

# Recent Archaeological Finds that Prove the Bible is Accurate

*Archaeological discoveries verify the historical reliability of the Old and New Testaments.*

*When compared to other religious books, the Bible is unique in that it is the oldest, as testified by the places, people, titles, and events mentioned in the Bible; and the language and literary formats used to compose the Bible.*

*Many scholars today question the validity of Biblical accounts, supposedly based on the findings of archaeology. When the “discrepancies” are examined in detail, however it is found that the problems lie with the archaeology (i.e. misinterpretation of evidence, lack of evidence, or poor scholarship) and not with the Bible.*

*The discoveries of archaeology can be helpful in removing doubts that a person might have about the historical trustworthiness of the Bible. The miracles described, as well as the spiritual message, must be accepted on faith, which is the basis of our relationship with God. When the truth of Scripture is challenged by skeptics, archaeology can be used to demonstrate that the people, places, and events of the Bible are real.*

"Every time an archaeologist's shovel digs into the Holy Land, it BURIES an athiest."that archaeological finds always and continually show the Bible record to be accurate.

"I know of no finding in archaeology that's properly confirmed which is **in opposition** to the Scriptures. **The Bible is the most accurate history textbook the world has ever seen.**" **Dr Clifford Wilson, formerly director of the Australian Institute of Archaeology.**

"The mantra that 'archaeology disproves the Bible' is simple to refute if only people would check out the evidence." –Brian Edwards, Apologist.

**"Through the wealth of data uncovered by historical and archaeological research, we are able to measure the Bible's historical accuracy. In every case where its claims can thus be tested, the Bible proves to be accurate and reliable."** – **Dr. Jack Cottrell, Professor of Theology**

"In every instance where the findings of archaeology pertain to the Biblical record, the archaeological evidence confirms, sometimes in detailed fashion, the historical accuracy of Scripture. In those instances where the archaeological findings seem to be at variance with the Bible, the discrepancy lies with the archaeological evidence, i.e., improper interpretation, lack of evidence, etc. — not with the Bible." – Dr. Bryant C. Wood, Archaeologist.

"I have excavated for thirty years with a Bible in one hand and a trowel in the other, and in matters of historical perspective I have never found the Bible to be in error." Professor Nelson Glueck, Director of the American School of Oriental Research in Jerusalem

"There can be no doubt that archaeology has confirmed the substantial historicity of Old Testament tradition." – Dr. William F. Albright, premier archaeologist for Institute for Archaeological Research in Jerusalem

"It is therefore legitimate to say that, in respect of that part of the Old Testament against which the disintegrating criticism of the last half of the nineteenth century was chiefly directed, the evidence of archaeology has been to reestablish its authority and likewise to augment its value by rendering it more intelligible through a fuller knowledge of its background and setting. Archaeology has not yet said its last word, but the results already achieved confirm what faith would suggest – that the Bible can do nothing but gain from an increase in knowledge." – Sir Frederic Kenyon, a former director of the British Museum.

"On the whole, however, archaeological work has unquestionably strengthened confidence in the reliability of the Scriptural record. More than one archaeologist has found his respect for the Bible increased by the experience of excavation in Palestine....Archaeology has in many cases refuted the views of modern critics. It has shown, in a number of instances, that these views rest on false assumptions and unreal, artificial schemes of historical development. This is a real contribution and not to be minimized." – Millar Burrows, Professor of Archaeology at Yale University

***In case you need help showing an atheist or agnostic friend that the Bible is true, consider these recent finds:***

Archaeological finds in recent years in and around Jerusalem have been providing physical evidence for the history as presented by the earliest Jewish, Christian and Muslim sources. Some examples follow:

\* In 2005, following painstaking archaeological work carried out in a dump from an illegal Wakf construction project on the Temple Mount, researchers discovered: a coin from the period of the First Revolt against the Romans, which preceded the destruction of the Second Temple, bearing the phrase "For the Redemption of Zion"; an inscription chiseled on a jar fragment of the First Temple period, with the ancient Hebrew letters heh, ayin and kof; A seal with five-pointed star with ancient Hebrew letters spelling "Jerusalem" spaced between the points; a Hasmonean coin bearing inscription "Yehonathan High Priest, friend of the Jews"; a coin of Alexander Jannaeus; a Scytho-Iranian arrowhead, of the type used by the Babylonian army of Nebuchadnezzar that destroyed the First Temple in 586 BCE; and more.

