



400 ש"ח לזמן מוגבל - דמי הרשמה חיינם! **קורס קואצ'ינג משנה חיים!** לשכת המאמנים בישראל מכללת יחזמות \*בחסות ביה"ס לעו"ס אוניברסיטת בר אילן\*

» לחץ לפרטים «

ללמוד מקצוע בחסות אקדמית!

Like 19m Follow 138K followers + Follow 241k

Search by keyword find

ENVIRONMENT

# Archaeologists May Have Uncovered the Site of Jesus's Trial

January 6, 2015 | by Janet Fang



photo credit: Tower of David by Ella Hanochi/Shutterstock.com

78.3K 232

When archaeologists were excavating under an abandoned building next to the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem's Old City, they eventually hit what could very well be the palace where the trial of Jesus took place before his crucifixion, [Washington Post reports](#). Now, many years later, the discovery is finally being made available to the public.

The route of Via Dolorosa—the path through where Jesus was sentenced, crucified, then buried—has changed over time, and experts have long debated over the location of the trial where Pontius Pilate sentenced Jesus to death. Other possibilities include the general's tent at camp or in military barracks. However, many agree that it was the palace of Herod the Great, King of Judea under the Roman Empire during the first century B.C. "There is, of course, no inscription stating it happened here, but everything—archaeological, historical and gospel accounts—all falls into place and makes sense," [says Shimon Gibson from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte](#). Pontius Pilate was likely a guest in the palace, and according to descriptions in the New Testament, the trial took place near a gate and on a bumpy stone pavement, details that fit with the archaeological findings.

A team led by the [Institute of Archaeology's Amit Re'em](#) began digging under the old building 15 years ago—peeling away layer by layer—as part of the museum's expansion plan. The site had been used as a prison under the rule of the Ottoman Turks in the 1800s, followed by the British. Among the remains, [Washington Post reports](#), are symbols etched into jail walls by prisoners from the Jewish resistance in the 1940s, basins used to dye fabrics during the time of the Crusades, and also an ancient underground sewage system.

The museum is now offering two-hour [guided tours](#) through Herod's palace.

[\[Washington Post\]](#)

Read this next: [Grand Canyon Gray Wolf May Have Been Shot Dead](#)

Choose your poison

- Editor's Blog
- Environment
- Technology
- Space
- Health and Medicine
- The Brain
- Plants and Animals
- Physics
- Chemistry

**Teach your kids how to stop bullying and be more than a bystander.**

**Learn How**

Ad Council WAIT INSTITUTE FREE TO BE... YOU AND ME FREE TO BE FOUNDATION INC.

More Stories

Sponsored Links by Taboola



**Have archaeologists discovered wher...**  
Daily Mail



**The Problem With Treating Pain in America**  
Time

From The Web

Sponsored Links by Taboola

### The GREY planet: True colour image reveals what Earth really looks like from space without any filters or editing

Daily Mail

### The Problem With Treating Pain in America

Time

### All That Binge-Watching Is Making You Understand Less About Nutrition

HuffingtonPost

### How Scalia Could Kill Obamacare

Bloomberg

### Elon Musk plans Seattle office for Mars colonization

USAToday

### Chris Christie's not resigning to run for president—yet

Mashable

### How To Get ANY Woman: So Simple, Yet Shocking!

The Tao of Badass

### Celebrity Selfies You Won't Believe They Posted

Sensational Insanity

### Celebrities Who Do Not Look Their Age (20 Photos)

TopChartGossip.com

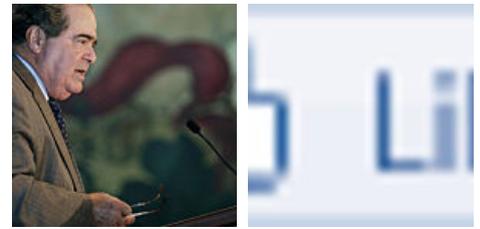
#### More From The Web

- Solo has domestic violence charges dropped (ESPN)
- Have archaeologists discovered where Jesus was sent... (Daily Mail)
- The Problem With Treating Pain in America (Time)
- All That Binge-Watching Is Making You Underst... (HuffingtonPost)

#### More From IFL Science

- Can Astronomy Explain The Biblical Star of Bethlehem?
- Is Your Religion Ready To Meet ET?
- Massive Sea Creature Attacks, Kills And Eats A 3 Meter Long ...
- Why Are Women Stripy?

