

BIBLE BELIEVER'S ARCHAEOLOGY



HISTORICAL EVIDENCE THAT PROVES THE BIBLE

JOHN ARGUBRIGHT

Copyright © 2013 by John Argubright

Bible Believer's Archaeology Volume 1
Historical Evidence That Proves the Bible
by John Argubright

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-0-9792148-0-6 (3rd Edition)
(Previously 1st edition ISBN 1-57502-502-7) 1997
(Previously 2nd edition ISBN 1-591604-05-2) 2003

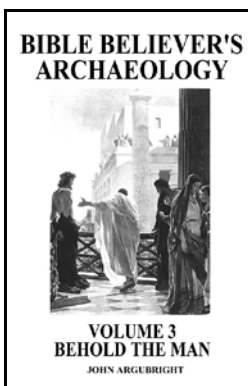
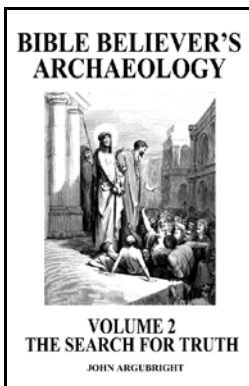
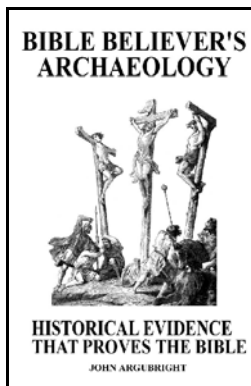
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version. Copyright © 1962 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Also quoted: New International Version Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Copyright © 1986 Zondervan Publishing House

This book is copyrighted to protect its misuse and to safeguard the rights of any author, publisher, or individual whose data may have been used in research for this book and to preserve the integrity of quotes from historical sources.

The majority of the historical quotes used in this book were re-translated by the author in an effort to not infringe upon the copyright of others and to protect the authors and publishers of the original source translations.

This book as well as our second and third volumes in the series may be ordered at "BibleHistory.net" as well as from other major online book distributors.



FOUR THINGS GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW

1. You are a sinner and cannot save yourself.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
Romans 3:23

2. God loves and values you so much, He made a way for you to be saved. (Jesus)

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16



3. You must repent, Turn to Christ and turn away from your sins. Confess them and forsake them.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

4. There is a Heaven and there is a Hell. Where will you spend your Eternity?

"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:36

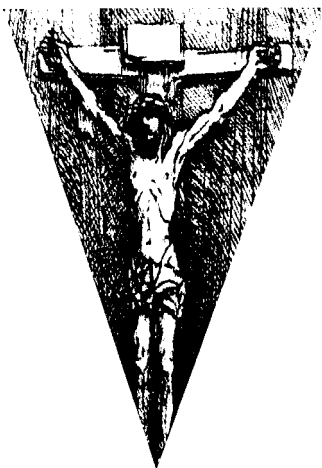
Table of Contents

JESUS CHRIST THE MESSIAH	Page 1
QUIRINIUS AND THE CENSUS	Page 4
JOHN THE BAPTIST	Page 7
THE MIRACLES OF JESUS	Page 12
THE POOL OF SILOAM	Page 15
JESUS' PROPHECY - "THE TEMPLE"	Page 19
JESUS' PROPHECY - "JERUSALEM"	Page 23
ANNAS AND CAIAPHAS	Page 25
CRUCIFIXION DARKNESS	Page 28
THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST	Page 30
JAMES THE BROTHER OF JESUS	Page 34
THE BOOK OF ACTS - CHAPTER 5	Page 36
THE DEATH OF HEROD AGRIPPA	Page 39
PAUL'S COMPANION, "ERASTUS"	Page 42
MOSES AND PHARAOH	Page 44
BALAAM, A PROPHET GONE BAD	Page 57
JOSHUA AND THE PROMISED LAND	Page 60
KING DAVID	Page 66
GOD AND THE HOUSE OF DAVID	Page 72

Table of Contents

KING JEROBOAM	Page 80
KING AHAB & JEZEBEL	Page 84
KING HOSHEA	Page 90
KING HEZEKIAH	Page 92
KING JOSIAH	Page 98
JEREMIAH'S SCRIBE, "BARUCH"	Page 100
THE BOOK OF DANIEL	Page 105
DANIEL'S THREE FRIENDS	Page 109
NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PRIDE	Page 113
KING JEHOIACHIN	Page 117
GEDALIAH GOVERNOR OF JUDEA	Page 121
BELSHAZZAR AND DARIUS THE MEDE	Page 123
SANBALLAT, NEHEMIAH'S ENEMY	Page 129
JEREMIAH THE PROPHET	Page 131
SOURCES	Page 138

JESUS CHRIST THE MESSIAH



The first evidence for the life of Jesus, mentioned outside of the Bible, comes from a Jewish historian by the name of Josephus.

