

1

00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:03,940

There are places that are still lost.

2

00:00:03,940 --> 00:00:07,380

And one of the most important sites is Bethsaida.

3

00:00:07,380 --> 00:00:09,780

This is a really important city.

4

00:00:09,780 --> 00:00:12,580

This is a place where Jesus is performing miracles.

5

00:00:12,580 --> 00:00:13,820

He's walking on water.

6

00:00:13,820 --> 00:00:16,020

Absolutely.

7

00:00:16,020 --> 00:00:17,060

It's extraordinary.

8

00:00:17,060 --> 00:00:18,820

What an incredible site.

9

00:00:18,820 --> 00:00:22,560

This place is like otherworldly.

10

00:00:22,560 --> 00:00:25,600

This is the first time the world has seen this in 1,400 years.

11

00:00:25,600 --> 00:00:27,860

Yep.

12

00:00:28,260 --> 00:00:29,760

So simple question.

13

00:00:29,760 --> 00:00:31,260

Where's Bethsaida?

14

00:00:31,260 --> 00:00:33,000

Put on your gloves and let's go to work.

15

00:00:33,000 --> 00:00:34,200

Oh, manual labor?

16

00:00:34,200 --> 00:00:36,100

Oh, I didn't realize.

17

00:00:36,100 --> 00:00:38,400

Ready to rock and roll.

18

00:00:38,400 --> 00:00:39,840

There's another site that they believe

19

00:00:39,840 --> 00:00:42,400

this could be Bethsaida.

20

00:00:42,400 --> 00:00:43,040

What?

21

00:00:43,040 --> 00:00:44,380

My brain is exploding right now.

22

00:00:47,020 --> 00:00:49,380

Jesus may have walked on this very street.

23

00:00:49,380 --> 00:00:50,720

It's overwhelming to think about.

24

00:00:50,720 --> 00:00:53,020

There's always surprises in our killings.

25

00:00:53,020 --> 00:00:55,780

I got to remember to not look down too much.

26

00:00:55,780 --> 00:00:56,720

It's not the smoke that got me.

27

00:00:56,720 --> 00:00:57,620

It's a bomb.

28

00:00:57,620 --> 00:01:00,080

This is unbelievable.

29

00:01:00,080 --> 00:01:01,220

I mean, look at this.

30

00:01:10,460 --> 00:01:14,160

All of us have heard the stories of the miracles of Jesus.

31

00:01:14,160 --> 00:01:17,160

He is said to have healed the blind, walked on water,

32

00:01:17,160 --> 00:01:19,240

and fed the 5,000.

33

00:01:19,240 --> 00:01:20,940

The Bible reveals that the miracles

34

00:01:20,940 --> 00:01:23,440

happened on the shores of the Sea of Galilee,

35

00:01:23,440 --> 00:01:26,440

in a fishing village called Bethsaida.

36

00:01:26,460 --> 00:01:30,140

This was also the hometown of three of Jesus' apostles,

37

00:01:30,140 --> 00:01:33,180

including Peter, the rock of the early church,

38

00:01:33,180 --> 00:01:35,740

later anointed as the first pope.

39

00:01:35,740 --> 00:01:38,480

Bethsaida is therefore one of the holiest

40

00:01:38,480 --> 00:01:40,580

Christian sites on Earth.

41

00:01:40,580 --> 00:01:45,120

Or it would be if we knew where it was.

42

00:01:45,120 --> 00:01:48,220

Its location, lost for nearly 2,000 years,

43

00:01:48,220 --> 00:01:51,960

has recently sparked a heated and holy debate.

44

00:01:51,960 --> 00:01:54,660

In the late 20th century, one archaeologist

45

00:01:54,780 --> 00:01:56,980

discovered the ruins of an ancient town

46

00:01:56,980 --> 00:01:59,820

so convincing that it was officially declared

47

00:01:59,820 --> 00:02:03,620

to be the long-missing site, but not so fast.

48

00:02:03,620 --> 00:02:05,760

Because now, a different team claims

49

00:02:05,760 --> 00:02:08,400

that they've found the real Bethsaida,

50

00:02:08,400 --> 00:02:11,300

and they're backing it up with a remarkable discovery

51

00:02:11,300 --> 00:02:14,400

that's making headlines around the globe.

52

00:02:14,400 --> 00:02:17,240

And nearby, a third archaeological dig

53

00:02:17,240 --> 00:02:19,700

may have unearthed the literal foundation

54

00:02:19,700 --> 00:02:21,540

of Christianity itself.

55

00:02:22,540 --> 00:02:25,500

So come with me as I journey to the Holy Land

56

00:02:25,500 --> 00:02:29,200

to walk in the footsteps of Jesus and his apostles

57

00:02:29,200 --> 00:02:33,540

on a quest to find the lost city of miracles.

58

00:02:38,980 --> 00:02:40,980

My name is Josh Gates.

59

00:02:40,980 --> 00:02:41,720

Hello!

60

00:02:41,720 --> 00:02:42,820

Explorer.

61

00:02:42,820 --> 00:02:43,520

Here goes nothing.

62

00:02:43,520 --> 00:02:44,420

Adventurer.

63

00:02:44,420 --> 00:02:45,720

Woo-hoo-hoo!

64

00:02:45,720 --> 00:02:46,960

Oh, that's a long way down.

65

00:02:46,960 --> 00:02:50,760

And a guy who ends up in some very strange situations.

66

00:02:50,880 --> 00:02:52,620

I'm alive for now.

67

00:02:52,620 --> 00:02:56,480

With a degree in archaeology and a passion for the unexplained,

68

00:02:56,480 --> 00:02:58,360

I travel to the ends of the Earth,

69

00:02:58,360 --> 00:03:01,420

investigating the greatest legends in history.

70

00:03:01,420 --> 00:03:02,920

Ready to rock and roll.

