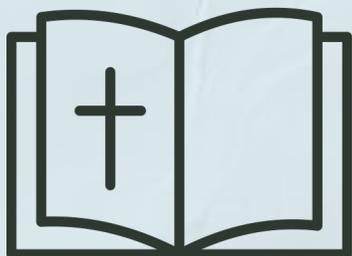


PROVE TO ME THAT GOD EXISTS!

Exploring the historical evidence
for Jesus' death and resurrection

Sunday, 8th March 5pm
at All Saints Weston

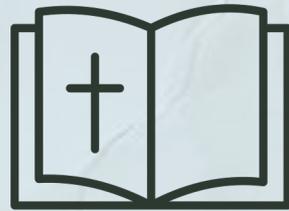


Isaac Langmead

Intern - All Saints Weston

PROVE TO ME THAT GOD EXISTS!

Exploring the historical evidence
for Jesus' death and resurrection



1. What is “PROOF” vs Evidence

2. The Wonder of the Universe

Could the universe point to a creator?

1. The Question of God

If there is a creator... who is He?

1. The Claim of Christianity

What does Christianity actually claim about Jesus?

1. The Historical Evidence About Jesus

What do historians say about His life, death, and resurrection?

1. What It Means for Us

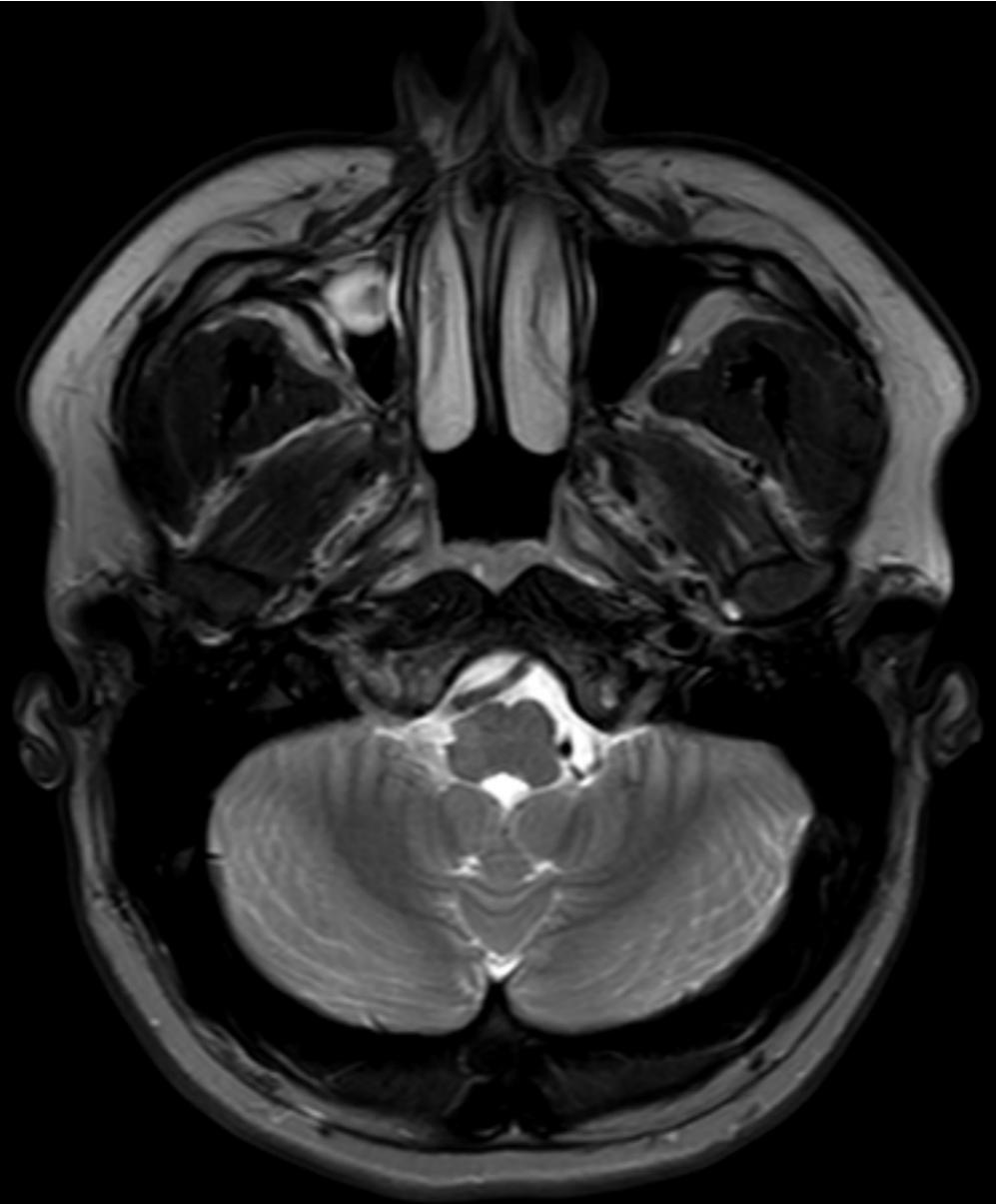
If these things are true... what should we do about it?



