



KEY QUESTION

THE ATTACK ON THE GOSPELS

Where is the front line in the battle for the Gospels?

Ruth A. Tucker's 5 kinds of reasons that once-professing Christians lose faith:

1. Scientific and philosophical issues, particularly evolution and naturalism.
2. Biblical perplexities and higher criticism.
3. Disappointment with God regarding personal and widespread suffering.
4. Hypocrisy and lack of caring among leaders in the church.
5. Lifestyle and perspective, including homosexuality, feminism, secularism and pluralism.

— **“Great is Thy Faithfulness”:**
Some Reflections on the Loss of Faith. *Mission Frontiers*, May-June 2008.

Who's attacking the gospels?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Follow-up questions:

- **What's different about the new atheism?**
- **Why are people disappointed with God and disillusioned with Christianity?**
- **Which of the attackers should we be most concerned about?**

Responses:

SHOUTING STONES: PART 1 B

What is the case against the gospels proposed by _____?

There is no _____ for God, and He is disproved by the problem of evil. Therefore, the gospels cannot be true.

_____?

Miracles, especially the resurrection are _____.

_____?

We don't have the autographs (which were mythological anyway); the gospels were _____ by later generations for political reasons and are now rife with contradictions.

_____?

As the church gained power it suppressed the true record of Jesus' teaching, which was about inherent human _____.

_____?

The gospels were corrupted and only later _____ by the Qur'an. It is blasphemous to suggest that God had a son with Mary.

_____?

God would not have inspired documents that teach an _____ way to salvation, an oppressive morality and a demeaning view of women.

_____?

God is either unwilling or unable to _____, so why should I care about the gospels anymore?

**KEY QUESTION****THE GOSPELS: HISTORY OR MYTH?**

What must we know before we can really know anything else?



Read Luke 1.1-5; 2.1-4 and 3.1-3. How does Luke signal us that he intends his narrative to be taken as history?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

List the characteristics of fable-type legends:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

Once upon a time there was a poor widow who had an only son, named Jack, and a cow, named Milky-white. All they had to live on was the milk the cow gave every day....[After slaying a giant who lived in the sky above the clouds,] Jack and his mother became very rich with a [talking, golden harp and a hen who laid golden eggs that Jack had stolen from the giant.] Jack married a Princess, and they all lived happily ever after.

—*English Fairy Tale*

“Jack and his beanstalk was just as suitable for the nucleus of a religious system as Christ and his cross; but the one has been taken, and the other left. Christ and his cross is the more blood-stained and crude legend of the two, and would, therefore, receive the readier acceptance by the barbarous mental and moral instincts of priest-manipulated ignorance.”— W. S. Ross (“Saladin”) in *Did Jesus Rise from the Dead?*

“The amount of evidence must be proportionate to the improbability of the event for which the evidence is adduced, and if every pen in the Roman empire in the reign of Tiberias had left it on uniform record that Christ rose from the dead, the fact would not be established. It would be more probable that every living historian should be mistaken, or even that every living historian should wilfully have lied, than that an event so utterly improbable, so subversive of all experience, should have taken place.” — *ibid.*

SHOUTING STONES: PART 1 D

The stories of Abraham and Odysseus both bear marks of historical-style narrative (pp. F7-F9). Contrast the two stories in regard to:

1. Theology:
2. Plausibility:
3. Hero:
4. Reward:

Did the Biblical writers distinguish between history and myth? (See 1 Timothy 4.7; 2 Peter 1.16.)

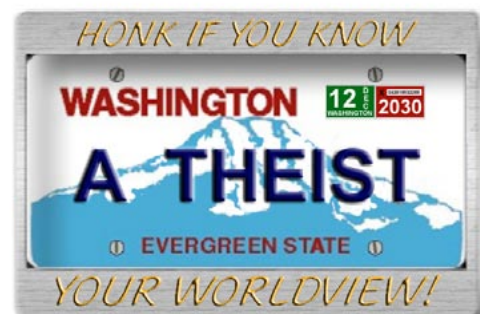
What explanation does the Bible offer for the competing myths of antiquity?

How should we classify the gospels as compared to myths and fables?

Analyze the argument of W. S. Ross. Why doesn't he believe in the resurrection of Jesus?

Can history and archaeology prove that the Gospels are true? (See pages C-35/36)

Responses to the Main Question:





KEY QUESTION

EXCAVATING TELL AL-EUNO

What is the single most vital thing to know about archaeology?

Al-Euno, on page C-25, is an imaginary tell in Israel. It has six levels of strata, plus an adjoining 4 levels produced by erosion from the main mound.