Josephus was born in 37 A.D., just a few years after the crucifixion of the **Lord Jesus Christ**. He was the son of a priest named Matthias and at the age of 19 he became a Pharisee in Jerusalem. Later in his life he was appointed a commander in Galilee during the Jewish revolt against Rome.

After surrendering to the Romans, he was taken before the Roman Commander Vespasian and prophesied that God had shown him in a dream that Vespasian and his son Titus would soon become Emperor's of Rome. Shortly afterwards the dream became reality and Josephus became a member of Vespasian's household.

During his stay in Rome he wrote two works dealing with Jewish history. In his work entitled *Jewish Antiquities*, which was written between 70 and 100 A.D., he mentions **Jesus the Messiah**.

Josephus is quoted below by Eusebius, an early Christian Bishop, in 324 A.D.:

"It was during this time-frame that Jesus lived, a wise man, if anyone could really call him a man. For he did many deeds that were out of the ordinary and was an instructor of those who accept the truth. Many of the Jews and Greeks put their trust in him. He being the Messiah. When our chief leaders accused him, Pilate condemned him to the cross, but his original disciples continued to follow him; for he had appeared before them on the third day alive again, as the prophets of God had spoken of these and countless other marvelous things about him. And the tribe of Christians, who had been named after him, remains to this present day."

A later Arabic manuscript written by a tenth-century Melkite historian named Agapius also quotes from the same passage of Josephus as follows:

"During this time there was a wise man named Jesus, and his actions were good, and he was known to be holy. Many people among the Jews and from other nations became his followers. He was condemned to be crucified and to die by the order of Pilate. But those who had become his disciples did not stray from his teaching. They proclaimed that he had appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was restored to life. Thus, he may have been the Christ of whom wondrous things have been spoken of through the prophets. And the Christians, who were known by his name, have remained to this very day."

These statements confirm the following Christian truths found in the Bible:

- 1) Jesus was the Messiah spoken of by the prophets.
- 2) He performed miracles.

3) He was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

4) He arose from the dead three days later and appeared to his disciples.

DO YOU KNOW THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS?

Jesus Christ was not just another man, **He was God in human flesh.**

He came into the world for one reason, to take our sins away. He did so by shedding his precious blood on the cross, taking on himself the sins of all mankind.

You see, every one of us is a sinner, there is no one who is perfect. And since God is Holy, and only those who are holy may enter into his kingdom, no man can enter into heaven on his own.

That's where Jesus comes in.

Jesus was without sin, holy in every way. He took the punishment for our sins on himself, so that everyone who trusts in him will have their sins forgiven and be allowed to enter into heaven. That's why Jesus is called the **SAVIOR**, if you believe in him, he will save you from spending eternity in hell when you die.

Jesus Christ is also the **LORD**, and you are to follow His commands. Start by repenting, turning away from your sins, and begin a new life in following Christ.

There is no greater truth than knowing Jesus Christ as your LORD and SAVIOR.

QUIRINIUS AND THE CENSUS



For many years, critics of those who believe the Bible to be 100% accurate, used a passage found in the Bible to point out an apparent historical error.

Luke 2:1-2 states: "And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while **Quirinius was governing Syria.**"

Since the Bible states that Jesus was born before the death of Herod, who died somewhere between 4 and 1 B.C., critics claimed that the Bible was in error, since history records Quirinius wasn't governor of Syria until around 6 A.D. or later.

But recently, confirmation that Quirinius was governing in Syria, around this time, has been found.

First of all, let's look at a few early census accounts taken from history and see how they match up with the Bible.

The following is a record of a census taken in the year 104 A.D. which contains similar wording to that found in the Gospel: "From the Prefect of Egypt, Gaius Vibius Maximus. Being that the time has come

for the house to house census, it is mandatory that all men who are living outside of their districts return to their own homelands in order that the census may be carried out."

Another census was uncovered from 48 A.D. which also records a return of the people to their native land for the census. It reads as follows:

"I Thermoutharion along with Apollonius, my guardian, pledge an oath to Tiberius Claudius Caesar that the preceding document gives an accurate account of those returning, who live in my household, and that there is no one else living with me, neither a foreigner, nor an Alexandrian, nor a freedman, nor a Roman citizen, nor an Egyptian. If I am telling the truth, may it be well with me, but if falsely, the reverse. In the ninth year of the reign of Tiberius Claudius Augustus Germanicus Emperor."

It is interesting to note that these two census accounts required a person to return to their homeland to be registered. The same is true of the Gospel account.

Two well-respected leaders from the early church, Justin and Tertullian, also believed that a record of the census, along with the registration of Joseph and Mary, could be found in official documents from the reign of Augustus Caesar. In their writings they mention that if anyone were to question the Lord's virgin birth they should go and check out the Roman state records for themselves.

And as for Quirinius being the governor of Syria during this census, it is worth noting that the Bible never calls him the governor, at least the New King James Version doesn't. It says he was **governing** in Syria. And we know that Quirinius was indeed governing in some capacity in this region at this time.