This is my brain

86 BILLION neurons
100 TRILLION
synaptic connections

100-400 billion stars
in the sky



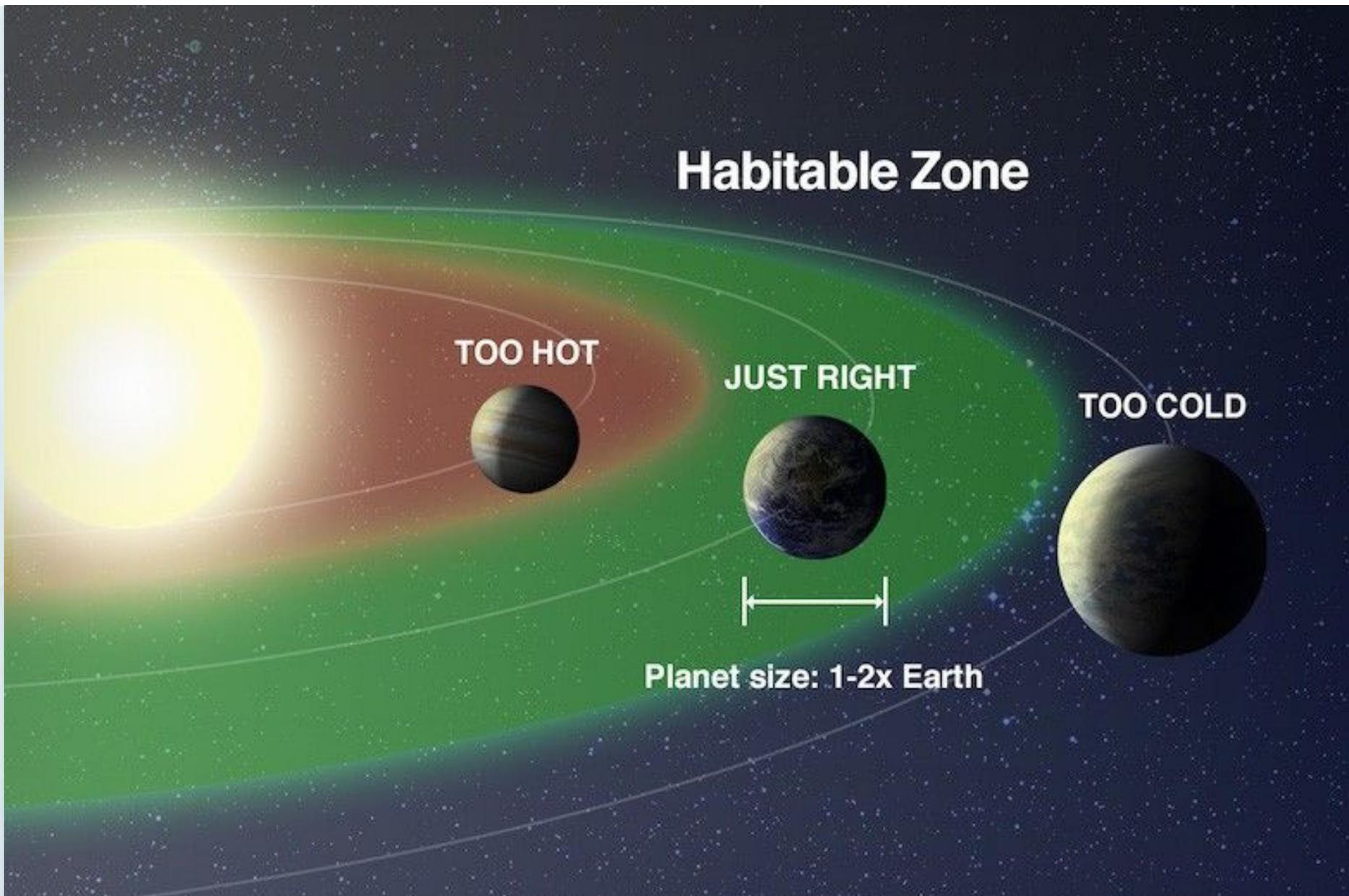
Habitable Zone

TOO HOT

JUST RIGHT