71

00:03:02,920 --> 00:03:05,160

This is Expedition Unknown.

72

00:03:16,060 --> 00:03:18,860

Through the storied stones of Damascus Gate,

73

00:03:18,860 --> 00:03:22,020

I cross the threshold into the old city of Jerusalem.

74

00:03:28,420 --> 00:03:30,660

Well, I am back again in the Holy Land.

75

00:03:30,660 --> 00:03:33,100

At the only place we could begin this expedition,

76

00:03:33,100 --> 00:03:36,000

the building behind me is the most important site

77

00:03:36,000 --> 00:03:38,740

in the entire Christian world, the Church of the Holy

78

00:03:38,740 --> 00:03:39,700

Sepulchre.

79

00:03:39,700 --> 00:03:42,420

Let's go inside.

80

00:03:42,420 --> 00:03:44,060

This is the place where tradition

81

00:03:44,060 --> 00:03:47,340

holds that Jesus was crucified and buried,

82

00:03:47,340 --> 00:03:49,340

and then rose from the dead.

83

00:03:49,340 --> 00:03:52,220

For the past 1,700 years, Christians

84

00:03:52,220 --> 00:03:57,580

have made pilgrimage here to get as close to him as possible.

85

00:03:57,580 --> 00:04:01,220

But I'm here to search for Christianity's humble beginnings

86

00:04:01,220 --> 00:04:04,140

and the place of miracles that started it all.

87

00:04:04,140 --> 00:04:06,780

To do that, we have to go back in time,

88

00:04:06,780 --> 00:04:09,580

like here on the lowest level of the Holy Sepulchre.

89

00:04:12,620 --> 00:04:15,380

This is one of the oldest parts of the Church,

90

00:04:15,380 --> 00:04:18,540

and this is essentially antique graffiti.

91

00:04:18,540 --> 00:04:21,140

Thousands of crosses carved into the walls

92

00:04:21,140 --> 00:04:26,460

by devoted pilgrims who traveled here from faraway lands.

93

00:04:26,460 --> 00:04:30,380

Chiseling your mark into holy architecture is now a no-no.

94

00:04:30,380 --> 00:04:33,180

But people are still continuing the tradition,

95

00:04:33,180 --> 00:04:34,740

just using another medium.

96

00:04:37,780 --> 00:04:41,860

This is Razouk Tattoo, and it's not just any tattoo parlor.

97

00:04:41,860 --> 00:04:45,540

It's been around since the Crusades were a going concern.

98

00:04:45,540 --> 00:04:47,940

The oldest stamp in the store is this,

99

00:04:47,940 --> 00:04:50,340

a partially broken Jerusalem cross.

100

00:04:50,340 --> 00:04:55,580

This woodblock is 500 years old, and it would look really good

101

00:04:55,580 --> 00:04:57,620

on me.

102

00:04:57,620 --> 00:05:00,180

Wasim Razouk is the current caretaker.

103

00:05:00,180 --> 00:05:04,180

For 27 generations, his family has been inking pilgrims

104

00:05:04,180 --> 00:05:08,780

in the Holy Lamb, and they still come in droves.

105

00:05:08,780 --> 00:05:10,540

Hello, hello.

106

00:05:10,540 --> 00:05:11,900

How's everyone doing?

107

00:05:11,900 --> 00:05:12,700

Good.

108

00:05:12,700 --> 00:05:14,860

OK, so we've got a sword happening here.

109

00:05:14,860 --> 00:05:15,700

You're getting what?

110

00:05:15,700 --> 00:05:16,660

Merrimagulam.

111

00:05:16,660 --> 00:05:20,100

Merrimagulam, and you've got all sorts of stuff going on.

112

00:05:20,100 --> 00:05:21,020

We've got a few things.

113

00:05:21,020 --> 00:05:22,100

Been here eight times.

114

00:05:22,100 --> 00:05:22,900

Wow.

115

00:05:22,900 --> 00:05:25,460

If he gets 10, he gets a free one, right?

116

00:05:25,460 --> 00:05:27,220

Wow, this is extraordinary.

117

00:05:27,220 --> 00:05:31,380

Soon, Wasim's chair is free, and I'm in it.

118

00:05:31,380 --> 00:05:35,100

OK, time for me to dig deep and bear the pain.

119

00:05:41,340 --> 00:05:42,900

OK, what do you think?

120

00:05:42,900 --> 00:05:45,660

Well, not going to lie, it hurt a lot.

121

00:05:45,660 --> 00:05:47,220

But I toughed it out.

122

00:05:47,220 --> 00:05:48,020

What are you talking about?

123

00:05:48,020 --> 00:05:48,980

We didn't even start.

124

00:05:48,980 --> 00:05:50,100

I didn't tattoo you yet.

125

00:05:50,100 --> 00:05:51,540

This was just a stamp.

126

00:05:51,540 --> 00:05:52,100

What?

127

00:05:52,100 --> 00:05:53,020

That was just a stamp?

128

00:05:53,020 --> 00:05:53,420

Yeah.

129

00:05:53,420 --> 00:05:54,460

Oh, no, I'm not ready for this.

130

00:05:54,460 --> 00:05:55,220

I'm not ready for this.

131

00:05:55,220 --> 00:05:56,100

You're not ready?

132

00:05:56,100 --> 00:05:57,060

No, I got to hit the road.

133

00:05:57,060 --> 00:05:57,660

OK.

134

00:05:57,660 --> 00:05:58,540

Where are you going?

135

00:05:58,540 --> 00:06:00,460

We're filming up north.

136

00:06:00,460 --> 00:06:02,500

Oh, you want to ride with us?

137

00:06:02,500 --> 00:06:03,140

Us?

138

00:06:03,140 --> 00:06:04,140

Us.

