

## Josephus & the Bible

Flavius Josephus [37-100 AD] wrote 4 books. They are often bound together as “The Complete Works of. . .” He doesn’t seem to be a practicing Jew. He’s certainly not a believer in Jehovah.

1. The Antiquities of the Jews
2. History of the Jewish War
3. Vita [Life of Flavius Josephus]
4. Against Apion

Here are some of his topics of interest to Bible students. Some comments tend to be quite succinct.

Alexander the Great, War 11.317

- Alexander read the book of Daniel [ch 7-12] and concluded it was he, himself, and saw how the Greeks defeated the Persians.

Antiochus Epiphanes, War 1.1.1,4

- Havoc in Jerusalem
- Defiled the Temple altar

Archelaus [Antipas]—Herod #2, (son of Herod the Great), War 2.7.3

- Ruling when Joseph & Mary returned from Egypt and went to Nazareth [Matt 2.22]
- Barbarous, beheaded John the Baptist
- Doesn’t comment on Herods #3,4 who appear in the book of Acts.

Caligula [Gaius Caligula], emperor 37-41 AD, Antiquities 18.2 ff

- Gave orders to erect a statue of Caesar in the Temple area. Jews bolted.

Herod the Great #1, War 1.21.13

- Hunted, rode horses well, shot with bow, built much
- Killed all baby boys in Bethlehem
- Built: Temple in Jerusalem, palace at Masada, palace in Jerusalem, Jericho summer palace, port at Caesarea on Mediterranean
- Died 4 BC, shortly after Jesus’ birth

Jesus, Antiquities 18.3.3 20.9.1

- A wise man
- Miracles
- Called Messiah, “Jesus, Who was called Christ,” & resurrection
- Condemned by Pilate

John the Baptist, Antiquities 18.5.2

- Crowds came to hear him preach
- Death of JB by Herod #2

Nero emperor 54-68 AD, Antiquities 20.8.3

- Barbarous
- Killed Peter

Paul & Early Church

- Almost nothing but does mention Rome

Pharisees, Antiquities 13.171-173 400-432 17.41-45 18.12-20 Vita 10-12

- A bit of trivia & culture

Pilate, War 2.9.2 Antiquities 18.3.1,2,3

- Built an aqueduct
- Sentenced Jesus
- Killed many Jews

Romans sacked Jerusalem 70 AD, War 6.403

- General Titus, later emperor

Temple [Jesus’ day], War, 4.388, 404, 405 1.25,26 Antiquities 15.396ff

- Beauty, expensive
- Building project of Herod the Great

Old Testament, covers many events of Israel from the Bible giving his own twist to some events. His info did not come from the Bible, just stories he must have remembered from sermons.

- There are 2 ways of categorizing material [*two different translators*]. Sorry I don’t have ready access to both to compare.
- Whiston’s numbering system: Antiquities 18.110
- Niese’s numbering system: Antiquities 18.1.4

### Josephus

Author  
Priest  
Soldier  
Historian  
“lawyer”  
Pharisee  
Roman citizen  
“good” Jew  
Slave (*at one time*)  
Wealthy family

Met:  
Nero  
Vespasian  
Titus  
Domitian

Chronology questionable  
Fluent in Greek  
Exaggerates