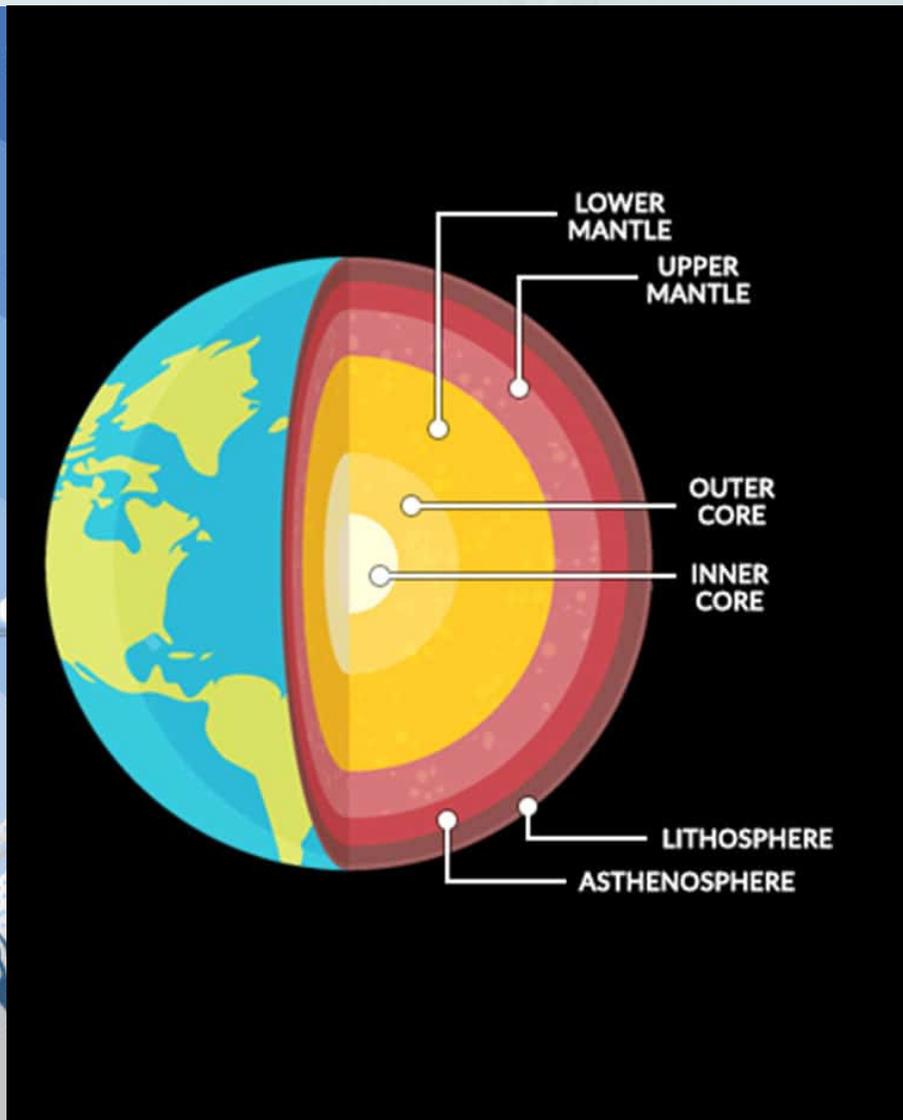
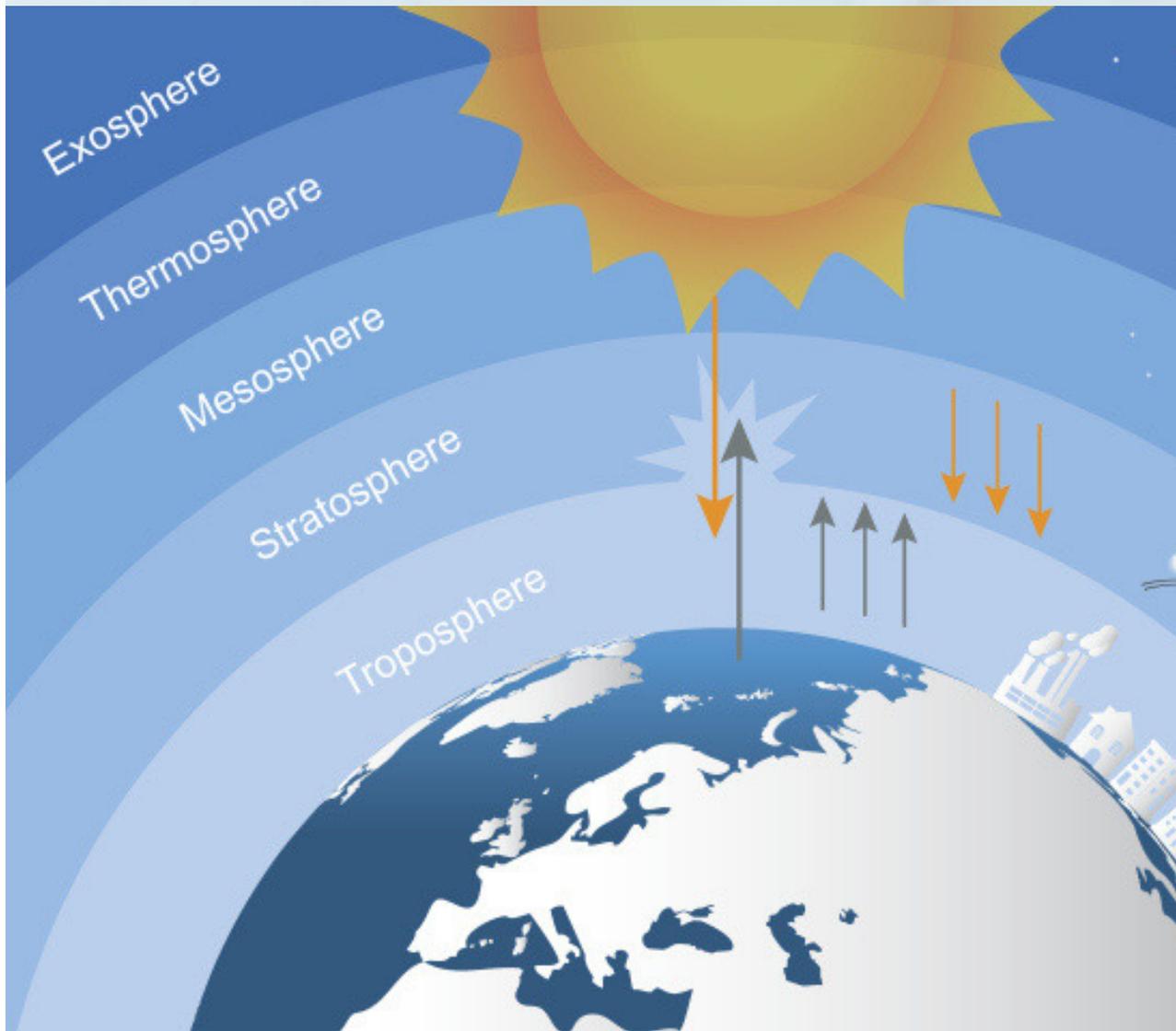
TOO COLD

