

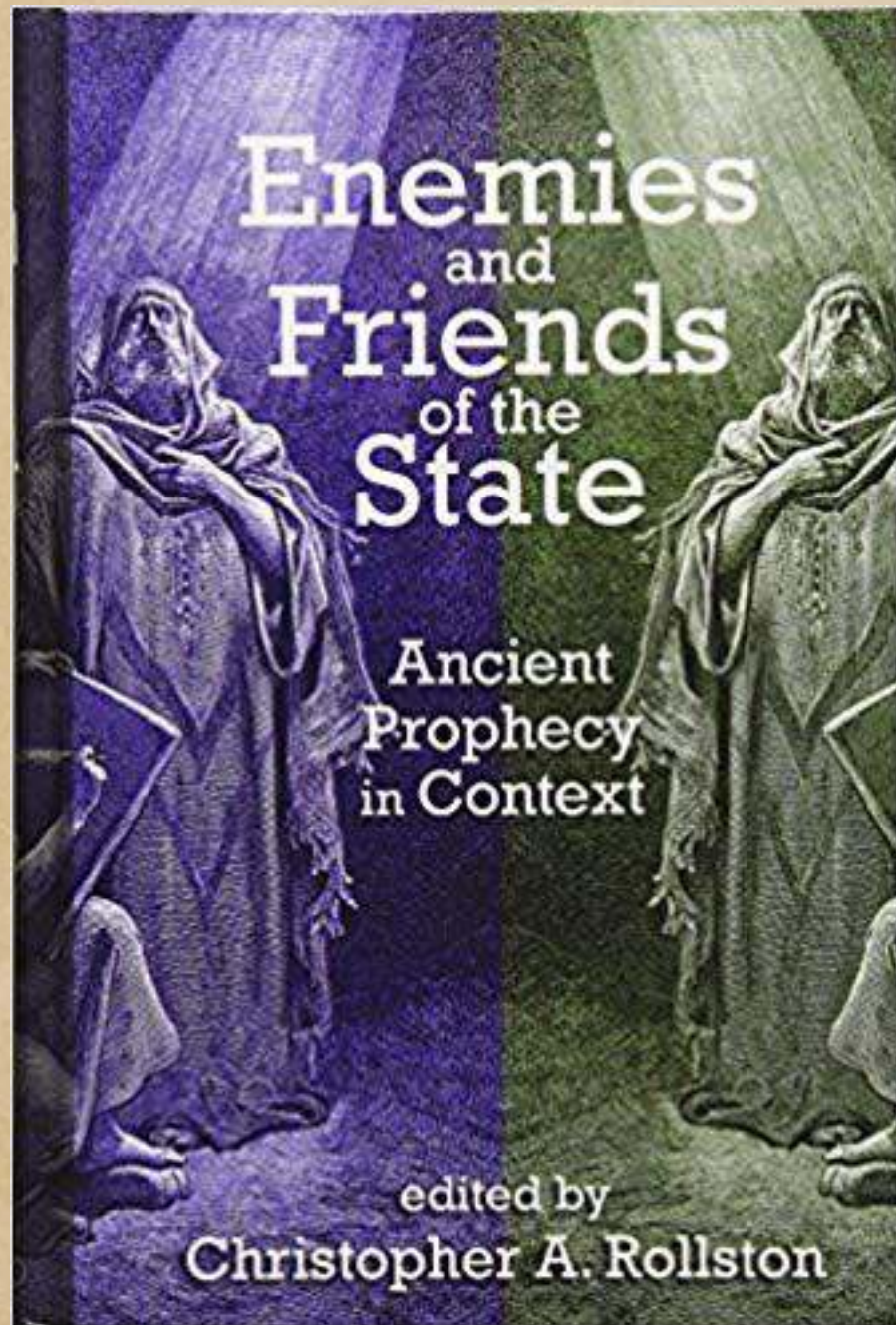
Biblical Archaeology Seminar
St Olaf College
July 26-27, 2018
Lectures 8, 9, 10

Dr. James D. Tabor
University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Lecture Seven:
Among Those Born of Women
there is None Greater Than John



Readings & Resources



Tabor, "John the Baptizer: More than a Prophet,"
in *Enemies and Friends of the State*

<https://jamestabor.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/JtB-Article-Tabor.pdf>

Notes: 2002 Harvard Mandaean Conference

<https://jamestabor.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/JtB-Notes-from-Harvard-Mandaean-Conference.pdf>

Josephus on John the Baptist (Ant 18)

<https://pages.uncc.edu/james-tabor/ancient-judaism/josephus-john-the-baptis/>

John the Baptizer in the Gospel Traditions

<https://pages.uncc.edu/james-tabor/christian-origins-and-the-new-testament/john-the-baptizer-in-the-gospel-traditions/>

Essays on John the Baptizer

<https://pages.uncc.edu/james-tabor/christian-origins-and-the-new-testament/essays-on-john-the-baptizer/>

Post-biblical Traditions on John the Baptizer

<https://pages.uncc.edu/james-tabor/christian-origins-and-the-new-testament/post-biblical-traditions-on-john-the-baptizer/>

John 3:22 After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Judea; there he remained with them and baptized. 23 John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there; and people came and were baptized. 24 For John had not yet been put in prison.

Mark 1:14 Now after John was arrested Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."

John 10:40 He went away again across the Jordan to the place where John at first baptized, and there he remained. 41 And many came to him; and they said, "John did no sign, but everything that John said about this man was true." 42 And many believed in him there.

*See Tabor blog post: "A Jesus Hideout in Jordan"

Jesus said to them, "I will ask you a question; answer me, and I will tell you by what authority I do these things. 30 Was the baptism of John from heaven or from men? Answer me." 31 And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" 32 But shall we say, 'From men'?" — they were afraid of the people, for all held that John was a real prophet. 33 So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

Luke 11:1 He was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." 2 And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. 3 Give us each day our daily bread; 4 and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive every one who is indebted to us; and lead us not into temptation.'"

Luke 7:24 When the messengers of John had gone, he began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to behold? A reed shaken by the wind? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man clothed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are gorgeously appareled and live in luxury are in kings' courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.' 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John; yet he who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he." 29 (When they heard this all the people and the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John; 30 but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.)

Luke 7:31 "To what then shall I compare the men of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the market place and calling to one another, 'We piped to you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not weep.' 33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine; and you say, 'He has a demon.' 34 The Son of man has come eating and drinking; and you say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' 35 Yet wisdom is justified by all her children."

*Tabor Blog Post: "Did John the Baptist Eat Bugs, Beans, or Pancakes?"

Matt. 3:13 ^kThen Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, ^lto be baptized by him. **14** ^mJohn would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" **15** But Jesus answered him, "**Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then he consented. **16** And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, ⁿthe heavens were opened to him, ^oand he ^psaw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, ^qa voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son," with whom I am well pleased."