Promoted Links by Taboola



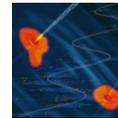
### How Scalia Could Kill Obamacare

Bloomberg

### Elon Musk plans Seattle office for Mars colonization

USAToday

## POPULAR POSTS



### Two Supermassive Black Holes Set To Collide

space



### Hubble Captures Breathtaking New View Of Iconic Pillars Of Creation

space



### Study Confirms Earthquakes In Ohio Were Triggered By Fracking

environment



### Mysterious Legendary Metal Found In Ancient Shipwreck

chemistry



IFLScience

## WEEK IN SCIENCE

Newsletter

Your email address

Sign up

Get Weekly Science Coverage!

tags archaeology, palace, Jesus, Jerusalem, crucifixion, New Testament

**vinny** · 8 days ago

Let us clear one thing up. God is a myth! there is no proof that God exists, at all. Jesus on the other hand was a real person, if not based off of a real person who was crucified after disagreeing with the jewish leaders. Many modern day philosophers, as well, agree to Jesus's existence, however debate is seen if he was actually God, or just a Philosopher. Jesus was a real human person who got crucified and he taught people a certain ethics, Jesus of Nazareth is not a myth, God is. Jesus is not God, Jesus is human. This article is not about religion, it is about a very defining portion of human history about sending to death possibly the most loved philosopher through world history. Eric Leblanc has a more detailed argument to Jesus's existence. Again Jesus is a real person, God is a myth; Jesus does not equal God.

44 ^ | ▾ · Share ›

**Eric Leblanc** · 8 days ago

To all of those babbling about Jesus' existence: it is widely acknowledged by modern historians that Jesus existed and was crucified under Roman rule. That is not a statement on religion, that is a statement on history.

Read any textbook on ancient Rome and you will surely find a description of our evidence for his existence. It's not very hard to conceive either: his following after crucifixion overcame the "problem" the Jews were causing at the time. (If you're wondering what the "problem" was: monotheism.) So, naturally, high ranking officials wrote about the consequences.

For those of you unwilling to make the slightest effort of research, here is a comment I wrote in a comment yesterday:

"Tacitus, a Roman senator is the best example. In his "Annals" (early second century), he describes the existence of the execution of Jesus (specifically referring to him as Christus) and the following apparition of the "Christians". The Wikipedia article on the topic, "Tacitus on Christ", provides a much better summary than I can provide. It's worth noting that most scholars nowadays see this as probably the best written confirmation of his existence.

Pliny the Younger was a Roman governor around the same time. He wrote to the Emperor (Trajan, if you care to know) requesting help on how to treat people who described themselves as Christians. I actually studied these letters when I took my Classics course in postsecondary. Suetonius (same time) also remarked on the distinction between Jews and Christians. Turns out most officials didn't really treat you any differently than Jews for quite a while; it didn't matter to them anyway, since the real crime was monotheism."

29 ^ | ▾ · Share ›

**Bean Town** → Eric Leblanc · 8 days ago

i guess you're too lazy to read through the comments, repeating same thing over and over doesn't make it any more real, or historically accurate

15 ^ | ▾ · Share ›

**Eric Leblanc** → Bean Town · 8 days ago

Huh? Did you read anything of what I wrote? Because you didn't address any of it.

5 ^ | ▾ · Share ›

**Bean Town** → Eric Leblanc · 8 days ago

perhaps you didn't understand this part - "i guess you're too lazy to read through the comments"

let me translate - just read the comments below

4 ^ | ▾ · Share ›

**Eric Leblanc** → Bean Town · 8 days ago

Teach your kids how to  
stop bullying and  
be more than a bystander.