Planet size: 1-2x Earth



The moon's orbit is tilted.





Genesis 1:1

Time

In the beginning God created
the heavens and **the earth**

Space

Matter

God/Creator must be outside of Space, Time, Matter
If there was matter and time but no space, **where?**
If there was matter and space but no time, **when?**

Same evidence but different conclusions, why?

Not just intellectual - touches the heart

- We wouldn't be accidents in nature
- Our lives would have greater meaning
- There is a truth outside of ourselves

What does Christianity claim?

Christianity's foundation is on Jesus Christ.

It is the claim that the creator of the universe stepped into time voluntarily as a human to reveal what God is like and to restore and rescue humanity from sin and death back into an active and personal relationship with Him.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Historical Method

1. Material evidence - Physical remains, monuments, buildings, tombs or artifacts connected to a person or event
1. Archaeological evidence - coins, inscriptions, discoveries that confirm
1. Textual sources - Written documents like letters, biographies, records and eye witness accounts

OT Israel (Northern Kingdom)

Omri - 1 Kings 16:23-28

Ahab - 1 Kings 16:29-33

Jehoram (Israel) - 2 Kings 3:1

Jehu - 2 Kings 9:1-13

Jehoash (Joash of Israel) - 2 Kings 13:10

Jeroboam II - 2 Kings 14:23

Menahem - 2 Kings 15:14

Pekah - 2 Kings 15:27

Hoshea - 2 Kings 17:1

**Verifiable
figures in
the Bible +
external
source(s)**

OT Judah (Southern Kingdom)

Ahaziah (Judah) - 2 Kings 8:25

Jotham - 2 Kings 15:32

Ahaz - 2 Kings 16:1

Hezekiah - 2 Kings 18:1

Manasseh - 2 Kings 21:1

Hilkiah (High Priest) - 2 Kings 22:4

Jeconiah (Jehoiachin) - 2 Kings 24:8

**Verifiable
figures in
the Bible +
external
source(s)**

Ahaziah's grave says 'House of David'

OT Aram-Damascus

Ben-Hadad II - 1 Kings 20:1

Hazael - 2 Kings 8:8-15

Ben-Hadad III - 2 Kings 13:3

Rezin - 2 Kings 16:5

OT Assyrian Kings

Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul) - 2 Kings 15:19

Shalmaneser V - 2 Kings 17:3

Sargon II - Isaiah 20:1

Sennacherib - 2 Kings 18:13

Esarhaddon - 2 Kings 19:37

Ashurbanipal (Osnappar) - Ezra 4:10

**Verifiable
figures in
the Bible +
external
source(s)**

OT Egyptian Pharaoh's

Shishak (Shoshenq I) - 1 Kings 14:25

So (Osorkon IV) - 2 Kings 17:4

Tirhakah (Taharqa) - 2 Kings 19:9

Necho II - 2 Kings 23:29

Hophra (Apries) - Jeremiah 44:30

OT Babylonian/Persian Rulers

Nebuchadnezzar II - 2 Kings 25:1

Amel-Marduk (Evil-Merodach) - 2 Kings 25:27

Belshazzar - Daniel 5:1

Nabonidus - (Indirect in Daniel 5 context)

Cyrus the Great - Ezra 1:1

Darius I - Ezra 6:1

Artaxerxes I - Ezra 7:1

**Verifiable
figures in
the Bible +
external
source(s)**

NT Roman Emperors

Augustus - Luke 2:1.

