

St The Virtual Order Of Isidore Of Seville



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Bono Vince Malum ~ Over Come Evil With Good

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Jesus Christ The Lord, The Reason For The Season



Entering the Advent

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Isaiah 9:6

Advent refers to the "coming" or "arrival" of Jesus Christ. The term Advent has several meanings within the Church: the coming of the Lord in the flesh at Christmas; His arrival in Word and Spirit; and the final Advent when Jesus will return bodily in glory. Each one gives joyful anticipation of what God has accomplished and will ultimately bring to completion. When the church began to observe Christmas in the fourth century, a time of preparation was added. The length of time varied from three to seven weeks. In the tenth century an agreement was reached in the Western world that Advent should consist of four Sundays. The first Sunday of Advent occurs on or near November 30.

While always including four Sundays, the season may vary in length from 22 days to 28 days, always ending on Christmas Eve.

An Advent celebration will require dedication and some sacrifice. Priorities will have to change so you can focus on what is important. Set aside some time on your calendar ahead of time and protect it. Then turn off the TV and turn on the answering machine for the brief time it takes. Make sure the rest of your family realizes that this is an important family moment.

Many Christians find the preparation and use of an Advent wreath to be meaningful. During each Sunday's observance of Advent, a candle is lit. On Christmas Eve, all five candles are lit. The bright light provides a great climax to the weeks of preparation and personifies the Light of the World that was illumined centuries ago with the first cry of the Christ child. Click to the following anchors for each week of Advent:

- Focus on the Family

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The James Ossuary

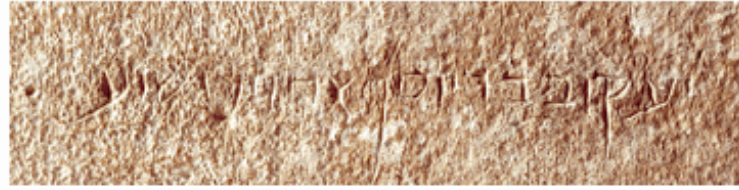


fig 1. Inscription on the James Ossuary
Copyright © 2002 Biblical Archaeological Society

Featured Article By:

Richard Talbot-Jones, ©2003

On October 21, 2002, the existence of the ossuary or burial box was announced in Washington, D.C. by the Biblical Archaeological Review. The box is made from limestone and has "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus" inscribed upon its surface. The inscription reads "Ya'akov bar Yosef akhui di Yeshua" in Aramaic (fig 1.) which was the language spoken by Jesus and his disciples during their lifetime. The ossuary is dated to AD50-70. It is generally accepted that James, Bishop of Jerusalem, brother to Jesus Christ was killed or martyred in AD62, this is attributed to general lawlessness more often than not but other accounts claim that James was lured up to the pinnacle of the Temple to address the crowds, and was thrown down by the Pharisees. He was not killed by the fall, and as he lay on the ground asking forgiveness of God for his attackers he was stoned and beaten to death with a club.

James is described as Jesus' brother in the Gospel of Matthew 13:55-56, but we cannot be sure of the actual relationship as there are three possibilities:

- James as a brother of Jesus.
- James as a half brother of Jesus. James is Joseph's son from a previous marriage.
- James as a cousin of Jesus. James is the son of Joseph's brother Clopas and his wife, Mary.

Whatever the relationship, the ossuary would give the lend weight to the existence of Jesus. However, there are a number of problems with this belief. These include the fact that all three names are very popular and widespread the time. James, Joseph

and Jesus are names which all crop up in other contexts and on other burial boxes throughout the holy land. What is unusual about this particular ossuary is that the three names appear together. Other boxes contain one or two of the names but never all three.

In terms of archaeology then there is another problem, the ossuary was not found in 'context'. That means that it was not found in a stratigraphic layer with other associated deposits and materials. Essentially this means that we cannot date the sediment surrounding the object or any other archaeological material/material culture associated with the ossuary, which would provide more dating evidence. In fact the owner purchased the ossuary from an antiques dealer, who is thought to have obtained the object from an Arab labourer, who found it in a cave near Silwan, just outside Jerusalem in the 1970s. However, archaeologists have managed to date the ossuary by studying the style of the writing and from analysing the chemical patina on the limestone surface. The study of ancient writing (epigraphy) dates the ossuary to AD50-70.

The chemical patina is a layer of oxidised chemicals - chemicals that have come into contact with the air - this allows archaeologists to date when the surface of the limestone was first exposed. The patina over the inscription is of the same date, meaning that the box was inscribed within days of being made so the inscription has not been added as a hoax. However, some of the letters had been 'cleaned' so there was no patina to analyse on some of the letters.

