

ARTIFACTS THAT MATTER

THE BIBLE IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Part 7

New Testament

Purpose of this series

- *Support the Bible*
 - *Real places*
 - *Real people*
 - *Real events*
 - *Accurate descriptions*
- *Better understand the Bible*
- *To understand that more knowledge of history enriches our understanding of the Bible.*

Do you know...

- *Who the first President was?*
- *Who the first governor of Idaho was?*
 - *William H. Wallace (1863)*
 - *George Laird Shoup (1890)*



*"Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus,
that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth."*

Lk. 2:1







Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments, but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness. A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.

1 Timothy 2:9-11



Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.

1 Pet. 3:3-4



*Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar,
when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was
tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip was tetrarch of the
region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch
of Abilene,
Luke 3:1*



5



6



Caesar Claudius (Acts 11:28; 18:2)

Herod Agrippa (Acts 12 - only referred to as Herod)



Herod the Great

1



Pontius Pilate



Philip the Tetrarch
(Mt. 14:3; Mk. 6:17; Lk. 3:1)



5

"Judea Capta"
Matthew 24

6



4



2

3

1

*"Hypocrites"
Drama masks*

were probably made of stiffened linen.



*"I box in such a way, as not
beating the air"
I Corinthians 9:26b*

1st-2nd century AD
Venator, trained specifically
to hunt animals, originally dressed
as a gladiator, with body armour,
a helmet, and sword. From the later first
century AD they wore simple tunics
and were armed with a hunting
spear. This distracted Venator is
attacked by a lioness.
© 12.12
Museum of Art, D. 624



*If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus,
what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US
EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.*

I Corinthians 15:32



12

60



Writing Tablet

Luke 1:63 and II Timothy 4:13



*"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."
Romans 12:14*

Lead tablets with a curse



Coin from biblical times

Roman Empire, AD 14–37

Jews objected to having to pay taxes using coins that showed an image of the Roman emperor and referred to him as a god. The bible reports that when Jesus was questioned about this, he asked to see the coin, which was probably one like this. He then replied 'Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's.'

Two silver *denarius* coins, minted in Lyon, issued by Tiberius, AD 14–37, Treasure Trove, H.M. Treasury



1

Coins used in Jerusalem

Judaea (southern Israel and southern Palestine), AD 38–9

The Temple in Jerusalem required every adult Jewish male to pay a half-shekel in tax. Tyrian shekels like these were preferred to the local Roman coinage as they had a higher silver content. This is why money-changers were operating at the Temple (as referred to in the Bible).

1. Two silver half-shekels of Tyre, Lebanon, (left) AD 41–2 and (right) AD 38
2. Silver *tetradrachm* coin, minted in Antioch, issued by Augustus, about 3 BC, Thomas Burgon Collection







Two female figures from the Parthenon, Athens, Greece, 440-430 BC. The seated figure is the goddess Athena, and the reclining figure is the goddess Artemis. Both figures are shown in a state of mourning, with their heads missing and their bodies draped in heavy, flowing robes. The marble is highly detailed, showing the texture of the fabric and the musculature of the bodies.



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*Is any other religious text so richly
filled with historical accuracy as the
Bible is?*

