

Apologetics — Historical Reliability

"On the whole ... 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."

—— Millar Burrows, *What Mean These Stones?* (New York: Meridian Books, 1956), p.1.

"The excessive scepticism shown toward the Bible by important historical schools of the eighteenth-and-nineteenth centuries, certain phases of which still appear periodically, has been progressively discredited. Discovery after discovery has established the accuracy of innumerable details, and has brought increased recognition to the value of the Bible as a source of history."

—— William F. Albright, *The Archaeology of Palestine*, pp.127-128, quoted by Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1999), 61.

"Archaeology has confirmed countless passages which had been rejected by critics as unhistorical or contrary to known facts."

—— Joseph Free, *Archaeology and Bible History* (Scripture Press, 1969), 1.

"archaeology can demonstrate that the places mentioned in the Gospels really existed and that customs, living conditions, topography, household and workplace furniture and tools, roads, coins, buildings and numerous other 'stage props' correspond to how the Gospels describe them. It can show that the names of certain characters in the Gospels are accurate, when we find inscriptional references to them elsewhere. Events and teachings ascribed to Jesus become intelligible and therefore plausible when read against everything we know about life in Palestine in the first third of the first century."

—— Craig L. Blomberg, *The Historical Reliability of the Gospels*, second edition (Nottingham: Apollos, 2007), 327.

"The many archaeological discoveries relating to people, places, or titles mentioned in Acts do lend credence to its historicity at one level; many of the specific details in Acts are factual."

—— Jonathan L. Reed, *The Harper Collins Visual Guide to the New Testament: What Archaeology Reveals about the First Christians* (New York: HarperOne, 2007), 100.

"Under the direction of the Israeli Antiquities Authority, archaeologists began a race against time to carefully extract the boat from the mud before the waters returned... Eventually it was placed in a climate-controlled environment to protect it from aging... Pots and lamps found inside the boat dated it to the first century. Carbon-14 testing further confirmed the dating. The design of the boat was typical of fishing boats used during that period on the Sea of Galilee. In the back of the boat was a raised section like the one where Jesus could have been sleeping, as indicated in the Gospel accounts. The boat could accommodate 15 people including crew. This archaeological discovery confirms the description given in the Bible."

—— Ralph O. Muncester, *101 Reasons You Can Believe: Why the Christian Faith Makes Sense* (Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House, 2004), 72-73.

There is evidence for the following: Culture:

- 1) Crucifixion at the time of Jesus Christ
- 2) The Nazareth Decree
- 3) Leprosy in the First Century
- 4) First-Century Fishing Boat
- 5) The Politarch Inscription
- 6) Pompeii Palindromes
- 7) The Alexamenos Graffito
- 8) Christian Church at Megiddo, c. 230 AD
- Places: 1) Bethlehem 2) Nazareth 3) Capernaum 4) The Synagogue in Capernaum 5) The Roman Presence in Capernaum 6) Peter's House in Capernaum 7) Jerusalem and The Pool of Bethesda 8) Jerusalem and The Pool of Siloam 9) The Tomb of the Gadarene Demoniac 10) Bethany and The Tomb of Lazarus

People:

- 1) Herod the Great
- 2) Erastus, Treasurer of Corinth
- 3) Gallio, Proconsul of Achaia
- 4) Tiberius Caesar
- 5) Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea
- 6) Herod tetrarch [a governor of a quarter of a province] of Galilee

- 7) Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis [cf. Josephus, Jewish Antiquities 18.106-108]
- 8) Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – during the high priesthood of Annas
- 9) Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. (Luke 3:1-2) [cf. Josephus, Jewish Antiquities 18:5.2]
- 10) Alexander of Cyrene
- 11) The Barsabbas Family
- 12) The Tomb of St. Phillip the Apostle
- 13) The 'James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus' Ossuary
- 14) The Empty Tomb of Jesus
- 15) The Empty Shroud

<https://www.bethinking.org/is-the-bible-reliable/archaeology-and-the-historical-reliability-of-the-new-testament>