The patina is also consistent with cave burial and there are also no modern tool marks. It should however, be noted that it has been possible to create authentic looking patinas in the past, and the fact that the ossuary was partly cleaned suggests to some that this shows a deliberate act to create uncertainty. More cynical archaeologists would blame the Israelis for this as it has long been an issue that Israeli 'activists' have long interfered and sabotaged excavations, especially those run by US/European archaeologists, that deal with Christian activity.

One other point of interest is there are two sets of two concentric circles with traces of star points and red paint, it is unclear what this means and what shape the stars are from the material I have read but it could mean that the material the ossuary is made from was re-used from an earlier one, there is also an old crack in the box (older than the inscription) or it could mean something else entirely, some would believe it would point to an old ossuary being used as a fake.

There have also been problems relating to the original analysis carried out by Israeli archaeologists. They have, to my knowledge, not presented their reports to academics for cross-examination, critique and discussion. There are rumours that the remains that should have been present in the box are still 'owned' by the antiques collector who bought the ossuary - a man called Golan.

However, he does not wish to display the remains or have them analysed, casting further suspicion over the validity of the claim that it contained remains of Jesus' brother. Skeletal evidence would have reflected the trauma endured by James as he was beaten to death. For more discussion of the problems with the identification of the ossuary as what it is claimed to be please refer to the references below.

The dates for the James Ossuary point to AD50-70, which fits the date for the death of James, Bishop of Jerusalem at AD62. The dating evidence is compelling, as are the names on the box, and the fact that they are not found in that combination elsewhere. However, without an inscription that reads "James, Bishop of Jerusalem, brother of Jesus Christ" sceptics won't be happy. And some would say that it would be wrong of us to assume that it is Jesus' brother's remains in the box, and to tell the world so. Such is an archaeologist's lot - the responsibility of assigning cultural heritage! In any case it is a matter of personal belief in this matter, there is no reason why it could not have housed the remains of Jesus' brother, but then again it may be someone else with the same name and relatives with the same name. What is unusual is that ossuaries rarely contain reference to a brother....
References and further reading:

Royal Ontario Museum: <http://www.rom.om.ca/ossuary>
http://www.bibleinterp.com/articles/Official_Report.htm
<http://www.csicop.org/si/2003-03/bonebox.html>
http://www.bib-arch.org/bswb_BAR/bswbbar2806f1.html
<http://dreamwater.org/bccox/ossuary.html>



A Flower of Chivalry

Christmas Greetings From Our Fellow Knights and Dames of

Office of the Grand Master

The Most Honourable Order of
Christian Knights of the Rose
PO Box 3423

Fort Saskatchewan Alberta Canada T8L 2T4

Governing the Grand Priories of Canada, the United
States of America, Australia, and the United Kingdom

December 2nd, 2003

*To the noble Christian members of
The Virtual Order of St. Isidore of Seville*

Dear friends in Christ,

*First of all, I would like to express my appreciation for
the bond that has developed between our orders, such
that we enjoy a considerable number of Knights and
Ladies holding membership in both orders.*

*I am writing to extend our sincerest best wishes to you all
for a truly happy and most blessed Christmas. We have
the absolute joy of being able to celebrate God's greatest
gift to the world. As members of His holy family and
recipients of His grace, come let us adore him!*

In His Majesty's Service

Brent Spencer

HE The Rt. Hon. Brent Spencer, Viscount of Gerasa

Greetings in the Joy of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I wish to offer my Prayer for all of our Order as we join together across the world in the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord. We are a very diverse group of people much like those who were the first to greet Our Lord: great sages and thinkers, common townfolk and humble shepherds; and yet we stand shoulder to shoulder as we crowd into that simple cave to adore as one, Our Lord and King. May the Blessings of this Most Joyful Season be with you and your families, and with all who join with us in our Chivalric Confraternity.

I pray for you as
your unworthy servant,

Bishop +Kyrill

On behalf of the officers and members of the Military Order of the Sword of England, the International Order of the Sword and the Most Honourable Order of Christian Knights of the Rose (Grand Priory of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) I extend fraternal good wishes and the hope of peace and goodwill to all in the coming Holiday Season. May the blessings of Christmas and the love of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ be with you now and remain with you always.

Your friend in Christ and in Chivalry,

Paul

Grand Master of the Military Order of the Sword of England
Grand Master of the International Order of the Sword
Grand Prior (UK) of the Most Honourable Order of

The Most Honourable Christian Knights of The Rose UK Investiture

The date of the Investiture was Saturday 25th October 2003 and it was held in the church of St Vedast alias Foster on Foster Lane in the City of London. The officiating Chaplain was Reverend Joseph Loveday, a regular army Chaplain to the Forces.

There has been a Christian church on that site for about a thousand years, but this present one dates from 1668, having been rebuilt after the original was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666.

It was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and is literally one minutes walk from St Paul's Cathedral in the heart of the City.

