

3. Apology of Quadratus (c AD 125)

This work is known to us only through Eusebius. The author, Quadratus of Athens, presented his defense to the emperor Hadrian, asking that Xns be distinguished from the rebellious, trouble-making Jews, and that they not be punished to gratify popular demands.

As evidence of the truth of Xy, Quadratus appealed to the miracles Jesus performed. He wrote:

The deeds of our Savior were always before you, for they were true miracles; those who were healed, those that were raised from the dead, who were seen, not only when healed and when raised, but were always present. They remained living a long time, not only while our Lord was on earth, but likewise when he had left the earth. So that some of them are living to our own times.

4. Dialogue with Trypho, by Justin the Martyr (about 135-40)

Justin was a Gentile born at Shechem in Samaria. He studied various philosophies before he came to X through conversation with an elderly Xn. He became an itinerant preacher and eventually opened a school of philosophy in Rome, where he engaged in apologetic controversy. The Dialogue records a two-day discussion at Ephesus with Trypho, a Jewish intellectual who had recently fled the Bar-Kochba war in Palestine.

In the Dialogue Trypho claims that Xy is incompatible with the OT. Justin gives reasons (mostly fulfilled prophecy) for identifying Jesus as the Messiah, and he answers a number of other Jewish objections. He tells Trypho and his companions of his own spiritual pilgrimage before becoming a Xn. He first consulted a Stoic, but the Stoic did not include God in his teaching. Next he tried a Peripatetic (follower of Aristotle), but he was no better. His third teacher, a Pythagorean, tried to make a mystic of him through the study of numerology. His fourth teacher, a Platonist, at first seemed to offer hope, but later his views also seemed foolish. The fifth, a Xn, knew what was wrong with Justin and led him with the help of Scripture to the greatest Teacher of all, Jesus Christ.

In the end, Trypho and his companions thank Justin for his explanations and pray that his coming voyage may be free from all calamity. Justin replies that he can wish them no greater blessing than that they could believe that Christ is God.

5. The First Apology of Justin Martyr (AD 153)

Justin's First Apology was directed to the emperor Antoninus Pius (138-161). It may be divided into three parts. The first (chs 1-20) concerns the proper relation of governing authorities and Xns. It is unjust to punish Xns merely for their name,