\* In 2005, a Hebrew University archaeologist uncovered a clay seal dated from about 580 BCE bearing the name Yehuchal Ben-Sheleimiya, who is identified as a royal envoy and court minister sent by King Zedekiah to the prophet Jeremiah (in chapters 37 and 38 of the Bible's Book of Jeremiah).

Several years earlier, another circa-580 BCE royal seal was found at the same site. It had the name of Gemaryahu, son of Shafan, who is also mentioned in the Book of Jeremiah as a top official in the court of King Zedekiah's predecessor, King Yehoyachim. Another seal found among dozens of others bears the name of Azaryahu Ben-Hilkiah, a member of a priestly family, who served in the Temple before Jerusalem's destruction, according to I Chronicles 9:10.

\* In May 2007 archaeologists revealed a number of seals and signet rings from the time of the Biblical Kings David and Solomon, unearthed in the City of David, below Jerusalem's Old City.

\* In July 2007 an expert in ancient Babylon discovered a small clay tablet that records a donation of gold by "the chief eunuch of King Nebuchadnezzar," a man named Nabu-sharrussu-ukin. In Jeremiah 39, the researcher noted, the man's name is listed as one of Nebuchadnezzar's top ministers, who took part in the destruction of the First Holy Temple 2,500 years ago.

\* In January 2008 archaeologists discovered a stone seal that includes the name of a family, Temech, whose members were servants during the First Temple, were exiled to Babylonia and then returned to Jerusalem. The seal was found near the Dung Gate walls of the Old City. The Book of Nehemiah (Chapter 7) refers to the Temech family by name.

\* In March 2008 a coin from the Second Temple used during the turbulent Second Temple period to pay the Biblical half-shekel head-tax was found in excavations in the City of David.

\* In August of 2008 archaeologists unearthed a completely intact seal impression bearing the name of another minister to King Zedekiah, Gedaliahu son of Pashur, a few meters away from the site where a the seal of Yehuchal Ben-Sheleimiya was found three years earlier.

Reference: <http://www.internet-grocer.net/archaeol.htm>

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# The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s has shown the Biblical writings concerning the Patriarchs to be viable. Documents written on clay tablets from around 2300 B.C. demonstrate that personal and place names in the Patriarchal accounts are genuine. The name "Canaan" was in use in Ebla, a name critics once said was not used at that time and was used incorrectly in the early chapters of the Bible. The word tehom ("the deep") in Genesis 1:2 was said to be a late word demonstrating the late writing of the creation story. "Tehom" was part of the vocabulary at Ebla, in use some 800 years before Moses. Ancient customs reflected in the stories of the Patriarchs have also been found in clay tablets from Nuzi and Mari.

# The Hittites were once thought to be a Biblical legend, until their capital and records were discovered at Bogazkoy, Turkey.

# Many thought the Biblical references to Solomon's wealth were greatly exaggerated. Recovered records from the past show that wealth in antiquity was concentrated with the king and Solomon's prosperity was entirely feasible.

# It was once claimed there was no Assyrian king named Sargon as recorded in Isaiah 20:1, because this name was not known in any other record. Then, Sargon's palace was discovered in Khorsabad, Iraq. The very event mentioned in Isaiah 20, his capture of Ashdod, was recorded on the palace walls. What is more, fragments of a stela memorializing the victory were found at Ashdod itself.

