

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

- He was born in an obscure village the child of a peasant woman

He grew up in still another village where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty.

Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher

He never wrote a book

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college.

He never travelled 200 miles from the place he was born.

He did none of the things one usually associated with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress.

All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on

earth much as this One Solitary figure.

- It was at that time a man appeared if 'man' is the right word – who had all the attributes of a man but seemed to be something greater. His actions certainly were superhuman for he worked such wonderful and amazing miracles that I for one cannot regard him as a man; yet in view of his likeness to ourselves I cannot regard him as an angel either'

Josephus – a Jewish historian writing around AD 66

- *In a letter to the Emperor Trajan, **the Younger, Pliny** complains that there was a slump in the agricultural markets because people were no longer buying beasts for sacrifice. This was the fault of people called 'Christians' who formed a secret society and refused to offer sacrifice to the God emperor.*

Writing in AD 112

- *The Roman historian **Tacitus** wrote that the Christians had been made a scapegoat for the great fire of Rome in the reign of Nero (AD 64). Their founder was a criminal who had been executed by Pontius Pilate thirty years or so earlier. Unfortunately the death of the ringleader had not stopped the mischief.*

Writing in the second century.