139

00:06:10,860 --> 00:06:23,900

Not only is Wasim a tattoo artist, he's also a member of the Holy Land Bikers, a motorcycle

140

00:06:23,900 --> 00:06:29,940

club which patrols the most sacred streets on earth.

141

00:06:29,940 --> 00:06:35,500

These guys are all about honor, loyalty, and brotherhood, and it is a privilege to ride

142

00:06:35,500 --> 00:06:36,500

alongside them.

143

00:06:36,860 --> 00:06:42,540

All I had to do was kick in for gas, grass, and promise to go to mass.

144

00:06:42,540 --> 00:06:43,540

It's fair.

145

00:06:47,220 --> 00:06:50,540

Wasim, I like your style.

146

00:06:50,540 --> 00:06:51,540

Thank you, man.

147

00:06:55,100 --> 00:06:58,220

Damn it, a gang.

148

00:06:58,220 --> 00:06:59,220

It's a miracle.

149

00:07:02,660 --> 00:07:05,620

Wasim, this is my exit.

150

00:07:05,620 --> 00:07:06,620

Thank you so much.

151

00:07:06,620 --> 00:07:09,300

I'll be sure to bring the bikes back, OK?

152

00:07:09,300 --> 00:07:10,780

God bless.

153

00:07:10,780 --> 00:07:14,540

Eventually, I break off from the gang and point my chopper north.

154

00:07:18,300 --> 00:07:24,020

To find the lost city of miracles, I'm headed to a city that isn't lost, an ancient village

155

00:07:24,020 --> 00:07:29,100

mentioned in all four gospels, known as Capernaum.

156

00:07:29,100 --> 00:07:34,620

After a drive of about 100 miles, I arrive at the archeological site of Capernaum on

157

00:07:34,620 --> 00:07:40,740

the western edge of the famous Sea of Galilee.

158

00:07:40,740 --> 00:07:42,300

Don't let the view confuse you.

159

00:07:42,300 --> 00:07:48,660

The Sea of Galilee is actually a lake, the lowest freshwater lake in the world, 700 feet

160

00:07:48,660 --> 00:07:50,380

below sea level.

161

00:07:50,380 --> 00:07:56,700

And on its shore are the ruins of Capernaum, a simple fishing village from the first century.

162

00:07:56,700 --> 00:08:00,140

It's here that I'm meeting biblical scholar Yiska Harani.

163

00:08:00,140 --> 00:08:01,140

Yiska.

164

00:08:01,140 --> 00:08:04,460

Hello, Josh.

165

00:08:04,460 --> 00:08:05,460

Good morning.

166

00:08:05,460 --> 00:08:06,460

Absolutely.

167

00:08:06,460 --> 00:08:11,700

So, based on the thousands of people I see walking around here, I take it we are standing

168

00:08:11,700 --> 00:08:13,140

in a very important place.

169

00:08:13,140 --> 00:08:16,740

Yes, Capernaum is really the heart of the Galilee.

170

00:08:16,740 --> 00:08:19,700

It's Jerusalem of the Galilee from the perspective of Jesus.

171

00:08:19,700 --> 00:08:24,980

Right, because in the Bible, to put it quite simply, Jesus was here, right?

172

00:08:24,980 --> 00:08:25,980

He lived here.

173

00:08:25,980 --> 00:08:28,300

Jesus was here according to the four gospels.

174

00:08:28,300 --> 00:08:29,300

Right.

175

00:08:29,300 --> 00:08:33,220

All gospels place Jesus' ministry here.

176

00:08:33,220 --> 00:08:38,660

The four gospels, the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, don't always agree.

177

00:08:38,660 --> 00:08:43,540

But in some things, like the mention of this fishing village, they're unanimous.

178

00:08:43,540 --> 00:08:47,940

As important a place as this is, it did become lost for a while, right?

179

00:08:47,940 --> 00:08:48,940

Yes.

180

00:08:48,940 --> 00:08:52,620

In the ninth century or tenth, the latest, it is abandoned.

181

00:08:52,620 --> 00:08:56,940

And that's really the thing that's brought me here, is that as important as this is,

182

00:08:56,940 --> 00:09:02,620

there are other places like Capernaum that are today still lost.

183

00:09:02,620 --> 00:09:03,620

That is true.

184

00:09:03,620 --> 00:09:06,060

And one of the most important sites is Bethsaida.

185

00:09:06,060 --> 00:09:07,060

Bethsaida.

186

00:09:07,060 --> 00:09:10,420

So this is a place that is also mentioned in all four of the gospels.

187

00:09:10,420 --> 00:09:14,020

Bethsaida is the place where three apostles grew up.

188

00:09:14,020 --> 00:09:15,020

Right.

189

00:09:15,020 --> 00:09:16,340

Peter and his brother Andrew.

190

00:09:16,340 --> 00:09:17,340

Uh-huh.

191

00:09:17,340 --> 00:09:19,340

And then a third one called Philip.

192

00:09:19,340 --> 00:09:21,340

I have to think back to Sunday school now.

193

00:09:21,340 --> 00:09:26,260

I need an apostle refresher course.

194

00:09:26,260 --> 00:09:31,220

The apostles were Jesus' crew, his literal ride or dies, who were the first to spread

195

00:09:31,220 --> 00:09:33,660

the gospel of his divine nature.

196

00:09:33,660 --> 00:09:35,660

There were an even dozen of them.

197

00:09:35,660 --> 00:09:41,860

Peter, Peter's brother Andrew, Simon, aka Simon the zealot, John, John's brother James,

198

00:09:41,860 --> 00:09:44,620

another James, which must have been kind of confusing.

199

00:09:44,620 --> 00:09:52,180

Matthew, Bartholomew, Thomas, Jude, Philip, and last and definitely least, Judas Iscariot.

