**Have the burial sites of any people in the Bible been found?**

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| http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | http://www.christiananswers.net/0.gif | See this page in: [French (Français)](http://www.christiananswers.net/french/q-abr/abr-a026f.html), [Indonesian (Bahasa Indonesia)](http://www.christiananswers.net/indonesian/q-abr/abr-a026i.html), [Portuguese (Português)](http://www.christiananswers.net/portuguese/q-abr/abr-a026p.html), [Spanish (Español)](http://www.christiananswers.net/spanish/q-abr/abr-a026s.html)  Palm Sunday pilgrims. Photo copyrighted.  Palm Sunday pilgrims inside Holy Sepulchre Church  Throughout Bible lands there are numerous “traditional” [tombs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tombs.html) of various Biblical personages, sometimes several for one individual! In many cases, there is no historical or archaeological evidence to back up the identification. There are various instances where there is strong, if not certain, evidence for locating the [burial](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/burial.html) site of a person, or persons, named in the Bible.  **Jesus Christ**  Holy Sepulchre Church, Israel. Photo copyrighted. All rights reserved.  Holy Sepulchre Church, Jerusalem  In [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html) today, there are two sites claiming to be the location of the tomb of [Jesus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jesus.html): the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb. The Garden Tomb was identified as the tomb of Jesus only in the late 1800s and lacks historical credibility. A long tradition going back to the first century, however, maintains that Jesus' tomb is at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City of [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html). In the 4th century, Constantine supposedly located the tomb site beneath a second century Roman temple. He constructed a church over it. This church has been restored and maintained over the centuries ever since. It is today shared by six faiths: Latin Catholics, Greek Orthodox, Armenians, Syrian, Copts and Ethiopians.   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | [http://www.christiananswers.net/btn-resurrection.gif](http://www.christiananswers.net/easter.html) Learn about Jesus Christ's death and resurrection |  | [http://www.christiananswers.net/jesus/btn-jesus.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/jesus/home.html) Learn about His life and ministry |   **Caiaphas the High Priest**  Ossuary of Caiaphas the High Priest. Photo copyrighted. All rights reserved.  Ossuary of Caiaphas the High Priest  [Caiaphas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/caiaphas.html) was high priest for 18 years, A.D. 18-36. He most likely gained the position by marrying the daughter of [Annas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/annas.html), head of a powerful high-priestly clan ([John 18:13](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/john18.html#13)). [Caiaphas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/caiaphas.html) is infamous as the leader of the conspiracy to crucify [Jesus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jesus.html).  At a meeting of the religious leaders, [Caiaphas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/caiaphas.html) said, "It is better for you that one man die for the people than the whole nation perish" ([John 11:50](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/john11.html#50)). He was referring to the possible intervention of the [Roman](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/rome.html) authorities, if Jesus' teaching should cause unrest. His words were prophetic in that Jesus did die for the people, all the people of the earth, as a sacrifice for sin.  [Copyrighted. God's Story. Artist's conception of Jesus being struck.](http://www.christiananswers.net/godstory/jesus3.html)  Read the [story of Christ's death](http://www.christiananswers.net/godstory/jesus3.html)  After He was arrested, [Jesus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jesus.html) was taken to Caiaphas' house and detained overnight. The guards mocked and beat Him ([Luke 22:63-65](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/luke22.html#63)). In the morning He was interrogated and further beaten. Caiaphas asked Him, "Are you the [Christ](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/christ.html) ([Messiah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/messiah.html)), the Son of the Blessed One?" "[I am](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/namesofgod.html)," Jesus replied ([Mark 14:61-62](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/mark14.html#61)). Caiaphas then handed Jesus over to [Pilate](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/pilatepontius.html) to be tried.  Following Jesus' [crucifixion](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/crucifixion.html), [Caiaphas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/caiaphas.html) continued to [persecute](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/persecution.html) the early [church](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/church.html). He brought the [apostles](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/apostle.html) before the religious leaders and said to them, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this Name. Yet you have filled [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html) with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's (Jesus') [blood](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/blood.html)." [Peter](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/peter.html) and the other [apostles](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/apostle.html) replied, "We must obey [God](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/god.html) rather then men" ([Acts 5:28-29](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/acts5.html#28)).  