

Was Jesus even real? 耶穌是真的嗎?

James Barnett 1st and 4th December 2022 年 12 月 1, 4 日

Could Jesus have been real?

耶穌可能是真實的嗎?

So much has happened in the world because of the name of Jesus. You're sitting in a church today. People call themselves Christians after him. Our laws are based on the book about him. Some of our culture's most popular names (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) came from the book about him. A study done ten years ago found that Jesus was the most famous person in history.

因著耶穌的名，世界上發生了很多事情。你今天坐在教堂裡。人們跟隨他稱自己為基督徒。我們的法律是基於關於他的書信。我們文化中一些最流行的名字（馬太、馬可、路加、約翰）都來自關於他的書信。十年前的一項研究發現，耶穌是歷史上最著名的人物。

Our calendars are built around his birthday (Christmas) and his death and resurrection (Easter).

我們的日曆是圍繞他的生日（聖誕節）和他的死亡和復活（復活節）而定立的。

But is there any historical evidence for him?

但有任何歷史證據是關於他的嗎?

And if there is any evidence, is he worth all the hype?

如果有任何證據，他值得所有的炒作嗎?

In the Bible, this Jesus makes exclusive claims. Our lives should be shaped by him, just like so much of the world around us throughout history. Each of our individual lives should be too.

在聖經中，這位耶穌作了許多唯一無二獨有的宣告。我們的生命應該由他塑造，就像歷史上我們周圍的許多世界一樣。我們每個人的生命也應該如此。

People have a wide range of views on whether he was real.

人們對他是否真實存在多種看法。

Jesus didn't exist / maybe he did, but I don't care / He existed, but the stories are way too overblown / He existed, and I like what he said / He existed and he is God, he died for my sins. I live my life impacted by him every day.

耶穌不存在/也許他存在，但我不在乎/他存在但故事太誇張了/他存在，我喜歡他說的話/他存在，他是上帝，他為我的罪而死。我的生命每天都受到他的影響。

Today we'll dive into the historical evidence to see if there is a real Jesus and if he is worth the influence on the world he has had. And to see if he is worth having any influence on our lives.

今天我們將深入研究歷史證據，看看是否存在真正的耶穌，以及他是否值得他對世界產生的影響。看看他是否值得對我們的生命產生任何影響。

Should we care about this historical figure? Should he influence culture and even our lives? 我們應該關心這個歷史人物嗎？他應該影響文化甚至我們的生命嗎？

1. What does history say about him 歷史對他有何評價？

The best and most detailed histories of Jesus are the books in the Bible called the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. One historian described them as the “oldest and best sources we have for knowing about the life of Jesus”. We’ll have a look at them in a bit. Some would say you can’t trust the books of the Bible. They were clearly written by religious fanatics. Historians don’t say that.

關於耶穌最好最詳盡的歷史是聖經中的福音書、《馬太福音》、《馬可福音》、《路加福音》和《約翰福音》。一位歷史學家將它們描述為「我們所擁有的關於耶穌生平的最古老和最好的資料。」我們稍後會看一下。有人會說你不能相信聖經。它們顯然是由宗教狂熱分子所寫。歷史學家不這麼說。

But we’ll start the investigation into the historical Jesus from outside sources. What proof is there from outside the Bible? Then we’ll see if it lines up with what the Bible says about him and if there’s any evidence.

但我們將從外部資料開始調查歷史上的耶穌。有什麼聖經以外的證據？然後我們會看看它們是否符合聖經對他的描述，以及是否有任何證據。

One report comes from a Jewish Historian called Josephus in around AD 93. He wrote there reports that at approximately 63 AD, the Jewish high priest executed a man named James, the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ.

一份報告來自公元 93 年左右一位名叫約瑟夫的猶太歷史學家。他在那裡寫道，大約在公元 63 年，猶太大祭司處決了一個名叫雅各的人，他是被稱為基督的耶穌的兄弟。

So there is this report from Josephus that James was stoned to death, and his brother was called Christ. The title Christ regards Jesus being the promised king who would come and save people. Christians were seen as heretics by the Jews, so it makes sense that they would be stoned.

