1. **From where is this quote taken? “Therefore, to squelch the rumor, Nero created scapegoats and subjected to the most refined tortures those whom the common people called ‘Christians’.”**

Roman historian Tacitus in his book Annals writes this quote, which I found in The Cradle The Cross and The Crown on page 123.

Summary

* Talks about the great fire that Nero blamed on Christians
* Could not of been penned by a Christian scribe because of its negative outlook on Christianity.
* All of the manuscripts of the Annals contain this which points to its authenticity.

1. **What are the most likely dates for Jesus’ birth and death, and what are critical data for dating these events?**

The most likely dates for Jesus birth is sometime between 4 – 5 BC. The death of Jesus took place sometime between 30-33 AD.

Summary

* Scripture indicates Jesus being born in the later years of King Herod.
* Josephus stated that an eclipse took place after Herods death. Using astronomical data we can tell that an eclipse took place in 4 BC around March.
* Herod the Passover of that year so March of 4 BC does fit which puts Jesus being born around 4 -5 BC.
* Using the day that Jesus died which we know was on a Friday and also knowing he ate the Last Supper the day before which points us to be more lenient towards 33 AD
* Jesus death in 33 AD leaves enough time for his ministry to take place as well.

1. **What are the two major possibilities regarding the relationship between the Synoptic Gospels?**

The Two-Gospel Hypothesis and the Markan Priority view

Summary

* The Two Gospel Hypothesis claims that Matthews Gospel was written first and Luke used it to write his and then the Gospel of Mark came along after.
* This also would explain the striking similarities within Matthew and Luke that do not seem as evident in Mark.
* The Markan Priority claims that Matthew and Luke used the Gospel of Mark to write from. It is also the shortest of the three synoptic Gospels.
* Mark uses Aramaic expressions where Matthew and Luke on the other hand either omit these or translate them into the better-known Greek language, which is more likely than them translating them from Greek into the lesser-known Aramaic.

1. **In what order were the Gospels written according to the two-Gospel hypothesis?**

According to the Two-Gospel Hypothesis the order of writing was first Matthew then Luke and finally Mark each being dependent on the previous ones.

1. **In what order were the Gospels written according to the Markan priority view?**

According to the Markan Priority view we see that the Gospel of Mark was written first then Matthew and finally Luke with each again being dependent on the previous ones.