Mark 1:9 ^rIn those days Jesus ^scame from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10** And when he came up out of the water, immediately he ^tsaw ^uthe heavens being torn open ^vand the Spirit descending on him like a dove. **11** And ^wa voice came from heaven, ^x"You are my beloved Son;" with you I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when ^yJesus also had been baptized and was praying, ^zthe heavens were opened, **22** and ^{aa}the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and ^{ab}a voice came from heaven, ^{ac}"You are my beloved Son;" with you I am well pleased."

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light... John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'"... For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

A Hebrew Gospel of Matthew: Even Bohan Shem Tov Ibn (ben) Shaprut, 14th c. C.E.

John the Baptizer plays an exalted role: Matt 11:11 "Truly, I say to you, among all those born of women men has risen greater than John the Baptizer." Phrase "yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" is missing. In the Lucan parallel (7:28), mss. 5, 475* and 1080* also omit the qualification.

Matt 11:13 "For all the prophets and the law spoke concerning John" in contrast to the Greek: "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."

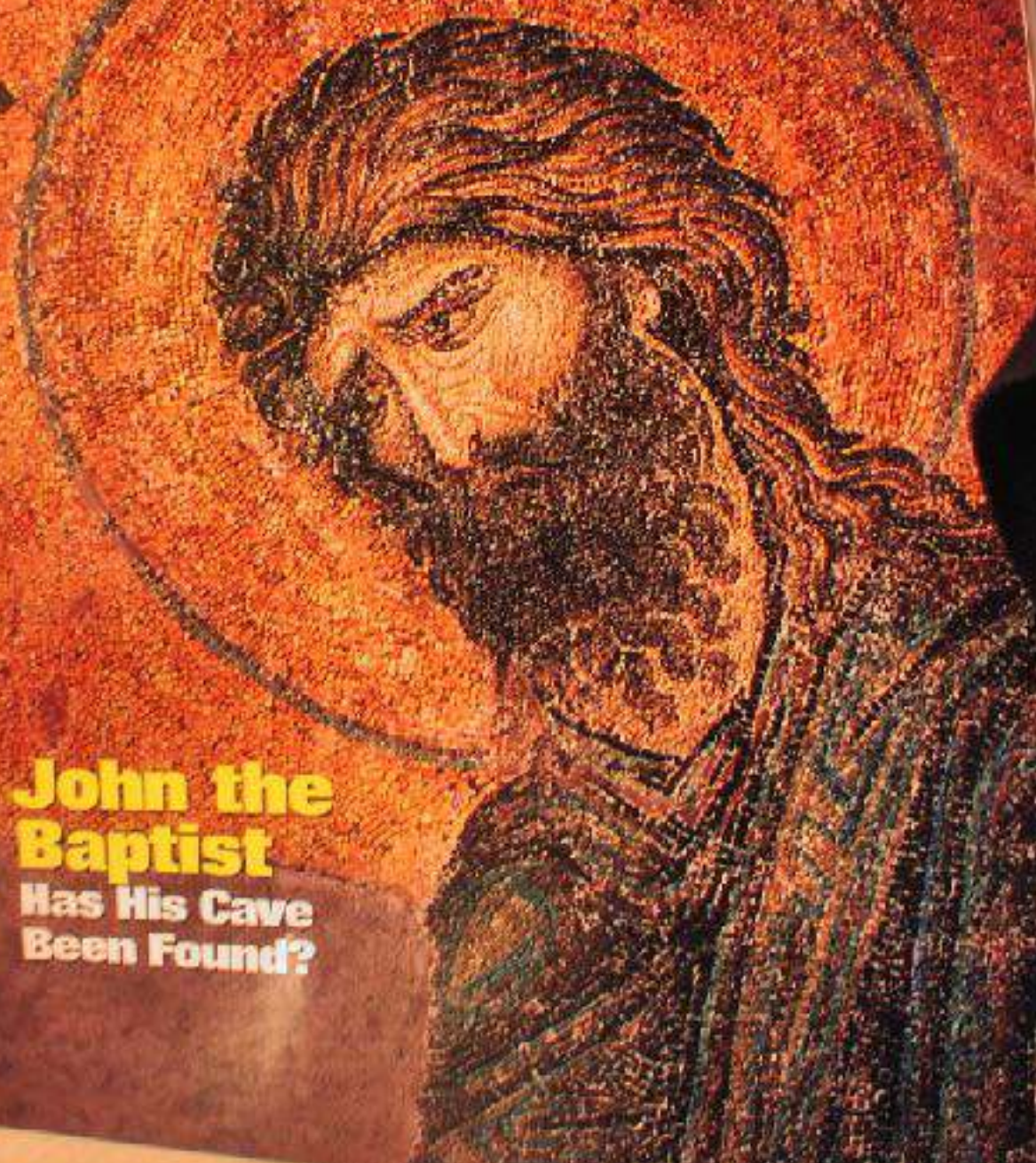
Matt 17:11 "Indeed Elijah will come and will save all the world" in contrast to the Greek: "Elijah does come, and he is to restore all things."

Matt 21:32 "Because John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him. But violent men and harlots believed him and you saw it and did not turn in repentance. Also afterward you did not repent to believe him. To the one who has ears to hear let him hear in disgrace." These words are directed to his disciples (v. 28), not to the chief priests and elders as in the Synoptic Greek tradition.