1. What does the Arabic word *Tell* mean in archaeological discussion?

2. What is the first step toward excavating Tell Al-Euno?

3. To work the first six-week season on the tell will cost about:

☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$250,000 ☐ \$500,000 ☐ \$1 Million ☐ More than \$1 Million

4. List the five major tasks involved in excavating the site:

A.
B.
C.
D.
E.

5. Which is the oldest stratum in the main mound of Tell Al-Euno?

6. Which is the oldest stratum among the adjoining erosion layers?

7. Since we neither wish to nor are able to excavate the entire Tell at once, how shall we decide where on the mound to dig first?

8. Once we are ready to excavate, what sort of holes shall we dig in the tell?

9. Why are the men raising so much dust on top of Tell Al-Euno?



Mapping: Please find and highlight the location of this tell on the map on p. C-15.

SHOUTING STONES: PART 2 B

☞ Coins help immensely in identifying the oldest possible age for a strata level.
Generally, strata cannot be older than the coins they contain.

10. Based on the coin found in it, stratum 3 was formed after what date? (Compare this coin from the tell with the coin on p. C-7 of your syllabus.)

11. What stratum does the hoard of coins pertain to?

12. Under the roots of a tree that reach down into stratum 2, we find coins minted much more recently than all the other coins in the stratum. Should stratum 2 be dated according to the older or more recent coins?



Graphic source: Groliers

13. The jasper seal in level 4 refers to Jeroboam II. That implies that stratum 4 was formed after what time? (Can you find Jeroboam II in the Time Line?)

14. Stratum 5 dates to what time, based on the pottery found in it? (See page F-20: Pottery in Biblical Archaeology.)

15. Stratum 2 seems to dip into level 3 at a spot where we find a concentration of animal bones, potsherds and ashes. What would explain this feature?

16. Among the ruins buried at level 2 are charred timbers carbon-dated to at least 300 years older than the rest of the ruins buried with them. Explain.

17. In a tomb in level 1, we find a skeleton whose feet were amputated. The two ankle bones are pinned together by a 7.5 inch nail that also penetrated some wood fragments before ending in a curled tip. Why is this find significant?

18. As you clear away earth in Level 1, you uncover what appears to be a section of a semicircular, stone bench. A Greek graffito remains intact, scratched in a bit of plaster covering the bench. The graffito translates: “Hail Hypocrites!” You’ve found the first sign of what kind of structure?

19. As the rest of the “Hail Hypocrites” structure is slowly uncovered, we find a Greek inscription on a column that translates: “Built by the carpenters of...” Since almost the entire structure is built of stone, what does that imply about the Gk. word *carpenter* (tekton).

20. List potential errors in interpreting field data:

Main Answer:



KEY QUESTION

SACRED OCTAGONS

What are the risks involved in believing the Gospels?

How would you incorporate the idea of “regeneration” into the architecture of a building? Sketch a floor plan or building shape to illustrate your idea:

What are the Gospels’ historical markers (i.e., verifiable people, places and things associated with the life of Jesus of Nazareth)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Why are the Gospels’ historical markers important?

What difference does a faithful reflection of reality make?

Who was Helena?

SHOUTING STONES: PART 3 B

What pagan temple became a part of Christian history? (See pp. D-46,47,59.)

How did Emperor Hadrian attempt to hide the birthplace of Jesus?

Where is the center of the world?

How did early Christian builders mark their holiest spots in the Holy Land?

Mapping

Please locate these towns on the map:

Kinneret Region (p. C-17)

Capernaum

Chorazin

Gadara

Gergesa

Magdala

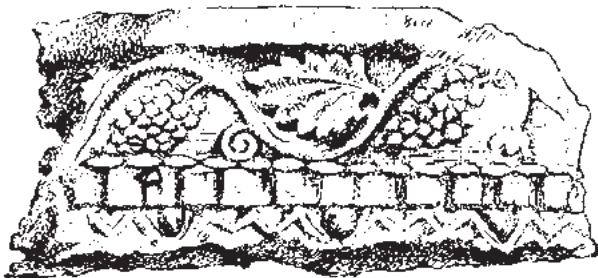
Please label these features:

Capernaum Ruins (p. C-20)

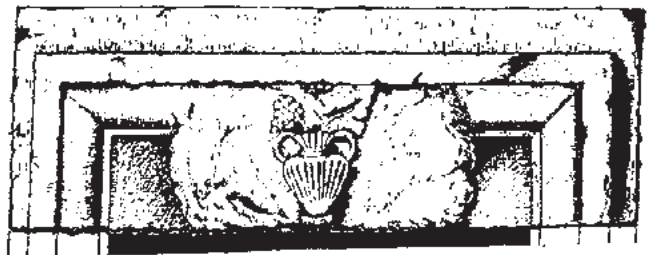
Peter's House

Synagogue

Responses to the Main Question:



Wine grapes



Pot of Manna

What possible connection do the above lintel designs from the Capernaum synagogue have with the Gospels' story?



