Josephus and the New Testament

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Abstract

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Throughout Christian history, the works of Josephus have been mined for the light they shed on the world of the New Testament. Josephus tells us about the Herodian family, the temple, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes. He mentions James the brother of Jesus, John the Baptist, and even Jesus himself. In Josephus and the New Testament, an internationally acknowledged authority on Josephus introduces this first-century Jewish historian to readers who want to begin to explore his witness to environment in which early Judaism and Christianity took shape.

Two names and a variety of titles are used to refer to Jesus in the New Testament. In Christianity, the two names Jesus and Emmanuel that refer to Jesus in the New Testament have salvific attributes. After the crucifixion of Jesus the early Church did not simply repeat his messages, but focused on him, proclaimed him, and tried to understand and explain his message. One element of the process of understanding and proclaiming Jesus was the attribution of titles to him. Some of the titles that were "Updated text and new maps bring this standard introduction up to date . . . "Throughout Christian history, the works of Josephus have been mined for the light they shed on the world of the New Testament. Josephus tells us about the Herodian family, the temple, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and the Essenes. He mentions James the brother of Jesus, John the Baptist, and even "Updated text and new maps bring this standard introduction up to date . . . "Throughout Christian history, the works of Josephus have been mined for the light they shed on the world of the New Testament. The New Testament makes references to rulers, priests, religious factions, and politics that would be completely mysterious to modern readers if it were not for the works of Josephus. When one reads discussions about the historical Jesus and the early days of Christianity, most of the Judean social background and the dating of events derive from his books. In this article I present a list of these New Testament references and place them next to extracts from the works of Josephus on the same subject. To these I have added my own comments, which I hope the reader will find useful. Interested re