

A black and white photograph of a city skyline, including skyscrapers and a bridge, is shown upside down at the top of the page. The text 'MATTHEW' is centered below the image.

# MATTHEW

The Upside umog Kingdom

Matthew 22

The two great commmandments



**Matthew 22:15-33**

**Paying Taxes and the Resurrection**

**MATTHEW**  
The Upside down Kingdom



## **Paying Taxes and the Resurrection**

- Honor was very important in this ancient culture.
- If you were born wealthy, you had a higher level of honor.
- If you were born with a disability, you had a lower level of honor.
- When the Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees asked Jesus these kinds of questions, they weren't just trying to trip Him up or embarrass Him, they were challenging His honor.



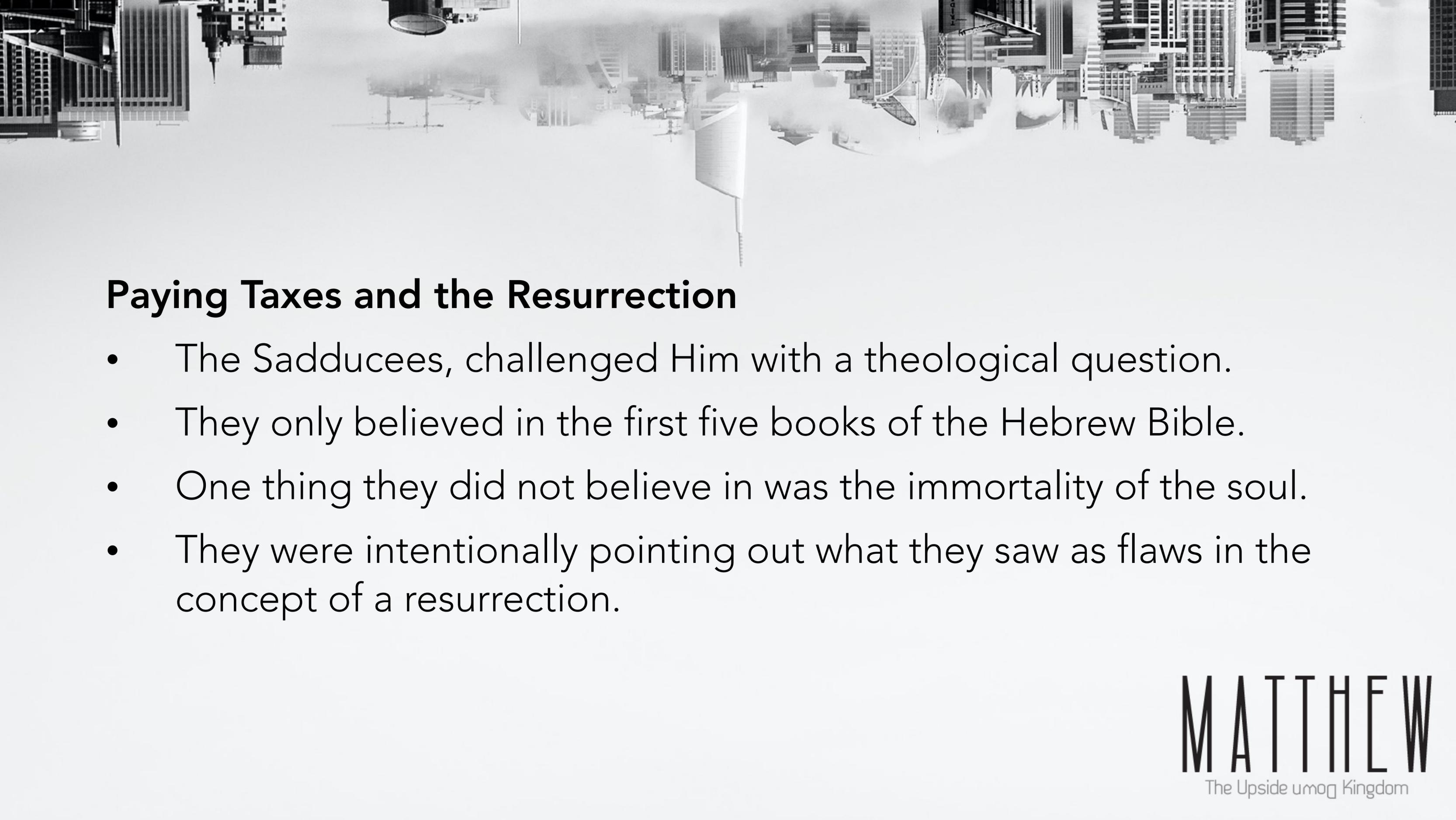
## **Paying Taxes and the Resurrection**

- With the first question, they hoped to catch Him.
- Either He supported paying taxes to Rome, which would make some in His audience question whether He was really the Messiah.
- If He didn't support the tax, that would allow them to charge Him as a revolutionary and have Him executed by Rome.



