

Nailed:

Ten Christian Myths
That Show
Jesus Never Existed
At All

by

David Fitzgerald

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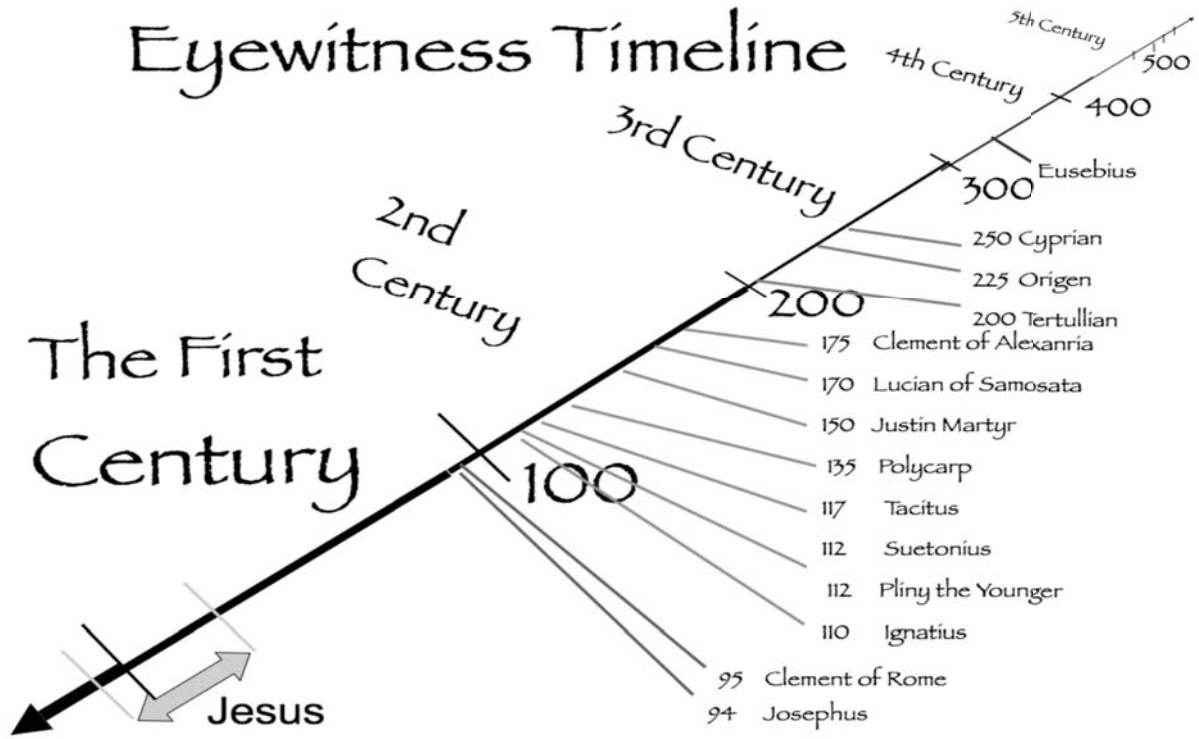
**Timeline of Supposed
Eyewitnesses to Jesus**

Flavius Josephus: 37 - c. 100
Clement of Rome: born ? – c. 98 - 102
Ignatius: c. 35 - 107
Pliny the Younger: c. 62 - 113
Suetonius: c. 75 - 160?
Tacitus: c. 55 - after 117
Polycarp: c. 69 - 155
Justin Martyr: c.114 -167
Lucian: c. 125 - 180
Clement of Alexandria: c. 150 - 211/216
Tertullian: c. 155 - 230
Origen: c.185 - c. 254
Cyprian of Carthage: c. 208 - 258
Eusebius: c. 235 - 339

Notes:

Dates on the timeline refer to the year they wrote the source in question; dates above are their birth and death.

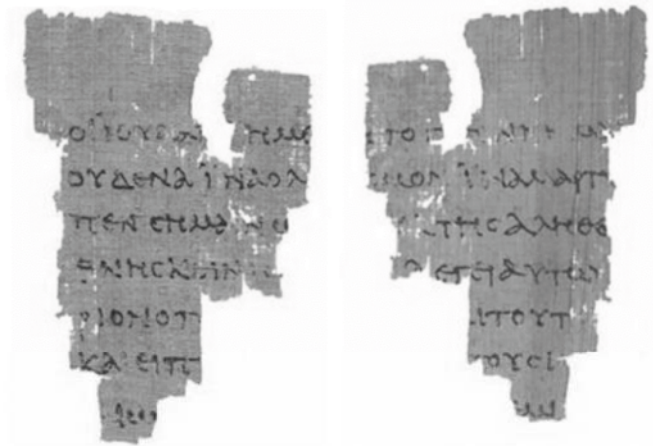
The four names from the list that do not appear on the timeline are: **Thallus** - the dates of his life are unknown, but he is believed to have written c. mid 2nd century, as is **Phlegon** (c.140's AD). **Hippolytus** was probably born in the later 2nd century; he was active in the 3rd century and died c. 235. Very little is known about Syrian **Mara Bar-Serapion** apart from the contents of his single surviving letter; dates for its composition range from as early as 73 C.E. to as late as 300 C.E.



Timeline of Supposed Eyewitnesses to Jesus

Manuscripts – or Pieces of Manuscripts?

Metzger saves a tiny scrap of John's Gospel, the Rylands Library Papyrus P52, for last. Even though P52 is the earliest piece of any book of the New Testament we have, it is so tiny we can scarcely make any pronouncements on just what its text says or how much it matches our Gospel of John – the entire text could sit upon a credit card and contains no complete sentences, and only one complete word (see below). Besides which, P52 only goes back to some uncertain point in the mid-second century c. 150 C.E., possibly even later. Scraps like this are not datable any more precisely than a 75 year window. Carbon dating is not accurate enough, so we can only judge by the script style, and we can't say precisely when a particular script style was in fashion.²⁸



The oldest "manuscript" of the Gospel of John,
Fragment P52 (actual size is 3.5" x 2.5")
Left: recto (front) Right: verso (back)
Only a single word is actually intact: *kai* ("and").
Photo: John Rylands University Library

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"Writing = Ass + Seat"

- and told me that if people believe in themselves and get off their asses to do the things they love, they will be victorious.

About the Author

David Fitzgerald is a writer and historical researcher who has been actively investigating the Historical Jesus question for over ten years. He has a degree in history and was an associate member of CSER (the former Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion). He lectures around the country at universities and national secular events and is best known for his popular multimedia presentation *The Ten Thousand Christs and the Evaporating Jesus*.

He has also been called “one of the busiest atheist activists in the Bay Area.” In addition to serving on the board of San Francisco Atheists, Center For Inquiry-SF and The Garrison-Martineau Project, he is also the Director/Co-Founder of both the world’s first Atheist Film Festival and *Evolutionpalooza!*, San Francisco’s annual Darwin Day celebration. He lives in San Francisco with writer, producer and movie actress Dana Fredsti.

I welcome your comments, criticisms and especially corrections. William Strunk has a useful motto that has guided me well while writing this book: “Understanding is that penetrating quality of knowledge that grows from theory, practice, conviction, assertion, error, and humiliation.”

-DF

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