

A box of bones

3.6



In Jesus' time, when people died, their bones were put in stone boxes.

This box was found close to Jerusalem.

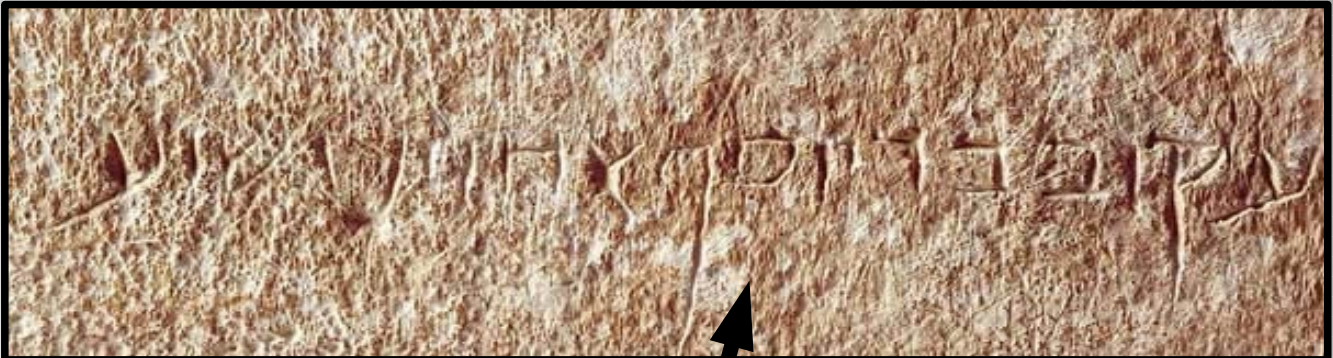
The name on the box is:

“James, the brother of Jesus”

In the Bible, Jesus' brother James became the first leader of the Christian church.

A box of bones

3.6



The original inscription

Enhanced



How the words work:

'Son of Joseph, Brother of Jesus'

A stone box found in or near Jerusalem bears the inscription "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." It is written in the ancient language Aramaic.

READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT ←

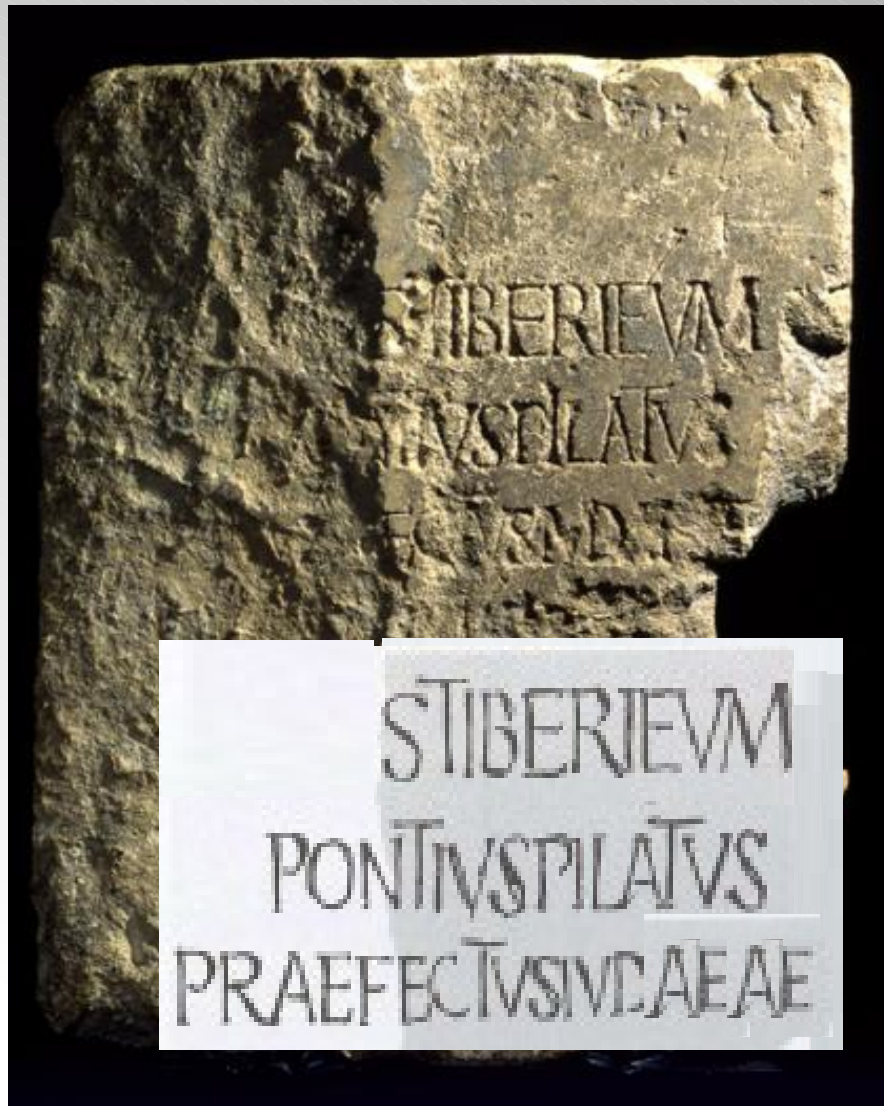
JESUS (YESHUA) BROTHER OF JOSEPH (YOSEF) SON OF JAMES (YA'AKOV)