Records also indicate that Quirinius was no minor figure in Roman politics. His name is mentioned in "Res Gestae - The Deeds of Augustus by

Augustus" placing him as consul as early as 12 B.C.

After Caesar's young son Caius was sent to administer Syria as an Imperial Legate in 1 B.C., the Roman historian Tacitus mentions that Quirinius was then sent by Augustus to be an advisor to Caius while in Armenia around 1 A.D.

Evidently, Augustus wanted someone who was experienced in previously administering the region to advise his son. Who better than Quirinius?

The Biblical census was probably implemented by Herod at the command of Rome to coincide with their decree that all peoples should take an oath of allegiance to Augustus, which took place in history around 2 B.C.

This oath, forced upon everyone in Israel, is recorded by the first century historian Josephus.

Josephus also mentions that Quirinius became governor of Syria many years later after Herod the Great's son, Archelaus, was dethroned. He wrote:

"Quirinius, a Roman senator who had gone through other magistracies and had passed through them all until he had become consul, was appointed governor of Syria by Caesar and was given the task of assessing property there and in Judea."

So who was in charge as the assessor of property in Judea during the Biblical census? Just as the Bible had said all along, Quirinius.

THE WORDS OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH CAME TRUE DURING THE FIRST CENSUS

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **JESUS**, for He will save His people from their sins."

So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "**GOD with us.**" Matthew 1:21

JOHN THE BAPTIST

**THE BAPTISM OF JESUS IS RECORDED
IN MATTHEW 3:13-17:**

"Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."



Jesus Christ said: "I tell you the truth: among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist."

Even though John was a great prophet, he meets a tragic ending at the hand of Herod Antipas. The historian Josephus, gives us this account:

"Herod (Antipas) was caught up in a quarrel with the King of Petra, Aretas, whose daughter he had married and with whom he had lived with for some time. But once while he was staying in Rome with his half brother Herod (also known as Philip, the son of Herod the Great by Mariamme, the daughter of Simon the high priest), Antipas fell in love with his brother's wife Herodias, and he promised to marry her and divorce Aretas' daughter.

But Aretas' daughter uncovered Herod's plan, and asked Herod if she could leave to visit Machaerus. From there she fled to her father in Arabia, and told him what Herod was planning.

For this reason and a dispute over land boundaries, Aretas attacked Herod whose whole army was destroyed. Herod sent word of this to Tiberius. Caesar was filled with rage, and ordered the Syrian governor, Vitellius, to declare a state of war with Aretas. But many of the Jews felt that Herod's disaster was God's judgement on him for his treatment of John, known as the Baptist. Although John was a good man and taught the Jews to worship God and to lead righteous lives and practice justice toward others, Herod had him executed. John preached that baptism should not be used to obtain a pardon from sins committed, but as a consecration of the body.

. . . Great crowds began to gather around John because of his preaching and Herod feared that John's great persuasive power over men would lead to rebellion. Therefore, he decided that it would be better to kill him before he caused an uprising. John was brought in chains to the fortress of Machaerus and was put to death in that prison. The Jews believed that God avenged John by the destruction of Herod's army." (Jewish Antiquities Book 18 Chap 5)

Now let's look at how the Biblical account matches up with the account of Josephus.

1) Josephus stated that John the Baptist exhorted the people to lead righteous lives.

THE BIBLE states the same in Matthew 3:8, John told the people to produce good fruit in keeping with a repentant life.

2) Josephus states the Baptist told the people to practice justice toward their neighbors.

THE BIBLE states in Luke 3:11-18 that John told a crowd of people:

"The man who has two tunics should share with the one who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." . . . To the tax collectors he said "Don't collect any more taxes than you are required to." . . . And to a group of soldiers he said: "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely."

3) Josephus wrote: "John taught that baptism should not be used to obtain pardon for sins committed, but to consecrate the body"

This statement appears to be contrary to Luke 3:3 which says: "He went into all the country along the Jordan preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

But if you read this passage carefully, it says a **BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE** for the forgiveness of sins.

REPENTANCE being the key word, meaning to have a change of mind and heart toward God. To turn to Him while turning away from sin and asking for God's forgiveness. The outward act of Water baptism itself does not forgive sins, nor can any act performed by man. Jesus at the cross took on himself all the sins of the world, and only by accepting him as your Savior can you have your sins forgiven.

Therefore, Baptism is our act of obedience to the Lord's command and is God's promise to us that, just as water washes away dirt from our bodies, Christ's shed blood washes away all the filth from our souls, in other words, all our sins.

4) The Bible in Matthew 14:3-10 says: 'For Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. Because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."

And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet. But when Herod's birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask. So she, having been prompted by her mother, said, "Give me John the Baptist's head here on a platter." And the king was sorry; nevertheless, because of the oaths and because of those who sat with him, he commanded it to be given to her. So he sent and had John beheaded in prison.'