The Caiaphas family tomb was accidentally discovered by workers constructing a road in a park just south of the Old City of [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html). [Archaeologists](http://www.christiananswers.net/archaeology/home.html) were hastily called to the scene. When they examined the tomb they found 12 ossuaries (limestone bone boxes) containing the remains of 63 individuals. The most beautifully decorated of the ossuaries was inscribed with the name "Joseph son of (or, of the family of) Caiaphas." That was the full name of the [high priest](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/highpriest.html) who arrested Jesus, as documented by Josephus (*Antiquities* 18: 2, 2; 4, 3). Inside were the remains of a 60-year-old male, almost certainly those of the Caiaphas of the [New Testament](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/newtestament.html). This remarkable discovery has, for the first time, provided us with the physical remains of an individual named in the Bible.  [[Learn more about Caiaphas](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/caiaphas.html)]  **James, brother of Jesus Christ**  [http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/barcover-jamesossuary70.jpg](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/james-ossuary.html)**Have archaeologists discovered his ossuary (burial box)?** [Answer](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-eden/james-ossuary.html)    [[Learn more more about James](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/james.html)]  **Caesar Augustus**  A great politician and administrator, [Augustus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/augustus.html) ruled the [Roman empire](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/rome.html) from 27 B.C.-A.D. 14. It was Augustus who issued the [census](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/census.html) decree that brought [Mary](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/mary-motherofjesus.html) and [Joseph](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/joseph-fosterfatherofjesus.html) to [Bethlehem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/bethlehem.html), where Jesus was born ([Luke 2:1-7](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/luke2.html#1)). Augustus erected for himself a grand mausoleum in Rome, on the east bank of the Tiber River, one quarter mile northwest of the Roman Forum. The remains exist today in the middle of the *Piazza Augusto Imperatore*.  It was 285 feet in diameter and 143 feet high, surmounted by a statue of the emperor. His ashes were placed in an urn in the center, while those of other members of the dynasty were place in urns in a corridor around a central cylinder. Although some of the urns were found in place by excavators, the ashes had long since disappeared.  [[More about Ceasar Augustus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/augustus.html) / [Read the story of Christ's birth](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/luke2.html) ]  **Tomb of the Patriarchs**  Photo copyrighted. All rights reserved.  The Bible says that [Sarah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/sarah.html), [Abraham](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/abraham.html), [Isaac](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/isaac.html), [Rebekah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/rebekah.html), [Leah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/leah.html) and [Jacob](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jacob.html) were buried in [Hebron](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/hebron.html), in a [cave](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/cave.html) called the Cave of [Machpelah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/machpelah.html), purchased by [Abraham](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/abraham.html) ([Gen. 23](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/gen23.html)).  Traditionally, this [cave](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/cave.html) has been located below the Haram el-Khalil ("sacred precinct of the friend of the merciful One, God") in [Hebron](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/hebron.html), today a Muslim mosque. References as early as the Hellenistic period (2nd century B.C.) testify that this is the authentic location of the [burial](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/burial.html) place of the Patriarchs. The cave was explored by the Augustine Canons in 1119, at which time they claim to have found the bones of the [Patriarchs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/patriarch.html).  **Joseph, son of Jacob (grandson of Abraham)**  Has Joseph's original tomb been found? [Answer](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a027.html)  [[Learn more more about Joseph](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/joseph.html)]  **Tombs of David and Solomon**  Tunnel Tombs. Photo copyrighted. All rights reserved.  Tunnel tumbs  Throughout the kingdom period, the [kings](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/king.html) of [Judah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/judah.html) were buried within the [city of David](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/davidcityof.html). At the southern end of the City of David, south of the Old City of [Jerusalem](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/jerusalem.html), there are two monumental tunnel tombs which many scholars believe are the [tombs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tombs.html) of [David](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/david.html) and [Solomon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/solomon.html). Unfortunately, they were damaged by later quarrying, so no identifying inscriptions have survived. In the same area are many Iron Age tombs, possibly those of other kings of [Judah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/judahkingdomof.html).  One exception to the normal custom was the [burial](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/burial.html) of [Uzziah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/uzziah.html). Since he was a [leper](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/leprosy.html), he was not buried with the other kings, but "near them in a field for [burial](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/burial.html) that belonged to the kings, for people said, 'he had leprosy'" ([2 Chr 26:23](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2chr26.html#23)).  