所以有約瑟夫的這個報告說雅各被石頭打死，他的兄弟被稱為基督。基督這個稱呼認為耶穌是應許的君王，他會來拯救人類。基督徒被猶太人視為異教徒，所以他們被扔石頭是有道理的。

Cornelius Tacitus, who lived from 55 – 120 AD, has been called the greatest historian of Ancient Rome. Wrote that

生活在公元 55 至 120 年的泰西塔斯 (Cornelius Tacitus) 被稱為古羅馬最偉大的歷史學家，這樣寫，

“Christus, the founder of the name, was put to death by Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea in the reign of Tiberius: but the pernicious superstition, repressed for a time, broke out again, not only through Judea, where the mischief originated, but through the city of

Rome also.”

“基督，這個名字的創始人，在提比略統治時期被猶太的總督本丟·彼拉多處死：但被壓制了一段時間的有害迷信再次爆發，不僅從惡作劇的發源地猶太，但也傳遍羅馬城。”

So Tacitus helpfully speaks of Jesus as someone put to death by Pontius Pilate. And that many beliefs were considered superstitious believed by his followers. There are no details here of what that was, but that could have been his miracles, healing people, walking on water, or, more importantly, that Jesus was raised from the dead.

泰西塔斯很有幫助地將耶穌描述為被本丟彼拉多處死的人。許多被他的追隨者所信的被認為是迷信。這裡沒有詳細說明那是什麼，但這可能是他的奇蹟、治愈人、在水上行走，或者更重要的是，耶穌從死裡復活了。

Governor of Bithynia in Asia Minor in AD 112, Pliny the Younger, wrote to the emperor Trajan about how to deal with Christians. He asked if he should kill all the people he found to be Christians or only certain ones. Pliny explained that he made the Christians bow down to the statue of the emperor and went on to say that he made them curse Christ, which a genuine Christian cannot do. He said that the Christians gathered early, sang a song to Christ as a god, and bound themselves with oaths not to do any wicked deed.

公元 112 年，小亞細亞的比提尼亞總督小普林尼 (Pliny the Younger) 寫信給圖拉真 (Trajan) 皇帝，討論如何對待基督徒。他問他是否應該殺死所有他發現的基督徒，還是只殺死某些。普林尼解釋說，他讓基督徒向皇帝的雕像鞠躬，並繼續說他讓他們詛咒基督，這是一個真正的基督徒做不到的。他說，基督徒們早早地聚集在一起，唱著歌頌基督為神，並發誓不做任何惡事。

So, Pliny, very early records that people were gathering as a church, singing to Jesus, worshipping him as God, and seeking to live lives that were unique and different to the culture around them, not doing any wicked deed.

所以，普林尼，很早就記載人們聚集在一個教會裡，向耶穌歌唱，把他當作上帝來敬拜，並尋求過一種獨特的、不同於周圍文化的生活，而不是做任何邪惡的事。

These three early texts, Pliny, Tacitus, and Josephus, give us a glimpse into how Jesus was recorded very early in history. They record that Jesus was an influential Jewish leader. He claimed to be the Christ to save people from their sins. He was executed by the Romans around 30 AD. And that his followers worshipped Jesus as God.

普林尼 (Pliny)、泰西塔斯 (Tacitus) 和約瑟夫 (Josephus) 這三部早期文本讓我們瞥見耶穌在歷史早期的記載。他們記載耶穌是一位有影響力的猶太領袖。他自稱是基督，要把人從罪惡中拯救出來。他在公元 30 年左右被羅馬人處決。他的追隨者把耶穌當作神來敬拜。

Before we even analyse these claims, the historical documents show clear evidence that he was real. We'd love some photos or a grainy video. But all the available evidence that we have shows that he was real. He lived. He died. Some claim he came back to life.

在我們分析這些說法之前，歷史文件已經顯示出他真實存在的明確證據。我們或許想

要一些照片或視頻。但我們現有的所有證據都表明他是真實存在的。他曾活著。他死了。有人聲稱他復活了。

John Dickson is an Ancient Historian, a lecturer at Macquarie University and University of Oxford, and a Christian. So strong is his belief in the historical Jesus that in 2014 he bet on twitter if there was Professor of Ancient History, Classics, or New Testament who would argue that Jesus never lived – he would eat a page of his Bible. He has never had to. There is incredible consensus within the academic world that Jesus is real.