Josephus wrote the same thing: "Herod had fallen in love with the wife of his half-brother and he promised to marry her and divorce Aretas' daughter (which he did, and in doing so broke one of the Ten Commandments by committing adultery.) . . . Herod had John executed . . . John was brought in chains to Machaerus and was put to death in that prison."

THE GREATEST STATEMENTS MADE BY JOHN BAPTIST:

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold!, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"... "I have seen and testify that this is the Son of God."

John 1:29-34

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."

John 3:36

BIBLE BELIEVER'S ARCHAEOLOGY



VOLUME 2 THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

JOHN ARGUBRIGHT

Copyright © 2013 by John Argubright

Bible Believer's Archaeology Volume 2

The Search For Truth

by John Argubright

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-0-9792148-1-3 (2nd Edition)

(Previously 1st edition ISBN 1-591604-07-9) 2003

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version. Copyright © 1962 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Also quoted: New International Version Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Copyright © 1986 Zondervan Publishing House

This book is copyrighted to protect its misuse and to safeguard the rights of any author, publisher, or individual whose data may have been used in research for this book and to preserve the integrity of quotes from historical sources.

The majority of the historical quotes used in this book were re-translated by the author in an effort to not infringe upon the copyright of others and to protect the authors and publishers of the original source translations.

This book as well as our first and third volumes in the series may be ordered at "BibleHistory.net" as well as from other major online book distributors.

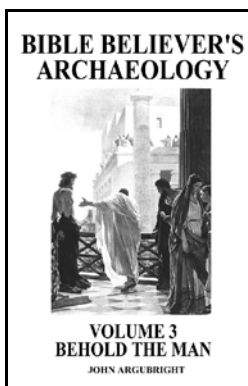
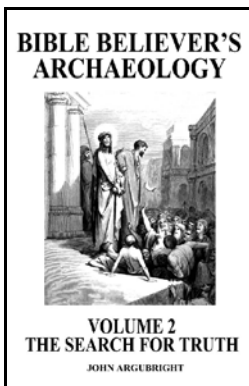
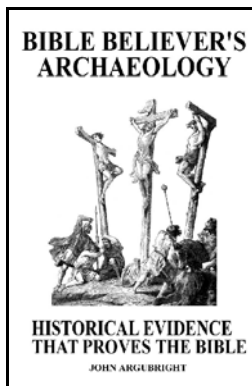


Table of Contents

THE BIRTH OF JESUS	Page 1
QUIRINIUS	Page 6
THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE	Page 14
PONTIUS PILATE	Page 19
THE CRUCIFIED PROPHET	Page 26
AQUILA AND PRISCILLA FLEE FROM ROME	Page 29
THE FAMINE OF ACTS CHAPTER 11	Page 32
THE MARTYRS	Page 36
ACTS 21 - THE EGYPTIAN	Page 41
WALL SEPARATING JEWS AND GENTILES	Page 46
THE FLOOD AND THE TOWER OF BABEL	Page 48
THE ROCK CITY	Page 56
LOT'S DESCENDANTS	Page 63
JEHU & HAZAEL	Page 66
KING UZZIAH	Page 69
AHAZ, KING OF JUDAH	Page 72
SARGON, KING OF ASSYRIA	Page 74
MANASSEH, SON OF HEZEKIAH	Page 77
JEREMIAH'S ENEMY	Page 81

Table of Contents

KING CYRUS OF PERSIA	Page 85
THE ARK OF THE COVENANT	Page 92
SOURCES	Page 99

THE BIRTH OF JESUS



Every year as December 25th rolls around, our minds begin to focus on the birth of that little baby born at Bethlehem. But more than just a baby. The Savior, Christ the Lord.

Throughout the ages many evidences have surfaced which confirm that wonderful event, God becoming man.

One such evidence comes from an early Church leader named Origen. He wrote that the actual cave where Jesus was born could be seen by anyone wanting to visit it. He wrote the following in "Against Celsus," Volume I, chapter 51:

"In regards to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, if anyone, after studying Micah's prophecy and the history recorded in the Scriptures, written by the disciples of Jesus, needs to have additional

sources of evidence, let him be aware that the Scriptures are confirmed and the Gospel involving His birth. For one can visit the cave located in Bethlehem where He was born, and see the manger where He was wrapped in swaddling-clothes. And this site is talked about with great interest in all the surrounding countries. Even among the enemies of our faith it is being said that in this cave Jesus was born, the One who is worshiped and revered by the Christians."

Even the early Church historians give evidences for the virgin birth. Justin Martyr, who lived around 150 A.D., wrote that if anyone questioned the virgin birth of Jesus, they should go and refer to the official Roman archives of Augustus Caesar.

Another early Church leader was a man by the name of Ignatius. He was brought up under the Apostle John's instruction. In one of his epistles to the Ephesians, which was written sometime around 110 A.D., he made the following statements regarding the Virgin birth:

"Jesus Christ our God was . . . conceived in Mary's womb . . . according to the Holy Spirit. Mary's virginity and the One whom she brought forth . . . these are the mysteries which are commonly known throughout the entire world. Yet these things were done secretly by God."