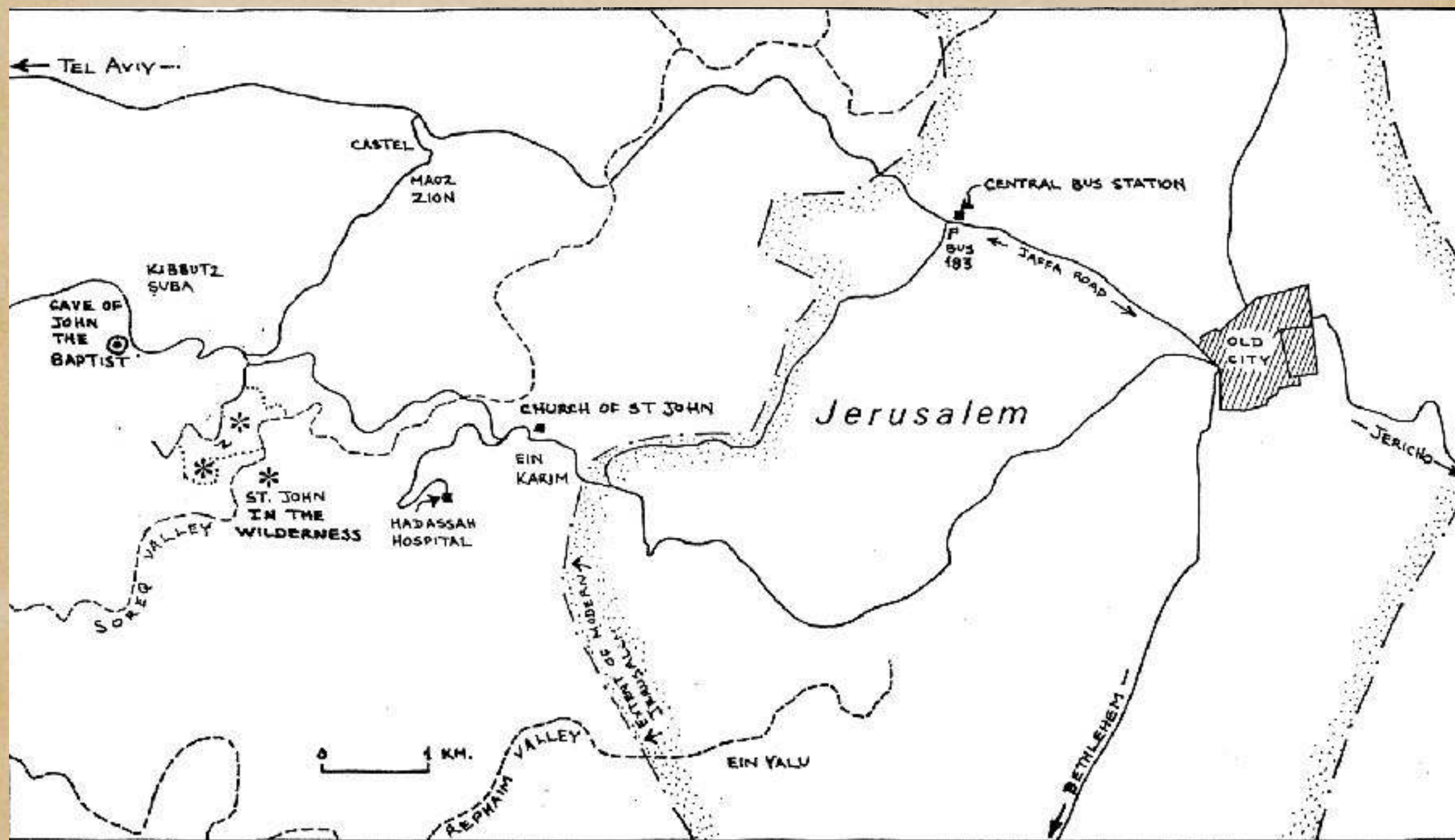
The kind of polemic found in the Gospel of John appears to be directed toward an evaluation of John the Baptizer such as that found in ST Matthew.

Biblical Archaeology Review

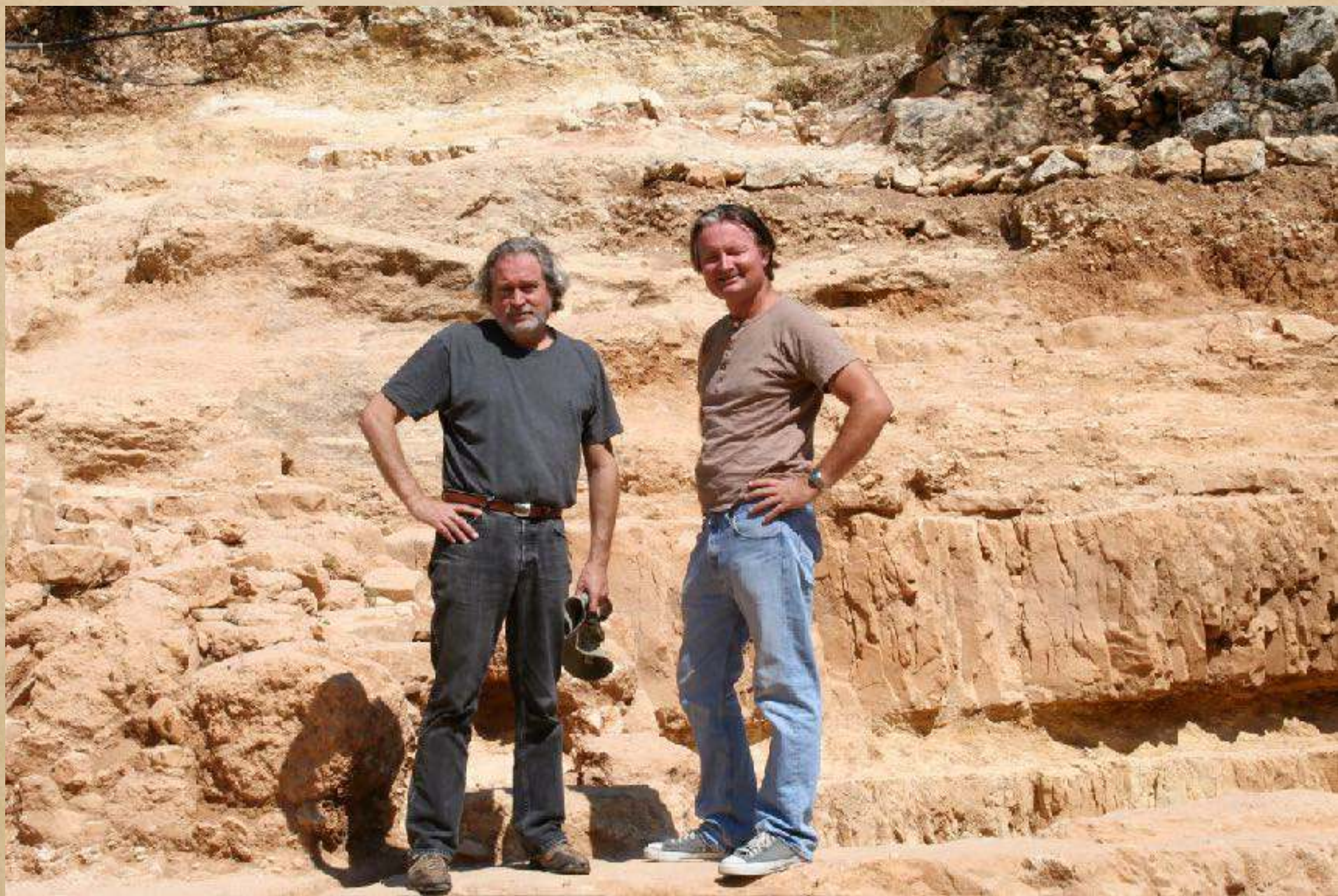
SUMMER/DECEMBER 2004 VOL. 30 NO. 4 \$6.95
www.biblicalarchaeology.org



