

Kings Series
Lesson #107
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Can We Really Trust the Bible?

Isn't the Bible just another human book, subject to error and expressing different opinions about God?

Isn't the Bible full of contradictions and errors?

Hasn't the Bible been changed over the years because it has been copied and translated so many times?

How can we be sure the Bible we have today is the same as what was originally written?

Didn't the Rabbis or the Church [a few powerful men, Constantine, etc.] just arbitrarily decide which books should be included in the Bible and which books should be rejected (and didn't this just reflect their male dominated, power hungry agenda?)

There are so many different interpretations of the Bible, how can we know which is right?

Isn't the Bible the product of an evolving religion that originated with the Babylonians and Assyrians?

Doesn't the Bible contain historical and scientific errors?

Does God exist?

No

Yes

Can God communicate?

No

Yes

Can God communicate, clearly?

No

Yes

**Can God protect His
communication?**

Can God protect His communication?

**If God can communicate,
clearly,
and protect His communication,
then**

what would its characteristics be?

**consistent, accurate, be supported through
evidence, internally logical and rational without
error**

2. Has this God communicated to man?

2 Tim. 3:16, “All Scripture is inspired by God ...”

2 Peter 1:20–21, “But know this first of all, that . . . no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

2 Sam. 23:2, “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”

Zech. 7:12, “... the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by His Spirit through the former prophets;”

**Num. 23:19, “God is not a man, that He should lie, nor
a son of man, that He should repent; has He said, and
will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not
make it good?”**

Jer. 26:2, “Thus says the LORD, ...”

“God said” is used 46x in the Bible

“God spoke” 12x

“the Lord said” 233x

“the Lord spoke” 133x

“says the Lord” 502x

So the Bible claims that God objectively communicated something to man over 900x.

Is the Bible True?

The Bible Claims to be God's revelation of Himself to man.

False

True

If False, then it is no better than any other book.

If False, then it is a fraud and deceptive and should be rejected completely.

If True, then it is the unique book of the universe and should be valued above all things.

1. The Bible was written over a period of 1,500 years. (Perhaps longer if Job was written before Moses lived.)

2. The Bible was written by over 30 authors from a wide variety of backgrounds and education.

- Moses, was trained from birth to be Pharaoh of Egypt, yet turned his back on that to follow God.
- Joshua was a general.
- Samuel was a prophet.
- David was a shepherd, who became a warrior, who became a king. He was also a musician and poet.
- Amos was a herdsman and fig picker.
- Isaiah was part of the aristocracy in Israel.
- Solomon was a king.

- Daniel was a captive taken hostage to Babylon who eventually became Prime Minister.
- Nehemiah was the cupbearer (the highest bureaucratic position in the government) to Artaxerxes.
- Matthew was a Jew who worked as a Roman tax collector.
- John was a commercial fisherman.
- Luke was a physician.
- Paul was trained to be a Rabbi.
- Peter also was a commercial fisherman.

3. Yet the Bible presents one unified theme, God's redemption plan for the human race.

4. The Bible covers all of the most controversial topics yet without contradiction.

5. The Bible is written in a wide variety of styles and literary genre.

6. In its unity its focus is always upon God's redemptive plan.

7. The Bible is unique in its preservation.

“Jews preserved it as no other manuscript has ever been preserved. With their *massora* (*parva*, *magna*, and *finalis*), they kept tabs on every letter, syllable, word, and paragraph. They had special classes of men within their culture whose sole duty was to preserve and transmit these documents with practically perfect fidelity—scribes, lawyers, massoretes. Who ever counted the letters and syllables of Plato or Aristotle? Cicero or Seneca?”

–Bernard Ramm

8. The Bible is unique in the way it describes the lives of heroes—complete with all of the flaws and failures.



“The Bible is not such a book as man would write if he could, or could write if he would.”

—L. S. Chafer

Isa. 40:8, “The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”

Matt. 24:35, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

Matt. 5:17, “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.”

Isa. 59:21, “ ‘And as for Me...’ says the LORD: ‘My Spirit ... and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth...’ ”

Isa. 55:11, “So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

**Matt. 4:4, “But He answered and said, ‘It is written,
“Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word
that proceeds out of the mouth of God.” ’ ”**

The Attack Dogs of Skeptics and Agnostics:

No creation

No flood

No Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob

No Moses

No exodus

No meeting with God at Mt. Sinai

No Law from God

No King David

No miracles

No virgin birth

No resurrection

The purpose of biblical archaeology is to recover material remains of man's past, not to "prove" the accuracy or historicity of the Bible. Nevertheless it is important to note that Near Eastern archaeology has demonstrated the historical and geographical reliability of the Bible in many important areas...