Source: Biblical Archaeology Review

An old building block

3.6



The Latin text probably said:

*Tiberius Caesar,
Pontius Pilate
Prefect of Judea
dedicates...*

A stone from an ancient building was found in one of the towns close to Jerusalem with both the Roman Emperor Tiberius' name and Pontius Pilate's name.

Pontius Pilate, the Roman Prefect of Judea, who the Bible tells us condemned Jesus to death, was clearly a real person.



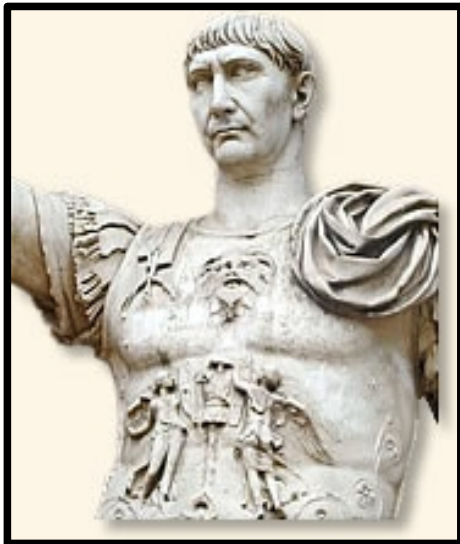
3.3

The ancient Jewish historian Josephus wrote about Jesus.

About this time there lived Jesus, a wise man, if indeed one ought to call him a man. For he was one who performed surprising deeds and was a teacher of such people as accept the truth gladly. He won over many Jews and many of the Greeks. He was the Messiah. And when, upon the accusation of the principal men among us, Pilate had condemned him to a cross, those who had first come to love him did not cease. He appeared to them spending a third day restored to life, for the prophets of God had foretold these things and a thousand other marvels about him. And the tribe of the Christians, so called after him, has still to this day not disappeared.

- *Jewish Antiquities*, 18.3.3 §63

(Based on the translation of Louis H. Feldman, The Loeb Classical Library.)

