

## Significant Parallels between Luke and Josephus

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### Explanation

A number of events noted in the New Testament are also mentioned in other of the few sources from antiquity that have survived to our own time. As an example, Luke's Gospel and Acts, and the *Jewish War* (*Bellum Judaicum*, abbreviated *B.J.*) and *Jewish Antiquities* (*Antiquitates Judaicae*, abbreviated *Ant.*) of Josephus share references to many of the same events. Although both authors wrote in Rome, and despite the works being more or less contemporary (Luke probably wrote in the A.D. 70s; Josephus's *Jewish War* began to be published in 75 and *Jewish Antiquities* in 93), it is unlikely that either was familiar with the other, as a source. Of greatest importance to students of the New Testament is that the two historians corroborate the accounts of one another on several occasions.

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### Reference

Steve Mason, *Josephus and the New Testament* (Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1992).

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	LUKE	JOSEPHUS
Census under Quirinius	Lk 2:1–3	<i>B.J.</i> 2.117–18; <i>Ant.</i> 18.1–5
Lysanius, tetrarch of Abilene	Lk 3:1	<i>B.J.</i> 2.215 <i>Ant.</i> 19.275
Pilate’s attack on Galileans/Samaritans	Lk 13:1	<i>Ant.</i> 18.85–87
Siege and destruction of Jerusalem including slaughter of the children	Lk 19:43–44	<i>B.J.</i> 6
Mention of false prophets:		
Theudas	Acts 5:36	<i>Ant.</i> 20.97
Judas the Galilean	Acts 5:37	<i>Ant.</i> 20.102
The Egyptian prophet	Acts 21:38	<i>B.J.</i> 2.261–63; <i>Ant.</i> 20.171
Famine during the reign of Claudius	Acts 11:28–29	<i>Ant.</i> 3.320; 20.51–53, 101
King Agrippa killed by God/the gods	Acts 12:20	<i>Ant.</i> 19.343–52
Sicarii in the desert	Acts 21:38	<i>B.J.</i> 2.264