Learn How



## Connect with Us



FACEBOOK



TWITTER



GOOGLE+

 [Eric Leblanc](#) → [Bean Town](#) · 8 days ago  
There are 1167 comments at the time of my writing. Be more specific.  
7 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Bean Town](#) → [Eric Leblanc](#) · 8 days ago  
just go 10 or 15 comments deep, and you'll get what you're looking for, enough fun for me, im out  
2 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Eric Leblanc](#) → [Bean Town](#) · 8 days ago  
You can say "read the comments" all you want. You still didn't bother reading anything I said, yet attempt to refute all of it.  
3 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Bean Town](#) → [Eric Leblanc](#) · 8 days ago  
i didn't attempted to refute anything, i just said, stop being lazy, you're repeating points that have already been refuted by others and read some of the comments, and don't put words in my mouth  
5 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Eric Leblanc](#) → [Bean Town](#) · 8 days ago  
Ahh, but you didn't say that. You simply said that "repeating same thing over and over doesn't make it any more real", which I read as "you've said that already", not "everyone other than you has said that already".  
10 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Matija Pavković](#) · 8 days ago  
People see what they want to see. Things have fallen in place so many times before just to be debunked.  
6 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Guest](#) · 8 days ago  
Jesus never existed. IFLS should stick to the science of the real and not speculate about mythologies.  
26 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Tanya Wells](#) · 8 days ago  
LOL it is very depressing to see IFL science post something that has no clear evidence of what they are claiming. Not very scientific you guys come on now.  
28 ^ | v · Share ›

 [War Tortoise](#) · 8 days ago  
I apologize if I offend, but if the events in question took place at a palace that surely would have been known to many to be such by name, why say "near a gate on a bumpy road" and not "on the road outside the palace of Herod the Great", maybe even adding a cardinal direction labeled side? It doesn't take much extra effort....  
8 ^ | v · Share ›

 [P.Brain](#) · 8 days ago  
Yes,I'm sorry,this is suppose to be a science site right?  
15 ^ | v · Share ›

 [War Tortoise](#) → [P.Brain](#) · 8 days ago  
Archaeology is science lol  
12 ^ | v · Share ›

 [Bean Town](#) → [War Tortoise](#) · 8 days ago  
archaeology of mythology is not lol  
10 ^ | v · Share ›



**Eating Broccoli** → Bean Town · 8 days ago

Its still an important archaeological and historical find, whether or not it is related to 'mythology'.  
And please remember that behind every myth and legend there is a grain of truth.

3 ^ | v · Share >



**Bean Town** → Eating Broccoli · 8 days ago

i see where youre coming from, but wouldn't a "grain of truth" simply means that the "jesus" figure was a collection of myths and passed on folklore, and not an actual real person

4 ^ | v · Share >



**Eating Broccoli** → Bean Town · 8 days ago

Possibly. I was thinking more along the lines of real places and known prominent historical figures incorporated into mythology, and how sometimes one smallish event gets blown up into something big, with lots of (false?) backstory and side story added for interest.

1 ^ | v · Share >



**Bean Town** → Eating Broccoli · 8 days ago

agree, but doesn't require for jesus to be a real historic figure, for all we know there was a man named asher and another "messiah" named shmuel and itamar and so on, and jesus was just a collection of those real people wondering around and preaching...

4 ^ | v · Share >



**Eric Leblanc** → Bean Town · 8 days ago

What the hell is archaeology of mythology? This is archaeology, plain and simple.

^ | v · Share >



**Mark Olish** · 8 days ago

There is more empirical evidence for the existence of Bigfoot than Jesus Christ . Stick to science and leave the desert fairytale s where they belong; in the fiction section.

29 ^ | v · Share >



**Eric Leblanc** → Mark Olish · 8 days ago

Umm, there are Roman sources dating back to the early second century talking about Jesus' execution. I'd say that's more than Bigfoot ever had.