# Another king who was in doubt was Belshazzar, king of Babylon, named in Daniel 5. The last king of Babylon was Nabonidus according to recorded history. Tablets were found showing that Belshazzar was Nabonidus' son who served as coregent in Babylon. Thus, Belshazzar could offer to make Daniel "third highest ruler in the kingdom" (Dan. 5:16) for reading the handwriting on the wall, the highest available position. Here we see the "eye-witness" nature of the Biblical record, as is so often brought out by the discoveries of archaeology.

Reference: <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a008.html>

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The most documented Biblical event is the world-wide flood described in Genesis 6-9. A number of Babylonian documents have been discovered which describe the same flood.

## Ancient tablet listing the Sumerian kings

The Sumerian King List (pictured here), for example, lists kings who reigned for long periods of time. Then a great flood came. Following the flood, Sumerian kings ruled for much shorter periods of time. This is the same pattern found in the Bible. Men had long life spans before the flood and shorter life spans after the flood. The 11th tablet of the Gilgamesh Epic speaks of an ark, animals taken on the ark, birds sent out during the course of the flood, the ark landing on a mountain, and a sacrifice offered after the ark landed.



Ancient tablet listing the Sumerian kings

There are more than 16 fragments and one nearly complete copy of the Sumerian King List found at different places at different times. The first fragment was discovered in the temple library at Nippur, Iraq, at the turn of the century and was published in 1906. The most complete copy, the Weld-Blundell prism, was purchased on the antiquities market shortly after World War I and is now in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, England. For a thorough discussion of the Sumerian King List and its Biblical implications, see "The Antediluvian Patriarchs and the Sumerian King List," by Raul Lopez, in the CEN Technical Journal 12 (3) 1998, pp. 347-57.

Reference: <http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a009.html>

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## More examples of extra-Biblical confirmation of Biblical events

- \* Campaign into Israel by Pharaoh Shishak (1 Kings 14:25-26), recorded on the walls of the Temple of Amun in Thebes, Egypt.
- \* Revolt of Moab against Israel (2 Kings 1:1; 3:4-27), recorded on the Mesha Inscription.
- \* Fall of Samaria (2 Kings 17:3-6, 24; 18:9-11) to Sargon II, king of Assyria, as recorded on his palace walls.
- \* Defeat of Ashdod by Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1), as recorded on his palace walls.
- \* Campaign of the Assyrian king Sennacherib against Judah (2 Kings 18:13-16), as recorded on the Taylor Prism.
- \* Siege of Lachish by Sennacherib (2 Kings 18:14, 17), as recorded on the Lachish reliefs.
- \* Assassination of Sennacherib by his own sons (2 Kings 19:37), as recorded in the annals of his son Esarhaddon.
- \* Fall of Nineveh as predicted by the prophets Nahum and Zephaniah (2:13-15), recorded on the Tablet of Nabopolassar.
- \* Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (2 Kings 24:10-14), as recorded in the Babylonian Chronicles.
- \* Captivity of Jehoiachin, king of Judah, in Babylon (2 Kings 24:15-16), as recorded on the Babylonian Ration Records.
- \* Fall of Babylon to the Medes and Persians (Daniel 5:30-31), as recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder.
- \* Freeing of captives in Babylon by Cyrus the Great (Ezra 1:1-4; 6:3-4), as recorded on the Cyrus Cylinder.
- \* The existence of Jesus Christ as recorded by Josephus, Suetonius, Thallus, Pliny the Younger, the Talmud, and Lucian.
- \* Forcing Jews to leave Rome during the reign of Claudius (A.D. 41-54) (Acts 18:2), as recorded by Suetonius.

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## The Tel Dan Stele (900–850 BC)

A stele is an upright stone that is inscribed and used as a monument of an important event or achievement. Rulers and peoples from Egypt, Israel, and across Mesopotamia used these steles to commemorate great victories and accomplishments. This particular stele is extraordinary because carved on its stone face is the expression, “House of David.” This stele affirms that the United Monarchy under King David existed in history and flatly contradicts the long-held opinions of skeptics who denied that David ever existed.