約翰迪克森是一位古代歷史學家，麥考瑞大學和牛津大學的講師，也是一名基督徒。他對歷史上的耶穌的信念如此強烈，以至於2014年他在「推特」上打賭，如果有古代歷史、古典學或新約的教授能辯明耶穌從未存在過…他會吃掉一頁聖經。他從來沒有需要這樣做。學術界有著令人難以置信的共識，即耶穌是真實的。

But even if Jesus was real. The Bible asks us to believe so much more than that he was a real person. He should influence every decision we make, and how we view the world around us should be influenced by a Jewish man who lived 2000 years ago in history.

但即使耶穌是真實的。聖經要求我們相信的不僅僅是他是一個真實的人。他應該影響我們所做的每一個決定，我們如何看待我們周圍的世界應該受到這個生活在2000年前歷史上的猶太人的影響。

Napoleon was a real person in history, but you don't see me wearing big hats.

拿破崙是歷史上真實存在的人物，但你看不到我戴著大帽子。

Genghis Kahn was a real person in history, but I don't hear anyone claiming that we should rebuild the Mongol empire and have many children.

成吉思汗是歷史上真實存在的人物，但我沒聽到有人說我們要重建蒙古帝國，要生很多孩子。

Jesus made some exclusive claims about himself. With the historical evidence behind us about how real he was. We need to assess his claims and the reports that he was the Christ, God himself, who people worshipped.

耶穌對自己提出了一些唯一無二獨有的宣告。我們有了歷史證據支持他是多麼真實。我們需要評估他的主張和關於他是人們所崇拜的基督，是神，的報導。

2. What does the Bible say about him 聖經怎麼說他？

Believing that Jesus is real is reasonable. It makes sense based on historical documents. Not only that, but the evidence also points to his exclusive claims being true too.

相信耶穌是真實的是合理的。根據歷史文獻，這是有道理的。不僅如此，證據還表明他的獨有聲明也是真實的。

The first book of the New Testament is called Matthew, a biography that focuses on the life of Jesus.

新約的第一本書叫做《馬太福音》，這是一本專注於耶穌生平的傳記。

It introduces us to Mary. She is a young Jewish woman living in 1st Century Jerusalem. Mary

was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they could be married, the author, Matthew, writes, 1:18

它向我們介紹了馬利亞。她是一位生活在 1 世紀耶路撒冷的年輕猶太婦女。馬利亞與約瑟訂了婚。但在他們結婚之前，作者馬太寫道， 1:18

“Before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.”
「還沒有迎娶，馬利亞就從聖靈懷了孕。」

An angel told Mary that her son Jesus would be the promised king who would reign over God’s people forever. Mary was understandably surprised.

一位天使告訴馬利亞，她的兒子耶穌將成為應許的君王，永遠統治上帝的子民。馬利亞的驚訝是可以理解的。

Matthew also tells us about Joseph. Surprised probably isn’t the word to be used. When he found out Mary was pregnant, he assumed the worst and planned to end their engagement. But Joseph met an angel in a dream who told him that the father was God himself. And Joseph was told to call the baby Jesus, which means God is Salvation and Matthew 1:21; 馬太還告訴我們有關約瑟的事。驚訝可能不是要使用的詞。當他發現馬利亞懷孕時，他做了最壞的打算，併計劃結束他們的婚約。主的使者在約瑟夢中向他顯現，告訴他父親就是上帝。約瑟被告知要給嬰兒起名叫耶穌，意思是「上帝就是救恩」和《馬太福音》1:21;

“For he will save his people from their sins.”
「因他要將自己的百姓從罪惡裏救出來。」

This is a surprising twist. Jesus was a prophesied baby who would come to save people from their sins. Sin is building our identity, self-worth and happiness on anything other than God. In Jesus’ time, just like ours, people had issues of identity and self-worth. We might build our identity on our view of our morals and how good we are as people. Or we might see the value we get from our career or romantic relationships or the things we have bought in Amazon Prime sales as giving us happiness.

