

## SHOUTING STONES

THIS SYLLABUS BELONGS TO:

# SHOUTING STONES

THE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
AND HISTORICAL  
BACKGROUND OF  
THE GOSPELS



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**SOME PHARISEES FROM THE  
CROWD TOLD HIM, "TEACHER,  
GET YOUR DISCIPLES UNDER  
CONTROL!"**

**BUT HE SAID, "IF THEY KEPT  
QUIET, THE STONES WOULD  
DO IT FOR THEM, SHOUTING  
PRAISE."**

Luke 19.39,40 in *The Message* by Eugene H. Peterson

Roman soldier in Jordan. Photo by Rachel Graciano, 2007.

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# INTRODUCTION



Roderick Graciano at Qumran in 1978. Photo by Dr. Raymond Smith.

**I THINK IT IS DEMONSTRABLE  
THAT ALL THINKING  
AND ALL ACTION  
ARE COMPROMISED BY  
IGNORANCE OF WHAT HAS  
GONE BEFORE.**

Page Smith in *Rediscovering Christianity*



# WORK SHEETS

## QUESTIONS TO DIG INTO DURING CLASS



Stone cutters near the pyramids of Egypt. Photo by Rachel Graciano, 2008.

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**...NO GOOD SCIENTIST CAN BE  
AN ATHEIST, FOR IN SCIENCE WE  
MUST QUESTION EVERYTHING,  
EVEN OUR OWN QUESTIONS...**

agnostic paleontologist, Charles Pellegrino, in  
*Return to Sodom and Gomorrah*

# CHARTS, MAPS & DIAGRAMS



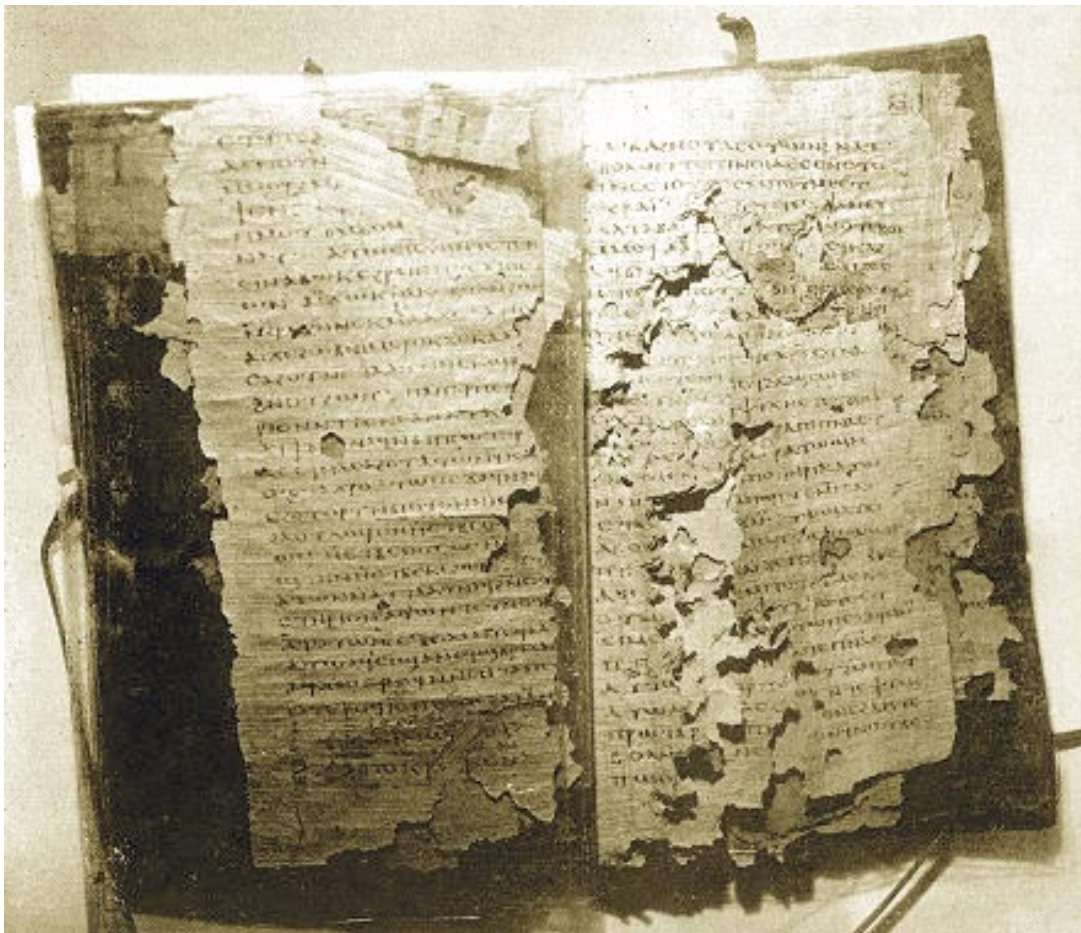
**I CLAIM TO BE AN HISTORIAN.  
MY APPROACH TO CLASSICS  
IS HISTORICAL.  
AND I TELL YOU THAT THE  
EVIDENCE FOR THE LIFE, THE  
DEATH, AND THE RESURREC-  
TION OF CHRIST IS BETTER  
AUTHENTICATED THAN MOST  
OF THE FACTS OF ANCIENT  
HISTORY...**

E. M. Blaiklock  
Professor of Classics  
Auckland University



# ANCIENT TEXTS

EXCERPTS FROM EARLY WRITINGS  
RELATING TO THE GOSPELS  
AND THE LIFE OF CHRIST



Nag Hammadi Codex IV. Photo in public domain.

**MERELY HAVING  
AN OPEN MIND  
IS NOTHING;  
THE OBJECT OF OPENING  
THE MIND,  
AS OF OPENING THE MOUTH,  
IS TO SHUT IT AGAIN  
ON SOMETHING SOLID.**

Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936)



# COMMENTARY ON THE GOSPELS

WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO HISTORICAL  
AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDS

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SECTION E

## **WHAT IS TRUTH?**

Pontius Pilate, John 18.38

**I AM THE WAY  
AND THE TRUTH  
AND THE LIFE.  
NO ONE COMES  
TO THE FATHER  
EXCEPT THROUGH ME.**

Jesus Christ, John 14.06

Mural of Christ's burial, National Cathedral, Washington D. C.  
Photo by Roderick Graciano, 2006.

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# ARTICLES & QUICK FACTS



Roderick Graciano at Nazareth, Israel, 1978.  
Photo by Harold Crisman

**THE HEART CANNOT DELIGHT  
IN WHAT THE MIND REJECTS  
AS FALSE.**

Clark Pinnock

# GLOSSARY

## TERMS THAT SURFACE IN THE STUDY OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY



Mosaic detail, Jordan. Photo by Rachel Graciano, 2007.

**THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
THE RIGHT WORD AND  
THE ALMOST RIGHT WORD  
IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
LIGHTNING  
AND THE LIGHTNING BUG.**

Mark Twain



# SOURCES & RESOURCES



**FOR PEOPLE WHO LIKE THAT KIND  
OF BOOK, THAT IS THE KIND OF  
BOOK THEY WILL LIKE.**

Abraham Lincoln(1809-1865), President of the United States

**I'VE GIVEN UP READING BOOKS;  
I FIND IT TAKES MY MIND  
OFF MYSELF.**

Oscar Levant (b. 1906), American pianist, composer and wit

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