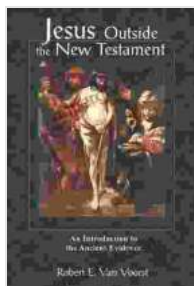


Accounts Of Jesus From Outside The New Testament



The Other Gospels: Accounts of Jesus from Outside the New Testament by Steven Waldman

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
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For centuries, the New Testament has been the primary source of information about the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. However, recent scholarship has revealed a wealth of valuable accounts that lie beyond the biblical texts.

This article presents a comprehensive examination of non-biblical sources that provide insights into the historical Jesus. We will explore ancient documents, historical writings, archaeological evidence, and even references from non-Christian sources to paint a more complete picture of this enigmatic figure.

1. Historical Documents

The Annals of Tacitus

Tacitus, a Roman historian writing around 116 CE, mentions Jesus in his seminal work, "The Annals." Tacitus describes Jesus as "Christus" and refers to his crucifixion under the reign of Emperor Tiberius. This account supports the biblical timeline and adds credibility to the historicity of Jesus' death.

The Letters of Pliny the Younger

Pliny the Younger, a Roman governor in Bithynia, wrote to Emperor Trajan around 112 CE about the spread of Christianity in the region. Pliny describes Christians as worshipping "Christus" and adhering to a moral code. This letter provides evidence of the early growth and organization of the Christian movement.

The Jewish Antiquities of Flavius Josephus

Flavius Josephus, a Jewish historian writing in the late 1st century CE, includes two references to Jesus in his "Jewish Antiquities." One passage mentions John the Baptist as a forerunner of Jesus, while the other briefly describes Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. While the authenticity of these passages has been debated, they nonetheless demonstrate that Josephus was aware of Jesus and his impact.

2. Ancient Writings

The Gospel of Peter

Discovered in Egypt in 1886, the Gospel of Peter is a fragmented text that dates back to the early 2nd century CE. It provides an alternative account

of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, including additional details not found in the biblical Gospels.

The Gospel of Thomas

Another non-canonical gospel discovered in Nag Hammadi, Egypt, the Gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus. These sayings offer insights into Jesus' teachings on spirituality, the nature of the kingdom of God, and the importance of inner transformation.

The Didache

The Didache, a Christian manual dating from the late 1st or early 2nd century CE, contains instructions for church life and moral conduct. It references Jesus' teachings on prayer, baptism, fasting, and the Eucharist, providing a glimpse into early Christian practices.

3. Archaeological Evidence

The Pilate Stone

Discovered in Caesarea Maritima in 1961, the Pilate Stone is a limestone inscription that mentions Pontius Pilate as the prefect of Judea, confirming his existence and governorship during the time of Jesus.

The Talpiot Tomb

In 1980, a tomb in Talpiot, Jerusalem, was excavated and contained ossuaries (bone boxes) inscribed with the names "Yeshua bar Yosef" (Jesus, son of Joseph) and "Maria" (Mary). While the identification of these

remains as belonging to Jesus and his mother is contested, the find has sparked considerable interest and debate.

4. Non-Christian Sources

The Babylonian Talmud

The Babylonian Talmud, a collection of Jewish rabbinic teachings, contains several references to Jesus, including accounts of his birth, miracles, and crucifixion. These accounts often present a negative view of Jesus, but they nonetheless provide valuable insights into how Jesus was perceived by his contemporaries.

The Quran

The Quran, the holy book of Islam, mentions Jesus (referred to as "Isa") as one of the major prophets sent by God. The Quranic account of Jesus emphasizes his role as a healer, teacher, and messenger of divine revelation.

By examining accounts of Jesus from outside the New Testament, we gain a more comprehensive understanding of this pivotal figure in human history. These sources offer valuable insights into his life, teachings, and impact, expanding our knowledge beyond the confines of biblical texts.

While some of these accounts may present conflicting or alternative perspectives, they collectively contribute to the rich tapestry of historical evidence surrounding Jesus. By studying these diverse sources, we can appreciate the complexity and enduring legacy of one of the most influential individuals ever to walk the earth.

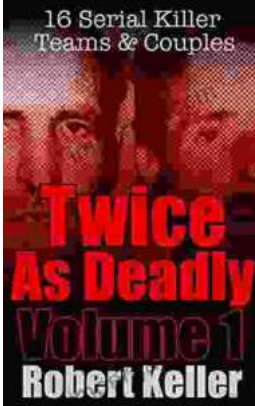


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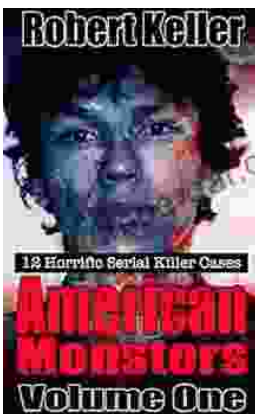
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