In 125 A.D. another early writer by the name of Aristides also mentioned the miraculous birth of the Savior.

"He being the Son of God Most High, made known by the Holy Spirit, came down from above, and being born of a Hebrew virgin He took on flesh . . ."

Justin Martyr, wrote these words around 150 A.D.:

"The Lord Jesus Christ our instructor, who was the first born of God the Father, was not born through sexual relations . . . God's power came upon the virgin, lighting upon her while she was still a virgin, causing her to conceive . . . By the will of God, His Son, Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary."

According to the Bible, shortly after Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Herod the Great was visited by Magi from the East. They were searching for the King whose Star had risen.

Herod, troubled by this King whom he considered a threat to his imperial reign, sent for the priests to find out where He was to be born. They told him the Child would be born in Bethlehem. Herod then sent his soldiers to that town to slay all the male children two years old and under.

This event may have been alluded to by a non-Christian writer named Ambrosius Macrobius, who around 430 A.D. wrote the following in his work *Saturnalia* Volume II chapter 4:11:

'While listening amongst the male children's bones, who in Syria king Herod of the Jews had ordered killed, those who were younger then two years of age, his son in like manner he also had slaughtered.' He (Augustus Caesar) says: "It is better to live as Herod's pig than to be his son"

(Note: Syria, at this time, was known as the area between Asia Minor and Egypt, which included Syria, Lebanon and the land of Israel.)

Other pieces of historical evidence confirm the evil character of Herod the Great in keeping with the Biblical record.

Josephus, writing in the first century, recorded that Herod had a number of Torah scholars burned alive for removing Rome's golden eagles from the Temple gates. He also had his wife and a few of his sons murdered simply for considering them a threat to his royal throne.

Fearing that nobody would mourn his death, he also ordered that men, numbering in the thousands, should be locked inside the hippodrome at Jericho and be massacred when he died. This would assure that there would be great mourning on the day of his departure from this world. Luckily, for those concerned, that order was never carried out.

THE GREATEST STATEMENT MADE ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

"And you, O (tower of the flock) the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter Jerusalem." . . . "But you Bethlehem Ephrathah. Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Micah 4:8-5:2

In Micah 4:8, the Hebrew word for "Tower of the Flock" is "Migdal Eder." Located near Bethlehem today is a little spot considered to be the ancient site of Migdal Eder.

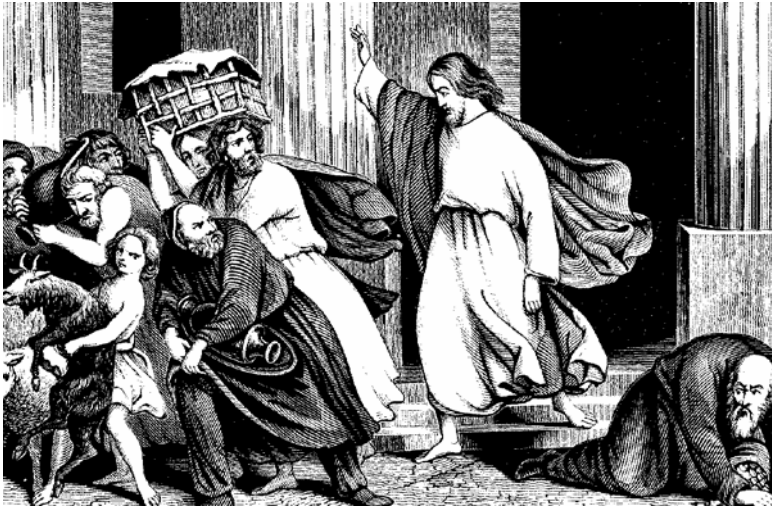
You see, our Lord Jesus was born in Bethlehem where all sacrificial lambs were born, and our Lord Jesus died in Jerusalem where all sacrificial lambs were killed.



"The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

John 10:11

CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE



Now the time of the Passover was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found men in the temple area who were selling cattle and sheep and doves, and also the moneychangers who were doing business. So He fashioned a whip out of cords, and went into the temple and drove out the cattle and the sheep, and he overturned the tables of the money changers and He scattered their coins. And He went up to those who were selling doves and said to them, "Get these things out of here! How dare you turn My Father's house into a marketplace!" Then His disciples remembered what was written in the Scriptures, "Zeal for Your house will consume me."

John 2:13-17

Confirmation that the Temple was being turned into a marketplace during the time of Jesus can be found in some early Jewish writings. First of all, there is a record of the common practice of setting up

money changers in the temple area during Passover. The Talmud states the following:

Beginning on the 1st of Adar (the month before Passover), a proclamation was made to the people that they should prepare . . . On the 15th day of Adar, moneychangers were sent out to collect the Half-Shekel for its donation . . . On the 25th day of Adar, moneychangers were installed in the Temple itself to help in the collecting of the Half-Shekel donation: Megillah 29a-b

Not only were the moneychangers robbing the people, but history records that excessive prices were being charged by those who were selling animals used in Temple sacrifice.