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## The Meesha Stele (846 BC)

Popularly known as the Moabite Stone, it records the revolt of Meesha, King of Moab, against Israel. This incredible stele mentions Omri, King of Israel, and David of the United Monarchy. It even refers to Yahweh, the unique name of the God of Israel! Together with the testimony from the Tel Dan Stele, we have a powerful external witness that the Bible records the true history of the kings of Israel and their interactions with foreign kings.

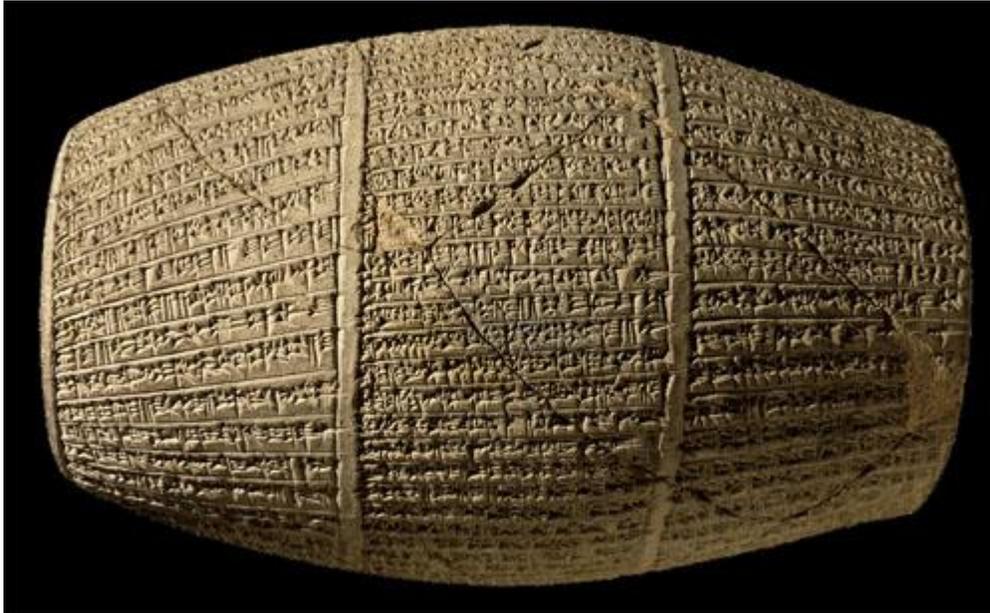


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## The Nabonidus Cylinder (550 BC)

King Nabonidus of Babylonia left a magnificent cuneiform cylinder (wedge-shaped letters inscribed on a clay cylinder) mentioning his elder son, Belshazzar by name. Critics of the Bible had claimed for many years that the account in the book of Daniel was wrong; they said Belshazzar was never a king in Babylon and that Nabonidus was not his father. The discovery of this cylinder clearly showed that these scholars were dead wrong. Indeed, we can now understand the meaning of Daniel 5:16 more precisely where it says, “Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and have a chain of gold around your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom” (italics added for emphasis).

This text now makes perfect sense because Nabonidus was in a coregency with his son Belshazzar, who was the crown prince of Babylon. So that would make Daniel the “third ruler in the kingdom.”



