave out the miraculous) (14).

(B) These sources will:

(1) Claim that Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ (15) to have or did miracles

(2) Talk about His \_\_\_\_\_ (16)

(3) Talk about Him appearing to the \_\_\_\_\_ (17)

*That's really interesting and all this can be learned from studying even nonChristian Writings.*

### **RECOMMENDED FURTHER READING:**

The Historical Reliability of the Gospels – *Craig L. Blomberg*

The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable? – *F. F. Bruce*

The Historical Jesus, Ancient Evidence for the Life of Christ – *Gary Habermas*

The Case for the Real Jesus – *Lee Strobel*



1. Secular
2. Dozen and a half
3. Emperors
4. Hadrian
5. Historians
6. Jewish historian
7. Old
8. Only
9. 50
10. Mentioned
11. Death
12. 2/3rds
13. Death
14. Don't
15. Believed
16. Resurrection
17. Disciples