For example, according to Leviticus 12:6-8, after an Israelite woman had given birth, she was to bring a sacrifice to the temple, preferably a sheep. But if she was poor and could not afford the price of a sheep, she could take two doves or two pigeons for the sacrifice, one for a burnt offering and one for a sin offering. The Jewish Mishna states that because of their greed, those who were selling birds rose their prices so much that the poorer woman of the community could not afford them. Rabban Shimon ben Gamaliel the Elder, a leading rabbi of his time and a descendant of Gamaliel, whom the Bible says trained the apostle Paul as a pharisee before Paul had come to Christ, took immediate action to lower the market price. The Mishna gives this account in Kritut 1:7:

"If a woman had given birth five times during her life . . . after she brings a single sacrifice, she will be able to eat sanctified foods once again. But she is still under an oath to bring four more. It eventually came to pass that the cost of two birds rose dramatically to one gold zuz. Rabban Shimon ben Gamaliel declared: "I pledge that before I go to bed this very night, the price of birds will fall!" He headed straight

to the courtyard and instructed the people to obey the following regulation: "After giving birth five times, a woman . . . needs to bring just one sacrificial offering to cover all five births . . . That very day, the price of birds plummeted to one quarter of a silver zuz."

Even many of the high priests during the first century seemed to have given up their love of God for the love of money. Most notably the High priest whom Jesus was brought before, Annas, along with his five sons who succeeded him to that position. The Temple sacrifice during their reigns can best be summed up by the words "The Marketplace of the family of Annas"

The historian Josephus sheds some light on the actions of one member of this family, Annas the younger, the man who had James (the writer of the book of James in the Bible) stoned to death. Josephus states:

"The high priest, Ananus, (after he had been relieved from his office) to some degree, was respected and feared by the citizens, but in a bad way; for he loved to hoard money. He became good friends with Albinus, and of the newly installed high priest. He did so by offering them bribes; he also had wicked servants, who associated with all sorts of evil men, and went to the thrashing-floors, and took the tithes that belonged to the priests by force, and beat anyone who would not give these tithes to them. So the other high priests that followed him as well as his servants acted likewise without anyone being able to stop them; so that some of the priests, those who were old and were being supported with those tithes, died for lack of food."

A matter of fact, Jewish history records that these High priests who walked the temple courts during the first century were despised by the majority of the people for their brutality and hunger for

money. So much so that there is a strong condemnation of these men in the Talmud.

Tosefta, Menachoth 13.21 states a Rabbinic Lament over the brutality of the Sadducees. It says:

"Abba Saul ben Betnith and Abba Jose ben Johanan of Jerusalem say: "

"Woe to the house of Boethus! Woe to me because of their rods!" (Simon, son of Boethus, was father in-law to Herod. He was a high priest during the reign of Herod the Great. Shortly after Simon died, Eleazar and Joazar, who were also the sons of Boethus, became high priests.)

"Woe to the house of Qadros (Cantheros)! Woe to me because of their pens!" (Simon Cantheros was one of the high priests appointed during the rule of Herod Agrippa)

"Woe to the house of Elhanan, woe to the house of whispers!" (Elhanan is translated 'Ananus or Annas' in Greek and here refers to the high priest Annas of the New Testament and his sons.)

"Woe to the house of Elisha! Woe to me because of their pens!"

"Woe to the house of Ishmael ben Phabi! For they are high priests and their sons, treasurers and their sons-in-law who were (temple) officers!" "And their servants came and beat us up with staves!" (Ishmael son of Phabi (Fabus) was a high priest under Valerius Gratus, procurator of Judea. Phabi served as priest for one year from 15-16 A.D. Later, around 56-62 A.D., Ishmael ben Phabi was also appointed as high priest.)

JESUS GREATEST STATEMENT CONCERNING RICHES:

"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.
"For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but

whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. **"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"** "Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" "For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

Mark 8:34-38

WHAT GOD THINKS OF THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL:

"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, **he is proud, knowing nothing, and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of financial gain. From such withdraw yourself.**

Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content."

1Timothy 6:3-8

BIBLE BELIEVER'S ARCHAEOLOGY



VOLUME 3 BEHOLD THE MAN!

JOHN ARGUBRIGHT

Copyright © 2013 by John Argubright

Bible Believer's Archaeology Volume 3

Behold the Man

by John Argubright

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-0-9792148-2-0

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise indicated, Bible quotations are taken from The Holy Bible, New King James Version. Copyright © 1962 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Also quoted: New International Version Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Copyright © 1986 Zondervan Publishing House

This book is copyrighted to protect its misuse and to safeguard the rights of any author, publisher, or individual whose data may have been used in research for this book and to preserve the integrity of quotes from historical sources.

The majority of the historical quotes used in this book were re-translated by the author in an effort to not infringe upon the copyright of others and to protect the authors and publishers of the original source translations.

