

ings.

16. Politarch Inscriptions

Biblical References: (Acts 17:6)

- (14) _____ inscriptions have been found that have the term “politarchs” (“city authorities”), and nineteen of them come from Thessalonica. (map)

17. Gallio Inscription

Biblical References: (Acts 18:12)

- Archaeologists found a stone inscription at Delphi, in Greece.
- The inscription mentions a Roman governor (proconsul) named Gallio of the province of Achaia.
- This inscription contains a Roman date, corresponding to 52 AD. The name “Gallio” is highlighted.
- Gallio is the same (15) _____ referred to in Acts 18:12.

18. Erastus Inscription

Biblical References: (Romans 16:23)

- Writing from Corinth, the Apostle Paul passed along greetings from several Corinthian believers, including (16) _____, the city treasurer or chamberlain (Romans 16:23).
- In 1929 archaeologists found a paving stone near the theater of Corinth in Greece. (map)

19. John Rylands Papyrus

Biblical References: (John 18:31-33, 37-38)

- The papyrus codex was likely copied within a (17) _____ of the original book of John itself.

20. Greco-Roman References to Jesus

Biblical References: (extra-biblical reference)

About this time arose Jesus, a wise man. For he was a doer of marvelous deeds, and a teacher of men who gladly receive the truth. And when Pilate...had condemned him to the cross, those who had loved him at first did not cease to do so. And even to this day the race of Christians, who are named from him, has not died out. — Flavius Josephus, *Antiquities*

Christus, from whom the name [Christians] had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberias at the hand of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilate, and a deadly superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but also in the City.... — Tacitus, *Annals*

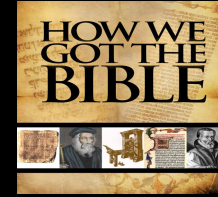


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Answers: 1-animal 2-extra-biblical 3-outside 4-ivory 5-Uzziah 6-Hoshea 7-Hezekiah 8-earliest 9-God's 10-Scripture 11-hundreds 12-Pontius Pilate 13-trenches 14-Thirty-two 15-governor 16-Erastus 17-generation

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Pastors Jerry and Jeremy Johnston's Sermon
Wednesday, February 17, 2010
“Doubters, Skeptics, & Cynics: Answering the 5 Greatest Objections of the Bible”
Message #5 in the series, “How We Got the Bible”

The Top 20 Photographic Proofs For The Bible

“The Greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge.”
— Stephen Hawking

1. Ancient Flood Story

Biblical References: Genesis 6-9

- Accounts of a massive flood are found in many cultures.
- The Gilgamesh Epic (the saga of an ancient Babylonian king, Gilgamesh) includes an expanded flood story on Tablet 11, similar to the flood story in Genesis 6–9.
- The Gilgamesh Epic includes a hero who is told to build a ship.
- He is instructed to take every kind of (1) _____ along.
- The hero also uses birds to check if the water had receded. (*Gen.8:7-12*)
- The popularity of the flood theme argues for its historicity and supports the flood of Noah's time.

2. Beni Hasan Tomb Painting

Biblical References: Gen.12:10-20, 14

- Dating to around 1900 BC, this tomb painting, with words and pictures on it, shows how Old Testament people from the time of Abraham and Sarah looked, how they dressed, their hair styles, and even a musical instrument of the day (lyre).

3. Hittite Capital, Boghazkoy

Biblical References: [Genesis 10:15;23:10,17-20, 23, 26:34, 36:2](#); [Exodus 3:8](#); [Numbers 13:29](#); [Deuteronomy 7:1](#); [Joshua 1:4, 9:1, 24:11](#); [Judges 1:26](#); [1 Samuel 26:6](#); [2 Samuel 11:3;23:39](#) [1 Kings 9:20-21, 10:29, 11:1](#); [2 Kings 7:6](#); [2 Chronicles 1:17](#), 8:7-8; [Ezra 9:1](#)

- Although Hittites are mentioned often in the Old Testament, almost nothing was known about them until modern times.
- One hundred years ago, critics thought the Hittites were an imaginary people made up by the biblical authors.
- Finding the Hittite's empire forced that claim to be withdrawn and supported the biblical record.

4. Merneptah Stele (or Israel Stele)

Biblical References: (extra-biblical reference)

- The hieroglyphic text of the stele made in Egypt describes the victories of Pharaoh Merneptah around 1230 BC over the Libyans and people of Pales-

tine.