The Banquet afterwards was held in Barber-Surgeons Hall, the home of British surgery, where early dissections were carried out on the corpses of criminals after hanging at Tyburn and other places of execution in London. (It is a very pleasant place and not at all grisly, as my description may imply) Decorations in the Hall include a huge Holbein painting of King Henry VIII, bronzes of King Charles 1st (Charles the Martyr) many other important paintings and antique silver several hundred years old.

Our next investiture will be held in Aldershot, home of the British Army in April 2004.



Left: HE Chev. Paul Grant, Grand Prior UK

Right: Chev. Michael Walsh



Chev. Michael Walsh and fiancée Liz



Chev. Michael Walch



Left: Chaplain General, Reverend Joseph Loveday ChF,

Center: Chev. Paul Right: Sir David Roche, Bt at

Barber-Surgeons Hall, where we held our Banquet.



St. Isidore of Seville College of Heraldry

The Officers of the College are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| The Registrar | Rev. Richard McKenzie, Vice-Chancellor |
| The Principal Herald | |
| The St. Isidore Herald Extraordinary | Bobby Pipin |
| The Seville Pursuivant | Richard Talbot Jones |
| The Jerusalem Pursuivant | |
| The Marshall of Arms | Stephen Plowman, Chancellor |

The Roll of Arms of the Order



Most Rev. Bruce Campbell



Rt. Rev. + Kyrill
(Kristie-Esposito)



Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lewis



Rev. Joseph McCracken



Stephen Plowman, Esq



Christmas Greetings From The Officers and Members of



On behalf of the Grand Magistry and myself I would like to wish all members of the Order a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Pax Christi

Stephen Plowman,
Chancellor
Order of St. Isidore of Seville

A warm Christmas greeting to the Order from the St. Isidore College of Arms, and from me 'Nadolig Llawn!'"

Richard Talbot Jones,
Seville Pursuivant
Order of St. Isidore of Seville

To all fellow Knights, Dames and Officers of the Order of Saint Isidore of Seville, I send each and every one of you a Christmas greetings. As we approach the Advent Season, keep in mind that not all are as fortunate as we, be them in dire circumstances or in the various wars throughout the world, or people living in tumultuous situations. Keep all these people in mind during our Christmas prayers. Pray that they may be watched over by the Lord Jesus Christ.

I send all of you my Blessings, and have a joyous happy Christmas, and New Year.

God Bless Sincerely,

Rev. R. Mckenzie, Vice Chancellor

As we go into this Advent Season, may we all be mindful of the greatest gift of all. The gift God the Father gave to all humanity, in His Son Jesus Christ. Remembering He is the Reason for the Season. Wishing All my fellow Knights and Dames a very Merry Christmas, and praying all of God's blessings one each and everyone of you for the coming New Year.

Lady Cheryl A. Lewis, Editor

Dame Commander,
Order of Saint Isidore of Seville

Lady Chaplain,
The Most Honorable Christian Knights
of the Rose

The Order of St Isidore Growing and Making Progress

By: Richard Talbot-Jones

The Order has achieved a lot in the last 12 months; various developments and enterprises have been achieved and developed through the willingness of members and volunteers, and also various individuals and their vision. Helped in small measure by continuing prayer and support from other members and the grace of the Lord.

These developments include the store front, the Order's own College of Arms, the Order has also purchased various heraldic and genealogical publications, which have helped the College of Arms in its endeavours with the roll-on effect of raising more money for the Order, allowing the home page and bulletin board to be pop-up free. A new board hosted by Yahoo! has also been set up by one of our newest members, Br. Jonathon Cook. Our Order has also been privileged to receive a grant of arms and artwork from the Russian College of Heraldry for free, for his services to the Order Valery Yergerov, was decorated with the Order of Merit Class I.

The Order has also adopted the Aboud Village School as an interest for any spare money or donations the Order receives. There have also been a number of promotions in the Order including Stephen Plowman and Eric Russell-Brown becoming Knights of the Collar, Rt. Rev. Robert A Crutchfield becoming a Chaplain Grand Cross, Rev. Richard McKenzie becoming a Knight Grand officer and becoming Vice-Chancellor and most recently Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lewis becoming a Dame Commander.

The year also saw a number of Squires become full knights.

The Order's College of Arms has also been successful, not only in raising funds (through the hard work of Rev. Richard McKenzie, Bobby Pinpin and Richard Talbot-Jones, but also in granting a number of internally recognised coats of arms.

Earlier in the year there was also discussion regarding the purchase of Order medallions, the medals having been initially commissioned by Rev. Richard McKenzie. This met with mixed success with some members buying them and some not. Regardless of the response it was good to see the Order become more established, especially in conjunction with the online shop. Links with Amazon were also established, allowing quick and easy access and purchase of publications on prayer and chivalry. Possibly the most exciting development of the year was the creation of this very same newsletter! And good luck to Dr. Lewis and the other contributors for further editions.