6 ^ | v · Share >



**Bean Town** → Eric Leblanc · 8 days ago

hmm, literally thousands of first hand sources describing their encounters with bigfoot (not arguing that any of them sane or not, just making a point) - vs big fat ZERO of firshand witnesses describing their encounters with jesus - would you like to take another shot at this???

12 ^ | v · Share >



**Eric Leblanc** → Bean Town · 8 days ago

See, the thing about Bigfoot is that, while people have made eyewitness testimonies about him, there was never conclusive evidence corroborating his appearance.

(No, eyewitness testimony is not conclusive evidence.)

Jesus had one thing Bigfoot did not: his existence sparked a massive increase in monotheism under the name of Christianity. That's what the Roman scholars wrote about in the early second century. Tacitus even wrote directly about his execution and linked the entire movement with that

his execution and linked the entire movement with that event.

You want to know why there are no recorded first-hand witnesses? Because the regular people back then didn't bother to record history. That's what historians were for. And historians looked at the big picture, not the life of some unimpressive dude in the first century. They did, however, take notice when Christianity got big. And no, it didn't get big in a month. It took decades for people to move from the paganism prevalent at the time to Christianity, because remember: monotheism was banned.

11 ^ | v • Share >



**Bean Town** → Eric Leblanc • 8 days ago

perhaps 30 or 50 years from now people will write a book verifying existing of bigfoot based on second and third hand witnesses and in another 200 years bigfoot will become an immortal god - :)

15 ^ | v • Share >



**Eric Leblanc** → Bean Town • 8 days ago

Again, did you even read what I wrote? Last paragraph dude.

And to add on to that, the burden of proof for such a claim is much higher now because, unlike in Classical Europe, we have records of almost everything that happens today, however banal and useless it may be.

2 ^ | v • Share >



**Bean Town** → Eric Leblanc • 8 days ago

READ BELOW and peace out

2 ^ | v • Share >



**Alvin** → Mark Olish • 8 days ago

if you believe in something . please just keep it to your self, we dont need it and we dont care about it :).

11 ^ | v • Share >



**Bean Town** → Alvin • 8 days ago

i sincerely wish all the religious people felt this way, the world would be so much more pleasant place to live in...

6 ^ | v • Share >



**Mark Olish** → Alvin • 8 days ago

"We" ? Oh, you must mean you and your imaginary friend . I really couldn't care less what delusions you labor under as long as you take your own advice and keep them to yourself.

8 ^ | v • Share >



**JimBaily** → Alvin • 8 days ago

Is that a 2 way street?

12 ^ | v • Share >



**Kevin Cantrell** • 8 days ago

I think it is cool and it shows the IFL is an unbiased science news provider that leaves the "atheist against religion" agenda at the door. There are many of us science minded folks who also follow a faith, and they are not polar opposites. The extreme bias in news reports from both science and religion sickens me, and it is getting difficult to find simple reporting without an agenda these days. Believe what you want, Folks, but don't filter the news because you can't tolerate views other than your own.

71 ^ | v • Share >



**Bean Town** → Kevin Cantrell • 8 days ago



sorry, but this isn't about "atheist against religion", since there's really no solid historic proof of existence of Jesus (at least the one written about in the Bible) what difference does it make if a path or a street or whatever else was found - how is this science blogging worthy?

16 ^ | v • Share ›



**sTv0** → Kevin Cantrell • 8 days ago

What saddens me is the extent to which those who are believers will go to find "evidence" to support their religious beliefs. Yes, there are scientists who have a religious faith; I used to be one of them. However, as a scientist, I must also acknowledge that what was once my religious faith is no more valid than anyone else's religious faith. Once critical thinking takes over, religion gets pushed right into the dustbin of history, where it rightly belongs along with myths and legends.

Jesus of Nazareth? Appolonia of Tyanus?  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?...>

3 ^ | v • Share ›



**dfg** → Kevin Cantrell • 8 days ago

THANK YOU!!! I wish more people thought this way.

