

# **Ancient Aramaic Discovery Reveals Christianity's Victory Over Roman Mystery Cult**

Archaeologists have deciphered a 1,700-year-old inscription that captures a dramatic moment in the spread of Christianity across the Roman Empire. Found inside an underground temple dedicated to the pagan god Mithras, the discovery offers rare written evidence of the Gospel advancing into territory once dominated by one of Rome's most secretive religions.

According to a Fox News report, the Aramaic inscription was uncovered at Zerzevan Castle in southeastern Turkey. Written in the same language spoken by Jesus Christ, the engraving had puzzled researchers since its discovery in 2017 before its meaning was finally decoded.

## **A temple sealed by the cross**

The inscription was found at the entrance of an underground Mithras temple alongside the carving of a cross. Mithraism, a mystery religion centered on the worship of the deity Mithras, spread widely throughout the Roman Empire during the second and third centuries.

Professor Mehmet Sait Toprak determined the inscription records the closing of the temple after comparing its language with other ancient Aramaic and Old Syriac writings.

"The inscription is the first known Aramaic inscription documenting the closure of a Mithras temple," Toprak told Turkish state news outlet Anadolu Agency.



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The engraving also carries profound spiritual significance.

"The inscription mentions both Mithras and Jesus Christ," Toprak found, symbolizing the transition from one faith to the other. He also said the engraving contains references to the Holy Cross.

"This is an extremely important archaeological discovery," he added.

Excavation director Aytaç Coşkun said previous coin discoveries suggested the sanctuary had been abandoned during the third or fourth century, but the newly deciphered inscription now provides direct evidence that "it was closed and symbolically sealed by Christians."

Coşkun added that after fourth-century Roman emperors embraced Christianity, "Mithraism was seen as a rival religion."

## **The same battle continues**

This inscription is more than an archaeological curiosity. It reminds us that the first Christians carried the Gospel into cultures filled with idol worship, false religions and spiritual darkness. They proclaimed Jesus Christ despite opposition because they knew there was only one Savior and one risen King.

That mission has not changed.

Our battle is still fought against deception, false worship and every idea that exalts itself above the knowledge of God. Scripture reminds us, "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not fleshly but powerful through God for the demolition of strongholds. We demolish arguments and every high-minded thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, taking every

thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

The cross carved beside this ancient inscription stands as a reminder that kingdoms rise and fall, religions come and go and cultures change. Jesus Christ remains Lord. The same Gospel that transformed the Roman Empire continues to transform lives today, and we are called to carry that message with the same faith and courage as those early followers who sealed a pagan temple and proclaimed the victory of Christ.

*James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.*

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## **‘Fourth of July Miracle’: Missing 4-Year-Old Found Alive After Walking Nearly Five Miles Along Oregon Coast**

For many of us, the book of Revelation can feel intimidating.

It is filled with vivid imagery, mysterious symbols and prophetic events that Christians have debated for centuries. Faithful believers have landed on different conclusions about the end times, and that is nothing new. As Joe Kirby of Off the Kirb Ministries points out, studying prophecy should

always be done with humility.

So let's open the discussion together.

Kirby recently shared his thoughts on the famous Four Horsemen of Revelation. Whether you ultimately agree with every conclusion or not, his observations invite us to take another careful look at what Scripture actually says.

## **Is the first horseman really Jesus?**

One of Kirby's biggest arguments centers on the rider of the white horse in Revelation 6.

While some Christians have identified the rider as Christ, Kirby believes the description fits the Antichrist instead.

"But here's the thing: I don't believe this rider is actually a good guy. Many Christians believe that this rider is the Lord Jesus, but personally, I think the rider is the Antichrist."

Kirby points to several differences between this rider and Christ's return later in Revelation.

"When this rider arrives on his white horse, he wears a temporary crown, a wreath that will wilt and wither. And as he arrives to the scene, he ushers in tribulation."

By contrast, he notes that Jesus returns very differently.

"But when Christ, when the Lord Jesus arrives on his white horse, he doesn't wear a temporary crown. He has many crowns. And when he arrives, he brings peace to the earth, and his peace ends all of this carnage."



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# **A surprising interpretation of the bow**

Kirby also offers one of his most unusual interpretations.

He emphasizes several times that this is simply his own understanding and could be wrong.

“So, once more, I do just want to emphasize this. This is Joe Kirby’s interpretation and I could be way off on this one.”

His idea centers on the Greek word translated as “bow.”

