CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	9
Introduction • What's the Real Issue? • Why Is the Historicity of Jesus Important? • Historical Search for the Historical Jesus • Recent Portrayals of Jesus • An Overview	11
Part I: Extrabiblical Evidence for Jesus	
 The Unusual Nature of Extrabiblical References to Jesus What About Reports From Pilate? • Just How Much Survived? • How Big a Stir Did Jesus Make? • What News Was Hot? • False Expectations Concerning Referen- ces to Jesus • Is Absence of Evidence Evidence of Absence? Why Are Many Extrabiblical References to Jesus Negative in Tone? 	23
 2. References to Jesus by Ancient Secular Writers Thallus and Phlegon • Josephus • Pliny the Younger Cornelius Tacitus • Hadrian • Suetonius Lucian of Samosata • Mara Bar-Serapion 	35
	55
 4. Martyrs, Confessors and Early Church Leaders • Weaknesses of Post-Apostolic Writers • Strengths of Post-Apostolic Writers • Lives and Teachings of Post-Apos- tolic Writers • Evaluating the Evidence 	71
 5. Agrapha, Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha Definitions Value Material Confirming the Gospel Accounts Possibly Reliable Agrapha Unreliable Addi- tions to the Gospels Conclusions 	90
Part II: The Historical Reliability of New Testament Evidence	
 6. Are the Biblical Records Reliable?	.09

7.	 Higher Criticism: How "Assured" Are The Results?12 What Is Higher Criticism? Redaction Criticism Scholarly Conclusions to Higher Criticism 	5
8.	The Gospel Before the Gospels	1
9.	History and Myth	5
10.	Evidence From Historical Geography	8
11.	Evidence From Archaeology	3
12.	The Jewish Factor	3
13.	Jesus and Miracles	2
14.	The Reliability of the Resurrection Reports	8
15.	Messiah and Son of God?	1
Par	t III: Applications and Conclusions	
16.	Jesus and the Popular Press	1
Арр	endix: Would You Like to Know God Personally? .33	7
	es	
	iography	
Inde	ex	9