4 ^ | v • Share ›



**Brian Hayford** • 8 days ago

It's a story of historical interest. It's archeology, which IS a science. The article doesn't claim definitively that Jesus was the son of God, says nothing about any miracles that did or didn't happen.

Militant atheists- at ease, soldiers. Bashing the report of an important archeological site, that is only very loosely tied to religion, is NOT helping you look like the vanguards of reason.

45 ^ | v • Share ›



**Mark Olish** → Brian Hayford • 8 days ago

Yes, because a bumpy road by a gate is so historically significant. Way too many "maybe s" in this article to be credible. This isn't science, it's conjecture.

13 ^ | v • Share ›



**JDR22** • 8 days ago

Unlike others commenting here, I'm not up-in-arms about IFLS running this story (as it pertains to King Herod and real history), but I am disappointed. I had seen articles on other sites about this, and I came here to get a scientific perspective. Unfortunately, this article is basically a "reader's digest" version of those other articles.

Where is the perspective? What is IFLS bringing to the table with this article that I couldn't already get from The Huffington Post? Why is no attempt made to put all of this in context with the actual evidence (or lack thereof), and to point out that many assumptions are being made by sites running this story? I understand that you want to run an article when it's timely, and get people to click through to your site, but many of us come here for an evidence-based, scientific perspective on these topics, and this article really dropped the ball.

Perhaps a more in-depth follow up is in the works once IFLS has had a chance to talk to qualified scientists and scholars on the matter? I certainly hope so.

20 ^ | v • Share ›



**CoffeeH** → JDR22 • 8 days ago

I am a Christian, but I also question why this article is making the rounds in many odd places today. It's crossed my mind to ask "what is the agenda?" and I doubt it pertains to helping spread Christianity.

But, even with that, I think many here in the comments believe there was no historical Jesus figure and that he wasn't crucified. Many secular historians DO agree with that part. The article IS NOT claiming Jesus is

Christ or was divine. It's merely mentioning Jesus as probably the most well-known historical figure to POSSIBLY appear in this place.

To assume that's NOT valid simply shows a bias.

4 ^ | v • Share ›



**Phred** → CoffeeH • 8 days ago

Name one secular historian who offers proof of the existence of Jesus and his crucifixion. Not just his opinion but his opinion based upon evidence we can all review.

You see, that's the problem, constantly Jesus is referred to as if he was a real person. Yet, there's no evidence to suggest this is true. THAT'S the bias.

17 ^ | v • Share ›



**Tracey** → Phred • 8 days ago

"There is very little documentation for any person from the time of Christ. Most ancient historical documents have been destroyed through the centuries, by wars, fires, and pillaging, or simply through weathering and deterioration. According to E. M. Blaiklock, who has catalogued most of the non-Christian writings of the Roman Empire, "practically nothing exists from the time of Christ", even for great secular leaders such as Julius Caesar. Yet no historian questions Caesar's existence. And since he wasn't a great political or military leader, Darrell Bock notes, "It is amazing and significant that Jesus shows up at all in the sources we have."

Pagan Sources: Several early pagan writers briefly mention Jesus or Christians prior to the end of the second century. These include Thallus, Phlegon, Mara Bar-Serapion and Lucian of Samosate. Thallus' remarks about Jesus were written in a.d. 52, about twenty years after Christ. In total,

[see more](#)

10 ^ | v • Share ›



**JDR22** → Tracey • 8 days ago

Quite the Gish Gallop.

You've really just listed a bunch of opinions, which in and of itself does not constitute facts, let alone suffice as evidence. You're quote mining "important" people who you feel support your view, and have ignored everything else. How did they even arrive at their conclusions? We have no idea, as you have provided no references that we can all review.

As for your secular scholars, here's some food for thought (assuming you're willing to hear more than one side of an argument):

<http://infidels.org/library/mo...>

<http://www.theskepticalreview....>

^ | v • Share ›



**Jack** → Tracey • 8 days ago

Can you post the link to the info from the first 3 paragraphs? That's a pretty interesting argument I'd like to see

^ | v • Share ›



**Guest** → Jack • 8 days ago

Of course...<http://y-jesus.com/pdf-list/>. Open the first PDF. "The..."