KEY QUESTION

THE GOSPELS' URBAN LANDSCAPE

How would you describe the personality of Jesus Christ?

Mapping: Please highlight the locations of Ephraim, Herodium and Sepphoris on the map on p. C-15.



MODERN
RUIN
UNKNOWN

TOWNS & CITIES

REF.

EVENTS

Arimathea	Mat 27.57	Home of a disciple		X	
Bethany Beyond Jordan *	Joh 01.28	John baptizing			?
Bethany	Joh 12.01	Raising of Lazarus	X		
Bethlehem	Mat 02.01	Jesus born	X		
Bethphage	Mar 11.01	Passover errand	X		
Bethsaida Julius	Mat 11.21	Many miracles		X	
Caesarea Maratima	Ant 18.3.1	Pilate's HQ		X	
Caesarea Philippi (Baniyas, BAR 9801)	Mat 16.13	Peter's confession	X	X	
Cana = Khirbet Kana	Joh 02.11	Jesus' first miracle		X	
Capernaum	Mat 08.05	Faithful centurion		X	
Chorazin	Mat 11.21	Many miracles		X	
Dalmanutha (Ruins near Migdal?)	Mar 08.11	Debate with Pharisees			?
Emmaus	Luk 24.13	Risen Jesus broke bread		X	
Ephraim	Joh 11.54	Jesus rested	X		
Gadara/Gergesa	Mat 08.28	Exorcism	X		
Gerasa	Mar 05.01	Exorcism		X	
Jericho	Mat 20.29	Healing blind men	X	X	
Jerusalem	Luk 19.41	Jesus' final week	X		
Machaerus (Macherus)	Ant 18.5.2	John's beheading		X	
Magdala (Migdal)	Luk 08.02	Home of Mary Magdalene	X		
Nain	Luk 07.11	Raising dead son	X		
Nazareth (See pp. F: 37-40)	Mat 02.23	Jesus' childhood home	X		
Salim (Multiple possibilities in Jordan valley)	Joh 03.23	John baptizing			X
Sepphoris	Ant 18.2.1	Jesus earned a living?		X	
Sidon	Mar 07.31	Jesus passed through	X		
Sodom & Gomorrah	Mat 10.15	Jesus used them as example			X
Sychar (Askar)	Joh 04.05	Woman at the well	X		
Tiberias	Joh 06.23	Home of Jesus' audience	X	X	
Tyre	Mar 07.24	Jesus visited region		X	

SHOUTING STONES: PART 4B

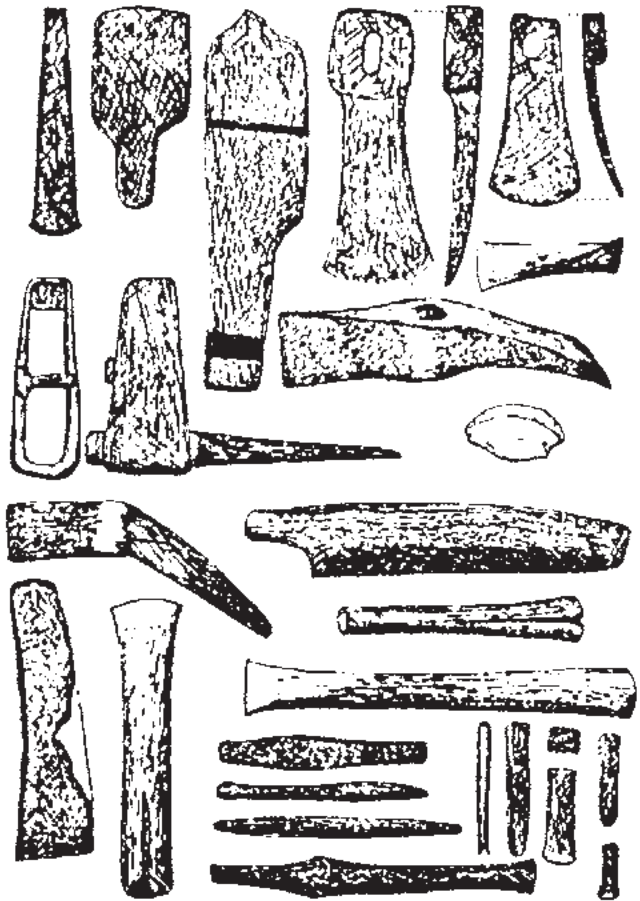
1. Why have critics claimed that Nazareth did not exist in the first century?
2. What does this argument amount to?
3. How do we know Nazareth did exist in the first century?
4. How do critics apply a double standard to the history of Josephus?
5. Why might Josephus have omitted mentioning Nazareth (John 1.46)?
6. Where is the “brow of the hill” (Luke 4.28-30) in Nazareth?