**John the
Baptist**
Has His Cave
Been Found?

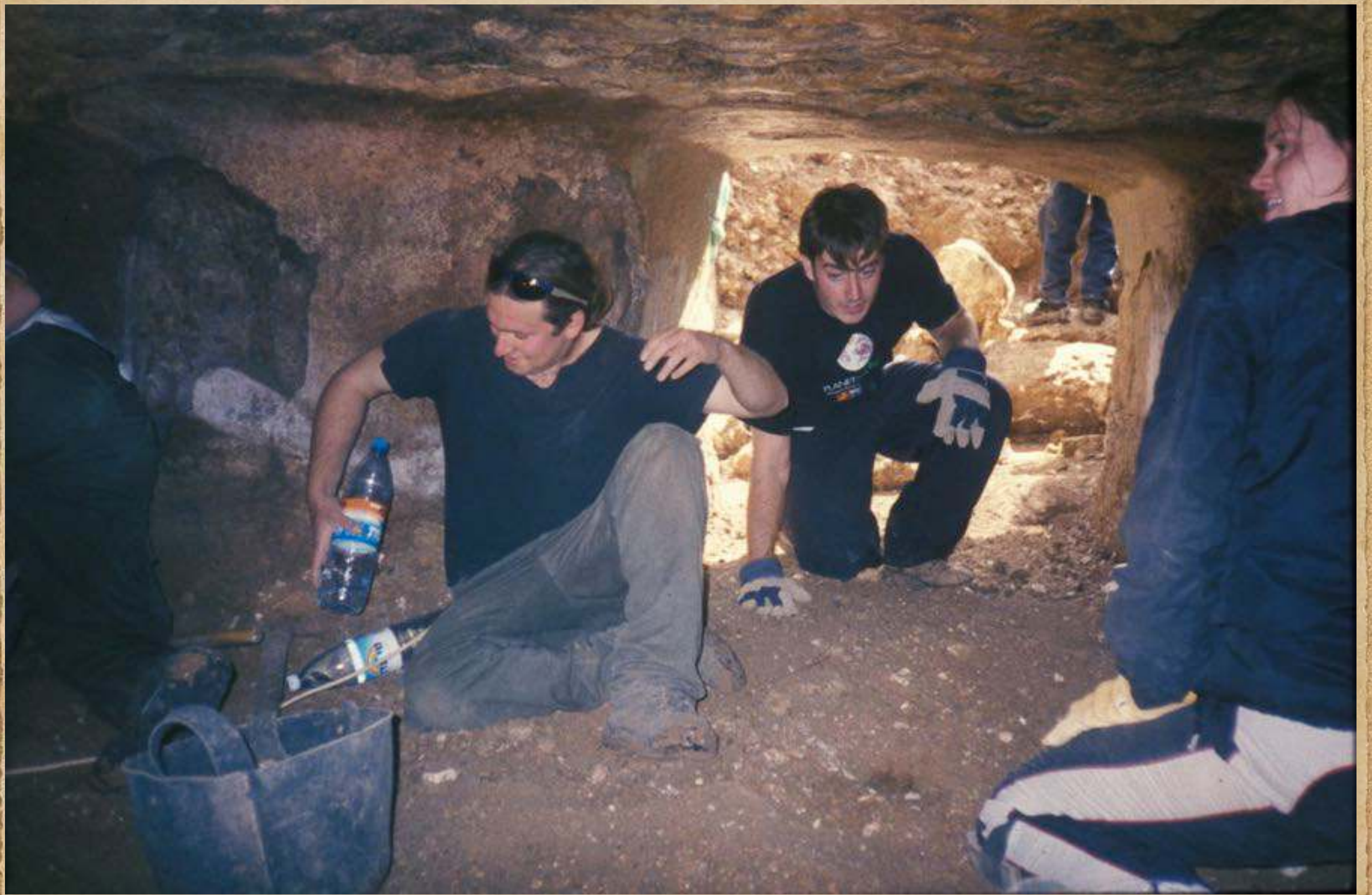








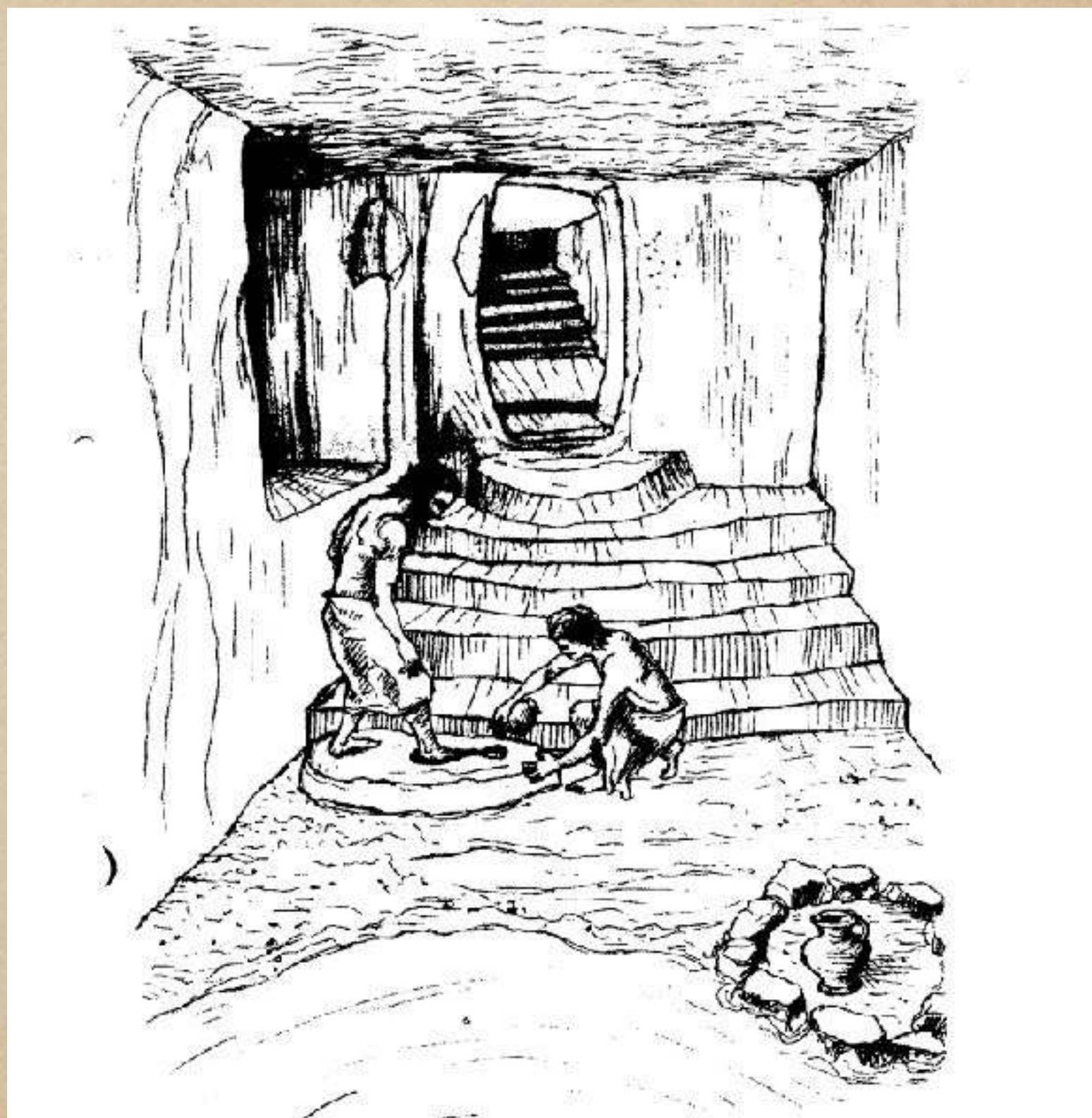






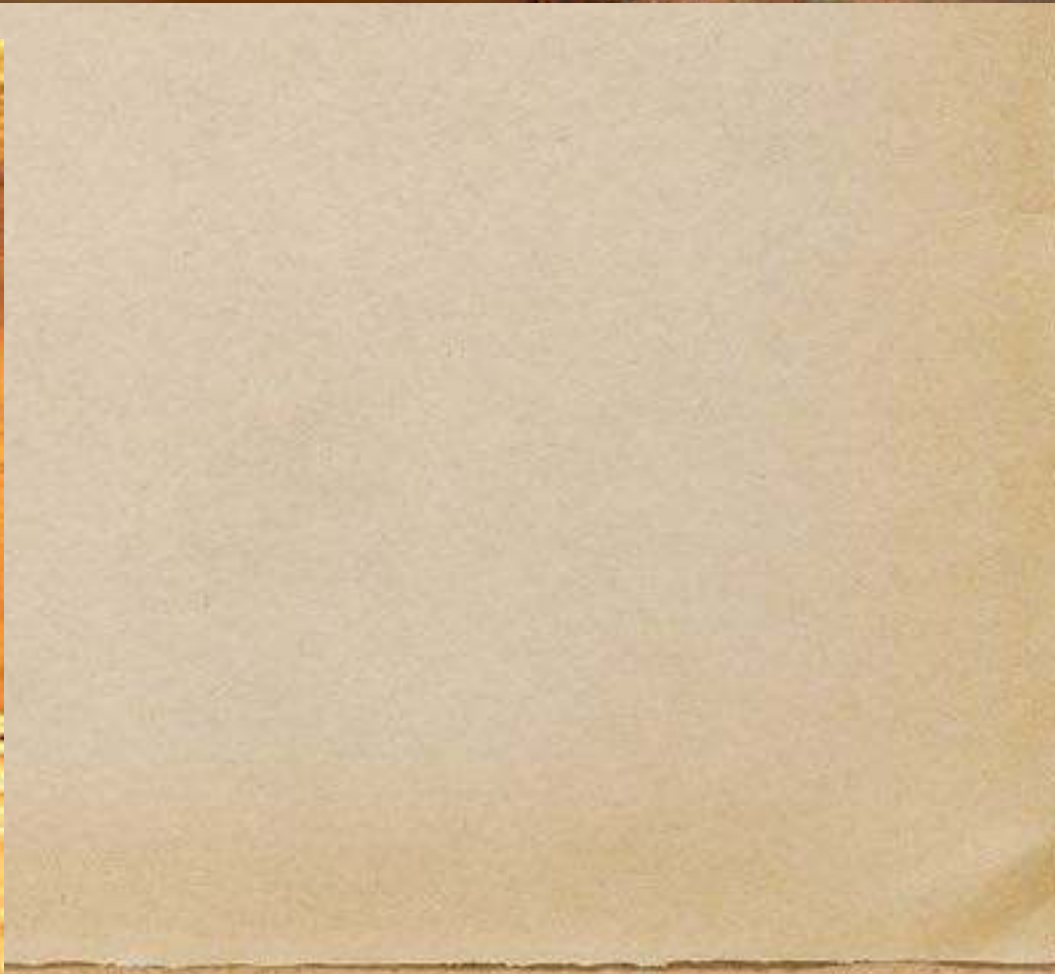


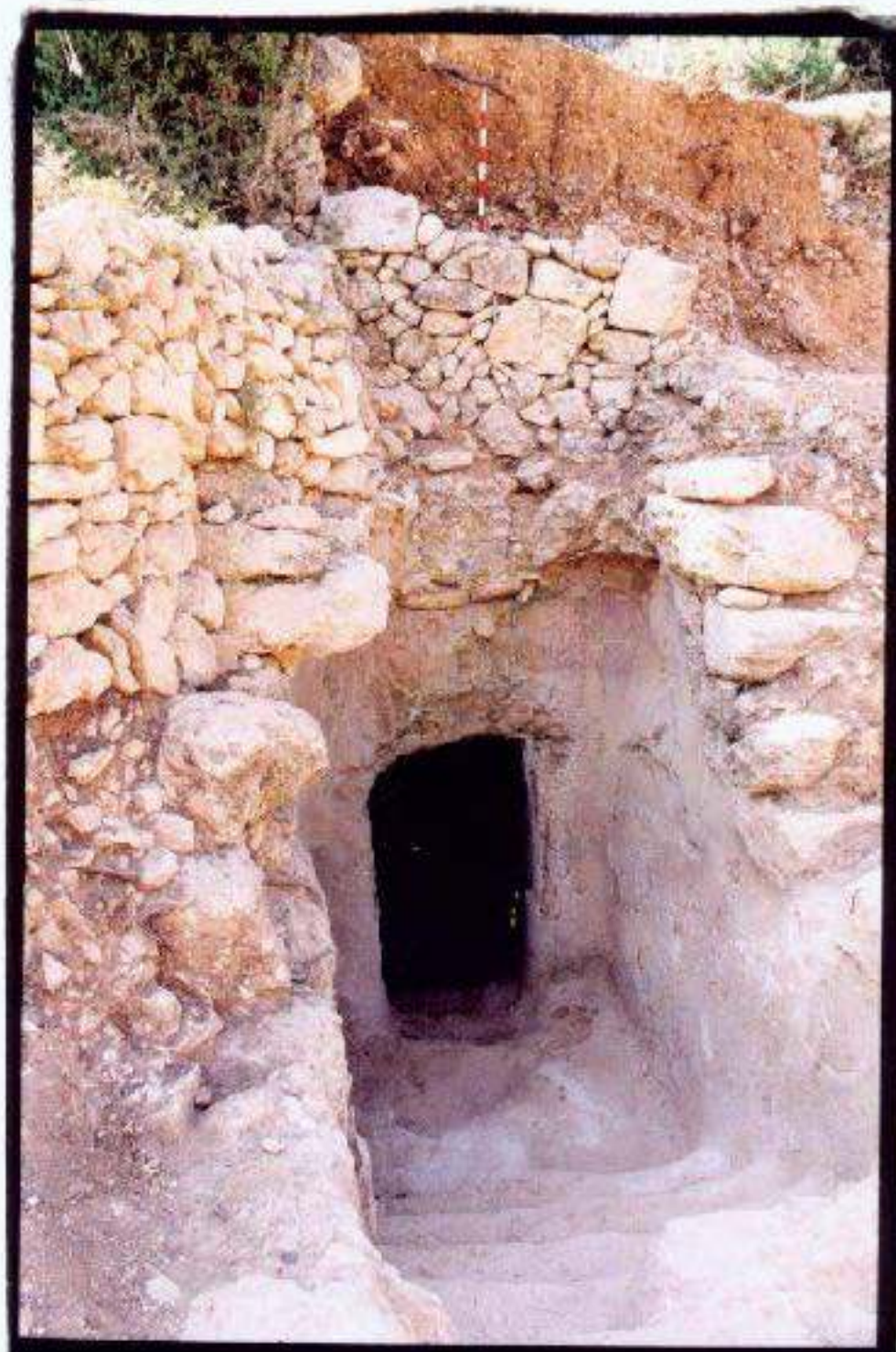