## Paying Taxes and the Resurrection

- “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”
- He meant paying taxes was just giving Caesar’s own coin back to him, but our worship and allegiance belong to God alone.
- They marveled at His response and went away.



## Paying Taxes and the Resurrection

- The Sadducees, challenged Him with a theological question.
- They only believed in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible.
- One thing they did not believe in was the immortality of the soul.
- They were intentionally pointing out what they saw as flaws in the concept of a resurrection.



## Paying Taxes and the Resurrection

- First, He addressed the question – there is no marriage in heaven.
- Then He addressed the concept of the resurrection in general, by stating that God is not the God of the dead but of the living.
- Therefore, the patriarchs are living; they are alive, not dead. God would not claim to be the God of someone who no longer existed.



## **Paying Taxes and the Resurrection**

- Instead of bringing shame to Jesus through their questions, as they intended, the Sadducees brought Him honor.
- The crowd was astonished at His teaching (verse 33).
- As it said at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, He wasn't like any of the other teachers; He taught with real authority.



**Matthew 22:34-40**

**Love God and love your neighbor**

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## Love God and love your neighbor

- The third person to challenge Jesus was an expert in the law.
- There were 613 commandments in the Law: 248 positive (do) and 365 negative (do not).
- How could you possibly pick just one as most important?
- If you sin in any of them, you are guilty of breaking the whole law (James 2:10).



## **Love God and love your neighbor**

- Some rabbis said the command to obey your parents was the most important because it was the only commandment with a blessing attached.
- Others said the law of circumcision because it was the sign of the covenant.
- And others said the sacrifices because they atoned for sin.



## Love God and love your neighbor

- Jesus quoted the Shema: “Hear, O Israel ... love the Lord your God” which was the oldest Jewish prayer.
- Every Jew would have had this memorized.
- Jews considered the Shema to be a summary of the law, so this was a very typical answer.



## Love God and love your neighbor

- Jesus combined it with the command from Leviticus 19:18 to “love your neighbor as yourself.”
- These two commandments are interdependent.
- You can't say you love God if you don't love your neighbor (1 John 4:20). If you love God, you will love others.



## **Love God and love your neighbor**

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that He wasn't concerned about just the external keeping of the law
- He was concerned about the heart (Matthew 5).
- The Pharisees were asking Jesus to pick a "rule" that was the most important. Jesus emphasized the heart condition behind the rules.



## Love God and love your neighbor

- In the next chapter (Matthew 23), Jesus pronounces woe on the Pharisees, because even though they were careful to keep every letter of the law, they didn't really keep these two greatest commandments.
- As Paul wrote, if we do all the religious stuff in the world but don't have love, it means nothing. It's just noise (1 Corinthians 13:1–3).



## **Love God and love your neighbor**

- On His last night with them, Jesus told His disciples that the world would know they were His followers if they loved one another (John 13:35).
- Because God is love, and Jesus is God, those who truly know Jesus will love. Love is the defining characteristic of being a Christian. Unconditional, self-sacrificing love.



## **Matthew 22:41-46**

**Jesus is not just a prophet; He is God Himself**

**MATTHEW**  
The Upside down Kingdom



## **Jesus is not just a prophet; He is God Himself**

- Jesus asked them a question – If Messiah is the son of David, how can David call Him Lord?
- Though the Jews tended to think of Messiah primarily as the Son of David, “Lord” was a much more appropriate title.
- He was the son of David; He descended from David’s line.



## **Jesus is not just a prophet; He is God Himself**

- In this final challenge in the book of Matthew, Jesus' authority and wisdom were absolute.
- No one could answer Him. Not even a word.
- From that day on, no skeptic ever dared to ask Him any more questions again.



## **Jesus is not just a prophet; He is God Himself**

- This shows Jesus as the conquering hero kind of Messiah they had been looking for.
- Not in a military way but a theological one.
- In His knowledge of the law and understanding of God, He had vanquished all His foes.