7. What 4 archaeological sites are housed within the “Church of the Annunciation” in modern Nazareth?

8. How do we know Jesus worked in Joseph’s carpentry shop (Mark 6.3)?

9. Who built Sepphoris?

10. What might Jesus have learned in Sepphoris?



Israelite Carpenters’ Tools Found
in Excavations at Gezer

Responses to the Main Question:



KEY QUESTION

PLAYERS IN THE GOSPEL DRAMA

What generates the most skepticism toward the Gospels?

Mapping: Please mark or highlight these locations:

Tomb of Caiaphas, p. C-23.

Herodian family tomb, p. C-23.

Sebaste, city where John the Baptist was buried near tomb of Elisha, p. C-15.

Was indirectly responsible for the world's first underwater archaeological park for modern divers.



Match the people's names below with facts about their lives:

Annas (John 18.13)

Archelaus (Mat. 02.22)

Caiaphas (Mat. 26.57)

Herod the Great (Mat. 02.03)

Herodias (Luke 03.19)

Philip the Tetrarch (Luke 03.01)

Pontius Pilate (Luke 03.01)

Quirinius (Luke 02.02)

Simon Peter (Mat. 16.17)

Zebedee (Mark 01.20)

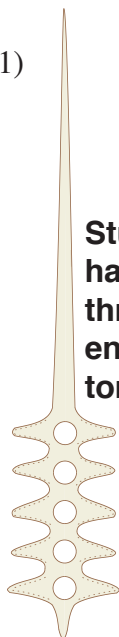
Normally worked in the nude.



Divorced and prosecuted spouse for attempted poisoning.



Stuck hairpin through enemy's tongue.



Got permission for animal stalls in the temple compound.



Incompetence ended career and brought Roman prefects to Judea.



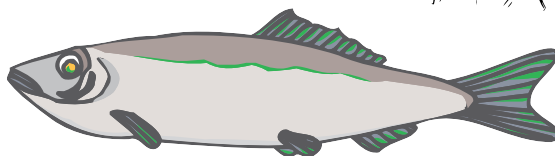
Married a famous dancer.



Owned a market.



Marriage to royalty helped career.



Engaged in fishy business with high priests in Jerusalem.

SHOUTING STONES: PART 5 B

Please identify these archaeological signatures:



Tourist center at extinct volcano?



Ossuary found in 1990



Roman Denarius



Vatican Inscription

Who left this extensive signature?

Jerusalem
 Temple
 Palace
 Theater
 Amphitheater
 Three Towers
 Antonia Fortress
Machaerus Fortress
Masada Fortress
Jericho Palace & Gardens
Herodium Fortress
Caesarea
 Artificial Harbor
 Aqueduct
Shrine of Patriarchs in Hebron
Damascus Monument
Antioch Monument
Byblos Monument

<p>CAESARIENSIBUS TIBERIUM PONTIUS PILATUS PRAEFECTUS IUDAEAE DIDIT DEDICAVIT</p>	<p>Translation</p>
<p>PVBLIVS SVLPICIVS PVBLII FILIVS QVIRINIVS CONSVL (...) PRAETOR PROCONSVL CRETAM ET CYRENEAS PROVINCIAM OPTINVIT LEGATVS PRO PRAETORE DIVI AVGVSTI SYRIAM ET PHOENICIAM OPTINENS BELLVM GESSIS CVM GENTE HOMONADENSIVM QVAE INTERFECERAT AMYNTAM REGEM QVA REDACTA IN POTESTAM IMPERATORIS CAESARIS AVGVSTI POPVLIVQVE ROMANI SENATVS DIS IMMORTALIBVS SVPLICATIONES BINAS OB RES PROSPERE AB EO GESTAS ET IPSI ORNAMENTA TRIVMPHALIA DECEVIT PRO CONSVL ASIAM PROVINCIAM OPTINVIT LEGATVS PRO PRAETORE DIVI AVGVSTI ITERVM SYRIAM ET PHOENICEN OPTENVIT</p>	

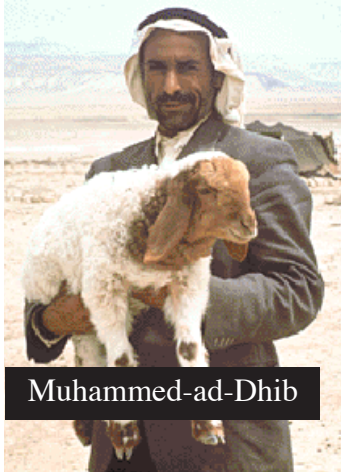
Response to the Main Question:



KEY QUESTION

JESUS & ANCIENT SCROLLS

How can we know which ancient scrolls should be in the Bible?