200

00:09:52,180 --> 00:09:55,900

Together, they are responsible not just for throwing the most memorable dinner party in

201

00:09:55,900 --> 00:10:00,500

history, but for the founding of Christianity itself.

202

00:10:00,500 --> 00:10:04,100

And the fact that Peter is from Bethsaida is also really significant.

203

00:10:04,100 --> 00:10:07,020

He's the one who's going to be given the keys to leadership.

204

00:10:07,020 --> 00:10:08,020

Yeah.

205

00:10:08,020 --> 00:10:10,140

Home to some very important characters in this story.

206

00:10:10,140 --> 00:10:12,580

Bethsaida is also a place of miracles.

207

00:10:12,580 --> 00:10:16,780

And all these miracles are very significant.

208

00:10:16,780 --> 00:10:21,980

The gospel of Mark tells us of a blind man who was brought to Jesus begging to be healed.

209

00:10:21,980 --> 00:10:28,700

Jesus laid his hands on the man's eyes and the blind could see.

210

00:10:29,060 --> 00:10:33,180

Mark also tells us that it is from the shores of the lost town that Jesus walked on the

211

00:10:33,180 --> 00:10:36,780

sea of Galilee.

212

00:10:36,780 --> 00:10:42,860

And finally, there's one of Jesus' most memorable feats, feeding 5,000 people with just five

213

00:10:42,860 --> 00:10:45,500

loaves of bread and two fish.

214

00:10:45,500 --> 00:10:49,740

According to Luke, all 5,008 and were filled.

215

00:10:49,740 --> 00:10:54,940

And all of this happened in Bethsaida.

216

00:10:54,940 --> 00:10:59,900

So if we're digging around in the dirt and we find a site, what do we need for a place

217

00:10:59,900 --> 00:11:01,100

to be Bethsaida?

218

00:11:01,100 --> 00:11:02,780

What's on the checklist?

219

00:11:02,780 --> 00:11:08,220

In order to be Bethsaida, first of all, we have to find a Jewish fishing village from

220

00:11:08,220 --> 00:11:09,220

first century.

221

00:11:09,220 --> 00:11:10,220

Right.

222

00:11:10,220 --> 00:11:11,220

Much like this.

223

00:11:11,220 --> 00:11:12,220

Yes.

224

00:11:12,220 --> 00:11:14,620

We need, because these apostles were fishermen, we need a fishing village.

225

00:11:14,620 --> 00:11:15,620

Exactly.

226

00:11:15,620 --> 00:11:16,620

Exactly.

227

00:11:16,620 --> 00:11:17,620

Right.

228

00:11:17,620 --> 00:11:18,620

Okay.

229

00:11:18,620 --> 00:11:20,580

But then the second level must be a Roman polis.

230

00:11:20,580 --> 00:11:21,580

Polis.

231

00:11:21,580 --> 00:11:25,340

That means a city recognized by the imperial rulers.

232

00:11:25,340 --> 00:11:26,340

Right.

233

00:11:26,340 --> 00:11:28,860

So we need Jewish level and we need the Roman level.

234

00:11:28,860 --> 00:11:30,620

Got it.

235

00:11:30,620 --> 00:11:34,900

Under the Roman Empire, towns that were in favor with local administrators could be given

236

00:11:34,900 --> 00:11:37,300

the status of a polis.

237

00:11:37,300 --> 00:11:41,020

Roman polises were granted limited autonomy to self-govern.

238

00:11:41,020 --> 00:11:46,660

And right around the time of Jesus' crucifixion, Bethsaida became one such place.

239

00:11:46,660 --> 00:11:52,780

It was even given a Roman name, Julius, in honor of the emperor Caesar Augustus' wife,

240

00:11:52,780 --> 00:11:56,020

Julia.

241

00:11:56,020 --> 00:11:57,580

So a simple question.

242

00:11:57,580 --> 00:11:58,580

Where's Bethsaida?

243

00:11:58,580 --> 00:12:00,700

There are two candidates for Bethsaida.

244

00:12:00,700 --> 00:12:01,700

There are.

245

00:12:01,700 --> 00:12:06,580

The one called Atel is a place that was discovered in 1989.

246

00:12:06,580 --> 00:12:08,340

All right.

247

00:12:08,340 --> 00:12:13,620

And is still being excavated and it seemed to be a good candidate.

248

00:12:13,620 --> 00:12:14,620

Okay.

249

00:12:14,620 --> 00:12:16,300

But then we had a surprise.

250

00:12:16,300 --> 00:12:19,500

Our location was identified to be a potential candidate.

251

00:12:19,500 --> 00:12:21,140

The place is called El Arash.

252

00:12:21,140 --> 00:12:22,140

Okay.

253

00:12:22,140 --> 00:12:26,220

And it is being now, as we're speaking, it is being excavated.

254

00:12:26,220 --> 00:12:27,700

So which one is Bethsaida?

255

00:12:27,700 --> 00:12:33,660

Well, only archaeology can be the real witness to what has happened 2000 years ago.

256

00:12:33,660 --> 00:12:40,300

Because if we don't see the Bethsaida coming alive from the ground, it will remain a text.

257

00:12:40,300 --> 00:12:41,300

Right.

258

00:12:41,300 --> 00:12:45,340

Or it will remain lost.

259

00:12:45,340 --> 00:12:51,380

There are multiple contenders for the site, but only one was a place of miracles.

260

00:12:51,380 --> 00:12:57,300

I thank Yeska and rush back to my bike to visit a pair of potential Bethsaidas.

261

00:12:57,300 --> 00:12:59,020

All right.

262

00:12:59,020 --> 00:13:04,540

For your consideration, candidate number one, the archaeological site of Atel, a place that

263

00:13:04,540 --> 00:13:08,180

has been calling itself Bethsaida for 30 years.

264

00:13:08,180 --> 00:13:11,620

They are so convinced they even put it on the street signs.