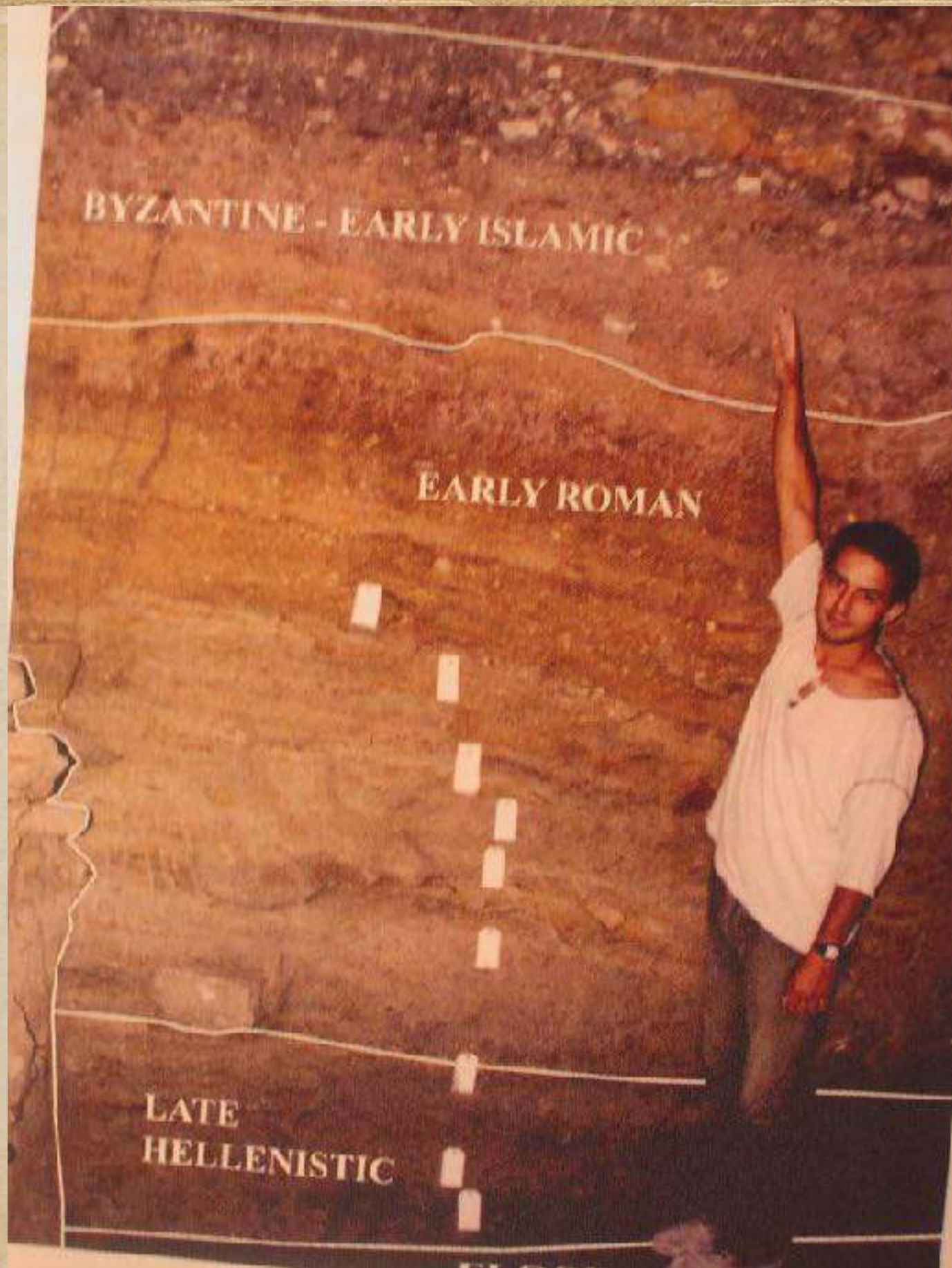


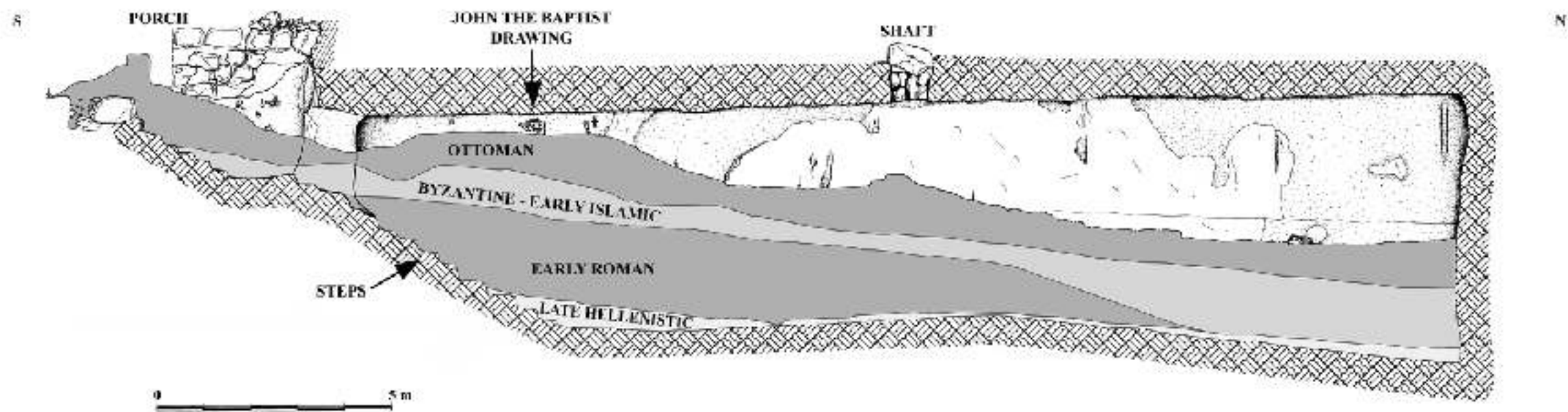


BYZANTINE - EARLY ISLAMIC

EARLY ROMAN

LATE
HELLENISTIC



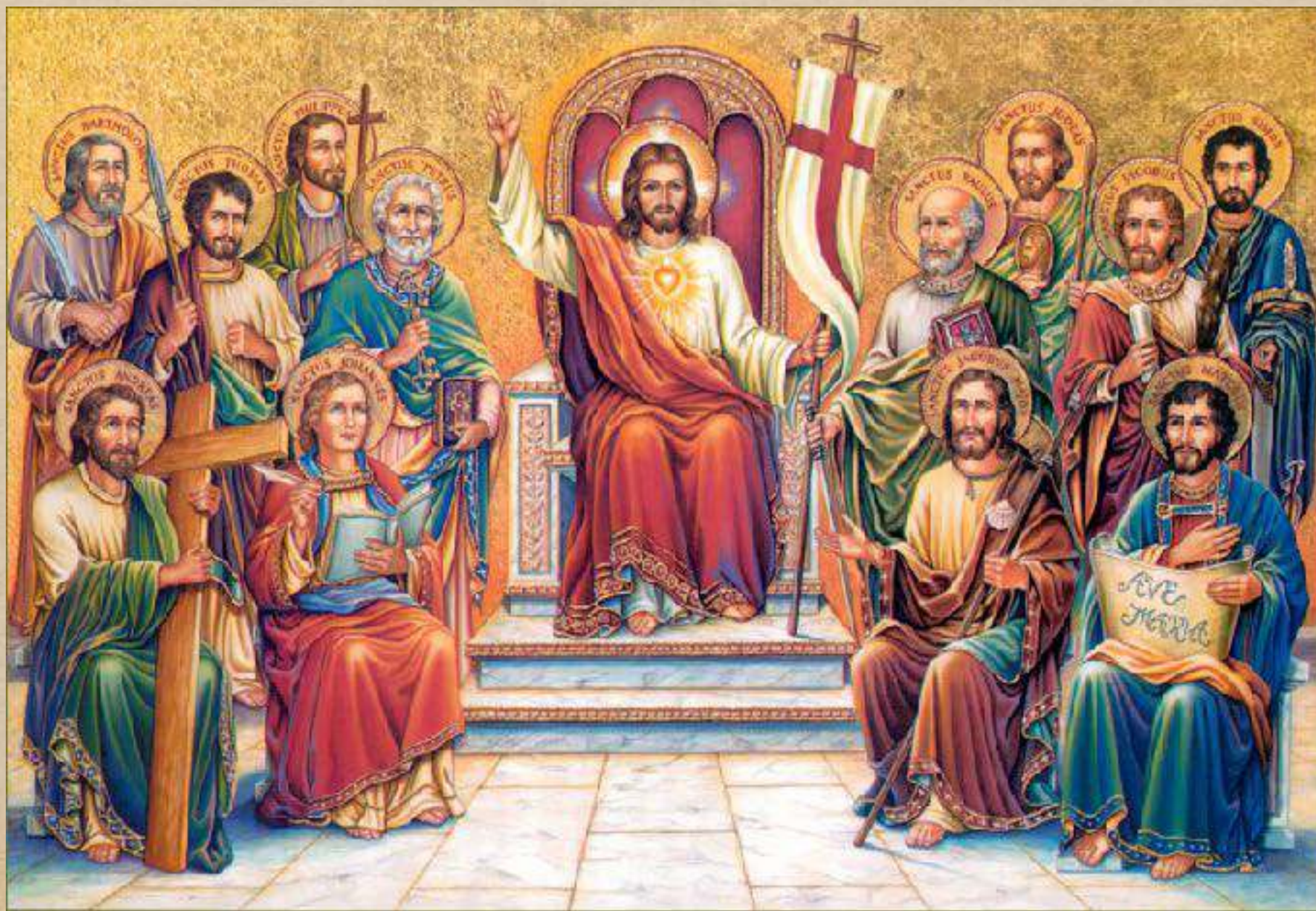








Lecture Nine:
Five Streams of Earliest Christianity:
The Myth of Christian Beginnings