Muhammed-ad-Dhib

DEAD SEA SCROLLS QUICK FACTS

When discovered:

Where found:

How many:

Time of writing:

Whose library:

John has written a marriage proposal to a vivacious astronomer currently working far from civilization and telephone service. Her answer was damaged in the mail. Whether John celebrates or goes into mourning depends on how he reconstructs her letter fragment. Can you help?



Dear J,
It's with the very h
regard for your ini
character that I
your proposal: until the st
fall from the sky p
consider me your d
e.

Does 4Q285 predict that Messiah would be put to death?

How does the Qumranite “warrior Messiah” help us understand the rejection of Jesus by some Judeans?

What does the Gospel title “Son of God” mean? (Cf. 2 Samuel 7.08-14; Psalms 2; 82; 89.20-27; Matthew 26.63-64; Luke 1.35; DSS 4Q246.)

How do we know Jesus was not a Qumranite?

SHOUTING STONES: PART 6 B

What is the chief value of the Dead Sea Scrolls with respect to Gospel studies?

What is a key difference between the messianic writings of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the messianic propositions of the Gospels?

DEFINITIONS

Please define the following words (you may use the glossary in your syllabus):

Agrapha

Canonical

Demiurge

Hebraism

Manuscript

What is the immediate structural difference between the *Gospel of Thomas* and the canonical Gospels?

How does one attain eternal life according to the *Gospel of Thomas*?

What is Jesus in the *Gospel of Thomas*?

What is the chief value of the *Gospel of Thomas* for Gospel studies?

Responses to the Main Question:



KEY QUESTION

TRIALS & TESTIMONIES

What ideas preclude the possibility of God becoming man?

A TEXTUAL
COMPARISON...

Total witnesses to their existence from *their* century.



Number of manuscript copies from primary witnesses.

Gap between the events and the oldest mss.

JULIUS CAESAR

JESUS CHRIST

--	--

GALLIC WARS

GOSPELS



Julius Caesar, a man whose existence, like that of Jesus, is axiomatic for historians.

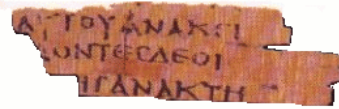
Ancient references to Jesus Christ by his enemies are strong corroboration of His real existence (see p. F-46). What facts about Jesus are confirmed by the Jewish Talmud?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What can we conclude about Jesus from the writings of Josephus (p. F-44)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

SHOUTING STONES: PART 7B



The dating of P64 is contested:
c. AD 75 to 200.



7Q5: Mark 6.52-53 among the Dead Sea Scrolls?
See: <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/7Q5>>

P64, The Magdalen Papyrus: portions of 10 verses from Matthew (26.7-8, 10, 14-15, 22-23, 31-33). Matthew's original or an immediate copy?

What do we learn from the *Odes of Solomon*, Ode 7? (p. D-70)

How do we know the Gospels weren't wrongly attributed in later centuries?

The first Jerusalem Christians fled to Pella before the Romans razed Jerusalem in AD 70. What is the only important building they found left standing in Jerusalem when they returned?

Where were Jesus and his disciples planning to spend the night on the Mt. of Olives?

Who arrested Jesus (John 18.03)?

Critics have claimed “the impossibility, according to ancient Jewish law, of bringing a legal action under the conditions described by the synoptic Gospels.” What do the illegalities of Christ's trial actually prove?

RESPONSES TO THE MAIN QUESTION:



KEY QUESTION

CRUCIFIXION RELICS & REALITIES

Who killed Jesus of Nazareth?

WHAT DO YOU RECALL ABOUT THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS?

October 27 is St. Procula's day (Greek Orthodox).
June 25 is St. Pilate and St. Procula's day (Coptic).



A Roman pavement once thought to be *Gab-batha* is now known to date to 100 years after Christ.