“By clarifying the objectivity and factual accuracy of biblical authors, archaeology also helps correct the view that the Bible is avowedly partisan and subjective. It is now known, for instance, that, along with the Hittites, Hebrew scribes were the best historians in the entire ancient Near East, despite contrary propaganda that emerged from Assyria, Egypt, and elsewhere.”

(Preface, *The New International Dictionary of Biblical Archaeology*)

“All that I have ever said is that in all of my archaeological investigation I have never found one artifact of antiquity that contradicts any statement of the Word of God.”

–Nelson Glueck

In the excavation of Ninevah and the library of King Ashurbanipal of Assyria, 668–626 BC, they found a set of seven tablets called the “Creation Epic” that listed six days of creation and one day of rest.



ENUMA ELISH

Mesopotamian Creation



“All who suspect or suggest a borrowing by the Hebrews are compelled to admit large-scale revision, alteration and reinterpretation in a fashion which cannot be substantiated for any other composition from the ancient Near East or in any other Hebrew writing.”

–A. R. Millard



Bab ed Dhra





Bab ed Dhra Charnel House



Dead Sea Salt *formations*

Genesis 19:24, “Then the LORD rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the LORD out of the heavens.”

Genesis 19:28, “Then he looked toward Sodom and Gomorrah, and toward all the land of the plain; and he saw, and behold, the smoke of the land which went up like the smoke of a furnace.”