這是一個令人驚訝的轉折。耶穌是一個預言中的嬰兒，他會來拯救人們脫離罪惡。罪是將我們的身份、自我價值和幸福建立在上帝以外的任何事物上。在耶穌的時代，就像我們的時代一樣，人們有身份和自我價值的問題。我們可能會根據我們對道德的看法以及我們作為人的優秀程度來建立我們的身份。或者，我們可能會將我們從事業或戀愛關係中獲得的價值，或我們在亞馬遜 Prime 特賣中購買的東西視為給我們帶來快樂。

But as we are beginning to understand. Pursuing a career, romantic relationships, personal individualist truth, or consuming things only leads to drivenness, addictions, severe anxiety, obsessiveness, the envy of others, and resentment.

但正如我們開始理解的那樣。追求事業、戀愛關係、基於個人主義的真理或消費只會導致過度工作、成癮、嚴重的焦慮、強迫症、對他人的嫉妒和怨恨。

All of this drives us away from the God who made us. And he knew this. And he planned our salvation. That salvation is not in a detox from Twitter, logging off all social media, changing careers to avoid anxiety or trying to follow the 7 top tips for a happy life. But something much bigger, something much more profound.

所有這些都使我們遠離創造我們的上帝。他知道這一點。他計劃了我們的救贖。救贖不是戒除「推特」Twitter、註銷所有社交媒體、改變職業以避免焦慮或嘗試遵循幸福生活的7大秘訣。但是更大，更深刻的東西。

According to the angel that spoke to Joseph, Jesus was Immanuel, which means God with us. God in person. Jesus' mission was to bring sinful people back into God's embrace to reorder our lives.

根據對約瑟說話的天使所說，耶穌是以馬內利，意思是「上帝與我們同在。」上帝親自。耶穌的使命是將罪人帶回上帝的懷抱去重新安排我們的生命。

Unlike the Star Wars character, Anakin Skywalker. The gospels don't set the birth of Jesus long ago in a Galaxy far away.

與「星球大戰」中阿納金天行者的角色不同。福音書並沒有把耶穌的誕生設定在很久以前的銀河系某處。

The birth of Jesus is pinned to an actual time and place. The gospel's Matthew and Luke both talk about Jesus being born during the reign of king Herod. And the reason for Jesus' birth in the city of Bethlehem was because of a government census that was taken.

耶穌的誕生被固定了一個實際的時間和地點。福音書的《馬太福音》和《路加福音》都談到耶穌在希律王統治時期誕生。耶穌出生在伯利恆的原因是因為政府進行了人口普查。

Jesus ends up being born in a rather rough place since Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place to stay. They had to sleep with the animals. Not long after Jesus' birth, people come to visit. Some shepherds are visited by Angels who go to see Jesus.

由於馬利亞和約瑟找不到落腳的地方，耶穌最終出生在一個相當艱苦的地方。他們不得不和動物一起睡覺。耶穌誕生後不久，人們前來拜訪。一些牧羊人在天使拜訪後去看耶穌的。

And also, the Wise men from the east had been led by a star to Jerusalem. The wise men go and ask the current king, the Roman-sanctioned king of the Jews, King Herod, and they ask him, Matthew 2:2;

而且，來自東方的博學之士們被一顆星帶到了耶路撒冷。博學之士去問現任國王，羅馬認可的猶太人國王，希律王，他們問他，馬太福音 2: 2;

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

「那生下來作猶太人之王的在哪裏？我們在東方看見他的星，特來拜他。」

Herod is troubled by this news, understandably that a competitor to his throne was born. And he finds out that Christ was born in Bethlehem. When these wise men find Jesus, Matthew

tells us they fell down and worshipped him.

希律對此消息感到不安，可以理解的是，他王位的競爭對手誕生了。他發現基督誕生在伯利恆。當這些博學之士找到耶穌時，馬太告訴我們他們俯伏拜他。

Now, something is touching about this story, fit for a Hallmark Christmas movie. A divine child, lying in an animal food trough, heralded by angels – but hated by rulers, worshipped by rich and poor, fellow Jews and foreigners, scholars and shepherds. It’s a lovely story for the family.