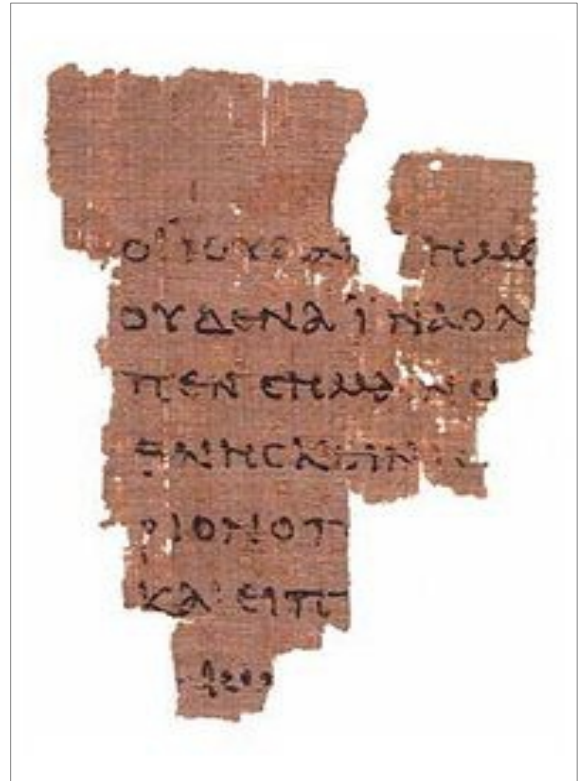
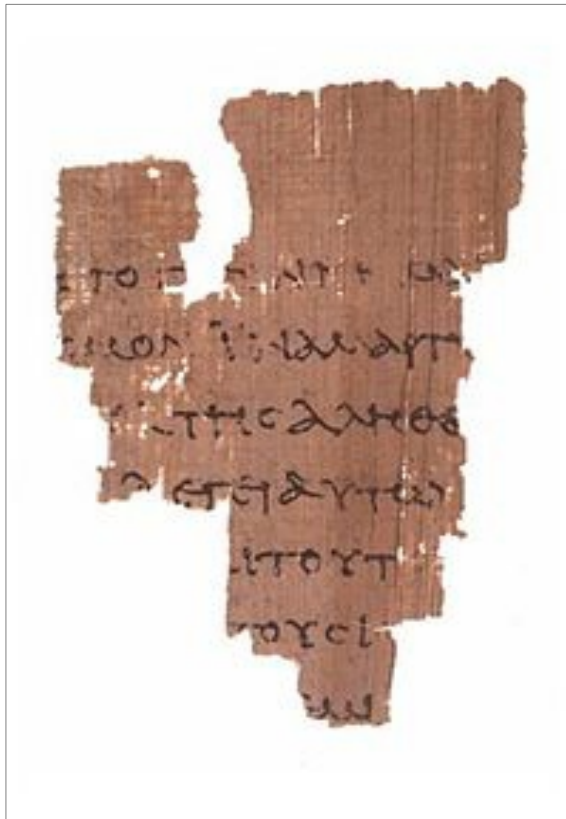


3.3

The ancient Roman politician Pliny the Younger wrote about the early Christians.

Pliny the Younger was governor of Pontus and Bithynia from 111-113 AD. We have a whole set of exchanges of his letters with the emperor Trajan on a variety of administrative political matters. Here he encounters Christians for the first time:

“they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath”



This is the Greek text from John's Gospel – can you make out some of the letters?



ΟΥΝ ΑΥΤΩ ΟΙ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΟΙ ἩΜΙΝ ΟΥΚ ἘΞΕΣΤΙΝ
ἈΠΟΚΤΕΙΝΑΙ ΟΥΔΕΝΑ. ἵΝΑ Ὁ ΛΟΓΟΣ ΤΟΥ ἸΗΣΟΥ
ΠΛΗΡΩΘΗ, ὃΝ ΕἶΠΕΝ ΣΗΜΑΙΝΩΝ ΠΟΙΩΙ ΘΑΝΑΤΩ
ἭΜΕΛΛΕΝ ἈΠΟΘΝΗΣΚΕΙΝ. ΕἰΣΗΛΘΕΝ ΟΥΝ
Εἰς τὸ ΠΡΑΙΤΟΡΙΟΝ ΠΑΛΙΝ Ὁ ΠΕΙΛΑΤΟΣ ΚΑΙ ἘΦΩΝΗΣΕΝ
ΤΟΝ ἸΗΣΟΥΝ ΚΑΙ ΕἶΠΕΝ ΑΥΤΩ· ΣΥ Εἶ Ὁ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΥΣ
ΤΩΝ ΙΟΥΔΑΙΩΝ; ἈΠΕΚΡΙΘΗ ἸΗΣΟΥΣ· ἈΦ' ἘΑΥΤΟΥ