Black Stele, Code of Hammurapi



David

“House of David” inscription, Tel Dan, 1993

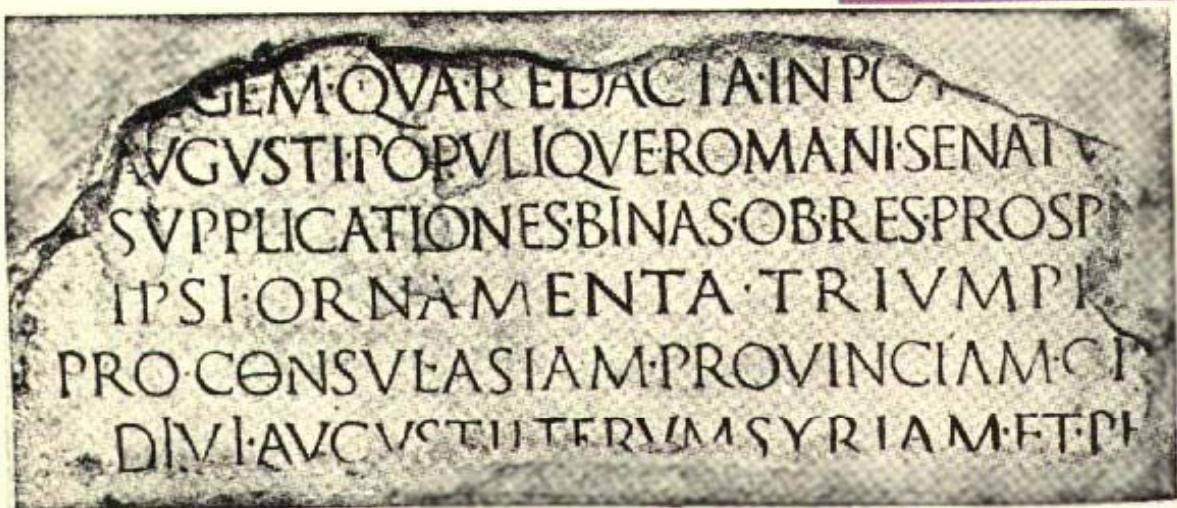
Hittites

1911–12 Bogha-keui discovered

Solomon

Solomon's Stables at Megiddo

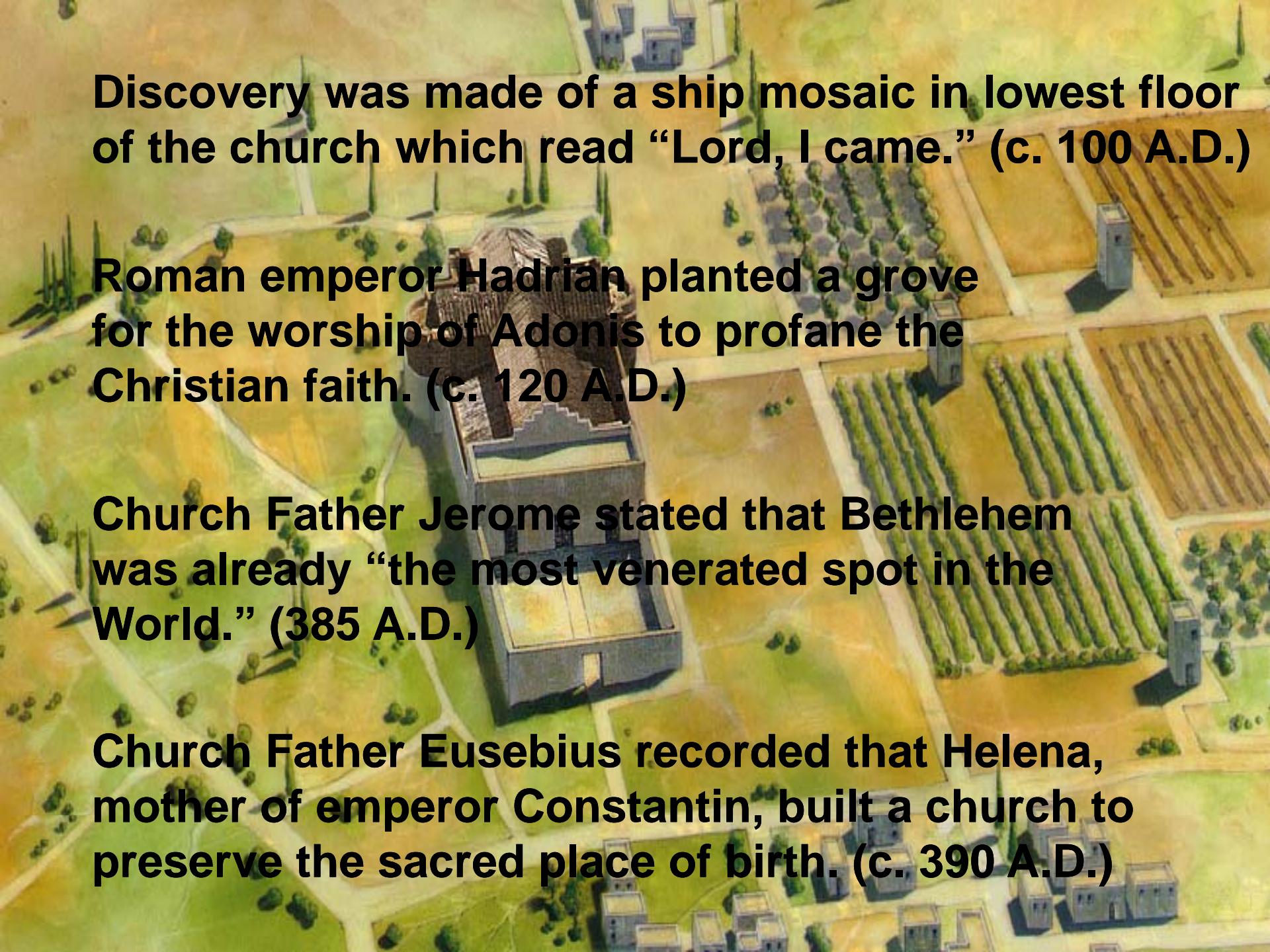
Census of Quirinius



AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria).

(Luke 2 : 1-2)



A colorful illustration of a historical town or city. In the foreground, there's a large, light-colored building with a tiled roof, possibly a church or temple. Behind it are several smaller buildings and a few trees. To the right, there are fields with crops and some more buildings in the distance.