現在，這個故事有些感人，適合 Hallmark 聖誕電影。一個神聖的孩子，躺在動物的食槽裡，被天使預示著…但被統治者憎恨，被富人和窮人、猶太人和外國人、學者和牧羊人崇拜。這對家庭來說是一個可愛的故事。

These are not just fanciful tales but are specific events that happened in real places, usually tests for historical documents. No other religion does that. Christianity is not a religion that revolves around feelings or mystical practices. It is a historical one based on real, historically verifiable dates.

這些不只是虛構的故事，而是真實發生的具體事件，是通過歷史文獻的驗證。沒有其他宗教這樣做。基督教不是一種圍繞感覺或神秘習俗發展的宗教。它是一個基於真實的、歷史上可驗證的日期的歷史。

This is why Christmas and Easter continue to be such big things in our calendar. We don’t move past them. Every year we get to talk about the same thing.

這就是為什麼聖誕節和復活節在我們的日曆中仍然如此重要。我們不會越過他們。每年我們都會談論同樣的事情。

Jesus was the Christ, the promised son of God who would deal with our sins. People worship him as this king.

耶穌是基督，是神應許的兒子，他會處理我們的罪。人們崇拜他為王。

The exclusive claims in the Bible about Jesus are acknowledged and recorded by the historians of the time. He was the Christ, a leader of his people, yes. But also, he was worshipped as God.

聖經中關於耶穌的獨有宣告被當時的歷史學家所承認和記錄。他是基督，他的人民的領袖，是的。但同時，他也被當作神來崇拜。

What Pliny records are true of what the Bible says about Jesus.

普林尼所記載的相符聖經中關於耶穌的記載的真實。

What Tacitus said of Jesus, called the Christ, is also true. The one who would save us from our sins, having to die on the Cross, is the historical event we remember at Easter—dying but coming back to life three days later.

泰西塔斯 (Tacitus) 所說的耶穌，即所謂的基督，也是真實的。將我們從罪惡中拯救出來的那一位必須死在十字架上，這是我們在復活節紀念的歷史事件…死去但三天后又復活。

3. So what 那又怎樣？

So what. If these historical claims about Jesus were recorded in different places that agree with the Bible. That what the Bible says is true.

那又怎樣。如果這些被記載不同地方的在關於耶穌的歷史主張與聖經一致。聖經所說的是真的。

What does it mean for us today? Does it mean anything?

這對我們今天意味著什麼？這意味著什麼嗎？

The gospels and other historical evidence point to the exclusive claims of Jesus.

福音書和其他歷史證據都指出了耶穌獨有的主張。

He is the Leader of the Humanity, the Christ.

他是人類的領袖，基督。

He saved us from our sins.

他把我們從罪中拯救出來。

He was executed and raised from the dead.

他被處決並從死裡復活。

He was worshipped as God.

他被敬拜為神。

What historical claims impact life? Wars have been fought that changed the shape of the land. English people who came to Australia shaped our future. We have an exclusive claim to this land.

哪些歷史主張影響了生命？改變土地的形狀的仗已打過。來到澳大利亞的英國人塑造了我們的未來。我們自稱對這片土地擁有專屬權利。

Jesus came, and he planted a much bigger flag. A flag that says, I own each of you. I have saved you from yourself.

耶穌來了，他插下了一面更大的旗幟。一面旗幟，上面寫著，我擁有你們每一個人。我已經把你從你自己手中救了出來。

Conclusion 結論

We can attempt to ignore the historical evidence that he was real.

我們可以嘗試忽視他真實存在的歷史證據。

We can admit he was real but attempt to ignore his significance in our lives.

我們可以承認他是真實的，但試圖忽視他在我們生命的重要性。

But he was real.

但他是真實的。

And even if we want to ignore him, we desperately need him—this Jesus, who would save us from our sins. Even if you don't think that you are that bad of a person, you can't help but look around the world and see that it is falling apart. We are a government falling out away from a nuclear crisis.