This book as well as our first and second volumes in the series may be ordered at "BibleHistory.net" as well as from other major online book distributors.

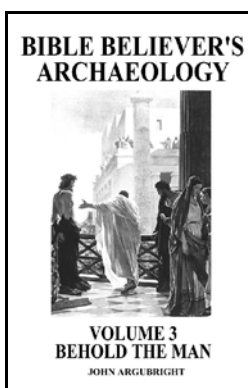
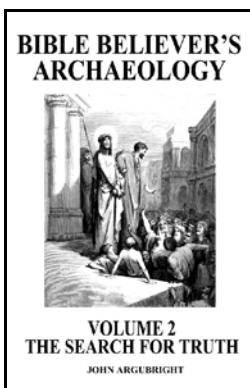
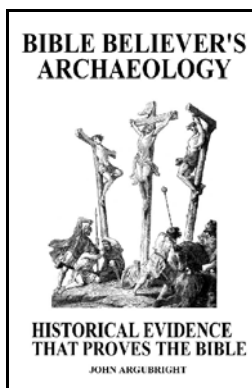


Table of Contents

KINGS FROM THE EAST SHALL BOW	Page 1
BY HIS STRIPES	Page 7
SERGIUS PAULUS	Page 12
THE SAMARITAN TEMPLE	Page 16
ACTS 17 - THE UNKNOWN GOD	Page 22
BERNICE AND HEROD AGRIPPA	Page 28
THE FINAL SCAPEGOAT IS CHOSEN	Page 34
EXODUS FROM THE PYRAMIDS	Page 37
THE PLAGUE OF BOILS ON EGYPT	Page 45
ISRAEL & THE HEBREWS	Page 50
JOASH KING OF SAMARIA	Page 56
MENAHEN	Page 60
TIRHAKAH KING OF ETHIOPIA	Page 66
JOSIAH'S BATTLE WITH NECHO	Page 76
JEREMIAH CHAPTER 39	Page 83
THE DANIEL SCROLL	Page 87
ESTHER AND MORDECAI	Page 92
SOURCES	Page 101

KINGS FROM THE EAST SHALL BOW



"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'

"Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2:1-11

Two well known historians confirm that it was a commonly held belief amongst the Jews, as well as the people of the East, that a ruler would come forth from Judea.

The Roman historian Tacitus wrote: "[the Jews] firmly believed that their ancient Scriptures, quoted by their priests, contained a prophecy of how at a certain time, when the East was powerful, a ruler would come forth from Judea, and He would secure a universal empire."

(Tacitus, Histories 5.13)

Another early historian, Suetonius, penned the following words: "An old and well established belief was held all over the Orient, that one would arise from Judea who would establish a government over all men." (The Lives of the Caesars - Life of Vespasian 4.5)

Another even earlier text was uncovered which is known as 'The Testament of Judah', it was part of a collection of texts supposedly written by

the twelve sons of Jacob known as 'The Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs', but more likely seems to have been penned in the second century before Christ. Fragments of two of the Testaments have been found in the Dead Sea Scrolls, those of Levi and Naphtali. The 'Testament of Levi' was dated by the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago using Carbon 14, and was dated between 100 and 200 B.C., well before the birth of Christ.

The 'Testament of Judah' reveals what type of Messiah the people were expecting and also foretold of a star that would arise in Israel which would accompany His coming.

It states: "There shall appear for you a star arising from Jacob in peace. And a man shall come forth who is my heir, like the sun of righteousness, walking amongst the sons of men in gentleness and righteousness, and there will be no sin found in him. And the heavens will rain down upon him the spirit as a blessing from the Holy One. And he will pour out the spirit of grace upon you. This is the shoot of the most high God; the water of life for all humanity. He will shine his light upon the scepter of my kingdom, and from your root will arise the shoot, and through it will stem forth the rod of righteousness for the nations, to judge and to save all who call upon the Lord."

(Testament of Judah 24.1-6)

And that star, which the wise men from the east followed, led them to Jesus, the ruler of all kings. And thus the following prophecies found in the Old Testament came to life:

"Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you. The Gen-

tiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising. "Lift up your eyes all around, and see: They all gather together, they come to you; Your sons shall come from afar, And your daughters shall be nursed at your side. Then you shall see and become radiant, And your heart shall swell with joy; Because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, The wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. **The multitude of camels shall cover your land, The dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; All those from Sheba shall come; They shall bring gold and incense, And they shall proclaim the praises of the LORD.**"

Isaiah 60:1-6

"He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth. Those who dwell in the wilderness will bow before Him, And His enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles will bring presents; **The kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts.** Yes, all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him. For He will deliver the needy when he cries, The poor also, and him who has no helper. He will spare the poor and needy, And will save the souls of the needy. He will redeem their life from oppression and violence; And precious shall be their blood in His sight. And He shall live; And the **gold of Sheba will be given to Him . . .** His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. And men shall be blessed in Him; All nations shall call Him blessed."

