

What do you know about the
historical Jesus?
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Jesus from the Creed

[...]and became man.

*For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried, [...]*



Rembrandt van Rijn, Head of Christ 1648-1650

Looking for the historical Jesus

- Yeshua/Joshua/or the “the historical Jesus”
- Distinguishable from the Jesus of the Creed, who is the Christ or Messiah
- Approximate dates of historical Jesus: BCE 6 to CE 30 (BC 6 to AD 30)



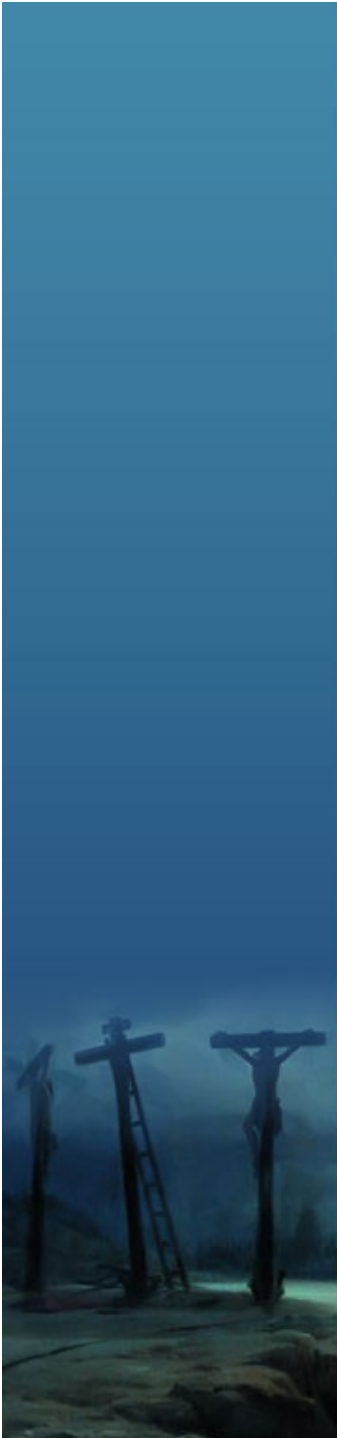
Looking for the historical Jesus

Earliest Christian documents: the execution of Jesus, 30-33 C.E.

- Letters of Paul, approx. 50 to 60 C.E.
- The four canonical gospels, approx. 70 to 90 C.E.
- Other letters, as well as non-canonical gospels, for example, The Gospel of Thomas, and the historical writings of Josephus, approximately 70 to 120 C.E.

Also Important to the Contemporary Quest for the Historical Jesus:

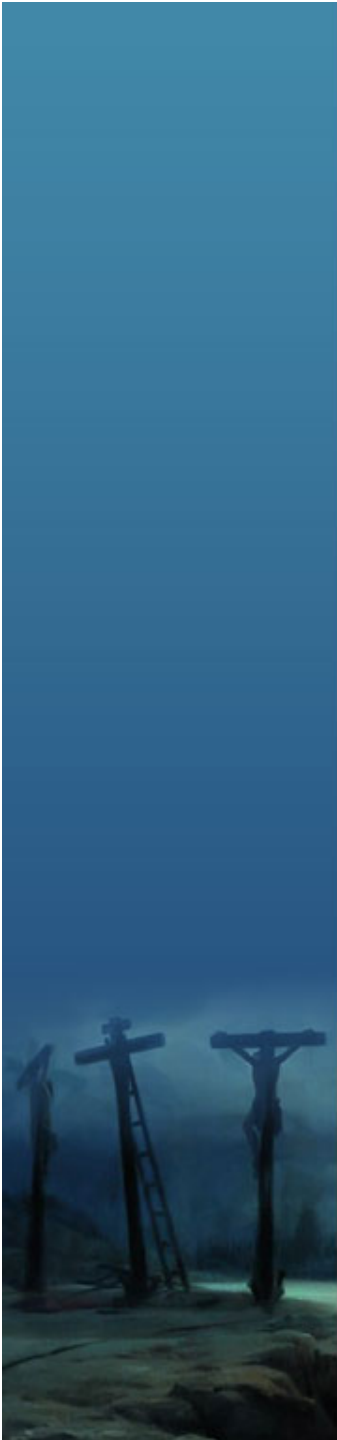
- Modern discoveries and insights from the History of the Mediterranean, Archaeology, Anthropology, Linguistics and other scientific fields. (Late Twentieth and Early Twenty-First Century)