即使我們想忽視他，我們也迫切需要他…這位耶穌，他會把我們從罪中拯救出來。即使你不認為自己是一個壞人，你也會情不自禁地環顧世界，發現它正在分崩離析。我們是一個脫離核危機的政府。

There are so many issues, so much pain and conflict. We are desperate for Christ to save us from our sins and the pain and war of the world around us.

有太多的問題，太多的痛苦和衝突。我們渴望基督將我們從罪惡、痛苦和周圍世界的戰爭中拯救出來。

Not only does it make rational sense for Jesus to have been real. We also need it to be true. Not so desperate, we are trying to rewrite history to give some hope, but history stands still, and we acknowledge all that Jesus has done.

耶穌是真的不僅是理性上有道理的。我們也需要它是真實的。不是那麼絕望，我們正試圖重寫歷史以帶來一些希望，但歷史停滯不前，我們承認耶穌所做的一切。

He is the saviour. Who came and died on the Cross and came back to life for damaged people. Even we are more self-absorbed and selfish than ever before, falling into our phones and ignoring those around us. We see the pain of the people around us, and we have been hoping that someone would come along and fix it.

他是救世主。他來了並在十字架上死去，為破碎的人復活。我們現在比以往任何時候都更加自我專注和自私，沉迷於手機中而忽略了我們周圍的人。我們看到身邊人的痛苦，我們一直希望有人能來解救。

It's not Joe Biden. Not Anthony Albanese. But it is the historical Jesus who is still alive today and reigns above everything throne.

這不是拜登。不是安東尼艾博年。但歷史上的耶穌今天仍然活著，在一切的寶座之上在統治著。

Only he should be worshipped as God. That's who he is! The Wisemen knew it. Pliny recorded it. Tacitus wrote of the people who wouldn't worship anyone else. We worship and give ourselves to so many temporary things that a pandemic or an economic crisis can take away.

只有他應該被當作神來崇拜。他就是這樣的人！博學之士知道這一點。普林尼記錄了它。泰西塔斯 (Tacitus) 寫到那些不會崇拜任何人的的人。我們崇拜並獻身於如此多的暫時性事物，大流行病或經濟危機可以帶走它們。

The only security is pinning our hope on Jesus. To have hope in something that cannot be easily destroyed.

唯一的保障是將我們的希望寄託在耶穌身上。對無法輕易摧毀的事物抱有希望。

I'm not sure what you believe about Jesus. But it makes sense to have faith in him.

我不確定你對耶穌有什麼看法。但對他有信心是有道理的。

Some people speak of faith like a 'leap of faith.' Talking about faith like this makes it seem like you're accepting something irrational. That is not the way faith is presented in the Bible. 有些人將信稱為「信心之躍」。像這樣談論信讓人覺得你在接受一些非理性的東西。這不是聖經中呈現的信的方式。

Some speak of faith as just intellectual assent. I believe the facts about Jesus, just like I believe the facts about any other historical person.

有些人說信只是理智上的同意。我相信關於耶穌的事實，就像我相信關於任何其他歷史人物的事實一樣。

Some others speak about faith personally, 'my faith', as if their faith is unique and not believable by others.

其他一些人則談到個人的信，「我的信」，就好像他們的信是獨一無二的，其他人不會相信的一樣。

But biblical faith is not a leap, it's not just intellectual, and it's not just for one or two of us. Biblical faith is outward, fixed on the person of Jesus, who he is, and what he has done. 但聖經的信不是一個飛躍，它不僅僅是知識上的，它不僅僅是為了我們中的一兩個人。聖經的信是外在的，專注於耶穌這個人，他是誰，他做了什麼。

Having faith is not just believing that Jesus existed but trusting that he is who he said he was. He is the Christ who would save us from our sins. Immanuel, God became man so that we could know God.

擁有信心不僅是相信耶穌存在，而且相信他就是他所說的那個人。他是將我們從罪中拯救出來的基督。以馬內利，神成為人是為了讓我們認識上帝。

Will you have faith today?

今天你會相信嗎？