"was Jesus a real person". Excellent read.

^ | v • Share >



**JDR22** → Guest • 8 days ago

That explains a lot. I would recommend researching the topic beyond evangelical sites that quote only the scholars who support the opinion they want to present.

3 ^ | v • Share >



**Eric Leblanc** → JDR22 • 8 days ago

Read the content, not who said it. Otherwise you're being very superficial, not to mention lazy.

And considering that modern historians widely accept these sources as evidence of his existence (although I would shy away from the claim that the New Testament is a source), you're the one seemingly looking at stuff you want to hear as well.

2 ^ | v • Share >



**JDR22** → Eric Leblanc • 8 days ago

The keyword was BEYOND. I'm not saying to ignore everything on the site because they have an obvious religious bias, I'm saying that you need to take into account the vast amount of information that supports the view that Christ may not have existed at all. Citing only the scholars that agree that Jesus existed (while ignoring the rest) and then proclaiming, "Well then, Jesus must have existed" is intellectually dishonest.

"Modern historians widely accept..." is a cop-out. I can name many modern historians who can point out the flawed methods and logic that many scholars and historians use and have used, but this is a very nuanced subject without much in the way of empirical evidence.

We all have our biases, and I'm no different. I just happen to be biased towards logic and reason. I do not claim that Jesus did not exist, only that the issue is not by any means settled. It really doesn't matter to a non-believer if Christ really walked the earth. It lends no further credibility to him being divine. Christians, however, NEED it to be true, so they will do everything in their power to convince themselves and others that that's the case.

If you want to have the discussion, fine, but do it with integrity.

7 ^ | v • Share >



**Eric Leblanc** → JDR22 • 8 days ago

"I can name many modern historians who can point out the flawed methods and logic that many scholars and historians use"

Like what? Reading? You either take what an ancient scholar says at face value or you don't. Whether or not you do so depends on the accuracy of the stuff the guy has written before. Is this author reliable? Is what this author says conceivable? That's what historians do. It's not a cop-out to state the general opinion of modern scholars, just as it isn't a cop-out to say that "Scientists widely accept that climate change is anthropogenic".

The claim that Jesus existed comes directly from the source material those scholars read. That's it. Determine if the sources are trustworthy and move on.

1 ^ | v • Share >

I also never stated that a bandwagon fallacy is a sufficient reason to believe something

see more

2 ^ | v • Share >

Load more comments

ALSO ON IFL SCIENCE

WHAT'S THIS?

### Watch The Earth Open And Close During Japan's 2011 Earthquake

152 comments • 19 hours ago

 **imajez** — "No-one has ever filmed this before" Translation - no-one has ever been dumb enough to stand ...

### Dear parents, you are being lied to.

10882 comments • 9 months ago

 **RagingTiger** — Luckily I live in a country that views not getting a child vaccinated (unless he/she can't ...

 [Subscribe](#)  [Add Disqus to your site](#)  [Privacy](#)

## MORE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLES



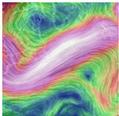
Watch The Earth Open And Close During Japan's 2011 Earthquake

*environment*



It's survival of the most useful when protecting species

*environment*



Jet Stream Propels Commercial Plane Across Atlantic In Record Time

*environment*



'Climate Hacking' Would Be Easy - That Doesn't Mean We Should Do It

*environment*

[Watch Live As SpaceX's Dragon Spacecraft Launches Toward ISS](#)

[Philae Lander Is Missing](#)

## חיתולי בייביסיטר במבצע

מבצע חיתולים מטורף במגה באינטרנט חיתולי בייביסיטר ב 29.9 עד 16.1!

○ ○

get the newsletter

[Sign up](#)

Like { 19m

[Follow](#) { 138K followers

 [Follow](#) { 241k

- [home](#)
- [contact](#)
- [Advertising](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Terms of Use](#)