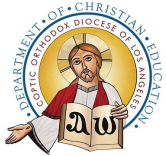


# Does Jesus Exist in Reality?

Department of Christian Education



# Introduction

**Historians generally includes at least two major factors:**

- Actual events in particular
- The recording of these events.

**In other words:**

- The historical event itself is objective — (did it occur or not).
- But the recording and interpreting of the event introduces various **subjective** factors.

# Categories of Historical Sources

Primary Source (Literary): Written text

## Literary Text

- Creeds & Facts
- Historians: Tacitus – Josephus - Thallus
- Government officials communications (Pliny – Trajan)
- Gentile Resources: Lucian – Mara Bar-Serapion
- Gnostic sources (we shall not cover it here just to make the topic concise)

# Categories of Historical Sources

Primary Source (Non-Literary)

## Non-Literary

- **Archaeological sources:** (mention them briefly)
- **Luke's census:** The census that St. Luke mentioned in his gospel, is it truly found in history.
- **Yohanan Crucifixion:** the corpse of a Jewish crucified person where his wounds show evidence to the use of "nailing" the crucified person to the cross.

# Categories of Historical Sources

Primary Source (Non-Literary)

## Non-Literary

- **Shroud of Turin:** A cloth that carries evidence of the crucifixion/surrounding torture (mentioned in the 4 Gospels).
  - Flogging
  - Crown of thorns
  - Side-stabbing

# Categories of Historical Sources

## Primary Source (Non-Literary)

### Non-Literary

History does not show a person that had been subjected to Scourging, Crucifixion using nails not ropes, having on his head Crown of Thorns, and being stabbed after death except the “Man of the Gospel”.

- Scientific studies of the highest degree on the Shroud (the Cloth) in 1978 in Turin by a group of American Scientists in different fields of Science.

# Categories of Historical Sources

Secondary Source: Witnesses to  
Primary Sources

**Creeds and Faith handed to St. Paul**

**In 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Paul states:**

*3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,*

# Categories of Historical Sources

Secondary Source: Witnesses to Primary Sources

## Creeds and Faith handed to St. Paul

- Paul's words "delivered" and "received":
  - technical terms for passing on tradition.
  - Paul's statement that this material was not his own (received from another source).
- *Also Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-27 – About Receiving the Communion from Christ.*