265

00:13:11,620 --> 00:13:16,020

So maybe this lost city has already been found.

266

00:13:16,020 --> 00:13:20,420

Atel is only a few miles from Capernaum, but the tourists don't appear to be making the

267

00:13:20,420 --> 00:13:22,420

trip with me.

268

00:13:22,420 --> 00:13:24,420

Okay.

269

00:13:24,420 --> 00:13:27,420

Where is everybody?

270

00:13:27,420 --> 00:13:32,580

I hiked through some seriously impressive ruins in search of the archaeologist who discovered

271

00:13:32,580 --> 00:13:34,740

this site, Rami Arav.

272

00:13:34,740 --> 00:13:37,180

Here we go.

273

00:13:37,180 --> 00:13:38,180

Rami.

274

00:13:38,180 --> 00:13:39,180

Rami.

275

00:13:39,180 --> 00:13:40,180

Josh.

276

00:13:40,180 --> 00:13:41,180

Hey, how are you?

277

00:13:41,220 --> 00:13:42,220

Come, we just found something.

278

00:13:42,220 --> 00:13:43,220

You found something?

279

00:13:43,220 --> 00:13:44,220

You got to see it.

280

00:13:44,220 --> 00:13:45,220

What did you find?

281

00:13:45,220 --> 00:13:46,220

What did you find?

282

00:13:46,220 --> 00:13:47,220

Please.

283

00:13:47,220 --> 00:13:48,220

What?

284

00:13:48,220 --> 00:13:49,220

Look at this.

285

00:13:49,220 --> 00:13:50,220

This is from a column?

286

00:13:50,220 --> 00:13:51,220

That's a column.

287

00:13:51,220 --> 00:13:52,220

Yes, part of a column.

288

00:13:52,220 --> 00:13:53,220

Roman.

289

00:13:53,220 --> 00:13:54,220

Yep.

290

00:13:54,220 --> 00:14:09,140

A mid-first century ruins near the Sea of Galilee, archaeologist Rami Arav believes he's discovered

291

00:14:09,180 --> 00:14:13,700

the lost city of Jesus and his apostles, Bethsaida.

292

00:14:13,700 --> 00:14:14,700

It is beautiful.

293

00:14:14,700 --> 00:14:16,660

Okay, so where are we?

294

00:14:16,660 --> 00:14:18,440

We are in the middle of a temple.

295

00:14:18,440 --> 00:14:19,440

This is a Roman temple.

296

00:14:19,440 --> 00:14:20,440

This is a Roman temple.

297

00:14:20,440 --> 00:14:21,440

Okay.

298

00:14:21,440 --> 00:14:24,700

Built in the year 30, and it was dedicated to Julia.

299

00:14:24,700 --> 00:14:29,420

So if this is the temple of Julia, does that mean that we are in the city of Julius?

300

00:14:29,420 --> 00:14:30,860

Julius.

301

00:14:30,860 --> 00:14:35,740

And Julius, we know from the Roman histories, used to be...

302

00:14:35,740 --> 00:14:36,740

Bethsaida.

303

00:14:36,740 --> 00:14:37,740

Bethsaida.

304

00:14:37,820 --> 00:14:39,380

Does that mean we're standing in Bethsaida?

305

00:14:39,380 --> 00:14:40,780

We are sitting in Bethsaida.

306

00:14:40,780 --> 00:14:42,260

That would be incredible.

307

00:14:42,260 --> 00:14:43,260

So let's make the case, right?

308

00:14:43,260 --> 00:14:44,260

All right.

309

00:14:44,260 --> 00:14:47,460

In order to be Bethsaida, we have to meet a few criteria, right?

310

00:14:47,460 --> 00:14:51,020

Do we have evidence, along with this Roman stuff, do we have evidence of a Jewish fishing

311

00:14:51,020 --> 00:14:52,020

village here?

312

00:14:52,020 --> 00:14:53,020

Absolutely.

313

00:14:53,020 --> 00:14:54,020

No question.

314

00:14:54,020 --> 00:14:55,020

No question.

315

00:14:55,020 --> 00:14:56,020

No question.

316

00:14:56,020 --> 00:14:57,020

I love how sure you are.

317

00:14:57,020 --> 00:14:58,020

Show me.

318

00:14:58,020 --> 00:14:59,020

Come on.

319

00:14:59,020 --> 00:15:00,020

All right, let's go.

320

00:15:00,020 --> 00:15:04,020

Rami leads me deeper into the 20-acre, first-century dig site.

321

00:15:04,020 --> 00:15:07,700

His team has found evidence of fishing netweights and anchors.

322

00:15:07,700 --> 00:15:10,460

They are here in one very historic neighborhood.

323

00:15:10,460 --> 00:15:13,220

Josh, look at this.

324

00:15:13,220 --> 00:15:14,540

This is the street.

325

00:15:14,540 --> 00:15:16,860

Like these stones are the actual cobblestones?

326

00:15:16,860 --> 00:15:18,540

Yeah, actual cobblestones.

327

00:15:18,540 --> 00:15:19,540

Amazing.

328

00:15:19,540 --> 00:15:23,300

What is also amazing about this street is that this is the place where the apostles were

329

00:15:23,300 --> 00:15:24,300

born.

330

00:15:24,300 --> 00:15:25,300

Right?

331

00:15:25,300 --> 00:15:27,100

Most probably they walked on this street.

332

00:15:27,100 --> 00:15:28,100

Can you imagine?

333

00:15:28,100 --> 00:15:30,980

They walked on here, right, where you are walking now.

334

00:15:30,980 --> 00:15:33,460

Jesus may have walked on this very street.

335

00:15:33,460 --> 00:15:35,380

Very street where you are walking now.

336

00:15:35,380 --> 00:15:36,380

Right?

337

00:15:37,020 --> 00:15:42,220

You don't have to be religious in order to feel awe in a place like this.