Psalms 72:8-17

(Note: Sheba, Midian, and Ephah are tribes of Arabia descended from Abraham's wife Keturah as mentioned in 1Chronicles 1:32)

THE GREATEST SONG TO BE SUNG ABOUT THE KINGS FROM THE EAST:

- 1 We three kings of Orient are:
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar-
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain
 Following yonder star.
 Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy perfect light.
- 2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain:
 Gold I bring to crown him again,
 King forever, ceasing never,
 Over us all to reign.
 Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy perfect light.
- 3 Frankincense to offer have I,
 Incense owns a Deity nigh;
 Prayer and praising, all men raising,
 Worship Him, God on high.
 Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy perfect light.
- 4 Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
 Breathes a life of gathering gloom-
 Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
 Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
 Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,
 Star with royal beauty bright,
 Westward leading, still proceeding,
 Guide us to thy perfect light.

5 Glorious now behold Him arise:
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Earth to heav'n replies.
Chorus: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

BY HIS STRIPES

Pilate said "But you have a custom that I should release someone to you at the Passover. Do you therefore want me to release to you the King of the Jews?"

Then they all cried again, saying, "Not this Man, but Barabbas!" Now Barabbas was a robber.

So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.



Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him."

Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!"

Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

John 18:39-19:6

An example of the accuracy of this Gospel account can be shown in the customary practice of releasing one prisoner at the time of Passover as mentioned above as well as in Luke 23:17.

Historical records confirm that this was indeed a yearly event performed during Passover. The following Jewish writings from the Mishna, Pesahim 8:6 states: "They may sacrifice (a Passover lamb) for a man mourning the loss of his family, or for one that clears away a ruin; as well as for the one who has been **promised to be released from prison.**"

Another example of the Gospel's accuracy can be found in how the Romans scourged and crucified their enemies. The historian Josephus gives us a glimpse into this barbaric practice.

"Forcing themselves into every home, they slew its occupants; so the citizens fled along the narrow paths, and the soldiers butchered those that they caught, and no method of plunder was overlooked; they also caught many of the common people, and brought them before Florus, **whom he first punished with stripes, and then crucified.**

The entire number of those that were killed that day, including women and children, (for they did not even spare tiny infants), was about 3,600. And what made this attack even worse was that Roman barbarism had reached to a new level of evil; for Florus did what no one had ever done before, that is, he had given orders that the men who were of equestrian nobility be **whipped and nailed to the cross before his council**; who, although they were by birth Jews, they were still looked upon as being Roman citizens." Jewish War, Book 2: chapter 14:9

The way in which Christ was treated and suffered during His trial was also not unusual for the culture during the times in which He walked the earth. History records that the surrounding nations mocked anyone who claimed they were a king of the Jews. The historian Philo mentions one such

incident shortly after the time of Christ:

"Gaius Caesar gave Agrippa, king Herod's grandson, the third part of his family inheritance to rule over, which in the past was governed by his uncle Philip the tetrarch . . . (Agrippa went to Alexandria) . . . (But the men of Alexandria) were filled with an ancient and what I may call an inward hatred towards the Jews. They were furious at the thought of anyone becoming a king of the Jews . . . they spent much of their time insulting the king in the schools, and planning all sorts of deeds to ridicule him . . . There was a certain man named Carabbas, who was afflicted with a gentle form of mental illness which came upon him from time to time; this man spent most of his days and nights destitute along the roads being harassed by the youth of the city; . . . they drove this poor man against his wishes as far as the auditorium. There they set him up on a high place where everyone could see him. They then flattened out a papyrus leaf and put it on his head instead of a crown, and clothed the rest of his body with a mat as if with a royal cloak and instead of a scepter they put in his hand a small stick which they found lying by the roadside and gave it to him. And when he had been dressed and adorned to look like a king, the youth in the crowd took up sticks on their shoulders and stood at attention on each side of him pretending to be his bodyguards with spears. Then others came up and gave him a mock salute, while others came to him and pretended that they wished to consult with him concerning governmental affairs. Then a multitude of voices from the crowd yelled out the title Maris (Lord); which is the name by which they call the kings of Syria; for they knew that Agrippa was by birth a Syrian, and also that he governed over a great district of Syria."

If the nations could mock an earthly king in this manner, how much more would their hatred grow against the true King of the Jews?

Isaiah the prophet, in one of the Lord's prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah, spoke of His suffering servant and described how He would be mocked and rejected by men.

"Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high.

Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.

Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.



All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

And they made His grave with the wicked; But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

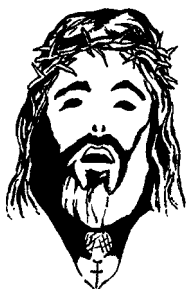
He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

If you have enjoyed these sample chapters from Bible Believer's Archaeology, please consider purchasing our series of books to help support our ministry.

May the Grace and Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.



The Bible Believer's Archaeology series may be ordered at BibleHistory.net as well as from other major online book distributors.