## **Jesus is not just a prophet; He is God Himself**

- Instead of winning a war, He vanquished His foes through sacrificing His own life.
- This chapter ends on a high note.
- Jesus is the Messiah, son of David, the Promised One. He is Lord of all, God Himself.
- No one could challenge Him.

The Latest  
Archaeological  
Discoveries



05:44  
↻ </>

# New Dead Sea Scrolls Unearthed During Excavation In Israel's Cave Of Horror

March 23, 2021

By Callum Borchers and Jeannette Jones



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# Cave of Horror?

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# Dead Sea Scroll Fragments

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- The scrolls are only fragments.
- One fragment is from chapter one of the Book of Nahum, and another from the eighth chapter of Zechariah.
- The scrolls are in Greek, not the typical language found in biblical books in the Judean deserts.
- The most famous Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible is the Septuagint but these aren't the Septuagint but a reworking of it.

ARCHAEOLOGY

# Biblical Archaeology's Top 10 Discoveries of 2019



A glimpse at the important excavation work revealed this year.

**GORDON GOVIER** | DECEMBER 27, 2019 06:00 AM



Image: Menahem Kahana / Staff / Getty

Workers of the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Nature and Parks Authority work at the "stepped street" in an underground tunnel, outside the southern part of Jerusalem's Old City, on May 25, 2017. This road is now partially opened for public visitation.

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# Ninevah

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## ISIS ACCIDENTALLY CORROBORATES THE BIBLE

March 19, 2018 — 2 Comments



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# Ninevah - Mosul

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- When the ISIS terrorists destroyed numerous biblical archaeological sites in Iraq, they unearthed evidence that supports the Old Testament accounts.
- They demolished the tomb of Jonah and dug tunnels looking for treasure and artifacts they could sell.
- When archaeologists returned, the digging revealed an untouched Assyrian palace in the city of Nineveh.

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# Ninevah - Mosul

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- According to an article in Iraq magazine, they found inscriptions that match the biblical order:
  - Sargon II (Isaiah 20:1)
  - Sennacherib (2 Kings 18-19, 2 Chronicles, Isaiah 36-37)
  - Esarhaddon (2 Kings 19:37, Isaiah 37:38)
  - Ashurbanipal (Ezra 4:10)

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# Isaiah the Prophet?

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Isaiah bulla, a 2,700-year-old clay seal impression which may have belonged to the biblical prophet Isaiah. (Ouria Tadmor/© Eilat Mazar)

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# Isaiah the Prophet?

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- This seal impression appears to say “Isaiah the prophet” but a letter is missing at the end.
- The seal is from a small piece of clay from that time period.
- It was found at the Temple Mount near another seal that says “of King Hezekiah of Judah.” King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah are mentioned together 17 times.

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# Pontius Pilate

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## *Pontius Pilate's Name Is Found on 2,000-Year-Old Ring*



