

Colossians 3:1-4-18

The doctrine and theology have been established in chapters 1-2, including the rejection of the false mystical and legalistic pseudo-spiritual behavior.

True spirituality involves the righteous, moral characteristics that imitate the God that is transforming them into his image. These things fill the believer's thoughts and energies.

Three remaining sections:

3:5-4:1 – responsibilities of believers and the church

1) Command Section - 3:5-4:6:

- a. there are 15 commands
- b. 4 of the 15 tell the Colossians to stop behavior they were engaging in
 - i. 3:5
 - ii. 3:8
 - iii. 3:9
 - iv. 3:21
- c. 11 of the 15 urge the cultivation of attitudes and fruits of the spiritual life
- d. Groups of commands:
 - i. Encourage spiritual growth: “put to death”, “must rid yourselves”, “do not lie”, “clothe yourselves”, “bear with each other and forgive”, “put on love.”
 - ii. Directed to the church (3:15-17) – “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” And “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.”
 - iii. Directed to the family (3:18-4:1) – similar to Ephesians 5:22-6:1 focus on God's established order and purpose in the home.
 - iv. Directed at the ministry of the Gospel (4:2-6)

4:2-9 – the Colossians' witness to their pagan friends, friends and neighbors.

4:10-18 – variety of greetings to people Paul knew or was familiar with.

Israel Antiquities Authority Returns “Jesus Brother” Bone Box to Owner

by Hershel Shanks • 11/11/2013 - The 'James Ossuary' was returned to Oded Golan 11/10/2013.

A modest limestone casket could be the first object ever found from the family of Jesus Christ.” So begins [an article in the New York Daily News on Sunday, November 10](#), reporting on the return to its owner of a bone box, or ossuary, inscribed “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus,” marking the culmination of a ten-year unsuccessful effort by the Israel Antiquities Authority to prove the inscription is a forgery.* “Some experts still maintain the box is a fake. Other experts and [owner Oded] Golan are convinced it is the real thing.” This part of the article is only half right:



No experts maintain the box is a fake. All acknowledge the box, or ossuary, is genuine and from the period when Jesus lived. The inscription is what is at issue—and, even

then, only the last part of it: “brother of Jesus.” The government's criminal complaint itself recognizes that the first part of the inscription is authentic and charges only that “brother of Jesus” has been recently forged. So what do the experts say? Two world-class experts on inscriptions from this period, André Lemaire of the Sorbonne and Ada Yardeni of Hebrew University, among others, believe the inscription is authentic and not a modern forgery. Their expertise is called paleography. So where is the qualified paleographer who says the inscription is a forgery? I know of none, not before the criminal case and certainly not after the evidence adduced in the lengthy criminal trial in which Golan was acquitted of all forgery charges. What about a scientific look at the inscription? One of the government's own experts found original ancient patina on the inscription—on the word “Jesus,” the very word that the government alleged was forged. After the evidence adduced at trial, where is the scientific expert who claims the inscription, as the *Daily News* article says, is fake? If he or she is out there, I wish she/he would identify herself or himself and give us his or her reasons. There is something else: Oded Golan has owned the ossuary for nearly 25 years. He bought it from an Arab antiquities dealer for a few hundred dollars. He had no idea of its significance; as he says, “I never knew that Jesus had a brother.” The Antiquities Authority agrees that Golan has owned the artifact since sometime prior to 1978. An Israeli law provides that all antiquities discovered after 1978 belongs to the state. If the Antiquities Authority had any indication that Golan had acquired the ossuary after that date, it would never have returned it to him—at least not without a fight, as it is presently fighting to keep the so-called Yehoash Inscription. The Yehoash Inscription was also in Golan's possession and the prosecution claimed it too was a forgery. That Golan, as the government now agrees, owned the ossuary for a quarter of a century without appreciating the text of the inscription also speaks to its authenticity. Although Golan now has possession and ownership of the ossuary, he has no intention of selling it, he told BAS. He wants it to be exhibited so that the public can see what all the fuss is about.



Burial bench called arcosolium and burial vaults called kokhim



Marilyn inside a tomb on the side of the Mount of Olives. Notice the Burial bench called arcosolium and burial vaults called kokhim



Burial bench called arcosolium and burial vaults called kokhim in side tomb on the side of the Mount of Olives

