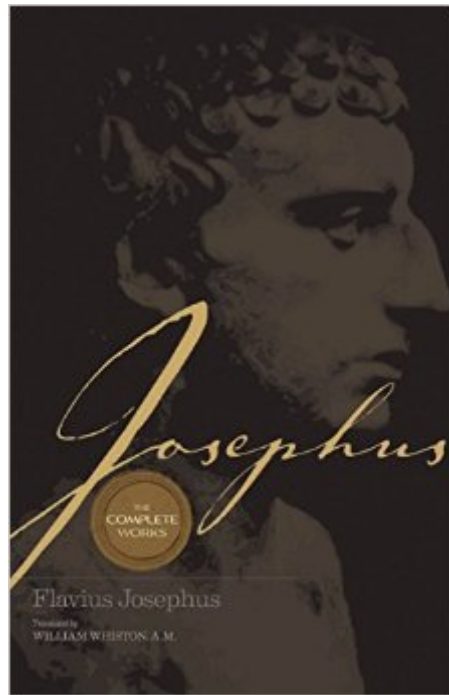


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# Josephus: The Complete Works



## Synopsis

Encounter the world and traditions that Jesus knew. Illuminate your understanding of the New Testament. In *The Complete Works* you will discover what the New Testament writers knew about Abraham, Moses, Samuel, David, and Solomon and examine an in-depth history of Herod and his infamous family. Josephus left us the earliest independent accounts of the lives of Jesus, John the Baptist, and James the brother of Jesus. Much of what we know about the beliefs of the Sadducees and Pharisees comes from Josephus. Without Josephus, we would know very little about the Essenes, the ancient Jewish group most frequently associated with the Dead Sea Scrolls. Features include: *The War of the Jews* "an account of the Jewish revolt against Rome up to the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem *The Antiquities of the Jews* "a history of the Jews from Creation to the Roman occupation of Palestine *The Life of Flavius Josephus* "the autobiography of Josephus, who fought against Rome and later served the empire *Against Apion* "a defense of the origin of Judaism in the face of Greco-Roman slanders *Discourse to the Greeks Concerning Hades* "a text Whiston attributed to Josephus *Index of parallels between Josephus's Antiquities and the Old Testament including the Apocrypha* **Â** About Flavius Josephus Josephus was a first-century Pharisee, soldier, informant to the Romans, and writer. He left behind the most extensive writings on ancient Jewish history still in existence.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Flavius Josephus (about AD 37-101) lived and worked during the first century AD, a time when major events occurred that would impact Judaism forever and the religion known as Christianity was

born. He provides us with firsthand information regarding the Jews and Romans, which acts as good background information to the New Testament writings. After all, he lived during the time of the early Church. He also (scholarly debates aside) mentioned Jesus, John the Baptist and James. This edition includes his complete works. They are:

- The Life of Flavius Josephus:** This allows the reader learn about the life of Josephus from his own pen.
- Antiquities of the Jews (20 chapters):** It chronicles the history of the Jewish people from the Genesis creation account until the outbreak of revolt in AD 66. This section also includes information on the Roman leaders of the Jewish province, such as the Herods.
- The Jewish Wars (7 chapters):** This is Josephus' account of Jewish uprisings and wars. It starts with Antiochus Epiphanes. Most of the book, however, chronicles the Jews under the Romans, including the subjugation by Vespasian, the siege and conquest of the temple by Titus and the sedition of the Jews at Cyrene.
- Against Apion (2 books):** This is a defense of the antiquity of the Jewish people and a refutation of the charges brought against them by the grammarian Apion of Alexandria.
- An Extract from the Discourses to the Greeks Concerning Hades:** This short document outlines "Josephus'" views on Hades. Many scholars do not think Josephus is the author.

The translations are fairly easy to read, but since they were completed in the middle of the eighteenth century some words may be difficult for certain readers.

People spend a great deal of time interpreting scripture, and for good reason. For believers, the Bible is not just a historical document, but the living word of God. Still, as we research scripture, we want to know what life was like in the days of Jesus, and how the people of Jesus' day lived and interpreted scripture so we can better understand scripture in our own day. Perhaps the most important tool for such a task would be the writings of the Jewish historian Josephus. Josephus himself was an interesting figure. He was born to a well to do Jewish family of the priestly class. He was a religious seeker and studied under the Pharisees and spent some time living an ascetic life. He later developed connections with Rome, and tried unsuccessfully to end the Jewish rebellion. His association with the Romans made him a bit of a turncoat to many people, but his involvement in many spheres of life in the years of the Jewish revolt gave him the opportunity to write a thorough history of his times, understanding the religious, political, and social dimensions of the day. It is largely through the writings of Josephus we understand the world of Jesus' day, and ultimately Jesus himself, even though there is only one questionable reference to Jesus in the writings (modern scholars believe this was probably a patristic insertion or at least a reworking by patristic writers). This edition of the writings of Josephus is an excellent tool for non-scholarly Biblical study. Whiston's translation has been a standard for years and provides a good translation for preparation

for preaching, Bible studies, and people who have an interest in scripture that would be deeper than the interest of a casual reader.

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