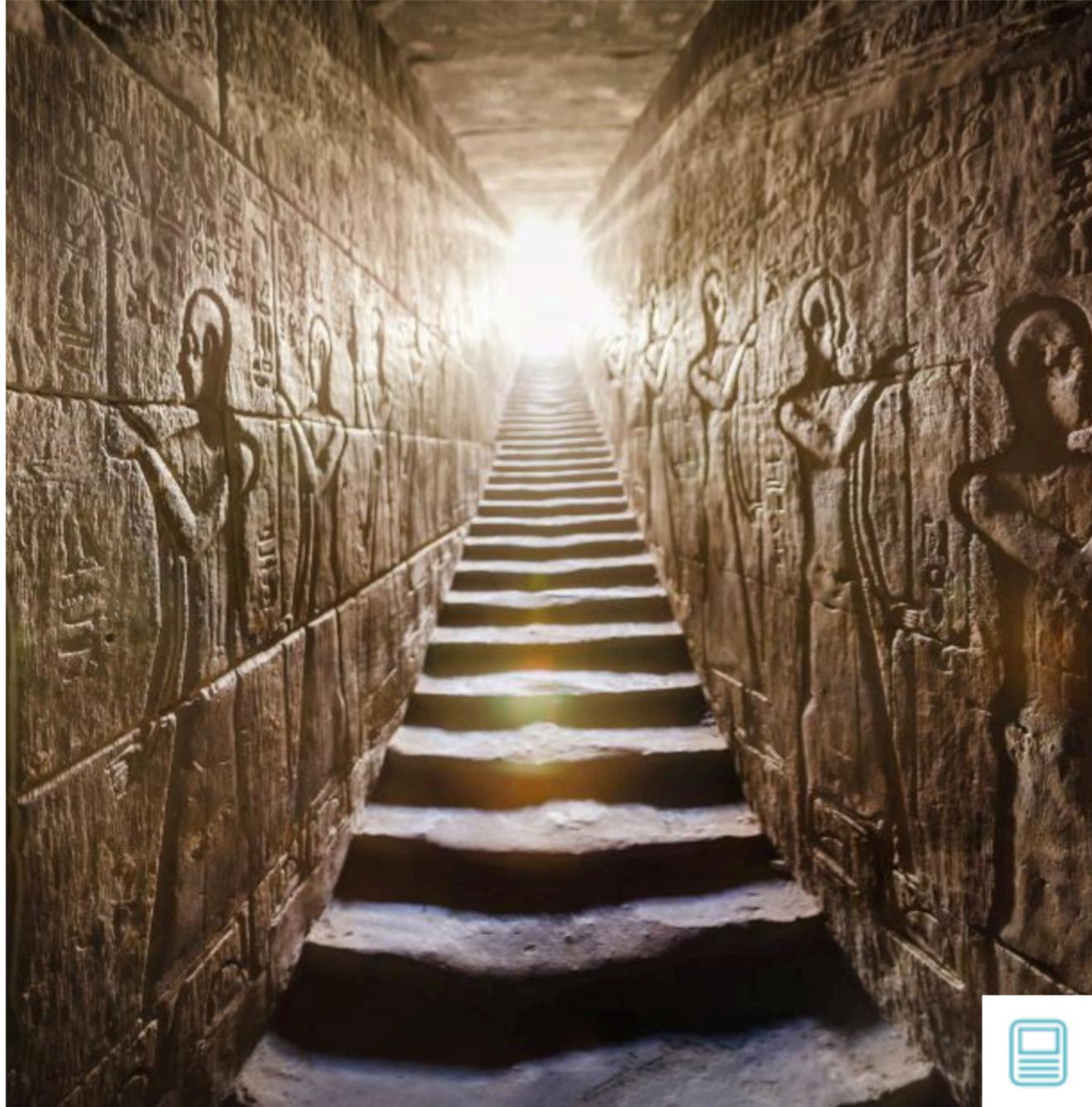
The ring bearing the name of Pontius Pilate was discovered in the late 1960s, one of thousands of artifacts found in the excavation of Herodium, an ancient fortress and palace south of Bethlehem, in the West Bank. Bernat Armangue/Associated Press

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# Pontius Pilate

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- The name “Pontius Pilate” has turned up before in the archaeological record.
- The first time his name and title were found engraved in a stone discovered at Caesarea Maritima.
- This ring was found at Herodium, a desert palace outside of Bethlehem.
- The ring was not fancy enough to have been worn by Pilate, so it was used for official communications.



ARTICLES

# The Stones Cry Out: The Top Biblical Archaeology Finds of the Year

01/2/20



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# Loaves and Fishes Mosaic

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- A mosaic depicting a basket of bread flanked by two fish was found behind the untrimmed stone in the Byzantine church.
- The mosaic was added in the 6th century.

## Mosaic near Sea of Galilee may mark new site for Jesus loaves and fishes miracle

Colorful 6th-century Byzantine design indicates miracle took place on the opposite side of sea from traditionally assigned spot, archaeologist proposes; mosaic expert disagrees

By [AMANDA BORSCHEL-DAN](#) | 4 September 2019, 11:00 pm | 3



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# Emmaus

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- The Gospel of Luke tells the story of Jesus after his resurrection
- Jesus appears before two followers on the road to Emmaus, which is 60 stadia (10 to 12 kilometers) from Jerusalem.
- Israel Finkelstein, professor emeritus at the Institute of Archaeology at Tel Aviv University says this site is the proper distance from the Old City of Jerusalem.
- Also, fortifications discovered at the site match what is known from written records of Emmaus.



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# Lost Street of Pontius Pilate

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- An ancient Roman walkway has been precisely dated by coins discovered underneath to between A.D. 31 and A.D. 40
- It brought worshipers from the Pool of Siloam (where Jesus sent a blind man to wash and be healed) to the Temple Mount.
- Researchers say the dating indicates that Pontius Pilate commissioned the walkway, which stretched just over two thousand feet in length and required ten thousand tons of quarried limestone.





## Biblical Archaeology

Kerby Anderson provides an update on recent archaeological finds that corroborate the historicity of the Bible. One of the...

