

Archaeological Evidence for Jesus

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We live in an age of uninformed scepticism about Jesus. This talk will show how the physical discoveries of archaeology undermine common misconceptions about: the existence of Jesus; the reliability of the Gospels; the historical credentials of the crucifixion, burial, and empty tomb of Jesus; and the existence of people who believed Jesus was God long before the 4th-century church council of Nicea.

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Historical Places – Cities & Buildings

Historical People – General & specific Names, Titles & Relationships

Historical Culture – Background & Beliefs

Lydia McGrew:

CROSS EXAMINED ORG

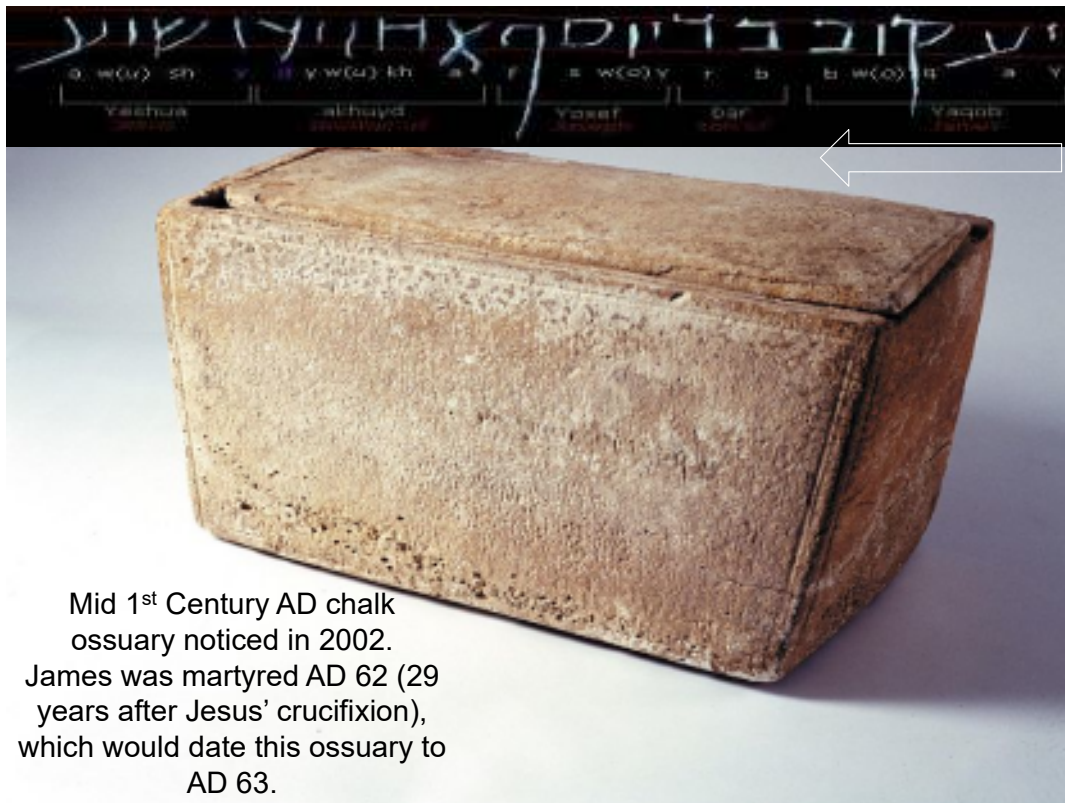
‘If you sample a loaf of bread on both ends and at several points in the middle and find it good, it would be caviling to say that perhaps just the parts you haven’t tasted happen to be the moldy ones.’ - *Hidden In Plain View*, 225.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW
Challenged Conclusions in the Gospels and Acts
Lydia McGrew

Historical Places – Cities & Buildings



Historical People – General & specific Names, Titles & Relationships



Historical Culture – Beliefs

Christian ‘prayer hall’ (discovered 2005) near Megiddo, c. 230 AD:



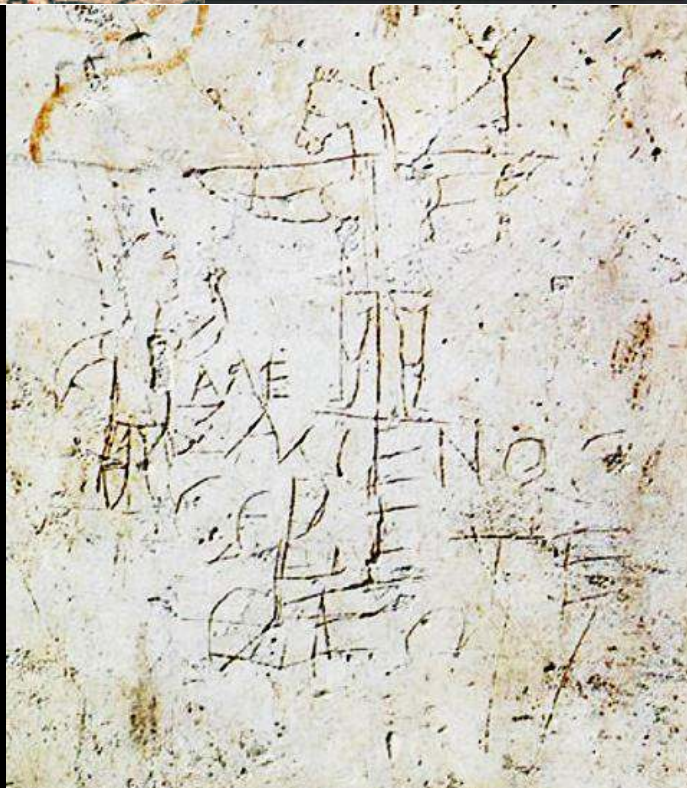
The ‘Alexamenos’ graffito:

Wall graffiti near the Palatine hill, Rome, dated to

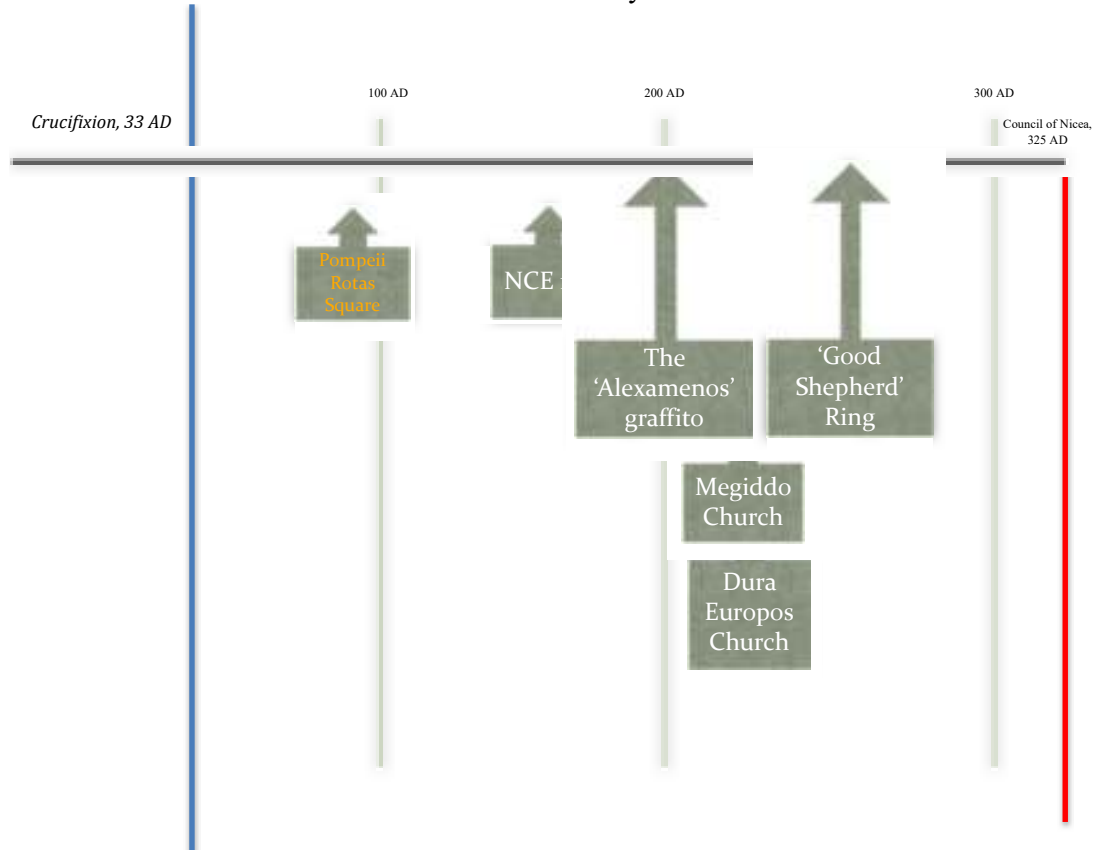
‘c. AD 200’