338

00:15:42,220 --> 00:15:47,020

Standing on 2,000 years of history simply compels it.

339

00:15:47,020 --> 00:15:50,500

I have to say that this place is really extraordinary.

340

00:15:50,500 --> 00:15:53,940

There's one thing that's puzzling me.

341

00:15:53,940 --> 00:15:56,780

The water, the Sea of Galilee.

342

00:15:56,780 --> 00:15:58,260

It looks really far away.

343

00:15:58,260 --> 00:16:01,100

When I think fishing village, I think we're on the water.

344

00:16:01,100 --> 00:16:02,100

Absolutely.

345

00:16:02,100 --> 00:16:05,060

That feels like a long way to carry my fishing nets and my anchors.

346

00:16:06,060 --> 00:16:11,820

As critics of Etel point out, pretty much every fishing village in the world is, by definition,

347

00:16:11,820 --> 00:16:12,820

on the water.

348

00:16:12,820 --> 00:16:14,460

That's where the fish are.

349

00:16:14,460 --> 00:16:19,140

This site not only sits high on a hill, but it's a mile from the shore.

350

00:16:19,140 --> 00:16:20,780

So is that puzzling?

351

00:16:20,780 --> 00:16:21,980

Yes, of course.

352

00:16:21,980 --> 00:16:22,980

Right.

353

00:16:22,980 --> 00:16:23,980

So what's the answer to the puzzle?

354

00:16:23,980 --> 00:16:29,700

So 2,000 years ago, the lake covered all the area up to this area.

355

00:16:29,700 --> 00:16:30,700

This was all flooded?

356

00:16:30,700 --> 00:16:31,700

Yep.

357

00:16:31,700 --> 00:16:33,820

There was lagoons, yes, all the way lagoons up to here.

358

00:16:33,820 --> 00:16:34,820

Right.

359

00:16:34,820 --> 00:16:36,660

So you've been able to bring a boat much closer?

360

00:16:36,660 --> 00:16:38,580

Yeah, through the lagoons.

361

00:16:38,580 --> 00:16:42,780

Now, does everybody accept this idea that there were lagoons here or is this a matter

362

00:16:42,780 --> 00:16:43,780

of debate?

363

00:16:43,780 --> 00:16:47,060

It's...I mean, you have to ask geologists about that.

364

00:16:47,060 --> 00:16:48,540

It's not a matter of debate for you.

365

00:16:48,540 --> 00:16:49,540

No.

366

00:16:49,540 --> 00:16:50,540

This is a question for geologists.

367

00:16:50,540 --> 00:16:51,540

Exactly so.

368

00:16:51,540 --> 00:16:53,040

Yes.

369

00:16:53,040 --> 00:16:57,660

For Etel to be the biblical town of Bethsaida, it had to have been on the water.

370

00:16:57,660 --> 00:17:00,780

So one of two things has to be true.

371

00:17:00,780 --> 00:17:04,780

Whether the Sea of Galilee was higher than it is now and extended to the base of the

372

00:17:04,780 --> 00:17:11,020

hilltop city or the water level was the same as today, but lagoons that no longer exist

373

00:17:11,020 --> 00:17:14,140

once connected Etel to the Sea of Galilee.

374

00:17:14,140 --> 00:17:19,180

To see if either is possible, I'm meeting a scientist who's investigating Rami's claims,

375

00:17:19,180 --> 00:17:20,180

Natty Bergman.

376

00:17:20,180 --> 00:17:22,700

Natty, hey man, nice to meet you.

377

00:17:22,700 --> 00:17:23,700

Nice to meet you, Josh.

378

00:17:23,700 --> 00:17:26,020

Now, you are a geomorphologist, right?

379

00:17:26,020 --> 00:17:27,020

Yeah.

380

00:17:27,020 --> 00:17:28,580

And then the definition of that is?

381

00:17:28,580 --> 00:17:30,700

How the landscape is shaping during time.

382

00:17:30,700 --> 00:17:31,700

Okay, great.

383

00:17:31,700 --> 00:17:32,700

What are we going to do today?

384

00:17:32,700 --> 00:17:37,780

Well, we're going to go up in the air, take a lot of photos, connect it to satellite imagery,

385

00:17:37,780 --> 00:17:44,140

and then build a topographic model of the shoreline and get an idea of how this environment

386

00:17:44,140 --> 00:17:45,140

is shaped up.

387

00:17:45,140 --> 00:17:46,140

Okay, got it.

388

00:17:46,140 --> 00:17:47,140

You ready to fly?

389

00:17:47,140 --> 00:17:48,140

Yeah.

390

00:17:48,140 --> 00:17:49,140

Please.

391

00:17:49,140 --> 00:18:00,180

Later, rock and roll.

392

00:18:00,180 --> 00:18:04,380

We take off and soar over the Sea of Galilee.

393

00:18:04,380 --> 00:18:09,340

Soon, we find ourselves hundreds of feet above a familiar village.

394

00:18:09,340 --> 00:18:12,220

Okay, Josh, we're over the side of Hotel.

395

00:18:12,220 --> 00:18:13,220

This is where I just was, yes.

396

00:18:13,220 --> 00:18:19,500

I mean, from up here, you really get a sense of just how far this place is from the Sea

397

00:18:19,500 --> 00:18:20,500

of Galilee.

398

00:18:20,500 --> 00:18:23,820

Yeah, it's about at least a mile from the current lake level.

399

00:18:23,820 --> 00:18:26,900

Okay, let's start with the basics.

400

00:18:26,900 --> 00:18:29,340

Does the water level in the Sea of Galilee change?

401

00:18:29,340 --> 00:18:32,380

To understand that, we need to see where Duano comes from.

402

00:18:32,380 --> 00:18:33,380

Okay.

403

00:18:33,380 --> 00:18:35,900

Josh, look down here.

404

00:18:35,900 --> 00:18:38,900

This is where Jordan River comes into the Sea of Galilee.

405

00:18:38,900 --> 00:18:41,300

So this is the main pipe that's feeding the bathtub?

406

00:18:41,300 --> 00:18:42,300

Exactly.

407

00:18:42,300 --> 00:18:43,740

You notice where the mouth is?

408

00:18:43,740 --> 00:18:44,740

Yes.

409

00:18:44,740 --> 00:18:48,940

And you can see vegetation that is drowned and it used to be above ground and now it's

410

00:18:48,940 --> 00:18:49,940

in the water.

411

00:18:49,940 --> 00:18:55,060

So that tells you that the lake fluctuates back and forth in the last few years.

412

00:18:55,060 --> 00:18:58,180

Fluctuations of a few feet seem to be business as usual here.

413

00:18:58,180 --> 00:19:01,420

But could the lake have reached a tell in the first century?

414

00:19:01,420 --> 00:19:05,140

As we hover over the shoreline, we begin the work to find out.

415

00:19:05,140 --> 00:19:08,260

Okay, Josh, it's time for you to take some pictures.

416

00:19:08,260 --> 00:19:10,260

I'm taking the pictures.

417

00:19:10,260 --> 00:19:11,260

Yeah.

418

00:19:11,260 --> 00:19:12,260

Why?

419

00:19:12,260 --> 00:19:13,260

Because I'm on the shore.

420

00:19:13,260 --> 00:19:14,260

Okay.

421

00:19:14,260 --> 00:19:18,980

All right, I'm on it.

422

00:19:18,980 --> 00:19:24,140

We'll take hundreds of overlapping photos to create a 3D model of the lake shore to see

423

00:19:24,140 --> 00:19:28,140

if and how water might have come up to a tell in the first century.

424

00:19:28,140 --> 00:19:31,140

Try to cover as much as shoreline you can get.

425

00:19:31,140 --> 00:19:37,140

I got to remember to not look down too much.

426

00:19:37,140 --> 00:19:44,140

So I know we still have a lot of photos to take of the coastline, but let's talk about

427

00:19:44,140 --> 00:19:46,140

the two possibilities here.

428

00:19:46,140 --> 00:19:51,300

First is that at one point at a tell, the place that calls itself Bensaiida, the water

429

00:19:51,300 --> 00:19:52,300

level was much higher.

430

00:19:52,300 --> 00:19:53,300

I don't know.

431

00:19:53,300 --> 00:19:54,300

It sounds reasonable.

432

00:19:54,300 --> 00:19:55,300

Water levels do fluctuate, right?

433

00:19:55,300 --> 00:19:56,300

So do you find this idea that the water level was this much higher?

434

00:19:56,300 --> 00:19:57,300

Well, it's a very nice idea, but there's something I learned during my PhD.

435

00:19:57,300 --> 00:19:58,300

What's that?

436

00:19:58,300 --> 00:19:59,300

Well, people don't live underwater.

437

00:19:59,300 --> 00:20:00,300

That's true.

438

00:20:00,300 --> 00:20:02,300

Unless you're Aquaman, people do not live underwater.

439

00:20:02,300 --> 00:20:03,300

But what do you mean by that?

440

00:20:03,300 --> 00:20:04,300

What does that have to do with anything?

441

00:20:04,300 --> 00:20:07,300

There are other sites along the lake shore that would be underwater if the shoreline

442

00:20:07,300 --> 00:20:08,300

would be at the pail.

443

00:20:08,300 --> 00:20:09,300

Oh, I got it.

444

00:20:09,300 --> 00:20:10,300

Okay.

445

00:20:10,300 --> 00:20:15,300

In order for the sea to reach a tell, it would have to have been 20 feet higher than it is

446

00:20:15,300 --> 00:20:16,300

today.

447

00:20:16,300 --> 00:20:21,300

Unfortunately, that means that several known furters have come to the shoreline.

448

00:20:21,300 --> 00:20:26,300

So, the sea of Galilee clearly could not have been high enough in Jesus' time to reach

449

00:20:26,300 --> 00:20:27,300

a tell.

450

00:20:27,300 --> 00:20:32,300

But Rami's site still could be Bensaiida, if there were lagoons that are no longer there

451

00:20:32,300 --> 00:20:33,300

now.

452

00:20:33,300 --> 00:20:37,300

To see if that's possible, we continue to fly up the Jordan River.

453

00:20:37,300 --> 00:20:41,300

But the sea of Galilee could not have been high enough in Jesus' time to reach a tell.

454

00:20:41,300 --> 00:20:46,300

But Rami's site still could be Bensaiida, if there were lagoons that are no longer there

455

00:20:46,300 --> 00:20:47,300

now.

456

00:20:47,300 --> 00:20:52,300

To see if that's possible, we continue to fly up the Jordan River.

457

00:20:52,300 --> 00:20:55,300

I can see the geography is getting much more dramatic here.

458

00:20:55,300 --> 00:20:58,300

We have these cliffs rising up on either side of the river.

459

00:20:58,300 --> 00:20:59,300

What's happening here?

460

00:20:59,300 --> 00:21:03,300

Right underneath them are two giant, iconic plates.

461

00:21:03,300 --> 00:21:06,300

The Arabian plate and the African plate.

462

00:21:06,300 --> 00:21:08,300

How much do those plates move per year?

463

00:21:08,300 --> 00:21:09,300

Do we know?

464

00:21:09,300 --> 00:21:11,300

I like about two milliliters a year.

465

00:21:11,300 --> 00:21:13,300

So, what's the result of that movement?

466

00:21:13,300 --> 00:21:16,300

Well, there is also a lot of earthquakes.

467

00:21:16,300 --> 00:21:21,300

And because of those earthquakes, a lot of the sediment from the slopes falls into the

468

00:21:21,300 --> 00:21:22,300

Jordan River.