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## Caiaphas Ossuary

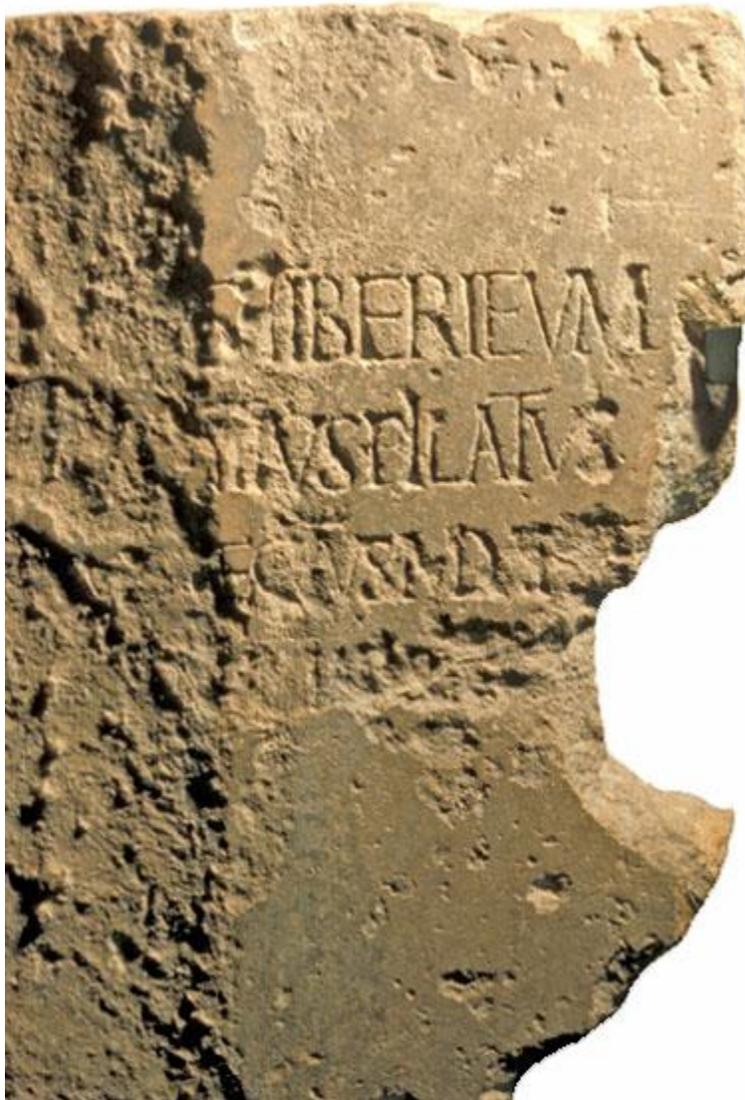
An ossuary was a box constructed to hold the bones of the dead after decomposition. In 1990 a startling discovery was made that shook biblical scholars and archaeologists alike. In the Peace Forest section of Jerusalem was discovered a burial cave containing twelve ossuaries, one of them being none other than that of Caiaphas, the high priest who presided at the trial of Jesus. This amazing discovery provides us with a powerful historical connection to the events described in the Gospels.



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## Pilate Dedication Stone

In June 1961 an inscription on a limestone block, found at a Roman amphitheater in Caesarea Maritima, rocked the scholarly world. The block, which was once used as a dedication stone of a nearby temple and now reused for seating at the local amphitheater, had an extraordinary inscription. It read: "Tiberieum, (Pon)tius Pilatus, (Praef)ectus Iuda(eae)." Those scholars who questioned Pilate's existence (and the gospel accounts generally) were silenced with this amazing discovery!



Reference: <http://www.answersingenesis.org/articles/am/v6/n2/archaeological-finds>

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**Genesis 10:14- The Philistines**

The existence of the Philistines in the bible was once doubted. Today there have been 28 sites and 5 major Philistine cities discovered in Palestine.

**Genesis 10:15- The Hittite Culture**

It was once believed that the Hittite culture was not in existence during the time of Abraham as the bible mentions. But recently, evidence of an early Hittite culture has been uncovered with so many artifacts, that an entire museum has been dedicated to it in Israel.

**Genesis 10:19- “Canaan”**

The OT’s reference of “Canaan” was once considered in error. It was believed that name was not used as early as the OT suggests. The discovery of the Ebla archive in northern Syria in the 1970s revealed the land of Canaan was named as such during the time the OT suggests.