**Discovery was made of a ship mosaic in lowest floor
of the church which read “Lord, I came.” (c. 100 A.D.)**

**Roman emperor Hadrian planted a grove
for the worship of Adonis to profane the
Christian faith. (c. 120 A.D.)**

**Church Father Jerome stated that Bethlehem
was already “the most venerated spot in the
World.” (385 A.D.)**

**Church Father Eusebius recorded that Helena,
mother of emperor Constantin, built a church to
preserve the sacred place of birth. (c. 390 A.D.)**

CAPHARNAUM THE TOWN OF JESUS

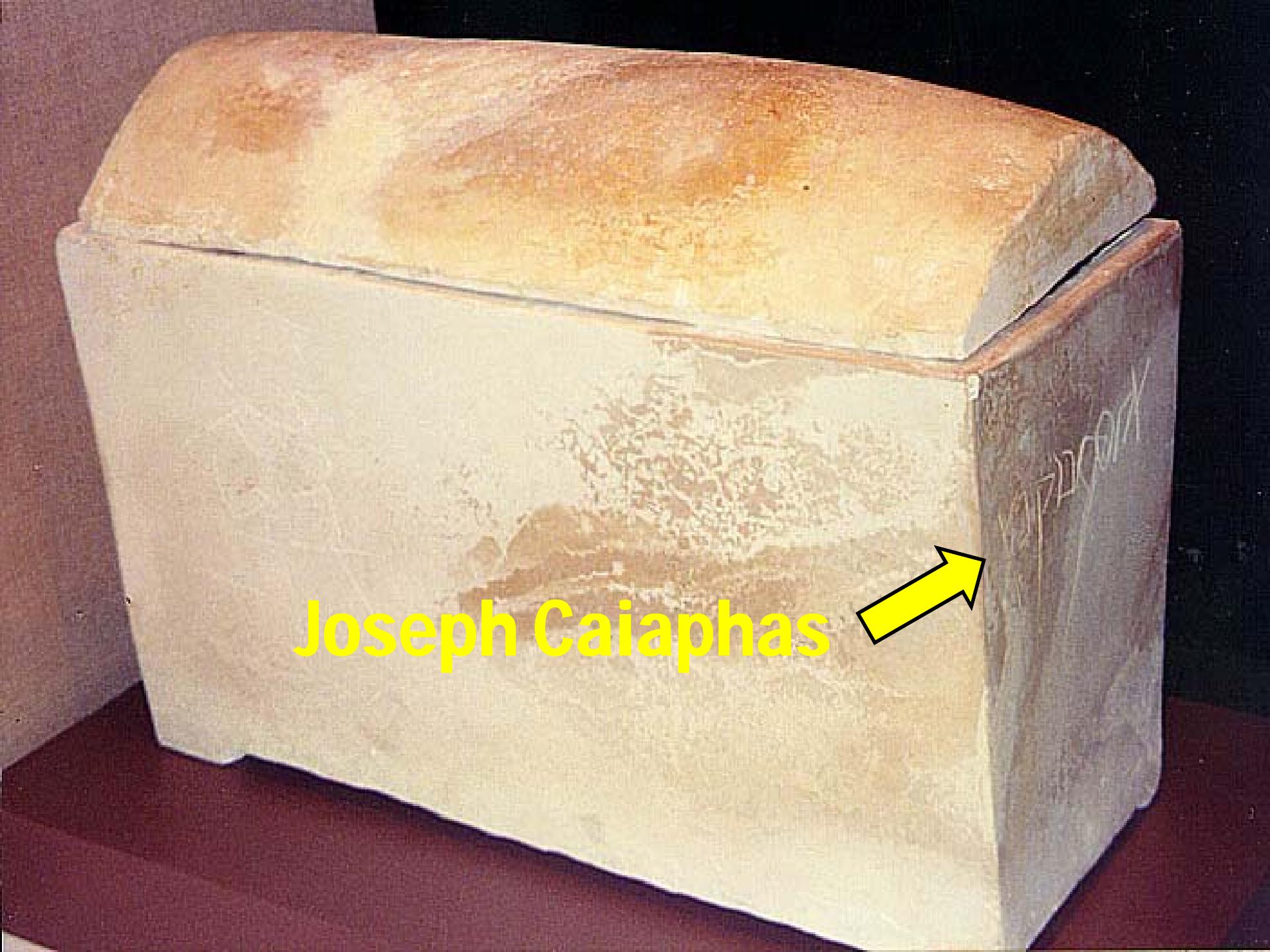


הַלְלוּת וְעֵינָה
Unique Discovery

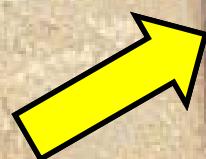
יוסף בר קיפא
הכהן הגדול
Joseph Caiaphas
The High Priest