Nicene Creed 325 CE

Constantinople Additions 381 CE



I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made.

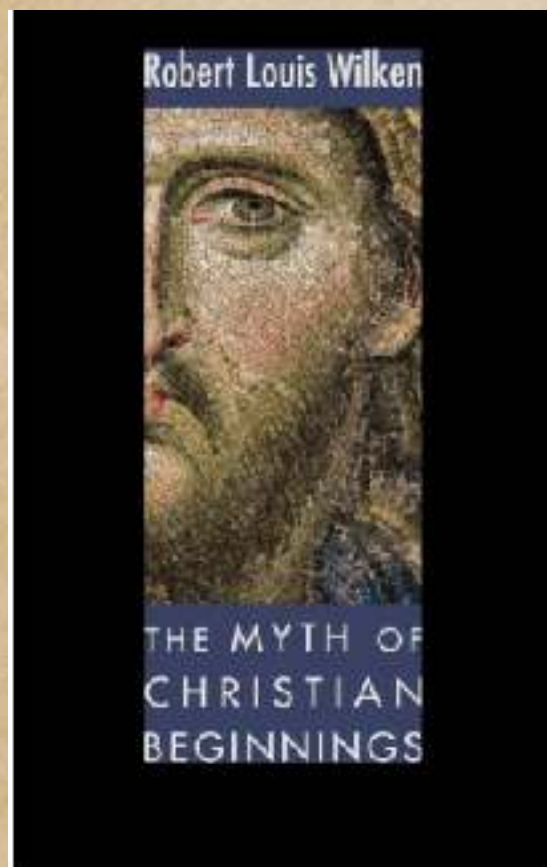
Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

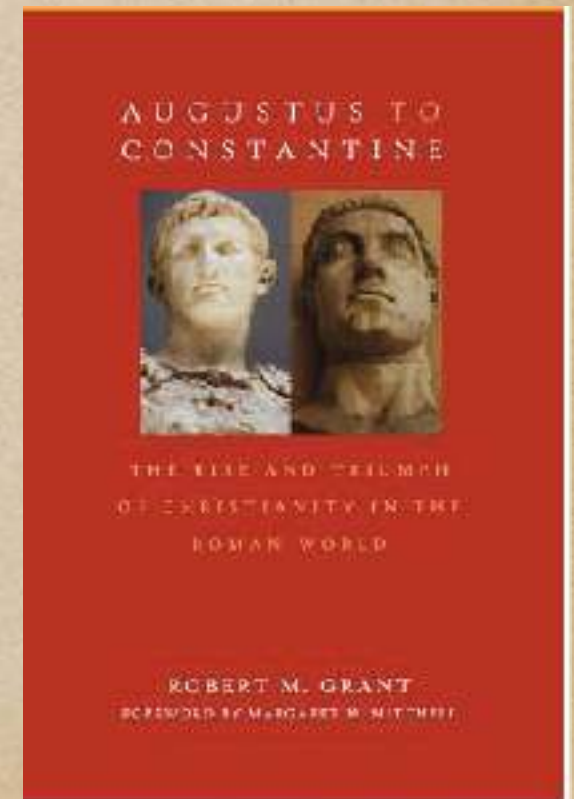
And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Christian Origins

How did a Jewish messianic apocalyptic movement within late 2nd Temple Judaism develop into the world religion we know as Orthodox Catholic Christianity?