- Richard Bauckham, *Jesus: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2011, p. 96.

‘Alexamenos worships his god’



Belief in the divinity of Jesus:



The archaeological evidence we have examined *indicates* that:

- *Jesus, son of Joseph and brother of James* (who was buried in Jerusalem in the middle of the 1st century), *existed* in the early-middle 1st century
- Jesus was *crucified* (which probably killed him)
- A crucifixion victim *could* be buried
- Jesus *was buried* (and thus probably dead) in a *now empty* Jerusalem tomb, just outside the first century city walls
- Grave robbery was an offence that may have been particularly associated with Nazareth (where the NT says Jesus lived) mid-1st century
- Despite his crucifixion, *Jesus was considered divine* by some within *c. 50-200 years* of his execution
- In the early 3rd century (c. 200-230 AD), Jesus was held to be divine *in the Judeo-Christian sense* (over a century before the Council of Nicea!)
- The 1st century biographies of Jesus in the NT have been *repeatedly verified* by archaeological discoveries relating to places, people, culture & beliefs, which encourages us to trust them on matters we can't independently verify in this way

Recommended Resources on Biblical Archaeology

Video

YouTube Playlist, 'Christianity & Archaeology'

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjh9aRRWF1kYZIVCPc5iCcw

YouTube Playlist, 'The Existence of Jesus'

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWiCALtjBWyx078Dxxib4g8E

YouTube Playlist, 'The Historical Jesus'

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWg0CpSQPAR5cy_InXpeQMNk

YouTube Playlist, 'The Resurrection of Jesus'

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWjF0VbpQ9sPUUivlyF5n0wB

YouTube Playlist, 'The Shroud of Turin' www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQhh3qcwVEWhYS-mMYnE2afo0pgODHWNS

Audio

Ben Witherington III, 'James Ossuary' <http://restitutio.org/2015/10/26/james-ossuary/>

Peter S Williams, 'Archaeological Evidence for New Testament Places, People and Beliefs' (March, 2018)

<http://podcast.peterswilliams.com/e/archaeological-evidence-for-new-testament-places-people-and-beliefs/>

- 'Archaeology, Jesus and the New Testament' <http://podcast.peterswilliams.com/e/archaeology-jesus-and-the-new-testament-1415879310/>

- 'Archaeological Evidence for the Reliability of the New Testament'

<http://podcast.peterswilliams.com/e/archaeological-evidence-for-the-reliability-of-the-new-testament-1413287411/>

Websites

Associates For Biblical Research www.biblearchaeology.org/

Biblical Archaeological Review www.bib-arch.org/

The Shroud of Turin Education Project www.shroud2000.com/

Shroud Story www.shroudstory.com/

Shroud of Turin Website www.shroud.com/menu.htm

On-Line Papers

Biblical Archaeology Review Staff, 'Tomb of Apostle Phillip Found'

www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-sites-places/biblical-archaeology-sites/tomb-of-apostle-philip-found/

Oxford University, 'Dating evidence: Relics could be of John the Baptist'

www.ox.ac.uk/media/news_stories/2012/120615.html

Mark Antonacci, 'An Unrealistic Approach and Analysis of the Blood Flows on the Shroud of Turin'

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/97f3f2_ec89de32d712410e9b6441838eaa66da.pdf

Gary Baxster, 'The James Ossuary' www.adeffenceofthebible.com/2016/08/01/the-james-ossuary/

Clyde E. Billington, 'The Nazareth Inscription' www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2009/07/22/The-Nazareth-Inscription-Proof-of-the-Resurrection-of-Christ.aspx

