



SCIENCE

# Supposed 'Burial Slab' Of Jesus Christ Uncovered For First Time In Centuries

The slab had been encased in marble since at least 1555.

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Ed Mazza  
Overnight Editor



MAREMAGNUM VIA GETTY IMAGES

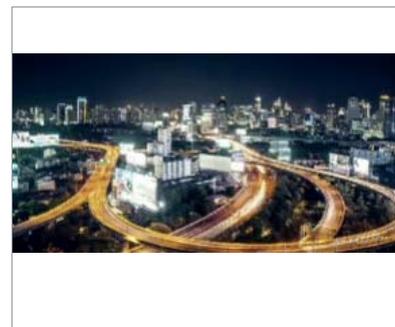
The Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where a stone slab said to have held the body of Jesus Christ has been uncovered for the first time in centuries.

A stone slab that many Christians believe once held the body of [Jesus Christ](#) after the crucifixion has been unveiled for the first time in centuries.

National Geographic, which was filming the restoration work at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, said [the marble that encased the slab since at least 1555 was removed](#) as part of the project.

"We were surprised by the amount of fill material beneath it," [Fredrik Hiebert](#), archaeologist-in-residence at the National Geographic Society, told the organization's website. "It will be a long scientific analysis, but we will finally be able to see the original rock surface on which, according to tradition, the body of Christ was laid."

The church is one of the most revered sites in Christianity, and includes the location traditionally believed to have been the scene of the crucifixion as well as the tomb. It's also highly controversial, as the location was [not identified until centuries after the events](#) depicted in the New Testament.



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# H **Supposed 'Burial Slab' Of Jesus Christ Uncovered For First Time In Ce...**



Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches. At times, [fights](#) have [broken out](#) between these sects. Such disagreements have allowed parts of the facility to fall into disrepair, and last year [the Israeli government temporarily shut down the church over fears of a possible collapse](#).

Earlier this year, the factions agreed to a nine-month renovation to [fix the crumbling chapel that was built over the](#) revered site, and to make other [long-overdue repairs](#). Removing the marble that encased the slab was part of that process, and will be featured in a National Geographic Channel "[Explorer](#)" episode in November.

"We are at the critical moment for rehabilitating the Edicule" (which encloses the tomb), Antonia Moropoulou of the the National Technical University of Athens told National Geographic. "The techniques we're using to document this unique monument will enable the world to study our findings as if they themselves were in the tomb of Christ."

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# H Supposed 'Burial Slab' Of Jesus Christ Uncovered For First Time In Ce...



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**Michael Jackson** · Madison Comprehensive High School

More christian rubbish serving the continuing absurdity of the christian myth. Jesus was not a real historical figure. Jesus was a myth. Let's stop pretending he was a real historical figure and let's stop giving credence to this execrable christian myth.

Like · Reply · 79 · 13 hrs · Edited



**Suzie Hoover** · ISU IPO

An ever growing number of historical and biblical scholars agree with you. Jesus is a myth.

Like · Reply · 35 · 10 hrs



**Calven McVetty**

Michael, Actually, back then, there were lots of guys named what today we would call "Jesus" as it was a very common name. So are you saying that nobody named Jesus lived then, including this one, or are you saying that he was in fact non-existent and can you PROVE your claim? Because otherwise, we can't accept your statement as fact.

Like · Reply · 22 · 7 hrs



**Bill York**

I thought you O.D. a few years ago.

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**Ronald Bruce Robinson**

If J E S U S returned and saw what RIGHTWINGWHITE Republicans did to the religion named after him, he'd go back in time, climb down from the cross, and pronounce his sacrifice not worth it.

Like · Reply · 63 · 15 hrs · Edited



**Stanley Yip**

Great line Ronald. Jesus would returned and make Donald Trump carry the cross and bear the sufferings of the poor. Is that the same as bankrupt?

Like · Reply · 11 · 14 hrs



**Ramona Jackson**

Stanley Yip, would that make Trump feel actual pain and suffering? Works for me.

Like · Reply · 12 · 13 hrs



**Ellie Greenwood**

If Jesus and His disciples had been in possession of guns the Romans never would have gotten Jesus up on that cross.

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**Robert Thomas Rock**

They should have put "supposed" in quotation marks as there is no actual proof that this marble slab was connected even remotely to Jesus. Faith is wonderful: it allows the faithful to connect the dots which aren't actually there.

Like · Reply · 28 · 14 hrs



**Mark Kuga-Henderson** · Президент at MASE Group, LLC

The empress mother of Constantine, Helena, traveled to Palestine in ca 326 to discover relics. Obviously, the locals did what anybody would do when some rich woman with ower sailed into town demanding things. They gave her what she wanted including the true cross and the nails. Recently, a local church here had a piece of the true cross stolen from their building. I offered to replace it as a tree had been cut down in the local dog park. They declined. It will turn up when their fund raising is over and declare it a miracle.

Like · Reply · 22 · 14 hrs



**James Marquam**

The mere use of 'supposed' implies the dubious nature of such claims. No further quote marks necessary.

Like · Reply · 5 · 13 hrs



**Suzie Hoover** · ISU IPO

Mark Kuga-Henderson  
You made me laugh.

Like · Reply · 1 · 14 hrs