Interestingly, an inscription was found on the [Mount of Olives](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/olivesmountof.html) in 1931 dating to the first century A.D. which reads, "Here were brought the bones of [Uzziah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/uzziah.html), King of Judah—do not open." Evidently, because of his [leprosy](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/leprosy.html), Uzziah's bones were removed from the field belonging to the kings and transferred to yet a more remote location.  **Cyrus the Great**  [Cyrus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/cyrus.html) ruled the [Persian](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/persia.html) empire from 559-530 B.C. He is best known for his capture of [Babylon](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/babylon.html) in 539 B.C. Already in the 8th century B.C. Isaiah predicted this defeat ([Isaiah 45:1-3](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa45.html#1)), and went on to say that Cyrus would "set my exiles free' ([Isaiah 45:13](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/isa45.html#13)). That Cyrus released the Jewish exiles from Babylon is not only documented in the Bible ([2 Chronicles 36:22-23](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/2chr36.html#22); [Ezra 1:2-4](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezra1.html#2)), but also implied in the contemporary Cyrus Cylinder. This ancient record states, "I (Cyrus) gathered all their former inhabitants and returned to them their habitations."  Tomb of Cyrus. Photo copyrighted. All rights reserved.Cyrus was buried in a simple gabled stone tomb outside his capital of Pasargadae in modern Iran. According to the historian Strabo, this inscription once graced the structure, "Oh man, I am Cyrus, the son of Cambyses, who founded the empire of [Persia](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/persia.html), and was king of [Asia](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/asia.html). Grudge me not therefore this monument" (*Geography* xv.3.7).  **Darius-I the Great**  [Darius](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/darius.html) I was king of the [Persian empire](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/persia.html) from 522-486 B.C. He gave permission to renew the rebuilding of the [Temple](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/templethesecond.html) ([Ezra 6:1-12](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezra6.html#1)), which had been discontinued for some 10 years.  His is the first of three monumental tombs cut into a cliff near the Persian capital of Persepolis, Iran. The inscription on his tomb reads,  King [Darius](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/darius.html) states: King, whoever you are, who may arise after me, protect yourself well from lies. Do not trust the man who lies. … Believe what I did and tell the truth to the people. Do not conceal (it). If you do not conceal these matters, but you do tell the people, may Ahura Mayda protect you. …  There are three other [tombs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tombs.html) at the site, thought to be those of the [Persian](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/persia.html) [kings](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/king.html) [Xerxes](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/xerxes.html) (485-465 B.C.), [Artaxerxes](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/artaxerxes.html) I (465-424 B.C.), and [Darius II](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/darius.html) (423-405 B.C.). There are no accompanying inscriptions, however, to be certain of these identifications. [Xerxes](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/xerxes.html) is the [Ahasuerus](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ahasuerus.html) of the [book of Esther](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/estherbookof.html), the king whom [Esther](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/esther.html) married. [Ezra](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezra1.html) was a [scribe](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/scribes.html) ([Ezra 7:6](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezra7.html#6)) and [Nehemiah](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/nehemiah.html) a [cupbearer](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/cup-bearer.html) ([Nehemiah 2:1](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/neh2.html#1)) under Artaxerxes I. He authorized both Ezra and Nehemiah to return to Jerusalem, Ezra to carry out religious and judicial duties ([Ezra 7:12-26](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/ezra7.html#12)), and Nehemiah to rebuild the city walls ([Nehemiah 2:1-9](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/neh2.html#1)). Darius II may be the [Darius](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/darius.html) mentioned in [Nehemiah 12:22](http://www.christiananswers.net/bible/neh12.html#22), but this is not certain.  [ [Darius](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/darius.html) / [Artaxerxes](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/artaxerxes.html) / [The Second Temple](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/templethesecond.html) / [Ezra](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/ezra.html) ]  **Also see:**   * Has Joseph's original tomb been found? [Answer](http://www.christiananswers.net/q-abr/abr-a027.html) * [Burial in the Bible](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/burial.html) * [Graves](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/grave.html) * [Tombs](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/tombs.html) * [Men of the Bible](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/men.html) * [Death](http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/death.html)   Author: Rick Lanser of [Associates for Biblical Research](http://www.biblearchaeology.org/)  [Copyright ©](http://www.christiananswers.net/copyrite.html) 1998, 2002, Eden Communications, All Rights Reserved - except as noted on attached [“Usage and Copyright”](http://www.christiananswers.net/copyrite.html) page that grants ChristianAnswers.Net users generous rights for putting this page to work in their homes, personal witnessing, churches and schools. |