Jesus as a Jew



Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, Supper
at Emmaus 1606



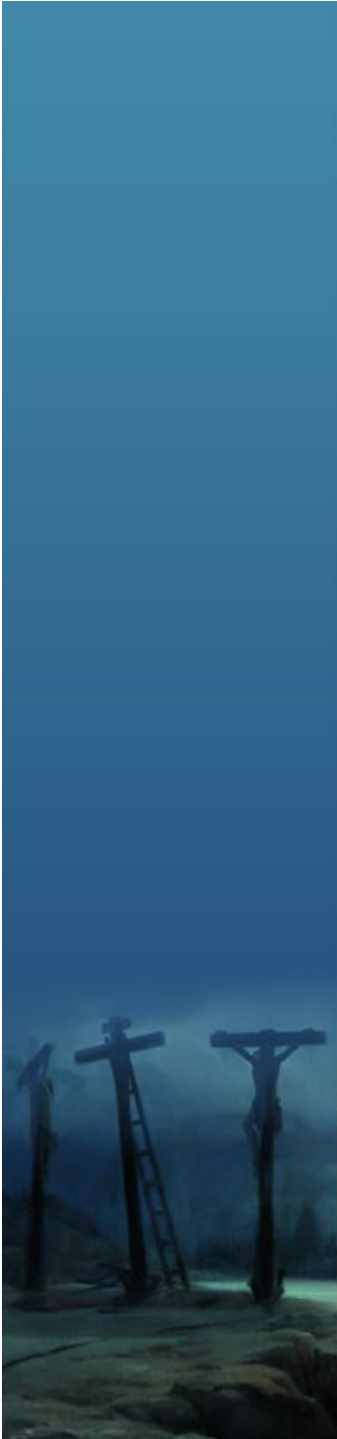
Jesus as a Jew

Jesus as First Century Palestinian

Jesus as Marginal Jew

Jesus as Galilean (that is as Temple outsider, not a Judean)

Jesus as a Friend of Women



Jesus as a Jew

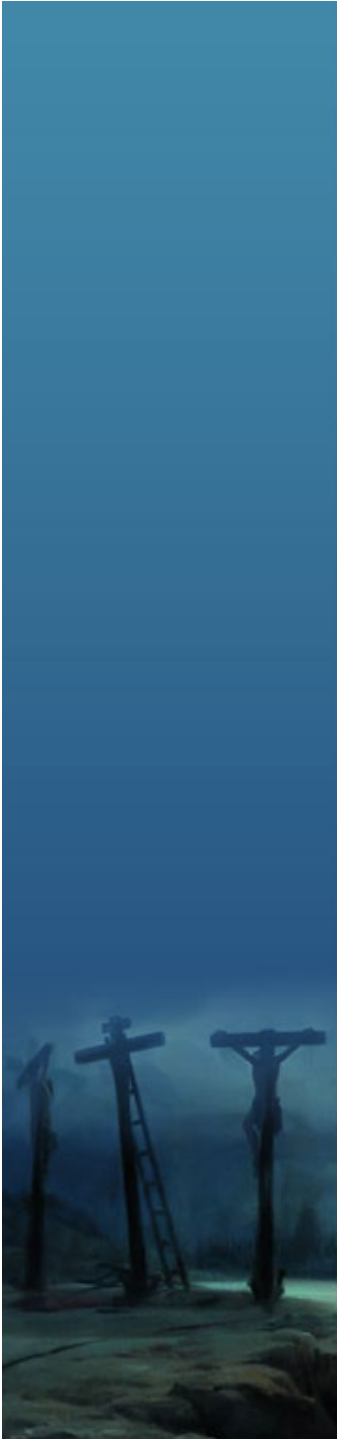
Jesus as Rabbi/Parable

Teller/Itinerant Wisdom Teacher

Jesus as (First Century) Prophet

Jesus as Eschatological
Preacher/Agitator

Jesus as Healer



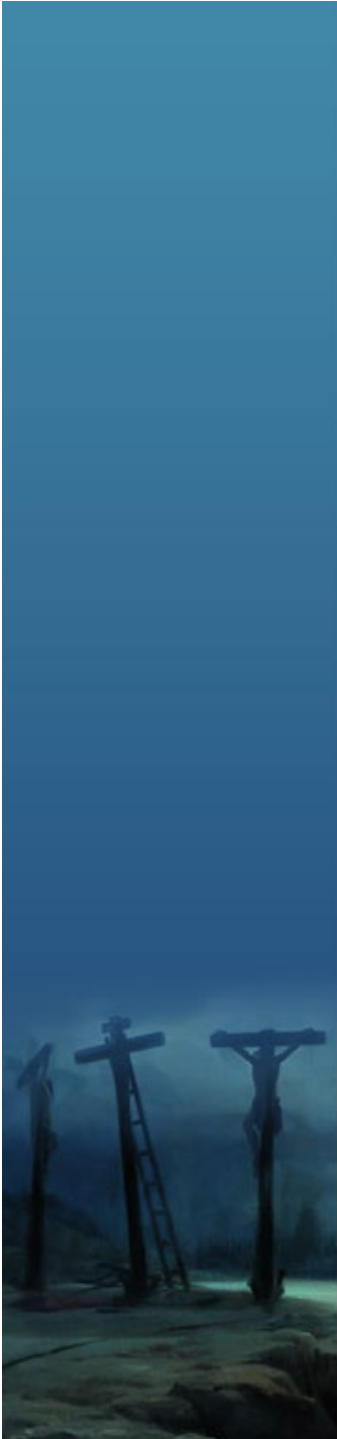
Jesus as a Jew

Jesus as Anti-Roman Liberator and Reformer (trouble-maker)

