

Ancient Burial Cave Discovered Beneath Jerusalem Opens Window Into Time of Jesus

A violent incident in Jerusalem unexpectedly led Israeli Border Police to an extraordinary archaeological discovery: an ancient burial cave dating to the time of Jesus.

The cave was found in Silwan, a modern neighborhood built above and around the City of David. The area sits near the Pool of Siloam and across the Kidron Valley from ancient Jerusalem.

Israeli tour guide Yoav Rotem told CBN News that police entered the area following reports of violence and gunfire. Their response brought the hidden tomb to light.

"We know it's a burial cave because exactly the way it was built," Rotem said, explaining that hundreds of similar caves have been uncovered around Jerusalem.



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Its design points to the late Second Temple period.

"This is architecturally fit to the time of the Second Temple, mostly to the time of the end of the Second Temple, the first century, which is the time of Jesus," Rotem said.

Such caves commonly served wealthy families over several generations. Bodies were placed inside niches carved into the walls. About a year later, relatives would return, gather the bones and place them inside stone boxes known as ossuaries.

Police photographs appear to show one of those arched burial niches. Rotem said ossuaries and additional artifacts were also found inside.

The discovery underscores how much biblical history remains concealed beneath modern Jerusalem. Homes in Silwan stand above ancient caves and archaeological layers, while excavations continue beneath parts of the neighborhood.

For Rotem, these discoveries give physical context to the Bible.

“It really happened,” he said. “It happened in a land, in a place with stones that has color and geography that has ups and downs and hills.”

CBN’s Raj Nair closed the segment with Psalm 122:6, urging Christians around the world to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”

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@.