



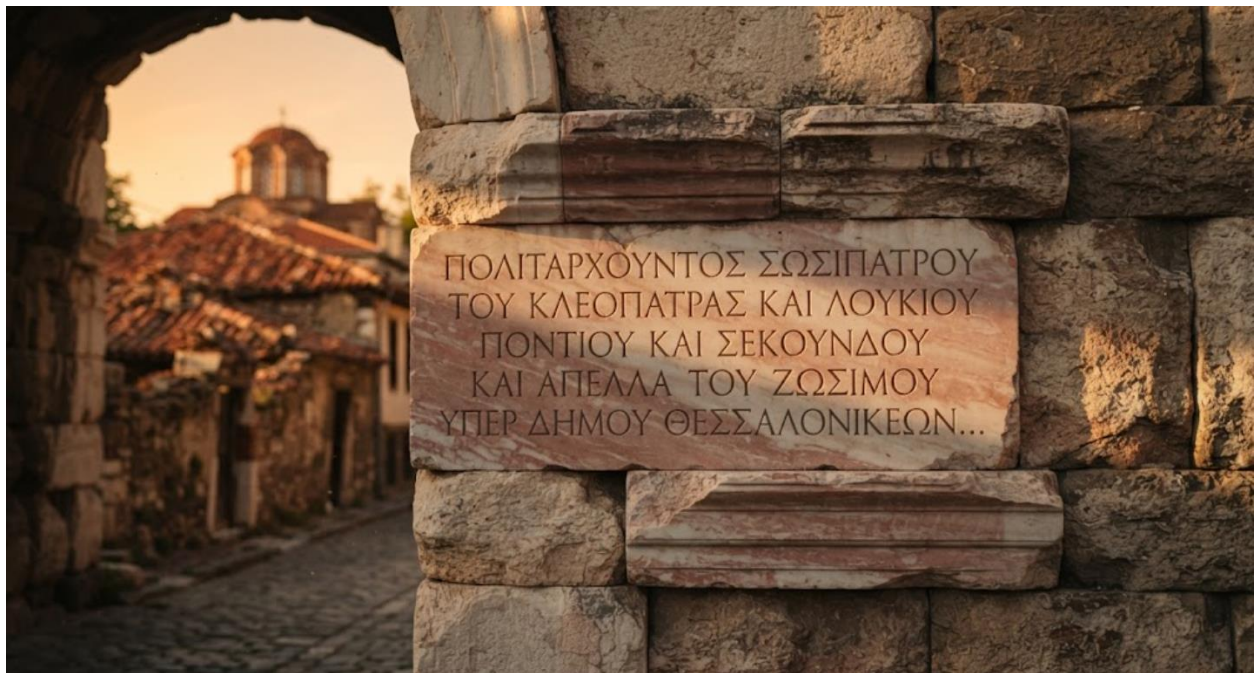
Archaeological discoveries over the past century have profoundly impacted how scholars view the historical reliability of the Book of Acts. While early skeptics doubted Luke's accuracy, modern archaeology has consistently confirmed the precise political titles, geographical markers, and administrative nuances of the 1st-century Roman world.

Here are the primary categories of archaeological evidence related to the Book of Acts:

1. Verification of Local Officials and Political Titles

Luke is renowned among historians for using exact, highly localized administrative titles for regional leaders—titles that frequently shifted as the Roman Empire reorganized provinces. Archaeology has verified several of these unique titles:

- **Politarchs (Acts 17:6, 8):** In Thessalonica, Luke refers to city officials as *politarchs*. For a long time, this term was absent from classical Greek literature, leading critics to claim Luke made an error. However, numerous inscriptions discovered throughout Macedonia (including the Vardar Gate inscription in Thessalonica) explicitly use *politarchs* to describe local magistrates.



The Vardar Gate Inscription in Thessalonica

- **Proconsul (Acts 18:12):** When Paul is brought before Gallio in Achaia, Luke correctly designates him as a *proconsul*. An inscription found at Delphi (the Gallio Inscription) mentions Gallio's tenure, helping historians date Paul's time in Corinth precisely to around 51–52 AD.



The Gallio Inscription in Achaia

- **Prostates / Leading Men (Acts 13 & 28):** In Cyprus and Malta, Luke uses precise terminology for local island leaders (such as Publius, designated as the "first man" of the island), which has been corroborated by local inscriptions bearing similar honorific titles.



2. Topography and Urban Geography in Asia Minor and Greece

Excavations in the cities visited by Paul and other early evangelists have uncovered structures and markers matching Luke's descriptions with remarkable precision:

- **The Theater at Ephesus (Acts 19):** The massive open-air theater where the riot against Paul took place has been fully excavated. It matches Luke's narrative of a crowd rushing together into a central amphitheater that could hold upwards of 25,000 spectators.



The Theater in Ephesus

- **The Pool of Bethesda and Siloam (John/Acts backdrop):** While often associated with the Gospels, excavations in Jerusalem have unearthed both the Pool of Bethesda (with its five porticos described in John) and the monumental Pool of Siloam, validating the physical layout of 1st-century Jerusalem as understood by its inhabitants during the early apostolic era.