Jesus as Pharisee

Jesus as Activist for Non Violent Change: a Pacifist

Jesus as Paradoxical Power Changer and Friend of the Powerless (the equality and dignity of women, the renters, the poor, the diseased, the unclean among the Jews)



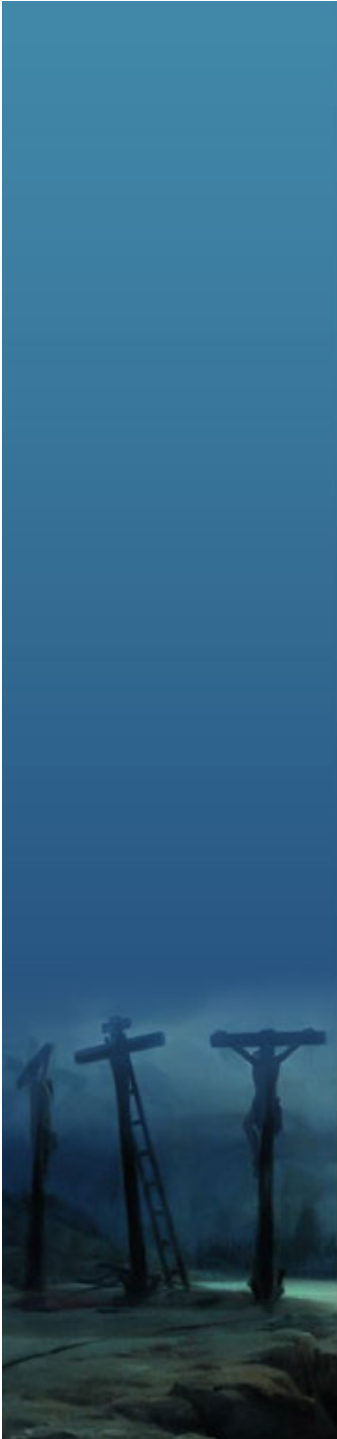
Jesus as a Jew

Jesus as Essene (the Dead Sea Scrolls community)

Jesus as Follower or Associate of John the Baptizer

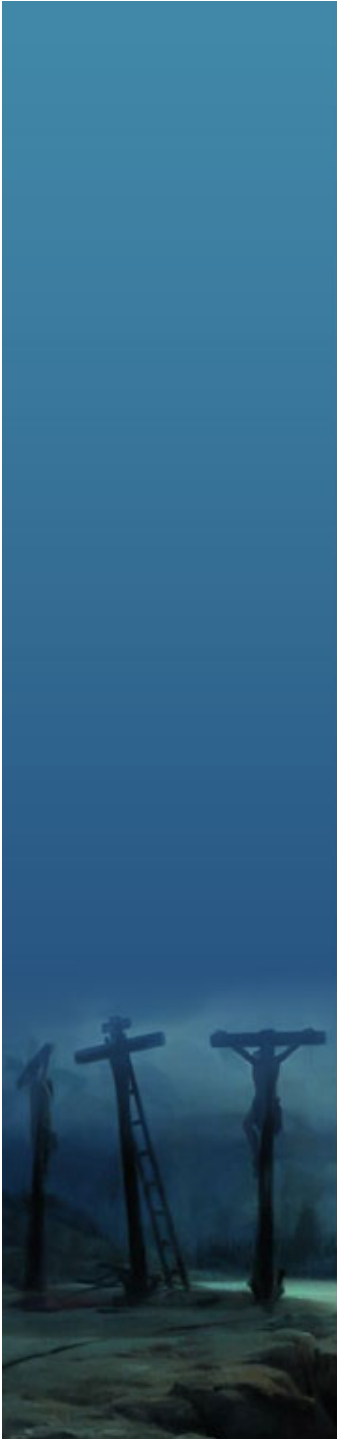
Jesus as Greek (an acculturated Greco-Roman Jew)

Jesus as Cynic Philosopher



Jesus as a Jew

Jesus as Contemplative (Wisdom and Prayer)



The Historical Jesus and Jesus the Christ of Our Easter Faith

For us Catholic Christians, insights about the historical Jesus enrich our understanding of the Christ of Easter, the Christ of Now Whom we proclaim in the Creeds.

