

# Science and The Bible



# Archaeology and The Bible

- The Rosetta Stone
- Behistun Rock
- The Hittite Criticism





# The Rosetta Stone

- In 1799, French Army Captain Boussard found a stone monument inscribed with a decree honoring Egyptian King Ptolemy (*tol-uh-mee*).
- Written in three languages in 196 B.C. It became known as the Rosetta Stone and it unlocked key translations of hieroglyphics and Egypt's oldest language.
- Any of these translations confirm and illuminate Biblical history.



# Behistun Rock

- Behistun Rock - features an inscription from 516 B.C. that remarkably advanced the deciphering of ancient writing from the Fertile Crescent.
- It confirms the Bible's account of Darius I's rise to the Persian throne and does so in three languages: Babylonian, Elamite (*ee-luh-mahyt*) and Old Persian.
- The Behistun Rock enabled the translation of 22,000 other tablet inscriptions - the most of which confirm the Bible's accounts of major historical events!



# The Hittite Criticism

- For many years, Bible critics sneered at the Bible's references to a people called the Hittites (Gen. 15:20; Ex 3:8, 17; Num. 13:29; Josh. 1:4; Jud. 1:26).
- They believed that the Hittites were simply one of many mythical peoples fabricated by Bible writers. Other critics said they were just a small and unimportant tribe. New evidence proved them wrong.
- At the end of the 19th century, Hittite monuments were uncovered in Syria, proving the existence of these ancient people. In 1906, excavations in Turkey uncovered thousands of Hittite documents which revealed the Hittites as a real and formidable power. According to archaeologist, the once "imaginary" Hittites were actually one of the dominant nations of Asia Minor who exercised considerable control in Syria and Palestine.



# Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III

(558-824 B.C.) - Shows Jehu, king of Israel, bowing before the Assyrian king.

II Kings 9-10



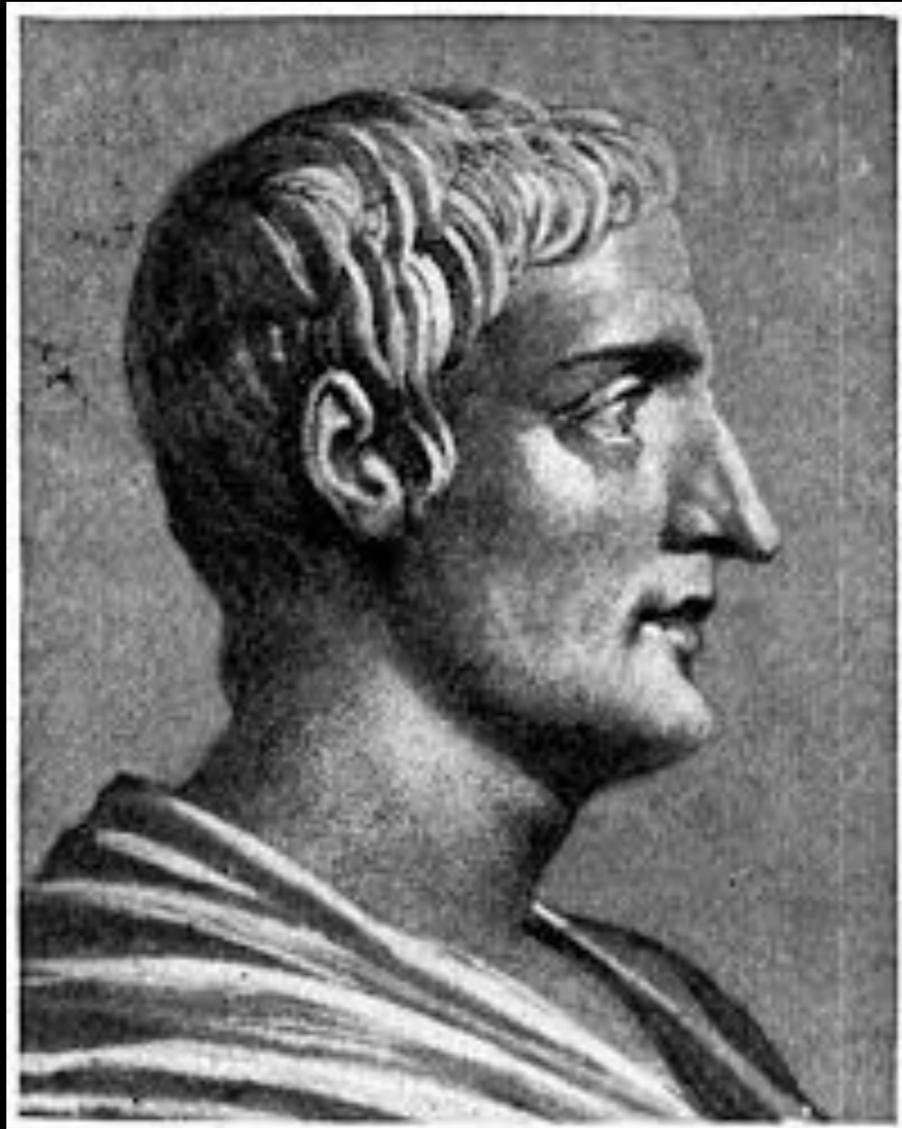
# Tablets of Tiglath-Pileser

Proves that he received tribute from Jehoahaz of Judah as stated in 2 Kings 16:7.