Tom Chivers, 'The Shroud of Turin: Forgery or Divine? A Scientist Writes'

<http://blogs.telegraph.co.uk/news/tomchiversscience/100126480/the-shroud-of-turin-forgery-or-divine-a-scientist-writes/>

Craig A. Evans, 'Archaeology and the Historical Jesus: Recent Developments'

<http://216.12.134.73/publications/article.aspx?articleId=335>

H. Wayne House, 'Alexamenos Execution Graffito'

www.hwhouse.com/images/8.ALEXAMENOS_CRUCIFIXION_GRAFFITI.pdf

Paul L. Maier, 'The James Ossuary' www.issuesetcarchive.org/articles/bissar95.htm

John McRay, 'Archaeology and the Book of Acts'

http://faculty.gordon.edu/hu/bi/Ted_Hildebrandt/NTEsources/NTArticles/CTR-NT/McRay-ArchaeologyActs-CTR.pdf

Ehud Netzer, 'In Search of Herod's Tomb' <http://members.bib-arch.org/publication.asp?PubID=BSBA&Volume=37&Issue=1&ArticleID=7>

Raymond N. Rogers & Anna Arnoldi, 'The Shroud of Turin: An Amino-Carbonyl Reaction (Maillard Reaction) May Explain The Image Formation', *Melanoidins* vol. 4, Ames J.M. (ed.), Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, 2003, 106-113 <http://shroud.com/pdfs/rogers7.pdf>

Amon Rosenfeld *et al*, 'The Authenticity of the James Ossuary', *Open Journal of Geology* www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&ret=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwivmbG48fbKAhUJwBQKHdi7A1UQFggiMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fdx.doi.org%2F10.4236%2Fojg.2014.43007&usg=AFQjCNH2gKfNih3G8fS8iFO7GZJhpF5VAQ&bvm=bv.114195076,d.d24

Hershel Shanks, "'Brother of Jesus" Inscription is Authentic!' www.bib-arch.org/bar/article.asp?PubID=BSBA&Volume=38&Issue=4&ArticleID=2

- 'Supporters of James Ossuary Inscription's Authenticity Vindicated' www.bib-arch.org/news/forgery-trial-news.asp

Peter S. Williams, 'Digging for Evidence: Archaeology and the Historical Reliability of the New Testament' *Christian Evidence Society* (2016) http://christianevidence.org/docs/booklets/digging_for_evidence.pdf

- '9 archaeology finds that confirm the New Testament' *Premier Christianity Today* (2017) www.premierchristianity.com/Past-Issues/2017/March-2017/9-archaeology-finds-that-confirm-the-New-Testament

- 'The Shroud of Turin: A Cumulative Case for Authenticity' www.case.edu.au/images/uploads/03_pdfs/williams-shroud-turin.pdf

Ben Witherington III, 'Top Ten New Testament Archaeological Finds of the Past 150 Years' www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2003/septemberweb-only/9-22-21.0.html

H. Wayne House, 'Ossuary of James, son of Joseph and Brother of Jesus' www.hwhouse.com/images/Ossuary_of_James.pdf

Books

ESV Archaeology Study Bible (Crossway, 2017)

Craig A. Evans, *Jesus and the Remains of His Day: Studies in Jesus and the Evidence of Material Culture* (Hendrickson, 2015)

Craig A. Evans, *Jesus and His World: The Archaeological Evidence* (SPCK, 2012)

David E. Graves, *Biblical Archaeology* (David E. Graves, 2014)

Randall Price & H. Wayne House, *Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archaeology* (Zondervan, 2017)

Charles L. Quarles, *Buried Hope or Risen Savior? The Search for the Jesus Tomb* (B&H Academic, 2008)

Hershel Shanks & Ben Witherington, *The Brother of Jesus: The Dramatic Story & Meaning of the First Archaeological Link to Jesus & His Family* (Continuum, 2003)

Ian Wilson, *The Shroud* (Bantam, 2011)

Peter S. Williams, *Getting at Jesus: A Comprehensive Critique of Neo-Atheist Nonsense About the Jesus of History* (Wipf and Stock, 2019)