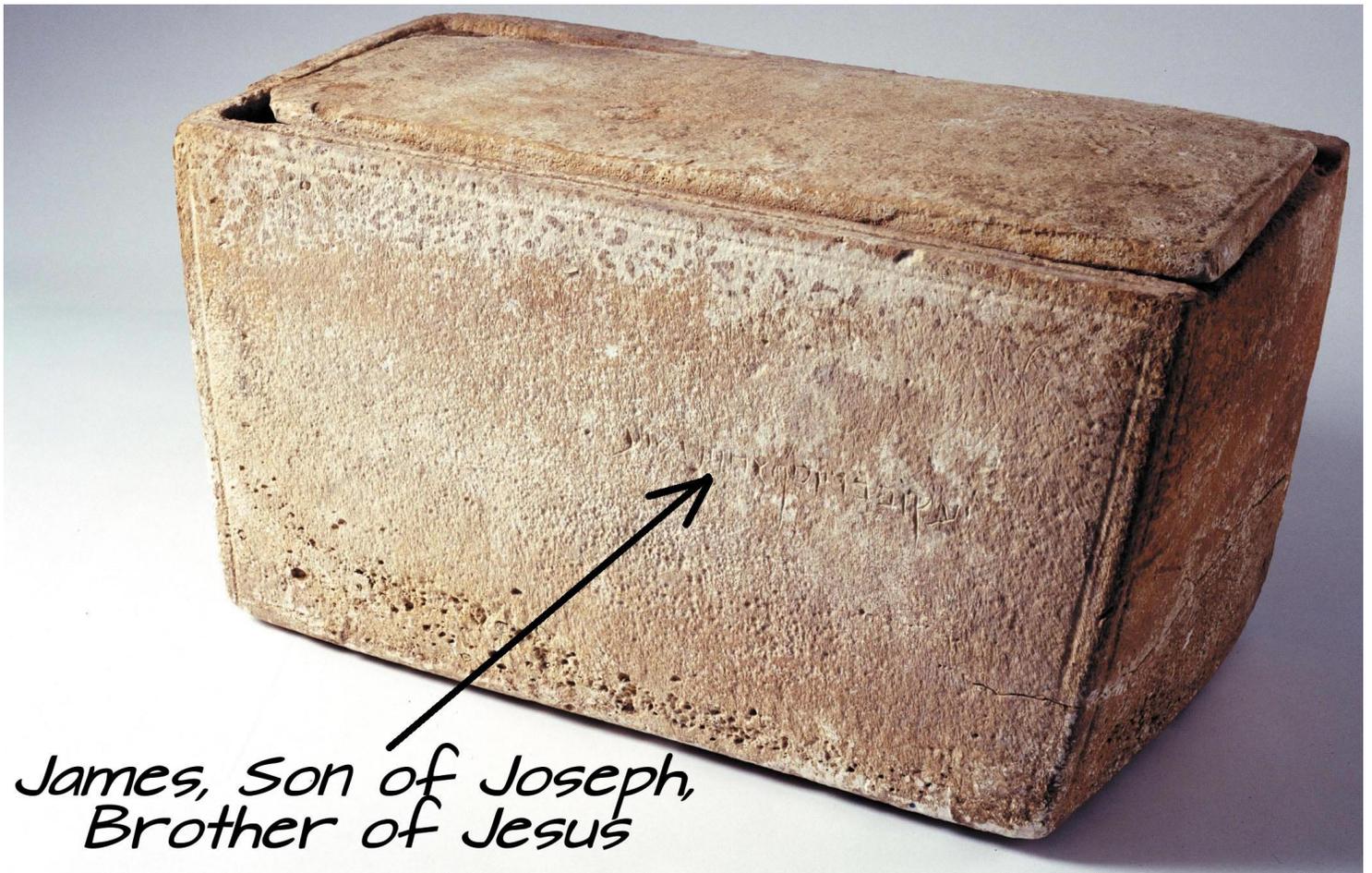




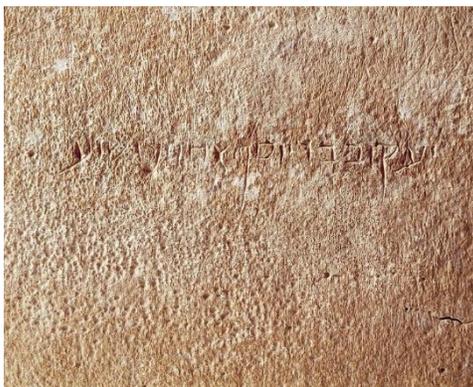
Photo of the burial bench inside the tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher



Photo of the burial bench inside the tomb of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher

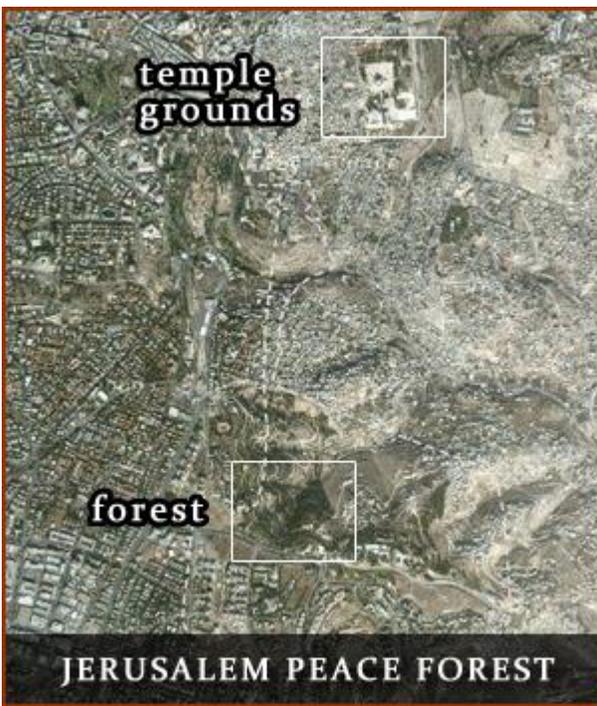


*James, Son of Joseph,
Brother of Jesus*



The James Ossuary





Location of the forest where Caiaphas' family tomb was found



Caiaphas' Bone Box or Ossuary



Ossuary Boxes on the Mount of Olives



An Ossuary Box on the Mount of Olives

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