

JESUS MYTH, MADMAN OR MESSIAH

Searching for the ‘Historical’ Jesus

“‘But what about you?’ Jesus asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’”

~Mark 8:29a

²⁷Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, “Who do people say I am?”

²⁸They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.”

²⁹“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah.”



Q1) How do we know that Jesus actually existed?





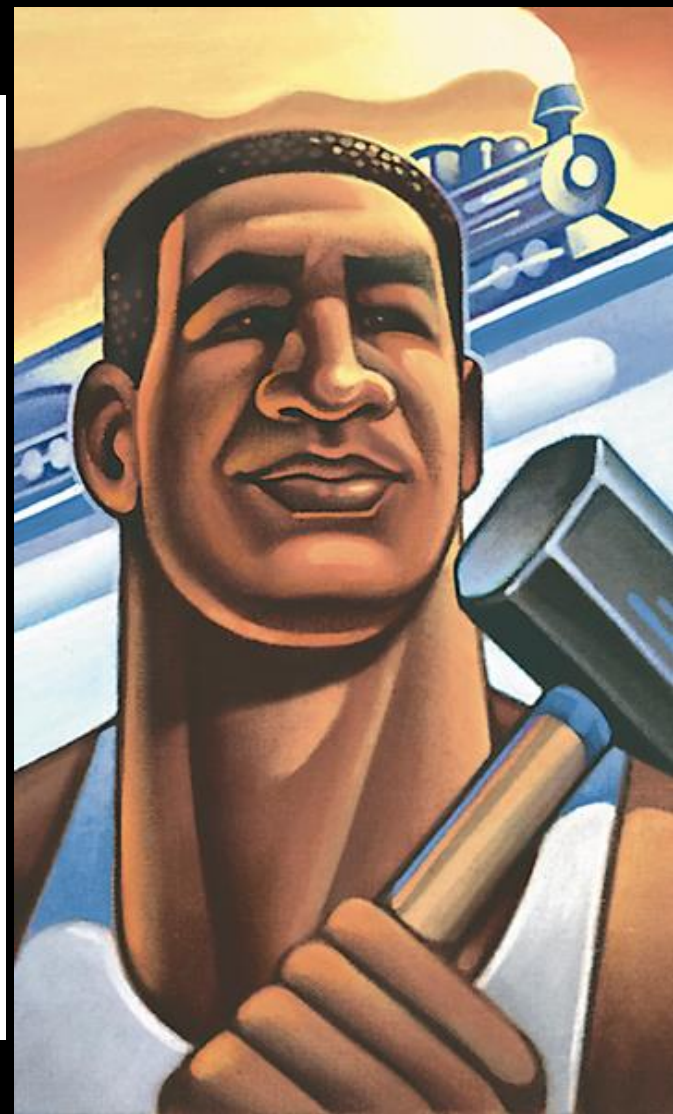
Josephus (A.D. 37 - c. A.D. 100) Antiquities

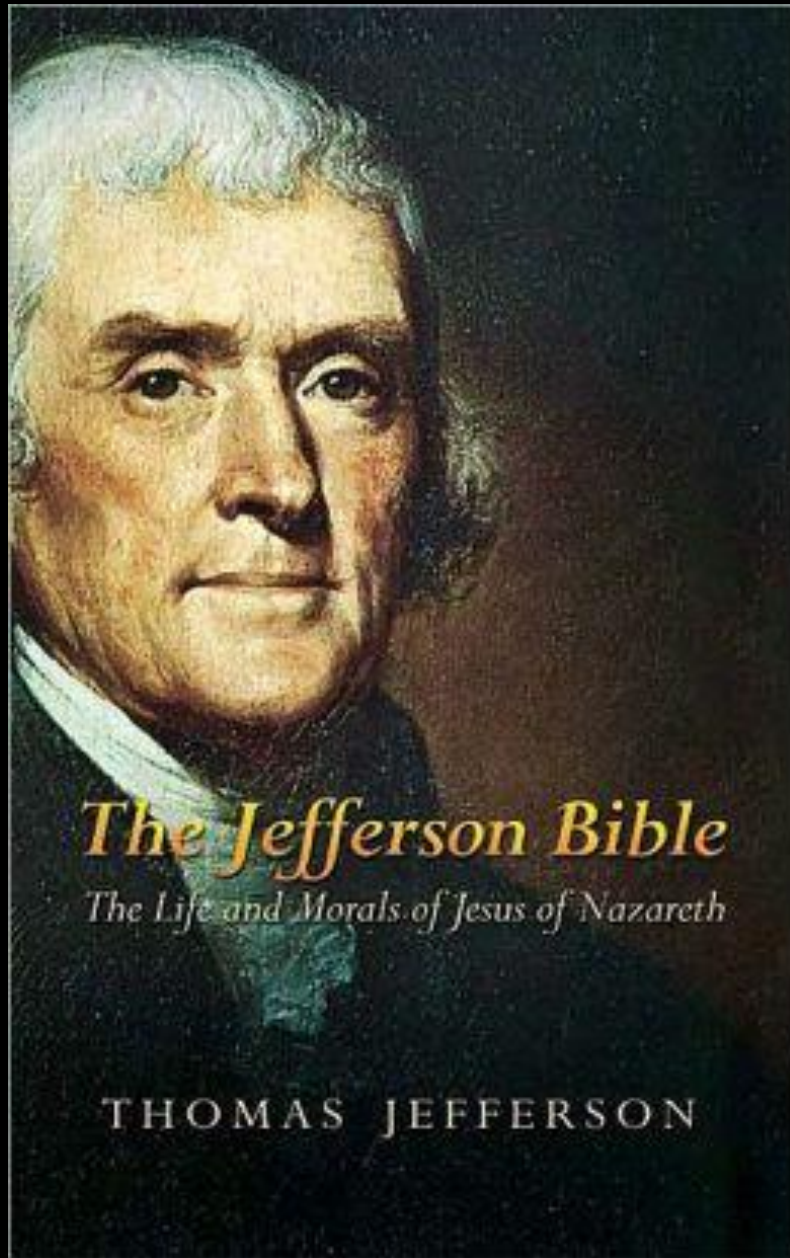
“Now there arose at this time a source of further trouble in one Jesus, a wise man who performed surprising works, a teacher of men who gladly welcome strange things. He led away many Jews, and also many of the Gentiles. He was the so called Christ. When Pilate, acting on information supplied by the chief men around us, condemned him to the cross, those who had attached themselves to him at first did not cease to cause trouble, and the tribe of Christians, which has taken this name from him is not extinct even today.”