- **Port Cities and Harbors:** Archaeological work regarding ancient harbor structures at Caesarea Maritima, Seleucia, and the ports of Crete (such as Fair Havens in Acts 27) mirrors the precise maritime and navigational details recorded in Luke's account of Paul's voyage and shipwreck.



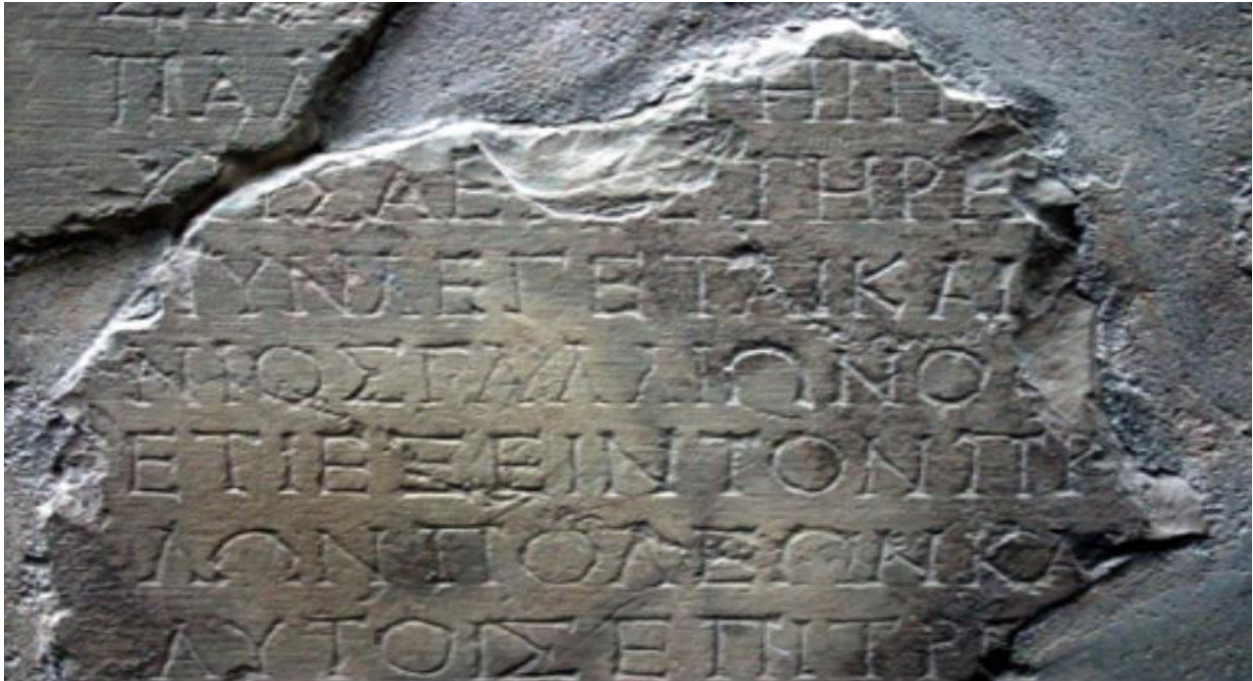
3. Inscriptions and Historical Figures

Several individuals and events mentioned in passing throughout Acts have left archaeological footprints in stone and coin:

- **Erastus, City Treasurer of Corinth (Acts 19:22 / Romans 16:23):** A limestone pavement inscription found near the theater in Corinth reads, "*Erastus, in return for his office, paved it at his own expense.*" Most archaeologists identify this with the Erastus mentioned by Paul and Luke in connection with Corinthian administration.



- **The Gallio Inscription (Acts 18):** As noted above, letters from the Roman Emperor Claudius discovered at Delphi mention Lucius Junius Gallio as proconsul of Achaia, serving as a vital anchor point for New Testament chronology.



- **Herod Agrippa I (Acts 12):** The dramatic death of Herod Agrippa in Caesarea is recorded by Luke and corroborated by the Jewish historian Josephus. Coins, inscriptions, and architectural remains from Caesarea reflect the grandeur and sudden termination of his reign.



4. There is a literal mountain of Archaeological treasures that corroborate scripture. Way too much for this paper. Here is the condensed version. Enjoy.



(Above) Top Ten from Acts. (Below) Top Ten from the Gospels.





(Above) Top Ten from the Torah. (Below) Top Ten from the Kings of Israel





The Tel Dan Stele from the House of David. Corroborates the existence of the Davidic royal line.

Foundational to Messianic Prophecy.



The Seal of King Hezekiah, Bulla.

Directly links to co-temporary with the prophet Isaiah. (Is. 36-39)



The Sennacherib Prism (691 BC)

Corroborates Hezekiah's reign and Jerusalem's miraculous survival.



The Mesha Stele (Moabite Stone)

Details King Mesha's rebellion against Israel, aligning with the Historical context of Elisha in 2 Kings 3.

ADAM
THE FIRST MAN

SETH
THE SECOND MAN

NOAH
BUILT WITH GOD

ABRAHAM
BUILDER OF THE NATIONS

ISAAC
CROWN SON

JACOB
FATHER OF ISRAEL

MOSES
LAW GIVER

UNDERSTAND SPREAD HARVEST READ

RUSH
BIBLE STUDY

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT FAST

DREAM
CITY CHURCH

DAVID HOBRATH