The Holy Lance is a spear head believed to contain a Holy Nail. Since this relic was long ago associated with the "right to rule" and military power, Adolph Hitler sought to possess it. Hidden in Nuremberg during WWII, it was recovered afterwards and temporarily resided in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna, Austria. Currently the Spear is held in the Schatzkammer (Imperial treasury). <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spear_of_Destiny#Vienna_lance_.28Hofburg_spear.29>

Lead weights or bone fragments

is preserved in the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, Paris.

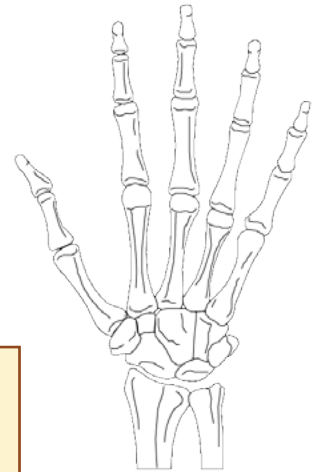


SHOUTING STONES: PART 8B

WHAT DO YOU RECALL ABOUT THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS? (CONT.)

Giv'at ha-Mivtar remains confirm and clarify

implies *crux immissa (capitata)* or *crux commissa* (p. F-70) Titulus housed in a Rome basilica bears further study (pp. F-70,71).



as Passover is always at full moon!

Please Define:

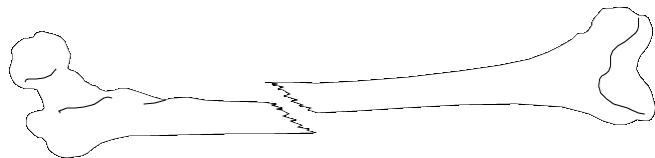
Patibulum

Sedile

Suppedaneum

Titulus

Note that the Roman executioners were experts on establishing certainty of death.



Response to the Main Question:



KEY QUESTION

ROCK SOLID SECURITY

What did Watergate teach us about Christ's resurrection?



Roman Centurion

From an illustration appearing in
www.JerusalemPerspective.com

To what did the Centurion allude when he said, "Surely this was the Son of God!" (Mat 27.54)?

What legend grew up around Joseph of Arimathea?

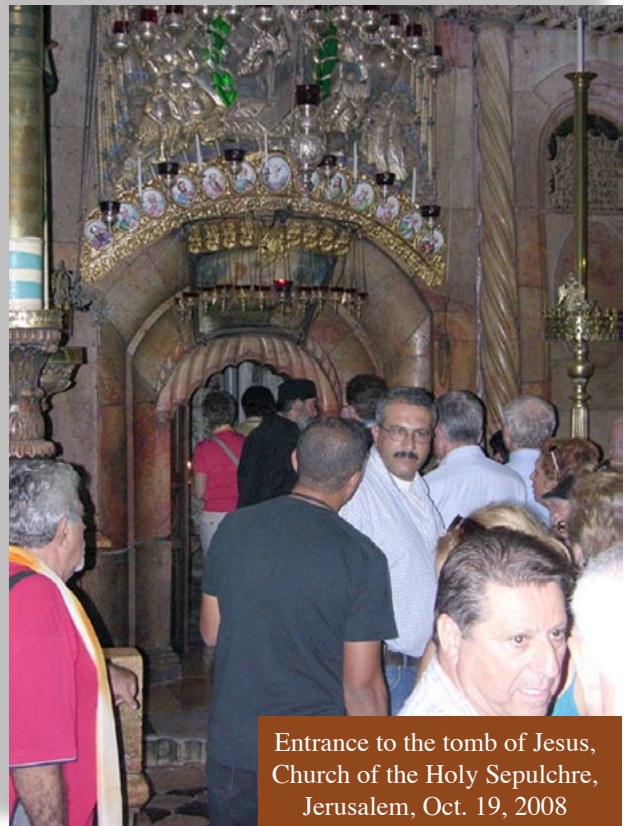
Where was the tomb of Jesus?

-
-
-

Does Luke 24.5 imply that the sepulchre of Jesus was among other tombs?

What was the tomb like?

-
-
-
-



Entrance to the tomb of Jesus,
Church of the Holy Sepulchre,
Jerusalem, Oct. 19, 2008

SHOUTING STONES: PART 9B

How was Christ's body prepared for burial?

Who were the soldiers guarding the tomb of Jesus? (Matthew 27.65)

How did a *koustodia* array itself?

We know the guards were Roman, not Temple Police, because they were answerable to Pilate and the priests had to bribe them (Mat. 28.11-15).

What evidence of Roman military discipline was discovered in the excavations of Pompeii?

What was the prescribed punishment for breaking a Roman seal without authorization?

