

COUNTERACTING THE CLAIM THAT JOSEPHUS ALLUDED TO JAMES AS JESUS' BROTHER

Josephus the historian of Jesus's time seems to have not known of Jesus and his references to him are suspicious. A testimony that reads like a Christian creed appears but it is obviously doctored or a complete insertion by a faker. In his Book 20 of Jewish Antiquities he writes of James the brother of Jesus the so-called Christ. That seems on the face of it to be a persuasive reference.

Light from Hebrews

The New Testament's Epistle to the Hebrews may be from 70AD or shortly before the Temple was destroyed. It was written to Jewish Christians because the argumentation against priests and Temples and sacrifices in it and its extensive use of the Old Testament would not have been deployed for Gentile Christians who were unfamiliar with this ritualism and scripture. It would have been written to Jewish Christians in Palestine for that is where most of them were. The letter was known as the Epistle to the Hebrews from the first meaning it would have been sent to Jerusalem the HQ of the Jewish Christians for it was for all of them. It was written to Jewish Christians in Palestine but meant for Jewish Christians everywhere and there were some of them in Rome.

Hebrews 12:3 tells them to think of Jesus who endured a lot of abuse from sinners so that they may feel stronger knowing Jesus went through worse than they did at the hands of hostile people. Verse 12:4 tells us something very interesting. It says that none of them have resisted this abuse until their blood was shed. This tells us that the account in Josephus about James dying at the hands of a lynch mob over religious differences in 64 AD and the Book of Acts saying about the other James dying in 42AD by the sword of Herod's emissary are both lies. It also indicates that the stories in Acts about the murderous persecution of the Church and its claim that Paul was a murderer of Christians are fiction. Basically it means that some Christian inserted in Josephus the entire stuff about James the brother of the so-called Christ being persecuted to death.

Apocalypses of James

The heretical apocalypses of James are deemed to know of some traditions about James. They say James was in hiding in Pella when the Romans invaded Jerusalem in 70 AD. Josephus stated that James was eight years dead by that stage. Eusebius said the same thing but he does not count for he took the information from Josephus. Theudas is named as the father of James. So there was a tradition that James was not the son of Jesus' father or his foster-father. There was a tradition that Josephus might not have been accurate.

We conclude that even if the reference to James is valid it has competition so at best we cannot rely on it.

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www.theistic-evolution.com/josephus.html .

Josephus Unbound by Earl Doherty
<http://human.st/jesuspuzzle/supp10.htm> IT CANNOT BE OVERSTRESSED HOW IMPORTANT READING THIS SITE IS. One major point it makes is that Josephus would not have called James the brother of the so-called Christ for he never explained to his readers who would have been unfamiliar with the title Christ what a Christ was. Evidence from Origen and Eusebius who referred to a missing line from the place where this reference occurs indicates that tampering did happen here. Josephus might however not have meant that Christ was a man. James could have been the brother of a Spiritual Christ meaning that James was a spiritual being incarnate and literally the brother of this being but not a biological brother. Josephus speaks of this Christ in concrete terms not because he was a man but because many said they had visions of him so Josephus believed in his existence. I add another possibility. Perhaps brother of the so-called Christ was James' nickname? Perhaps it was a mock title given to him by his Jewish enemies? This could be poking fun at his honouring a non-existent Messiah. He was writing for some Jews though it was mainly Romans so it is possible. Josephus might not have been mocking James but stating his nickname as an irony. Josephus did do things like that at times. We have seen that he did not explain the nickname Christ.

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