

Dear Friends,



Josephus (37-100 AD) was a Roman historian who was born only a few years after Jesus died and was resurrected and died at about the time John wrote his Gospel and the Book of Revelation. It is highly unusual to have a historian living and writing so close to the events he is detailing, and here is (just slightly abbreviated) what he wrote about Jesus:

“Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man. He was a doer of wonderful works, a teacher ... who drew over to him both many of the Jews and many of the Gentiles. He was the Christ. And when Pilate....had condemned him to the cross, those who loved him at the first did not forsake him; for he appeared to them alive again on the third day... and the tribe of Christians, so named after him, are not extinct to this day.” (Antiquities of the Jews chapter 18).

These are remarkable statements from a Roman and a historian, not a Jew or a theologian, certainly not a Christian but someone who was still convinced (and I quote) that Jesus ‘was the Christ.’ Such was the evidence available to him that he could but record what he did for a troubled and unbelieving world – now as then.

This should give us all hope and assurance in difficult and often dangerous times when Good News is in short supply. It does me anyway. And for as long as I write this column it is the hope and the joy of knowing Jesus that I shall continue to share. For by the grace and Spirit of God he is as real and true today as ever.

Come June I shall hope to focus on Pentecost and the Coming of the Spirit on what we often refer to as the Church’s Birthday. Till then, God bless you, take care and never give up hope.

Rev Preben Andersen