



# The Christmas story rests on more than straw.

When it comes to the historical facts about Christmas, some people feel Christianity rests its claims on straw, that it is merely wishful thinking. Some would even question whether Jesus actually ever existed. Other than the Bible, did anyone else write about Jesus? Yes. The Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who lived soon after Jesus, mentions in his *Jewish Antiquities* that Jesus was a wise man who did surprising feats, taught many, won over followers from Jews and Greeks, was believed to be the Messiah, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, and was considered to be resurrected. Roman historians, such as Cornelius Tacitus (considered the greatest historian of ancient Rome), also wrote of Jesus.

Then there are the eyewitness accounts of the gospels. Even the broadest scholarly consensus finds the gospels to be historically reliable, describing the life and works of an actual person—Jesus. He taught, healed, and lived such an extraordinary life that by the end of the first century nearly a million Jews had come to believe he was the Messiah.

The question is not whether Jesus lived. The only real question is a personal one. As Jesus asked his disciple Peter, “Who do you say that I am?” A good place to begin investigating is by asking God to reveal the truth to you—He will. God promises in the Bible, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Then open to the section of the Bible called “John” and begin reading. If you have questions, contact us at [EveryStudent.com](http://EveryStudent.com).

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