

# Zeno of Sidon - Main Biography

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Zeno of Sidon - Scholarch (7th): (c. 166 – 75 BCE) Scholarch from 125 to 75 BCE

## Zeno of Sidon

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**Zeno of Sidon** ([Greek](#): Ζήνων ὁ Σιδώνιος; c. 150 – c. 75 BC<sup>[1]</sup>) was a [Greek Epicurean philosopher](#)<sup>[2]</sup> from the [Seleucid](#) city of [Sidon](#). His writings have not survived, but there are some epitomes of his lectures preserved among the writings of his pupil [Philodemus](#).

### Life<sup>[edit]</sup>

Zeno was born in the city of [Sidon](#). He was a contemporary of [Cicero](#), who heard him when at [Athens](#).<sup>[3][4]</sup>

He was sometimes termed the "leading Epicurean." ([Latin](#): *Coryphaeus Epicureorum*)<sup>[3]</sup> [Cicero](#) states that Zeno was contemptuous of other philosophers, and even called [Socrates](#) "the [Attic Buffoon](#) (*scurram Atticum*)."<sup>[5]</sup> He was a disciple of [Apollodorus](#),<sup>[6]</sup> and [Cicero](#) and [Diogenes Laërtius](#) both describe him as an accurate and polished thinker.<sup>[7][3][8]</sup>

### Philosophy<sup>[edit]</sup>

Zeno held that happiness is not merely dependent upon present enjoyment and prosperity, but also on a reasonable expectation of their continuance and appreciation.<sup>[7][4]</sup>

Zeno's writings have not survived, but among the charred [papyrus](#) remains at the [Villa of the Papyri](#) at [Herculaneum](#), there is an *Epitome of Conduct and Character from the Lectures of Zeno* written by his pupil [Philodemus](#). It contains the essays *On Frank Criticism*<sup>[9]</sup> and *On Anger* <sup>[10]</sup>

Zeno also studied the philosophy of [mathematics](#) based on the derivation of all knowledge from experience. He criticized [Euclid](#), seeking to show that deductions from the fundamental principles ([Koinē Greek](#): ἀρχαί) of geometry cannot, on their own, be proved:

Quote

[Some] admit the principles but deny that the propositions coming after the principles can be demonstrated unless they grant something that is not contained in the principles. This method of controversy was followed by Zeno of Sidon, who belonged to

the school of [Epicurus](#), and against whom [Posidonius](#) has written a whole book.<sup>[11]</sup>