# Cylinder of Nabonidus

- (555-539 B.C.) - Shows Nabonidus as the last ruler of the Neo-Babylonian Empire.
- It also proves that his son Belshazzar was co-regent with him as stated in Daniel 5; 7:1; 8:1. Before this find, scholars scoffed at Belshazzar's existence.



## Tacitus Roman Historian

(1st Century), considered one of the most accurate ancient historians mentions superstitious “Christians” who followed “Christus” who suffered under Pontius Pilate during the reign of Tiberius (tahy-**beer**-ee-uh s)



# Flavius Josephus

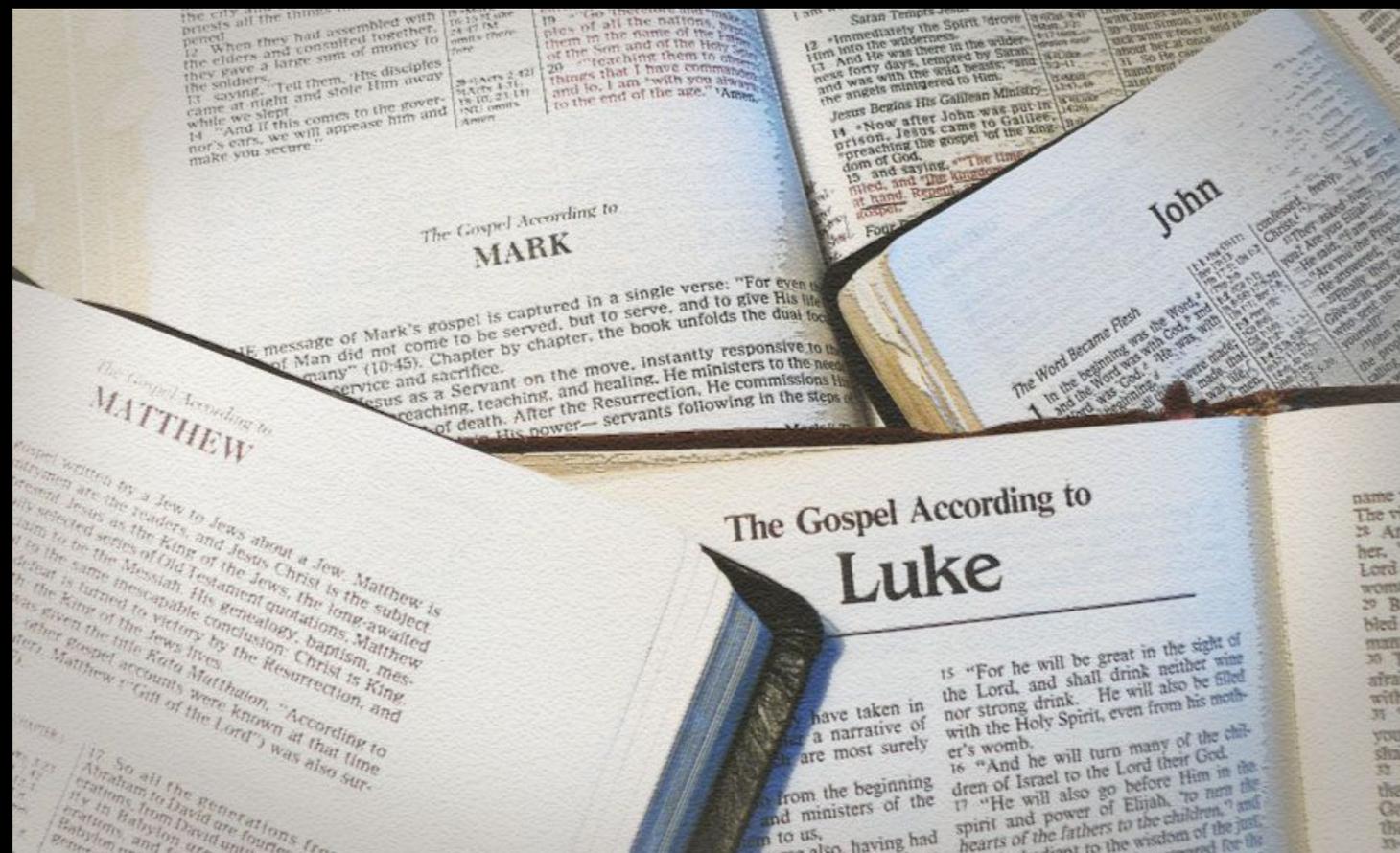
**Flavius Josephus** (fley-vee-uh s) (Joh-see-fuh s) (1st Century), a Jewish historian hired by Rome, references James “the brother of Jesus, who was called Christ” in his book: *Antiquities*. Another reference says “*Now there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man. For he was one who wrought surprising feats...He was (the) Christ...he appeared to them alive again the third day.*”



## Pliny

### Ancient Roman lawyer, author, and magistrate

Wrote in his letters to Emperor Trajan about the earliest Christian worship practices especially communion as a memorial to the Last Supper of Christ. Pliny's account of the eruption at Mount Vesuvius is unquestioned, as should his account of Christ's teachings and followers.



# The Gospels

considered the 35 year gap between Christ's death and His earliest gospel biography to be too long for historical accuracy. They argue that too many things can be forgotten, even by eye witnesses over a space of time. However, these same scholars celebrate and teach the life and conquests of Alexander the Great as unquestionable fact even though the gap between his death and earliest biography, by Diodorus of Sicily, is nearly 300 years! In fact, modern historians Roisman and Worthington write, "*texts written by people who actually knew Alexander or who gathered information from men who served with Alexander were all lost.*" The Gospel writers walked and talked with Jesus!