Q1) How do we know that Jesus actually existed?

Q2) Are the Gospels reasonably reliable accounts of Jesus' life?



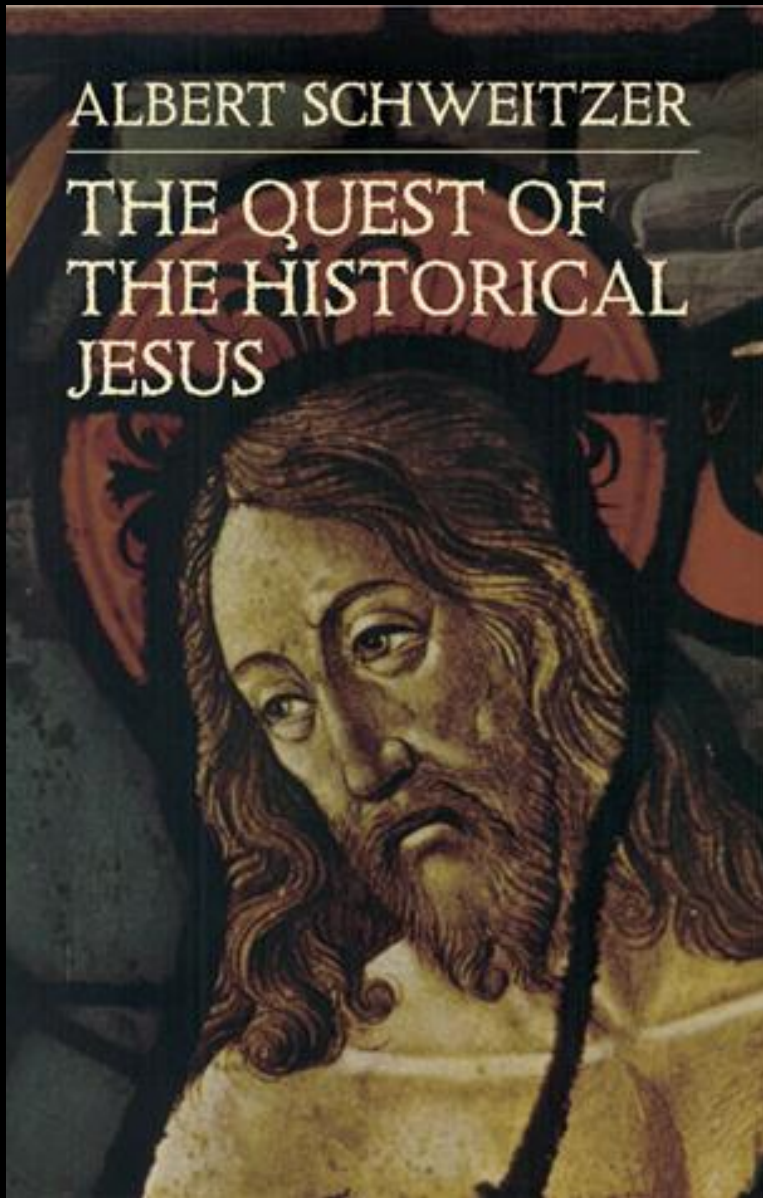


Conclusion:

“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid. There laid they Jesus, And rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed.”

ALBERT SCHWEITZER

THE QUEST OF
THE HISTORICAL
JESUS





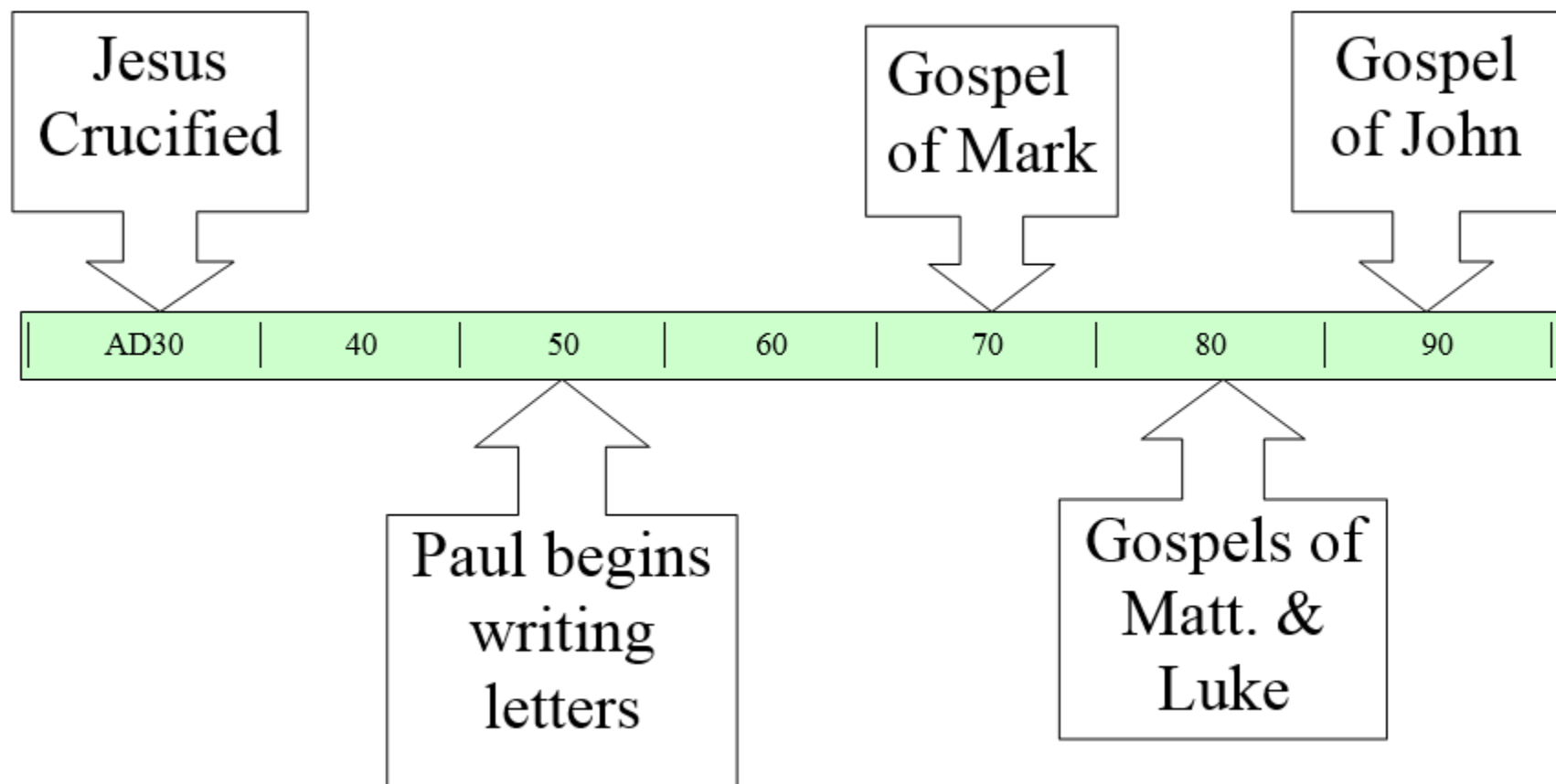
ZEALOT

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF

JESUS OF NAZARETH

REZA ASLAN







4 BC - AD 30 Life of Jesus

AD 30-90 Oral tradition of eye witnesses

AD 30-40 Sayings, teachings, and stories of Jesus begin to
be compiled

AD 40-50 "M," "Q," and "L" sources compiled (none
survive)

AD 50 Gospel of Mark

AD 80 Gospels of Matthew and Luke

AD 90 Gospel of John

AD 110+ All other non-biblical writings

“Many people have tried to tell the story of what God has done among us. They wrote what we had been told by the ones who were there in the beginning and saw what happened. So I made a careful study of everything and then decided to write and tell you exactly what took place. Honorable Theophilus, I have done this to let you know the truth about what you have heard.”





John Wesley's Covenant Prayer for the Methodists:

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom
thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed for thee or laid aside
for thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.



John Wesley's Covenant Prayer for the Methodists (cont.):

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy
pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father,
Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.

So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.