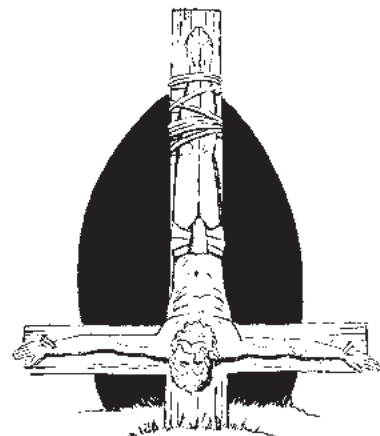
Mapping

Please label these sites on p. C-22:

- ☐ Golgotha 1: Holy Sepulchre
- ☐ Golgotha 2: Gordon's Calvary
- ☐ Praetorium 1: Gabbatha?
- ☐ Praetorium 2: Gabbatha?
- ☐ Via Dolorosa routes

Why did *Roman* guards run to *Jewish* priests?

Responses to the Main Question:





KEY QUESTION

REMAINS OF THE REMAINS

Was the resurrection of Jesus physical or only spiritual?

THE MADDENING CONTRADICTIONS OF
THE SHROUD

Pro Authenticity	Contra Authenticity

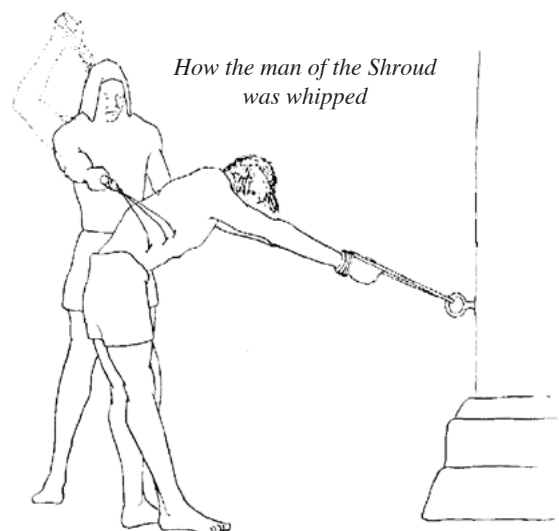
Definitions

What is:

† The Holy Vernicle?

† The Mandylion?

† A Sindonologist?



SHOUTING STONES: PART 10B

How did the Greek idea of immortality differ from that of the Jews?

How did Pharisees and Sadducees differ in their views on the afterlife?

What was Paul's concept of resurrection?

-
-
-

What confirmation was provided by the antagonistic Jews, that the tomb of Jesus was empty as his disciples claimed? (See *Toledo's Yeshu* and Justin's *Dialogue With Trypho*, ch. 108.)

Which two ideas does Paul contrast with regard to the resurrection body in 1 Corinthians 15.44?

- ☐ Ψυχικός (*psychikos* = soulish)
- ☐ ὕλικός (*ylikos* = material)
- ☐ Πνευματικός (*pneumatikos* = spiritual)
- ☐ Φυσικός (*physikos* = natural)

Why is it significant that the Gospels say that women were the first to see the risen Christ?

How large was the stone?

What do the neatly left linen wrappings reveal (John 20.5-7)?

Main Question Response:



KEY QUESTION

FACTS AND FALACIES

What evidence besides archaeological supports the Gospels?

WHAT DO THE BIBLE, HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY REALLY TEACH ABOUT THE LIFE OF JESUS?

- The expectant virgin Mary rode a donkey to Bethlehem (Luke 2.4,5).
- Jesus was born in winter, about the time we now designate as December 25.
- Kings from the Orient visited the infant Jesus (Matthew 2.1).
- Three Magi visited Jesus (Matthew 2.1,2).
- The star of the wise men stood directly over the stable where Jesus was born (Matthew 2.9-11).
- Mary placed the newborn Jesus in a wooden feeding trough (Luke 2.16; 13.15).

The feeding troughs that have been found were carved from stone.



- Jesus worked in a carpentry shop (Mark 6.3).
- Jesus and his disciples were from the poor, lower class of Jewish society (Mark 1.20).
- Jesus was nailed to the cross through the palms of His hands (John 20.25).
- Jesus remained in the tomb for 72 hours (Matthew 12.40).



TRUE
FALSE
MAYBE

ADDITIONAL NOTES



Not kings, not from Far East but probably Persia

Number unknown

Holy family in house by this time

See the Gk. word φάτνη in the LXX: 2 Chron. 32.28; Job 6.5; 39.9; Prov. 14.4; Isa. 1.3; Joel 1.17; Hab. 3.17.

More likely in Sepphoris; see Syl. p. F-57.