מוצב
הכהן
הHIGH PRIEST





Joseph Caiaphas



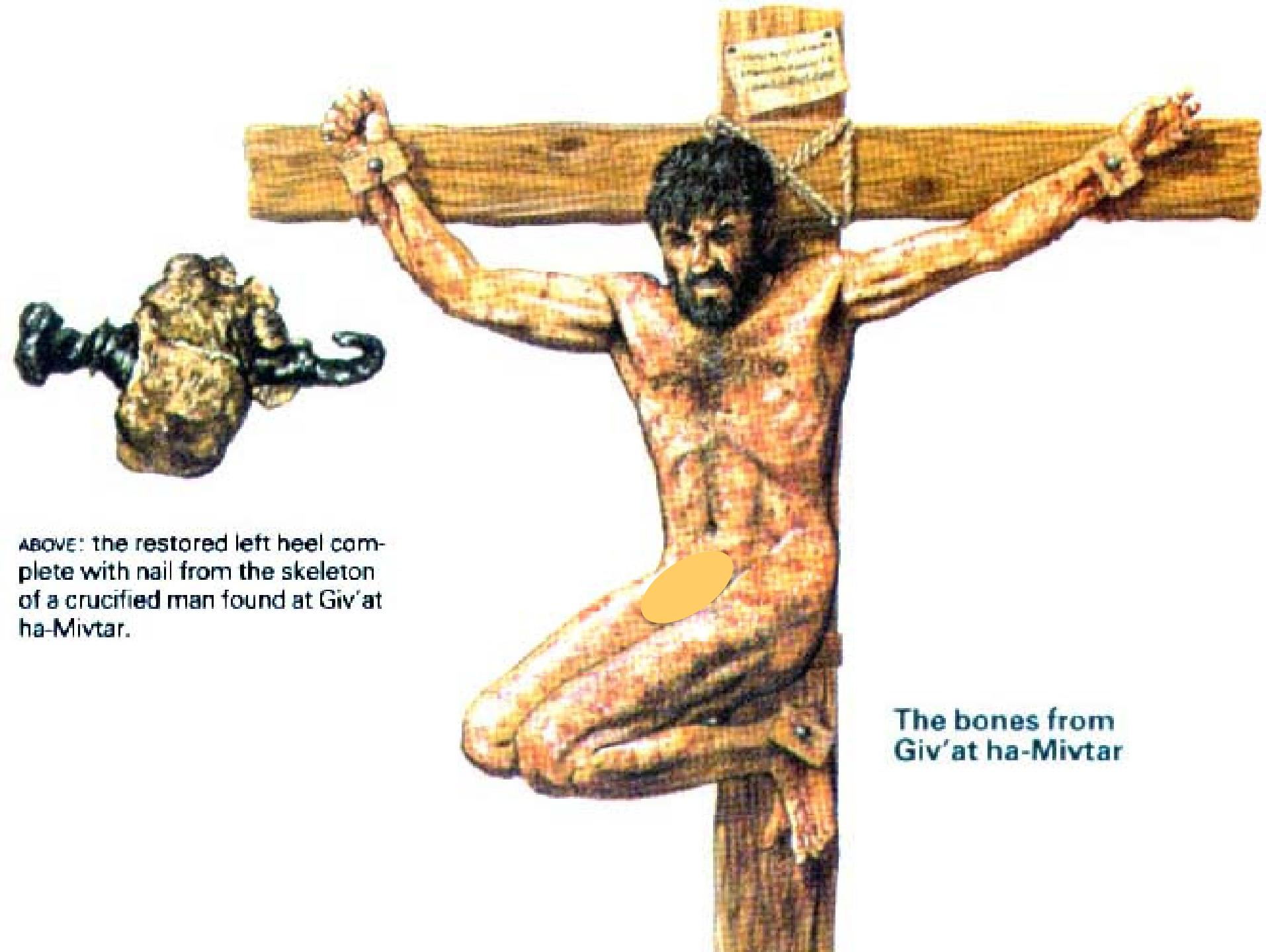
Pontius Pilate





Luke 3:1, “Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene,”





ABOVE: the restored left heel complete with nail from the skeleton of a crucified man found at Giv'at ha-Mivtar.

The bones from
Giv'at ha-Mivtar