“But could it be? Could it be that when the Antichrist arrives on his white horse, in his hand he is holding a rainbow. And anyone who does not bow down to the rainbow agenda of the Antichrist, to his system, that person will become a problem and that person will need dealing with.”

Whether readers agree with that conclusion or not, Kirby repeatedly reminds viewers that it is an interpretation rather than settled doctrine.

## **What about the other three horsemen?**

While Kirby spends most of his teaching discussing the identity of the first horseman, he also offers a brief overview of the remaining three riders in Revelation.

He believes the fiery red horse represents Satan’s work of removing peace from the earth, resulting in worldwide conflict unlike anything humanity has experienced before.

“This horse will have one job. When this horse gallops through the earth, it will do one thing. It will destroy any peace that was currently on the earth. Any peace treaties that the Antichrist has set up will be destroyed.”

Kirby then points to the black horse as a picture of famine following war. As food becomes scarce, he says the Antichrist will exploit desperate populations through economic control.

“People can’t find bread to eat. Food is scarce, and people have to start rationing out because the people in the tribulation, they will have very little to eat.”

Finally, Kirby says the pale horse represents death on an unprecedented scale. He notes that Revelation describes one-fourth of the world’s population dying through war, famine, disease and “the beasts of the earth.” While he suggests those “beasts” could even refer to microscopic organisms that spread plague, he stresses that this is simply one possible interpretation.

“I don’t know, I’m just speaking out loud right now.”



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## **A reminder to approach prophecy humbly**

Perhaps one of the most refreshing moments in the teaching comes when Kirby acknowledges that respected Bible teachers disagree with him.

“And although I personally do believe in a literal 7-year tribulation, I do want to say this. I actually might be wrong.”

He continues:

“And I think all of us who preach, teach, or even study the scriptures, when we look at the things of God, we should tremble because we’re holding precious truths here. And we should remember that we are just fallen men and women, and we

all make mistakes.”

That is an attitude worth remembering whenever we study biblical prophecy. Revelation is God’s Word, but sincere Christians have wrestled with its meaning for generations. We should never be afraid to open the Scriptures together, examine them carefully and sharpen one another in love.

## **The horsemen ultimately point us to Christ**

Kirby concludes by reminding us that prophecy is ultimately meant to point us to Jesus Christ.

“If you fear death and Hades, I want to tell you about a man who holds the keys to both.”

He then points to Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection.

“The third day he rose from the grave, showing that he’s triumphant, showing that he is the boss over death, and that he alone is the one that we can trust and obey because he’s conquered the grave. He’s conquered death itself.”

No matter where we land on the identity of the first horseman or the timing of the events in Revelation, that truth remains unchanged. We can study prophecy, discuss differing interpretations and sharpen one another as we search the Scriptures together. But our hope has never rested in having every prophetic detail figured out.

Our hope rests in Jesus Christ—the One who has already defeated sin and death and who will one day return in victory.

**James Lasher**, a seasoned writer and editor at *Charisma Media*, combines faith and storytelling with a journalism background from *Otterbein University* and ministry experience in *Guatemala* and at the *LA Dream Center*. A *Marine Corps* and *Air Force*

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# **Charlie Kirk's Family Faces Accused Killer Tyler Robinson for the First Time as Murder Case Moves Forward**

There are certain days you never forget.

I remember the day Charlie Kirk was murdered as if it happened yesterday.

Like many others, I saw the video on X before I realized what had actually taken place. It wasn't until moments later that the horrifying reality set in: the world had just watched a Christian husband, father and fearless defender of biblical truth lose his life in an act of evil.

While our hearts still grieve that loss, we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Charlie is with the Lord he loved and proclaimed so boldly. Our prayers, however, remain with Erika, their children and the entire Kirk family as they continue walking through an unimaginable valley.

That painful reality returned to the forefront Monday as Charlie's family came face to face for the first time with the man accused of assassinating him during the opening day of a preliminary hearing in Utah.

According to Fox News, Tyler Robinson sat quietly in the

courtroom as prosecutors presented evidence related to the Sept. 10, 2025, assassination. The hearing is expected to continue throughout the week as prosecutors seek to move the aggravated murder case toward trial.

One of the most shocking moments came when investigators introduced video evidence of the shooting. Although the graphic footage was shown only to the judge and attorneys, the courtroom could hear the fatal gunshot.

“While Judge Tony Graf Jr. flinched and leaned away from the screen when the shot rang out in one of the videos, Robinson remained still during both,” Fox News reported.

*□ UPDATE: In a visibly jarring moment, the judge in the Charlie Kirk assassination trial of Tyler Robinson suddenly flinches after graphic footage of the incident is played*

*THAT'S how bad it really was.*

*And Robinson has no remorse.*

*Pray for Erika Kirk and Charlie's family, we...*

*– Eric Daugherty (@EricLDaugh) July 6, 2026*

Charlie Kirk’s wife, Erika, along with his parents and other family members, left the courtroom before the graphic evidence and autopsy testimony were presented after receiving advance warnings.

Investigators later confirmed Kirk’s death was a homicide caused by a gunshot wound to the neck. Officer Christopher Bagley also testified that he believed the fatal shot came from a rifle fired from the rooftop of the Losee Center. He told the court he found “a black and red screwdriver and impressions in the gravel that he described as what looked

like a 'sniper's pad.'"

The judge also ruled that an edited surveillance video could not yet be admitted because it had not been properly authenticated, though prosecutors indicated they plan to introduce an unedited version later in the hearing.



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Charlie lived without apology for Jesus Christ. Whether speaking on college campuses, behind a microphone or in front of thousands, he consistently pointed people toward biblical truth and encouraged Christians to stand firm in their faith despite growing hostility.

Jesus warned His followers that such opposition would come. "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you" (John 15:18). He also said, "If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you" (John 15:20). Charlie understood that following Christ carries a cost, and he never stopped proclaiming the truth.

As these proceedings continue, let us faithfully lift up Erika, Charlie's children and the entire Kirk family before the Lord. Pray that He strengthens them, comforts them and surrounds them with His peace. Pray that justice is carried out faithfully. And pray against the vile lies and hateful attacks that continue to be directed toward this grieving family. Those lies do not come from the Spirit of God, but from the father of lies (John 8:44). Even in the face of darkness, we know Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33), and His light will always shine brighter than the works of the enemy.

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*and at the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man's Commentary and a contributor to Charisma magazine. For interviews and media inquiries, please contact media@.*

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## **Derek Prince: 8 Powerful Ways God's Word Will Transform Your Life**

According to the report, the city featured "broad north-south streets intersected by east-west roads to create public squares," along with homes, watchtowers and public buildings, painting the picture of a well-organized Christian settlement.

Mahmoud Massoud, director general of Dakhla Antiquities and head of the excavation mission, said the settlement "contained all the architectural components of a fully functioning community."

Among the most significant discoveries were nearly 200 inscribed pottery fragments, known as ostraca, preserving the voices of the people who once lived there.



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Diaa Zahran, head of the Islamic, Coptic and Jewish Antiquities Sector, said, "One of the excavation's most significant discoveries is a collection of nearly 200 inscribed ostraca (pottery fragments used as writing material)

bearing texts in both Coptic and Greek.”

According to Zahran, the inscriptions “record commercial transactions, correspondence and other details of daily life, offering an exceptional documentary record of the city’s inhabitants.”

The discovery also reinforces Christianity’s deep historical roots in Egypt. During the Byzantine period, “Christianity became the dominant religion, towns expanded across the country, and Egypt served as one of the empire’s richest provinces.”

Today, the unearthed basilica stands as a testimony to generations of believers who faithfully gathered to worship Christ centuries before many of the world’s modern nations even existed. As archaeologists continue uncovering the city, each discovery provides another glimpse into the lives of early Christians whose faith helped shape the history of the Church.

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## **Scientists Offer New Theory**

# on Near-Death Experiences—What Does the Bible Say?

Millions of people around the world have reported near-death experiences, describing remarkably similar encounters that have fascinated doctors, researchers and us for decades.

A new psychological theory attempts to explain those experiences as the product of a dying brain. While the research offers insight into what may be happening physically during humanity's final moments, we also know from Scripture that death is both a physical and a spiritual event.

According to a report from Vice, about 10% of people across 35 countries say they have experienced a near-death experience, citing research published in PeerJ. Common accounts include leaving the body, moving toward a brilliant light, encountering deceased loved ones, experiencing overwhelming peace and returning to life.

Researchers continue finding that the brain remains active as death approaches.

“Dying, from a neurological standpoint, isn't like flipping a light switch,” the article states. Studies have found “the brain producing a sudden surge in gamma waves—its highest-frequency output, associated with peak conscious processing and perception.”



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The emotional side of these experiences is equally striking.

“The emotional picture that emerges from NDE accounts is

mostly positive,” the article says. While about 14% of reported experiences include distressing elements, most describe profound peace, love and understanding.

A paper published in *Frontiers in Psychology* proposes what researcher Kayış calls the “dying-moment dream hypothesis.”