### **Genesis 11:8-10- The Tower of Babel**

Ziggurats are high brick towers with shrines on the top. Many of these have been found near Babylon. However one clay tablet in the area has an inscription that speaks of a temple that so “offended the Gods” that it was destroyed in one night, and the people scattered with their “speech made strange.” Fragments of an Assyrian tablet were discovered at Nineveh by Austen Henry Layard during the middle of the 18th century that closely parallel the Biblical account. The artifacts now reside in the British Museum (registration number K.3657) and reads as follows: “his heart was evil against the father of all the gods . . . Babylon was brought into subjection, small and great alike. He confounded their speech . . . their strong palace (tower) all the days they built; to their strong place in the night He completely made an end . . . In His anger His word was poured out . . . to scatter aboard He set his face, He gave this command, and their counsel was confused. . . He saw them and the earth. . . of stopping not . . . Bitterly they wept at Babi(l). . very much they grieved . . at their misfortune.”

### **Genesis 19:24- Sodom and Gomorrah**

The ruins of both cities have been discovered. Although archeologists say they don't know exactly what caused their destruction, the ruins show evidence of fire damage. The Bible says God destroyed them with fire from the sky.

### **Genesis 24:10- Domesticated Camels**

It was believed that there were no domesticated camels during the time of Abraham as the bible states. Archeologists later found paintings of domesticated camels on the walls of the temple of Hatshepsut, which dated back to Abraham's period.

### **Genesis 41:41-44- Joseph's Egyptian Seal**

The Bible says Joseph (son of Jacob) was given the seal of Pharaoh. Numerous Scarab Seals have been unearthed dating to the 18th century BC that say “son of Yaqub” (Egyptian for Jacob, who was Joseph's father). In the Egyptian ruins of Avaris, nine seals were found with the same inscription of Jacob, which is not an Egyptian name, but a Hebrew one.

### **Genesis 46:26-27- Israelites move to Egypt**

At the Tomb of Ben Hassan there is large picture showing a mass migration into Egypt inside. The people in the picture have beards and are wearing brightly colored and patterned clothing, all of which was the typical traditional style at the time for Israelites, but not of Egyptians. But more importantly, a hieroglyphic says the people are “Amno” which translated means, “God's People” (singular)[1]. The tomb is dated to the 18-17th century which is the same period of time that the Israelites migrated to Egypt per the Bible's account.

### **Exodus 3:20- God's Wrath against Egypt**

Fragments of the Ahmose Stele (AKA Tempest Stele) speaks of great destruction to the land of Egypt from the wrath of God (singular). Which is particular interesting because Egyptians believe in multiple Gods, not one God, in which the Israelites did. The stele is dated to the 15th Century BC, during the same time the Exodus occurred. Of the devastation, hail is mentioned, which Exodus 9:18 states, “I will send a hailstorm more devastating than any in all the history of Egypt.” (NLT)

### **Exodus 11:5- Death of firstborn males.**

Dated to the same time of the Exodus, have been found multiple gravesites in Egypt containing the bones of mostly young men in mass burial. Even the son of Pharaoh Ahmose,[2] died at a very young age of 12, his tomb kept in the Cairo museum.

### **Exodus 14:27- Egyptians chase Israelites into the parted sea.**

The 3-piece Grave Stele of Mycenae actually shows Egyptians on chariots chasing unarmed people into a parted body of water, with the people emerging on high ground and the Egyptians being drowned in the last stele.

### **The Book of Joshua- Joshua's Conquests**

The Amarna Tablets were written by the Kings of Palestine and Syria to the kings of Egypt. The letters discussed the conquering and military success of Joshua.

### **1 Samuel 16:1- King David**

David was thought to be a myth until 1993 when a stone monument fragment was found in Tel Dan, near Israel and Syria. This fragment mentions King David and the "House of David."

