

Josephus

Josephus lived during the writing of the entire New Testament. His life spanned from 37 A.D. through 100 A.D. God had him uniquely situated in time & place to be a well educated historian to provide background & insight into the transition of ages. During his lifetime he had been a Pharisee, client to the Roman Emperor, & historian. As an eye-witness in the time of the Book of Acts and beyond, his writings are undoubtedly the best reference work for providing understanding on the Biblical events of that time period.

For instance, he saw the destruction of Jerusalem & the Temple in 70 A.D. This event is explained in great detail in his writings. He personally saw the end of the Age of the Law (Word), with its ending of the priesthood, the Temple, sacrifices, old Jerusalem, and Judea. And he personally saw the ushering in of the Age of the Spirit, (the Word then raised to a higher level). The Age of the Spirit is also referred to as the Age of the Church, and as the age of Grace & Truth, (Spirit & Word). Now that age is over and we are seeing the ushering in of the Age of the Kingdom of the Son, (the Word & Spirit raised to yet a higher level...the level of His Life within a people in maturity in Christ). He saw the separation of Christianity from Judaism as part of the major transition of ages in his day. Today we are seeing the separation of His people from religious forms of all sorts, to move on as a group of Overcomers knit together not by man or his religious systems, but by His Life.

Also he had access to earlier written histories that no longer exist. He recounted Bible events from Creation up through A.D. 93. His writings, though not considered sacred like the scriptures, are fascinating to read. Further explanation is given of the lives of Bible characters such as the 33 sons & 23 daughters of Adam, the former Ethiopian wife of Moses, and who Joseph was really sold to, (since the Bible seems to contradict itself on this, yet we see that it doesn't when you read the explanation by Josephus).

Born the son of a priest, he spent some time with the Essenes, but then while still a teen he decided to join the Pharisees. His family had notable Jewish background, being descended from the Hasmonean dynasty that had been established by the Maccabees. As a prominent leader in Judea, he traveled to Rome to successfully plead for the release of captive priests from his country. His autobiography explains how he became a client of the Roman emperor, Vespasian, and then his son, Titus. (It was Titus who led the battle that leveled Jerusalem). It was through extraordinary circumstances that Josephus came to be respected by both Rome & Jerusalem. This positioning by God enabled Josephus to grasp a bigger picture of what was happening in his day. It is an extreme blessing to have his writings available today.

The book of his complete works (over 900 pages), is well-organized. It was first translated into English in 1736 by William Whiston. Be sure to add this book to your own library of Bible reference works. You'll enjoy it.

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