According to the theory, as oxygen deprivation limits outside sensory input, “the brain stops receiving input from the outside world; it turns inward, flooding consciousness with memories and emotions drawn from the person’s own life.”

The hypothesis also suggests that the emotional tone of an experience is shaped by a person’s life history and that cultural background may influence how people interpret what they see.

Researchers acknowledge that those ideas remain speculative.

## **A Call for Biblical Discernment**

We should, of course, approach near-death experiences with both humility and discernment.

Author Randy Kay, who was clinically dead for more than 30 minutes before encountering Jesus, has spent years studying near-death experiences through the lens of Scripture. He encourages us to neither dismiss every account nor accept every testimony without testing it against God’s Word.

Kay has warned that many modern near-death accounts promote ideas that contradict Scripture. Instead, he says genuine encounters should glorify Jesus Christ and point people to the Gospel.

“It is not a collection of feel-good stories about tunnels and white light,” Kay wrote of his research, explaining that the accounts were examined for biblical consistency and supported by evidence.

Kay argues authentic experiences should:

- Glorify Jesus Christ.
- Agree with Scripture.
- Call people to repentance.
- Strengthen faith in the Gospel rather than curiosity about the supernatural.

## The Physical and the Spiritual

Scientific research can help explain what the brain is doing as the body dies. Scripture reveals what happens beyond physical death.

Paul wrote, “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8).

Hebrews 9:27 declares, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.”

There is no reason for us to fear legitimate scientific research. Every discovery about the human brain reveals more of the incredible design God built into His creation. At the same time, we should never confuse a physical explanation with a complete explanation.

Science can tell us what may be happening in the brain as life comes to an end. It cannot determine the eternal destiny of the soul.

Near-death experiences remain one of the most fascinating intersections of medicine, consciousness and faith. As we continue to learn more about the physical and mental processes surrounding death, let us also remain anchored in God’s Word, which gives us confidence that because Jesus Christ conquered death through His resurrection, all who place their faith in

Him have the sure hope of everlasting life.

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## **'God Had Other Plans': Arizona Toddler Found Alive After Being Declared Dead Remains a Miracle as Parents Face Potential Charges**

An Arizona toddler whose extraordinary survival stunned the nation continues to recover after being mistakenly declared dead and later found alive inside a hospital morgue. While authorities are now seeking felony child abuse charges against his parents, this remains a powerful reminder that God is still working miracles.

According to Fox News, Gilbert police have recommended felony child abuse charges against the parents of 18-month-old Vincent Fiordilino after investigators concluded the boy nearly drowned during a Super Bowl party.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office is reviewing the recommendation, and no charges have been filed.

Investigators allege Vincent wandered out of his parents' sight before guests found him floating face down in a backyard swimming pool. Police say both parents later admitted to smoking marijuana during the gathering and allege their impairment contributed to the lapse in supervision.

After first responders rushed Vincent to Mercy Gilbert Medical Center, a physician pronounced him dead.

Then came the moment that captured national attention.



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Hours after Vincent had been transferred to the hospital morgue, medical personnel discovered he was still alive and breathing. He was immediately airlifted to Phoenix Children's Hospital.

According to the police report, Vincent's parents and responding officers questioned whether the toddler had actually died, believing he was still showing signs of life. Detectives also allege a nurse later detected a pulse after he had been pronounced dead. Police did not recommend criminal charges against the physician involved.

Following the incident, Dignity Health said it conducted a thorough review.

"This is a heartbreaking situation. We immediately conducted a thorough review of all aspects of the care that was provided to learn what happened and to make meaningful changes to strengthen our care," a hospital spokesperson said.

The family's GoFundMe page calls Vincent a "miracle baby" and recounts the unimaginable phone call his parents received after returning home, believing their son had died.

"Vincent was declared deceased," the fundraiser states. "His

devastated parents were sent home in unimaginable grief. But God had other plans. A little after 11:30 p.m., the family received a call no one expected: the medical examiner had detected a faint heartbeat.”

The fundraiser says Vincent’s kidneys, lungs and liver initially began shutting down, and early scans suggested possible brain damage. Later testing reportedly found no brain damage. He continues to undergo extensive therapy and medical treatment as he recovers.

We thank God for preserving Vincent’s life through an ordeal that seemed impossible to survive. His recovery is not yet complete, and he still needs our prayers. Please join us in praying for Vincent’s continued healing, for wisdom for his medical team, and for God’s grace to surround his family in the days ahead.

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