The Jesus Movement
The Parting of the Ways
How Jesus Became Christian
The Rise of Christianity
The Triumph of Christianity



“Lost Christianities”

Ebionites/Nazarenes

Marcionites

Arians

Gnostics

Mandeans

The First Hundred Years

Our New Testament Writings

The John-Jesus Movement

James & the Jerusalem Community

Authentic/Early Paul

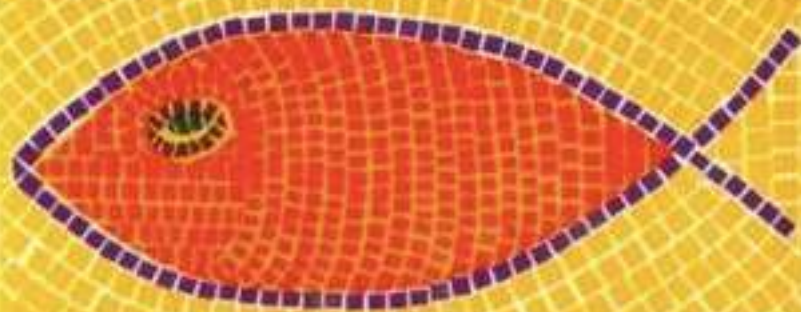
The Johannine Christ

The Pauline Consummation

THOSE INCREDIBLE CHRISTIANS

BY DR. HUGH J. SCHONFIELD

AUTHOR OF THE PASSOVER PLOT



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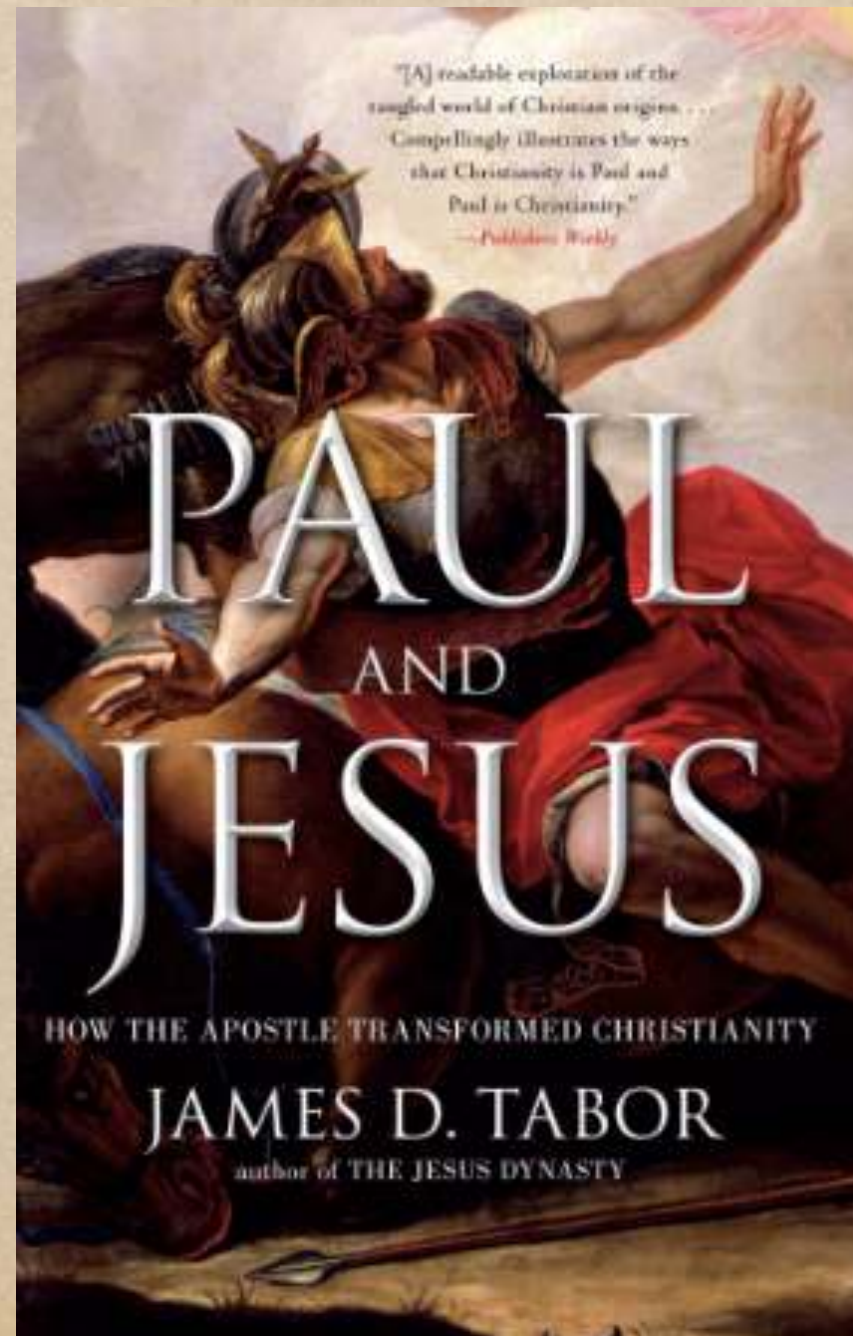
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FAMILY TOMB

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"Provocative. . . . Takes the search for the historical Jesus to a bold . . . new level."
—JAY TOLSON, U.S. News & World Report

Lecture Ten:
Will the Real Paul Please Stand Up?



Paul and Jesus: Four Fundamental Affirmations

- 1) Paul never met Jesus. Paul's sole claims to authority were his clairvoyant, visionary experiences, including his "sightings" or apparitions of Jesus.
- 2) From a historical point of view it is Paul not Jesus who might rightly be called the founder of Christianity. What most people identify as Christianity—including both the Apostles and Nicene Creeds, reflect more of Paul than the teachings of Jesus.
- 3) The entire New Testament, including the four Gospels and the book of Acts that present the life and teaching of Jesus and the history of early Christianity, are written long after Paul's letters and are heavily influenced by Paul.
Reading the N.T. backwards.
- 4) Paul is arguably the most influential human being in history; his ideas continue to shape how we think about most everything. He is not always the originator but he is often the main conduit: "The Bible tells me so."

Chapter 1: Christianity Before Paul

Chapter 2: Rethinking Resurrection of the Dead

Chapter 3: Reading the Gospels in the Light of Paul

Chapter 4: Last but Not Least

Chapter 5: A Cosmic Family and a Heavenly Kingdom

Chapter 6: A Mystical Union with Christ

Chapter 7: Already but Not Yet

Chapter 8: The Torah of Christ

Chapter 9: The Battle of the Apostles

Appendix: The Quest for the Historical Paul

Fundamental Transformations:

One God the Creator

The Revelation of Torah, Prophets, and Writings

Israel as the Chosen/Instrumental People

The Kingdom of God on Earth as it is in Heaven