3.5

**John Rylands
Fragment of Papyrus
Dated 125 AD**

**Text from John's
Gospel, Chapter 18**

3.5

**John Rylands
Fragment of Papyrus
Dated 125 AD**

**Text from John's
Gospel, Chapter 18**

3.4

**Chester Beatty
Codex**

**It is a full New
Testament dated to
250 AD**

**This is the text from
one of the Apostle
Paul's letters.**

ΕΝ ΣΑΡΓΑΝΗ ΕΧΑΛΑΘΗΝ ΔΙΑ ΤΟΥ ΤΕΙΧΟΥ
 ΚΑΙ ΕΞΕΦΥΓΟΝΤΑΣ ΧΕΙΡΑΣ ΑΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΥΧΑΣ
 ΘΑΙΔΕΙ ΟΥ ΣΥΜΦΕΡΟΝ ΑΝΤΙ ΕΛΘΕΙΝ ΜΑΛΕ
 ΕΙΣ ΟΤΤΑ ΓΙΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΑΝΤΙ ΚΑΙ ΥΨΕΙΣ ΚΥ ΟΙΔΑ
 ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΝ ΕΝ ΧΩ ΠΡΟΕΤΩΝ ΔΕΚΑΤΕΣΑΡΩΝ
 ΘΙΤΕ ΕΝ ΣΩΜΑΤΙ ΟΥΚ ΟΙΔΑ ΕΙΤΕ ΚΤΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩ
 ΜΑΤΟΣ ΟΥΚ ΟΙΔΑ ΟΘΕ ΟΙΔΕΝ ΑΡΤΙ ΜΕΝΤΑΤΟΝ
 ΤΩΙ ΟΥΤΩΙΣ ΕΩΣ ΤΡΙΤΟΥ ΟΥΡΑΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΟΙΔΑΤΟΝ
 ΤΟΙΟΥΤΟΝ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΝ ΕΙΤΕ ΕΝ ΣΩΜΑΤΙ ΕΙΤΕ
 ΧΩΡΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΜΑΤΟΣ ΟΥΚ ΟΙΔΑ ΟΘΕ ΟΙΔΕΝ ΟΤΙ
 ΗΡΗΤΑ Η ΕΙΣ ΤΟΝ ΠΑΡΑΔΕΙΣΟΝ ΚΑΙ Η ΚΟΥΣΕΝ
 ΑΡΡΗΤΑ ΡΗΜΑΤΑ ΔΟΥΚΕΣ ΟΝ ΑΝΘΡΩΠΩ ΛΑ
 ΧΗΣΑΙ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΟΥ ΤΩΙ ΟΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΥΧΗΣΟΜΑΙ ΥΠΕΡ
 ΔΕ ΕΜΑΥΤΟΥ ΟΥΔΕΝ ΚΑΥΧΗΣΟΜΑΙ ΕΝ ΜΗΝΤΑΙΣ
 ΑΣΘΕΝΙΑΙΣ ΕΑΝ ΓΑΡ ΘΕΛΩ ΚΑΥΧΗΣΟΜΑΙ
 ΟΥΚ ΕΣΟΜΑΙ ΑΦΤΩΝ ΑΛΗΘΕΙΑ ΓΑΡ ΕΡΩ
 ΦΕΙΔΟΜΑΙ ΔΕ ΜΗΤΙΣ ΕΜΕ ΛΟΓΙΖΗΤΑΙ ΥΠΕΡ
 ΟΒΛΕΤΕΙ ΜΕ Η ΑΚΟΥΕΙΤΙ ΕΞ ΕΜΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΤΗ
 ΥΠΕΡ ΒΟΛΗΤΩΝ ΑΠΟ ΚΑΛΥΨΕΩΝ ΙΝΑ ΜΗ
 ΥΠΕΡ ΑΙΡΩΜΑΙ ΕΔΟΘΗ ΜΑΙ ΣΚΟΛΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΚΙ
 ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ ΕΣΤΑΙ ΜΑΙ ΙΝΑ ΜΕ ΚΟΛΑΦΙΖΗΤΑΙ
 ΥΠΕΡ ΑΙΡΩΜΑΙ ΥΠΕΡ ΤΩΙ ΤΟΥ ΤΡΙΣΤΟΝ
 ΠΑΡΕΚΑΛΕΣΑΙ ΙΝΑ ΑΠΟ ΤΗΣ ΑΡΚΙ
 ΡΗΚΕΙ ΜΑΙ ΑΡΚΕΙ ΟΙΣ ΤΙΣ ΧΑΙΡΕ
 ΔΕ ΜΑΛΑ