See John 2.5; 12.8; 18.16 But also Lk. 2.24 and Lev. 12.6-8

More likely through wrists

1 Sam. 30.12,13 illustrates the idiomatic nature of the "three days and three nights" saying. The saying meant a period of time stretching over the course of three different days. If we took the figure of speech literally, it would mean a resurrection on the 4th day. Jesus taught clearly that he would rise on the 3rd day (Mat. 16.21).

CATEGORIES OF EVIDENCE

Put a check by the categories of evidence that support the following conclusions:

Lk. 2.1-5; Syl. p. F-53.

BIBLICAL	HISTORICAL	ARCHAEOLOGICAL
X	X	
X	X	?
	X	X
?	?	
	?	
X	X	X
X		X
X		
X		
X	X	
X	X	X
X	X	X
		?
X	X	
		?
	X	X
X	X	
X	X	X

• Family members were required to return to their ancestral homes for Roman censuses.

• Jesus existed as a real person in time and space.

• The precise birthplace of Jesus is marked by the present-day Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

• Jesus spoke Greek as well as Aramaic. *Mt. 5.15,26; 26.53 employ*

• Jesus wore his hair long, about shoulder length. *Latin*

• Peter, fisherman-apostle, lived in the seaside town of Capernaum.

• Jesus was acquainted with stage actors (Matthew 6.5,6).

• As a “carpenter,” Jesus may have worked on anything from limestone buildings to false teeth. *Cf. LXX of 1 Sam. 13.18(19); 2 Sam. 5.11; 1 Kg. 7.2(13) “bronze”; 1 Chr. 4.14; 14.1; 2 Chr. 34.11; Is. 40.9 (idol); Hos. 8.6*

• Jesus was well versed in the history and politics of His nation. *Luke 19.12*

• Jesus performed miracles. *Talmud; see Syl. pp. F-46,47.*

• The High Priest, Caiaphas, existed as a real person in time and space.

• Pontius Pilate existed as a real person in time and space.

• Jesus was nailed to the cross through the wrists. *Mostly anatomical evidence.*

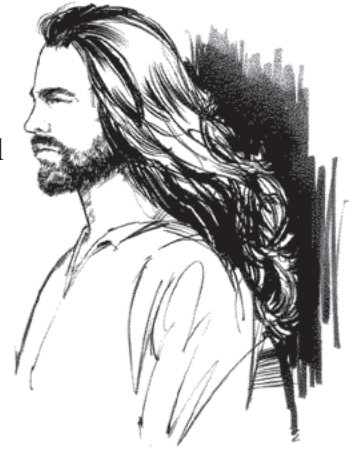
• A rolling stone closed the entrance to Christ’s tomb.

• Jesus was buried in the Garden Tomb by Gordon’s Calvary.

• Jesus was buried at the site enclosed by the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

• Jesus rose bodily from the dead.

• The first Christians congregated regularly in an upper room in Jerusalem.



Responses to the Main Question:

ANTHROPOLOGICAL: narratives are true to human nature and condition;

EXPERIENTIAL: 2,000 years of changed lives and answered prayers.



KEY QUESTION

APOCALYPTIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Has a spiritual quake slipped the keystone of your life?

How did Jesus' predictions differ from those of later "prophets"?

(1)

(2)

(3)

Matthew 24.7: Earthquakes

What are the five archaeological signs of seismic destruction?

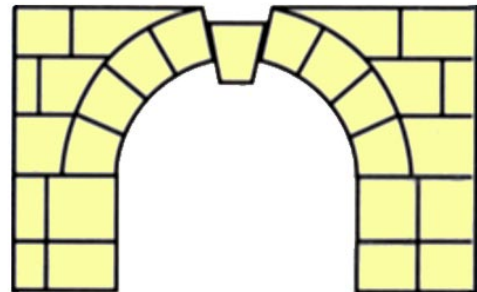
(1)

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(4)

(5)



How many times was Capernaum destroyed by earthquake?

What's the largest earthquake on record?

What factor contributes most to earthquake fatalities?

What does earthquake magnitude depend upon?

Didn't Jesus say increasing earthquakes would signal the apocalypse?

Zechariah 12-14: The Last Battle

How might a red cow have start a war in Israel? (See Numbers 19.1-10; F-35,36.)

What would result from discovery of the Ark of the Covenant?

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Where are the competing locations for the Ark of the Covenant?

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-
-



What insights does 1 Maccabees 1.20-25; 6.7, give us about the “Abomination of Desolation”? (See also Dan 11.31; Mat 24.15.)

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-
-



Where must the rebuilt temple stand in Jerusalem?

Response to the Main Question: