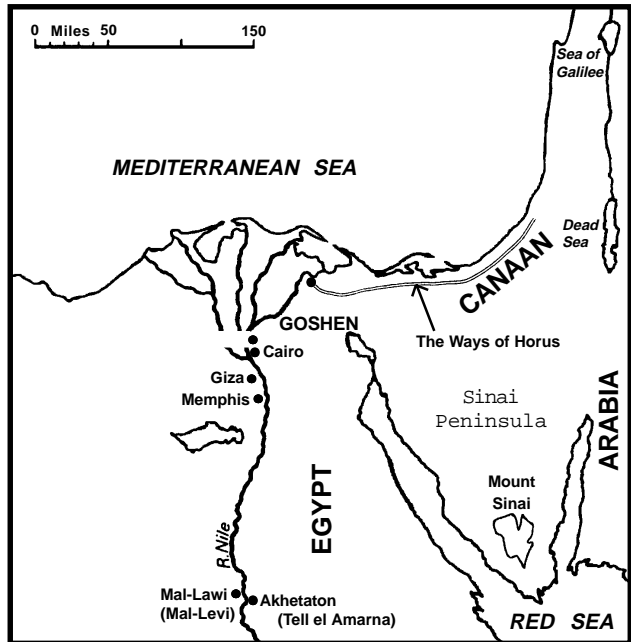


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Jesus and History

The Common Story (The Gospels)

† The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, written several generations after the time of



the events they describe, state that Jesus was born in Judaea (which lies between the Mediterranean and the Jordan - Dead Sea - Arab depression) during the time of Herod the Great (37-4 B.C.), and that his condemnation to death, suffering and crucifixion occurred when Judaea had become a Roman province with Pontius Pilate as its procurator (26-36 A.D.).

† Despite the existence of many Gospels of Christ in the early history of the Church, Council of Trent in 1546 only accepted the four included in the New Testament - those of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

† Mark, who is named in the New Testament's Book of Acts and in four Epistles as a companion of Peter and Paul, is presumed to have been the author of the earliest of the four canonical Gospels. The other three (Matthew, Luke and John) relied on the writings attributed to Mark, plus other sources, for their writings.

† Mark was not an eyewitness to the events that he described in the Bible. Neither were Matthew, Luke or John, who followed him later.

Mark may have had the benefit of second-hand information from Peter and third-hand from Paul. The Gospel of Mark, however, includes information which is not mentioned in the writings of Peter and Paul!

☞ Where did Mark get this information from? Mark must have used the following available sources, to compile the stories, to place the life of Jesus in Galilee at this period of history:

- 1- Israelite traditions
- 2- The Old Testament
- 3- The practices of the Jewish Sect of Essenes (the owners of the Dead Sea Scrolls)
- 4- The life and death of John the Baptist
- 5- The political upheavals of the first century A.D.

☞ **The “common” story, by the Gospels, of the life and death of Jesus has no corroborative evidence to support it. Only its continuous repetition to us has made it appear as an established fact.**

The Evidence Against the Gospel Accounts

1- The Dead Sea Scrolls

- ✧ The world was excited in 1947 and the following years, when the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a series of caves at Qumran, west of the north end of the Dead Sea. They consist of the remains of the Library of a Jewish sect called the Essenes and are dated between 200 B.C. and 50 A.D.
- † The Essenes is a secret Jewish sect which separated from the Jewish community at large. They regard the beliefs and teachings of the Jerusalem priesthood to be untrue.
- † The Scrolls include biblical and sectarian texts, Jewish literature and other documents. The Scrolls don't include information about the biblical Jesus but they provide information of a Christ and a Christian church that pre-dates the supposed start of the Christian era by several centuries.
- † About 80% of these scrolls remain unpublished and the results of their findings are being kept secret from the world. The contents of the few released scrolls, which pre-date the Gospels, provide the following:
 - An account of the Annunciation which reads almost exactly like Luke (1:28-35).
 - A clear statement that the Essenes believed that the Messiah had already lived and was later killed by the Wicked Priest (who is identified in the Talmud as Pinhas/Phinehas, the priest who killed the biblical Jesus).