### **1 Kings 16:16- King Omri**

The Meesha Stele dated to 846 BC records the revolt of Meesha (Moab's King), Yahweh (the Hebrew name of God), and King Omri, a king of Israel!

### **1 Chronicles 36:22- Cyrus allows exile's return.**

The bible prophesized many things, one of which was that a man named "Cyrus" would be responsible for the Jewish return from exile. The Cyrus Cylinder found in Babylon recorded this proclamation as well as other prophesies from the Bible.

### **Daniel 1:1-7, Israelites Deported to Babylon**

There were three separate phases to the exile of Israel to Babylon. The first phase (605 B.C.- Daniel deported) is confirmed by the "Babylon Chronicle," found in the court records of Babylon.

### **Daniel 5:1-3- King Belshazzar**

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### **Isaiah 23:1-17- Destruction of Tyre**

The bible prophesized the double destruction of the city of Tyre which archeologists found records of it being destroyed twice. First (and impartially) in 586 B.C. and second in 330 B.C.

### **Jeremiah 39:3- Nabu-sharrussu-ukin the Chief Priest**

Nabu-sharrussu-ukin was identified on a Babylonian clay tablet as a Chief Priest. He is also mentioned in Jeremiah 39:3. The tablet is dated to 595 BC.

### **Book of Ezekiel- Ezekiel the Prophet**

Stone tablets have been discovered containing the entire book of Ezekiel. The tablets have been dated to 600 to 500 B.C. Which was during the time of Ezekiel, with that, some speculate that he himself may have chiseled some of the tablets.

### **Ezekiel 1:3, Israelites Deported to Babylon again**

The second phase of deportation (597 B.C.- Ezekiel captured) is mentioned in the "Chronicles of the Chaldean Kings." 10 years later when Jerusalem was destroyed is recorded in the "Lachish Letters."

### **Matthew 26:3- Caiaphas the High Priest**

In the Peace Forest section of Jerusalem was discovered a burial cave containing twelve ossuaries, one of them being none other than that of Caiaphas, the high priest who presided at the trial of Jesus.

### **Matthew 27:50-51- Earthquake after Jesus dies**

Phlegon of Tralles, a non-Christian Greek writer (AD 80-140) wrote of Jesus being crucified and great earthquakes taking place.

### **Mark 15:12-13- King of Jews crucified by Jews**

Syrian historian Mara-Bar Serapion (non-Christian) wrote of Jews executing their "wise king," in A.D. 70.

### **Mark 15:1- Pontius Pilate and Tiberieum**

Pilate himself was long thought of as a fictional character that never existed. That is until the discovery of the Pilate dedication limestone found in 1961. An inscription on the stone mentions both Pilate and Tiberium (who ruled Rome at the time). Testifying to Pilate indeed being a real person!

#### **Mark 15:15- Jesus suffering under Pontius Pilate.**

Cornelius Tacitus (non-Christian), the “greatest historian of Rome” A.D. 56-120, wrote of Jesus suffering under Pontius Pilate.

#### **Luke 3:1- Lysanias, the Tetrarch**

The bible says that Lysanias, the Tetrarch of Abilene ruled Syria and Palestine during the beginning of John the Baptist’s ministry in A.D. 27. But the only Lysanias known by historians and archeologists alike was one that was killed in 36 B.C. Since then, an inscription was found near Damascus refers to “Freedman of Lysanias of Tetrarch.” This inscription has been dated between A.D. 14 to A.D. 29.

#### **John 19:13- The Roman Paved Platform/Court**

The bible’s description of Jesus tried by Pilate on a paved court was proposed to be an error because no such ancient paved area had ever been found in Jerusalem. Unearthed later was the Tower of Antonia, an ancient Roman military headquarters in Jerusalem. At this site they found a paved court, the only one in Jerusalem (at the time). This leads archaeologists to believe it is the one Pilate tried Christ at.

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**Reference:** <http://matthew2262.wordpress.com>