- The Merneptah Stele stands more than seven feet high.
- It contains the earliest (2) _____ mention of the name “Israel” thus far known.

5. House of David

Biblical References: (extra-biblical reference)

- An archaeologist working at the Old Testament site of the city of Dan in 1993 and 1994 found three pieces of an inscribed stone referring to David.
- This stone inscribed in Aramaic with the expression “the house of David” refers to King David’s descendants.
- This inscription is a very important find because it is the first reference to King David found (3) _____ of the Bible.

6. Ivory Ornaments and Objects

Biblical References: (1 Kings 10:18; 2 Chron.9:17)

- Decorative (4) _____ has been found in several sites in Palestine, including Megiddo and Samaria.

7. Royal Court Seals

Biblical References: (1 and II Kings)

- Dating from about 900 to 600 BC, these stones were used to press images into pieces of clay that sealed up kings’ important documents.
- Seals were found for:
 - (5) _____ (around 760 BC)
 - (6) _____ (around 730 BC)
 - (7) _____ (around 700 BC)

8. The Moabite Stone

Biblical References: (Gen.19:37, 2 Kings 3)

- The Moabite stone is one of the (8) _____ finds that mentions biblical people.
- In 1868, a German missionary found a stone slab over three feet tall near Dibon, east of the Dead Sea.
- Inscribed on the stone were the accomplishments of Mesha, king of Moab around 850 BC.

9. Silver Amulets

Biblical References: (Numbers 6:24-26, II Chron.36)

- In 1979, while excavating 6th-century BC tombs in Jerusalem, excavators found two small amulets (under two inches long) that looked like necklaces made of silver sheets rolled up like miniature scrolls.
- This is the first time (9) _____ divine name has been found on an artifact from Jerusalem.
- Dating to about 600 BC, these amulets contain the oldest examples of a (10) _____ passage yet found.

10. The Cyrus Cylinder

Biblical References: (2 Chron. 36:23; Ezra 1; Is. 44:28)

- A 9-inch long clay cylinder was found at ancient Babylon and dates to 539 BC.
- It tells of King Cyrus of Persia’s (Iran area today) conquest of Babylon.
- It also tells of King Cyrus’s decree to let captives held by Babylon return to their lands and restore their temples.

11. The Dead Sea Scrolls

Biblical References: (Old Testament, excluding Esther)

- The Dead Sea Scrolls are actually (11) _____ of scrolls and scraps that date between 300 BC and AD 70.
- The first collection of scrolls was discovered in 1947 in caves in the Qumran area near the Dead Sea, about seven miles south of Jericho.
- These copies of Old Testament books are over 1000 years older than most of the manuscripts scholars previously had available for study and translation.
- This is one of the most important finds in history because it shows that the Old Testament was copied very accurately over the centuries.

12. Capernaum Church

Biblical References: (Matthew 8:14, Mark 1:29, Luke 4:38)

- While excavating an early church building at Capernaum in 1968, archaeologists found that the building had been placed over a house from the time of Jesus.
- Words were found scratched on the walls of the house indicating that the early Christians believed the house had been that of the apostle Simon Peter.

13. Pontius Pilate Inscription

Biblical References: (Luke 3:1)

- In 1961 archaeologists working at the ruins of Caesarea Maritima, in Israel, found a stone slab bearing the name of (12) _____, who was involved in the trial of Jesus.
- This is the oldest appearance of Pilate’s name to be found, and it dates to the time of Jesus.

14. Rolling Stone Tombs

Biblical References: (extra-biblical reference)

- At several places in modern Israel there are examples of the type of tomb in which Jesus’ body was placed after the Crucifixion.
- Mostly cut into the sides of hills, each used a large circular stone to cover the entrance.

15. Holy of Holies

Biblical References: (Mark 15:38, Luke 23:45, Hebrews 6:19, 9:3-11, 10:20)

- The Temple was completely destroyed by the Romans in AD 70.
- Many scholars conclude that the exact location of the Temple can no longer be found. However, in the bedrock beneath the Dome of the Rock, (13) _____ were discovered, cut into the rock.
- The trenches conform precisely to the dimensions of the walls of the Holy of Holies (the most sacred portion), as described in ancient Jewish writ-