Tiberius - Luke 3:1.

Claudius - Acts 11:28; Acts 18:2.

Nero (possibly alluded) - Rev 13:18.

Dates of Reign

BC 27 - AD 14

AD 14-37

AD 41-54

AD 54-68

NT Herodian Dynasty

Herod the Great - Matthew 2:1

Herod Archelaus - Matthew 2:22

Herod Antipas - Mark 6:14

Herod Agrippa I - Acts 12:1

Herod Agrippa II - Acts 25:13

Philip (Herod Philip) - Mark 6:17

Bernice - Acts 25:13

Drusilla - Acts 24:24

BC 37 - BC 4

BC 4 - AD 6

BC 4 - AD 39

AD 41-44

AD 50s-90s

Verifiable figures in the Bible + external source(s)

NT Roman Goveners

Quirinius - Luke 2:2

Pontius Pilate - Matthew 27:2

Felix - Acts 23:24

Festus - Acts 24:27

Gallio - Acts 18:12

(+9 other govenors outside Bible)

Dates of Reign

BC 27 -AD 14

AD 14-37

AD 41-54

AD 54-68

NT Jewish Religious Leaders

Caiaphas - Matthew 26:3

Annas - Luke 3:2

Ananias - Acts 23:2

Gamaliel - Acts 5:34

BC 37 - BC 4

Verifiable figures in the Bible + external source(s)

1 BCE / 1 CE

10 CE

20 CE

30 CE

40 CE

50 CE

60 CE

70 CE

80 CE

90 CE

100 CE

Jesus

Ministry of Paul

GALATIANS

1 THESSALONIANS

ROMANS

1 CORINTHIANS

2 CORINTHIANS

PHILEMON

PHILIPPIANS

MARK

Second Temple Destroyed

MATTHEW

LUKE-ACTS

HEBREWS

JOHN

Mark 13:1-2
Temple
destruction
prophecy

Most historians (Christian and Secular) agree:

1. Jesus existed
2. He was baptised by John the Baptist
3. He was crucified under Roman authority
4. Shortly afterwards, a group called
‘Christians’ began proclaiming that he was
the messiah and rose from the dead.

Matthew 26:3-5

Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they schemed to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. “But not during the festival,” they said, “or there may be a riot among the people.”

Mark 15:42-

45
A prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to **Pilate** and asked for the body of Jesus. **Pilate** marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time.”

Pilate Inscription 1st Century AD found 1961



To the Divine
Augusti [this]
Tiberieum...
Pontius Pilate...
prefect of
Judea... has
dedicated [this]

Criterion of embarrassment

If you try to convince someone of something, would you leave potentially harmful details?

Matthew 26:69-74

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. 70 But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. 71 Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” 72 He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” 73 After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” 74 Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed.

Matthew 26:69-74

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“Ananus assembled the Sanhedrin of judges and brought before them the **brother of Jesus who is called Christ**, whose name was **James**, and some others. When he had formed an accusation against them as breakers of the law, **he delivered them to be stoned.**” (Antiquities 20.9.1)

John the Baptist – Matthew 3:1

James (brother of Jesus) – Galatians 1:19



Appearance 1 - Matthew 28:1-2 After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, **Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.**2 There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.

Appearance 2 - Jesus visits Peter

Appearance 3 - Walks beside two followers on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24)

Appearance 4 - Disciples without Thomas (John 20)

Appearance 5 - Disciples with Thomas (John 20)

Appearance 6 - Seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21)

Appearance 7-8 - Over 500 people (1 Corinthians 15:6)

Appearance 9 - The apostles again

