

# BIBLICAL DISCOVERIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

By Cynthia Nuara

***Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” John 20:29***



Jerusalem Temple “Wailing Wall” 1891



“The Beautiful Gate” 2009



Dome of the Rock currently stands here

***Jesus lamented over Jerusalem: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” Matthew 23:37***

In the center photo above, this was called “The Beautiful Gate” in ancient times. Jesus passed through the original gate here on Palm Sunday, just a few days before He was crucified. In Christian literature, it is referred to as “The Golden Gate.” This is the oldest of the current gates in the Old City Walls of Jerusalem. The present gate was most likely built in the 520s A.D. over the ruins of the earlier gate. It is also referred to as The Eastern Gate. Jewish tradition says that the Shekhinah (Divine Presence) used to appear through this gate, and will again when the Messiah comes (Ezekiel 44:1–3).

For a fascinating, documented story of miraculous interventions by God which occurred at this gate during war time in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, read the article titled “Miraculous Israel.” It can be seen at:

<http://www.unpopulartruth.org/miraculousisrael.html>

## ANCIENT CAPERNAUM RUINS



Ruins of the synagogue in Capernaum

***They went into Capernaum, and on the Sabbath Day, He (Jesus) entered into the synagogue and taught. Mark 1:21.***

Jesus spent a lot of time in Capernaum and performed many of His miracles here. He also taught in this synagogue.

In 1838 Edward Robinson, an American explorer, discovered the ancient Capernaum ruins at the Sea of Galilee. British captain, Charles William Wilson, identified the remains of the synagogue. In 1894 Franciscan Friar Giuseppe Baldi recovered a large part of the Bedouin ruins. The Franciscans erected a fence and planted palm and eucalyptus trees.

### **2000-YEAR-OLD GALILEE BOAT FOUND**

(compares to the type of boat Jesus and his disciples used to cross the sea)



Ancient Galilee boat on display

***Then he (Jesus) got into the boat and His disciples followed him. Suddenly a furious storm came up on the lake, so that the waves swept over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. The disciples went and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us! We’re going to drown!” He replied, “You of little faith, why are you so afraid?” Then he got up and rebuked the winds and the waves, and it was completely calm. The men were amazed and asked, “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!”***

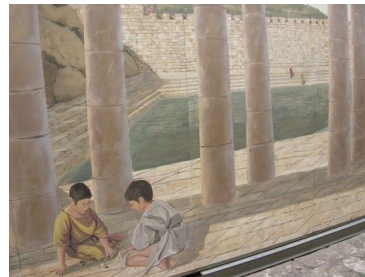
***Matthew 8: 23-27***

This ancient boat was discovered by two brothers, Moshe and Yuval Lufan In 1985-86 when the Sea of Galilee was unusually low due to a severe draught. Evidence showed that this boat could be sailed or rowed and could hold four oarsmen, a helmsman, and fifteen others. This is comparable to the boats mentioned in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John that Jesus and His disciples used to cross the sea.

### **POOL OF SILOAM**



Lower pool



Artist reconstruction Pool of Siloam

***And He (Jesus) said to him (the blind man), “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. John 9:7***

Ancient records report that there was a “lower pool” during the Second Temple period. In 2004, when Ir David Foundation workers uncovered stone steps, two prominent archaeologists were called in, Ronny

Reich and Eli Shukron. They determined that these steps were part of the Second Temple time period pool.

For more photos taken of the pool excavation from the early 1900s as well as from later excavations showing the steps, etc. go to <http://www.bibleplaces.com/poolofsilam.htm>

### CAIAPHAS OSSUARY



Ossuary of Caiaphas



Inscription on Caiaphas' ossuary

**And they that had laid hold on Jesus led him away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. *Matthew 26:57***

In November of 1990 a rock hewn burial chamber was uncovered by Z. Greenhut to the south of Jerusalem. A dozen ossuaries were found in the tomb. Two of them contained a form of the name Qafa' - or Caiaphas. One was inscribed "Yehosef bar Qafa'" (Joseph son of Caiaphas). This ossuary contained remains of four children, a woman, and a man estimated to be about 60 years old. This is believed to be Caiaphas and his family. Caiaphas was the high priest to whom Jesus was brought for questioning, as described in Mathew, Luke, John, and Acts.

### PONTIUS PILATE INSCRIPTION



Pontius Pilate inscription

***When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death: And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor. *Matthew 27: 1-2****

***Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" Pilate said to them, "You take Him and crucify Him, for I find no fault in Him." *John 19:6****

During excavations in 1961 at Caesarea Maritima, the director, Antonio Frova, found this inscribed block. The translation from the Latin inscription reads as follows:

TO THE HONORABLE GODS (THIS) TIBERIUM  
PONTIUS PILATE,  
PREFECT OF JUDEA

### PHYSICAL PROOF OF ANCIENT CRUCIFIXION



Ossuary with bones of Yehohanan and his son



Yehohanan's heel bone with stake through it

***And he (Jesus) bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha: Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. John 19: 17-18***

In 1968 archaeologist, Vassilios Tzaferis which, excavated a tomb in Jerusalem. The tomb contained the bones of a young man named Yehohanan, who was crucified in ancient times. His heel bone had an iron stake driven through it with pieces of wood attached to the stake. It was the custom in the time period between 1 B.C. to 1 A.D. to let the body decay for a year, and then deposit the bones in a family ossuary. So, this crucifixion would have occurred in Jesus' time. It is evident that his feet were nailed separately to each side of the cross.

The word crucifixion comes from the Latin "crucifixio," or "crucifixus," meaning "fixed to a cross." It was one of the most disgraceful and horribly painful methods of capital punishment.

### ANCIENT MEGIDDO (ARMAGEDDON)



Ancient ruins overlooking the vast plain of Armageddon

***And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue, Armageddon. Revelation 16:16***

***I saw the beast and the kings of the east gathered together to make war against Him (Jesus) that sat on the horse and against His army. Revelation 19:19***

Between 1903 and 1905 Gottlieb Schumacher, an American civil engineer, architect, and archaeologist of German descent, carried out the first excavations. The tenth excavation began in 2012.

Napoleon attempted to conquer the East and rebuild the Roman Empire. As he stood at Megiddo, he unwittingly made this prophetic statement, "*All the armies of the world could maneuver their forces on this vast plain.*"

Megiddo is better known by the name of Armageddon. Many bloody battles were fought here over the centuries. The bible tells us in the Book of Revelation that, here at Armageddon, a final battle will be fought that will herald the return of Jesus Christ to the earth at the end of the Great Tribulation (with His raptured believers). It is here that Jesus, the Messiah, will defeat the wicked armies of the world and set up His Kingdom.

***Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.***  
***Revelation 22:7***

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