469

00:21:22,300 --> 00:21:23,300

Got it.

470

00:21:23,300 --> 00:21:29,300

And it tries to take that sediment downstream, towards the lake, towards the delta.

471

00:21:29,300 --> 00:21:34,300

The theory is that a large seismic event could have released tons of sediment from these

472

00:21:34,300 --> 00:21:39,300

hills and filled in ancient lagoons that connected Etel to the Galilee.

473

00:21:39,300 --> 00:21:41,300

But is it possible?

474

00:21:41,300 --> 00:21:46,300

Our photogrammetry, along with data recorded at ground level, confirms that the land at

475

00:21:46,300 --> 00:21:52,300

the base of Etel is very low and could have once been partially flooded with water inundating

476

00:21:52,300 --> 00:21:54,300

from the nearby sea.

477

00:21:54,300 --> 00:22:00,300

However, the amount of soil required to fill this area is immense, and we don't have any

478

00:22:00,300 --> 00:22:05,300

indicator of a more modern earthquake that shows this kind of soil movement, which means

479

00:22:05,300 --> 00:22:08,300

the jury is still out.

480

00:22:08,300 --> 00:22:11,300

But Nadi points out an alternative.

481

00:22:11,300 --> 00:22:17,300

There's another site here called El Araj, and they believe this could be Bethsaida.

482

00:22:17,300 --> 00:22:22,300

El Araj recently made headlines for a discovery that they have yet to fully reveal to the

483

00:22:22,300 --> 00:22:23,300

world.

484

00:22:23,300 --> 00:22:26,300

Naturally, I'm anxious to get there and see it for myself.

485

00:22:26,300 --> 00:22:29,300

After all, it could be Bethsaida.

486

00:22:29,300 --> 00:22:31,300

Okay, let's bring it home.

487

00:22:31,300 --> 00:22:42,300

Only a few hundred feet below, does the true city of miracles await?

488

00:22:42,300 --> 00:22:47,300

I'm on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, searching for the lost city of Jesus and his

489

00:22:47,300 --> 00:22:49,300

apostles, Bethsaida.

490

00:22:49,300 --> 00:22:55,300

A new find at an archaeological site called El Araj has stirred speculation that this is

491

00:22:55,300 --> 00:22:57,300

Bethsaida's true location.

492

00:22:57,300 --> 00:23:02,300

Here to greet me is one of the men who made the discovery, Professor R. Stephen Notley.

493

00:23:02,300 --> 00:23:05,300

Hey, man, nice to meet you.

494

00:23:05,300 --> 00:23:06,300

Nice to meet you.

495

00:23:06,300 --> 00:23:11,300

So this site behind you here, I take it you think this is Bethsaida?

496

00:23:11,300 --> 00:23:12,300

Yes, absolutely.

497

00:23:12,300 --> 00:23:14,300

Why is this maybe Bethsaida?

498

00:23:14,300 --> 00:23:20,300

Because as we look at this site, it actually has first century remains that indicate a settlement

499

00:23:20,300 --> 00:23:21,300

here.

500

00:23:21,300 --> 00:23:27,300

We found hundreds of lead weights that go with nets, indicate that there was a substantial

501

00:23:27,300 --> 00:23:29,300

fishing industry at this place.

502

00:23:29,300 --> 00:23:30,300

Okay.

503

00:23:30,300 --> 00:23:32,300

And here we're right on the water.

504

00:23:32,300 --> 00:23:35,300

Yes, the Sea of Galilee is lapping against this site.

505

00:23:35,300 --> 00:23:40,300

So we have evidence here of a thriving fishing community in the first century AD in the

506

00:23:40,300 --> 00:23:41,300

right time period.

507

00:23:41,300 --> 00:23:42,300

Exactly.

508

00:23:42,300 --> 00:23:43,300

Okay, so that's a big check mark already.

509

00:23:43,300 --> 00:23:44,300

Yes, but that's not all.

510

00:23:44,300 --> 00:23:50,300

We've recently made a discovery that is astonishing and connects this place directly to Bethsaida.

511

00:23:50,300 --> 00:23:51,300

Would you like to see it?

512

00:23:51,300 --> 00:23:52,300

Yeah, I'm dying to see it.

513

00:23:52,300 --> 00:23:54,300

Let's go.

514

00:23:54,300 --> 00:24:00,300

Stephen leads me through a very active dig site to meet his colleague Israeli archaeologist,

515

00:24:00,300 --> 00:24:01,300

Moti Aviam.

516

00:24:01,300 --> 00:24:02,300

This is incredible here.

517

00:24:02,300 --> 00:24:03,300

Give me some context.

518

00:24:03,300 --> 00:24:05,300

Where are we in the site right now?

519

00:24:05,300 --> 00:24:08,300

Josh, you're in a church, an Augustinie church.

520

00:24:08,300 --> 00:24:12,300

This is a basilica, which is a very specific architectural structure.

521

00:24:12,300 --> 00:24:14,300

Okay, so Moti, when are we?

522

00:24:14,300 --> 00:24:15,300

When was this built?

523

00:24:15,300 --> 00:24:20,300

This church was built somewhere at the end of the 5th, beginning of the 6th century.

524

00:24:20,300 --> 00:24:21,300

This is the Byzantine era, right?

525

00:24:21,300 --> 00:24:22,300

Yes.

526

00:24:22,300 --> 00:24:25,300

Take me back in time, what would this basilica have looked like?

527

00:24:25,300 --> 00:24:28,300

This is a large building facing to the east.

528

00:24:28,300 --> 00:24:31,300

It means that the apse is on the eastern side.

529

00:24:31,300 --> 00:24:34,300

Right, so this curved area, this is the end of the church, is the apse.

530

00:24:34,300 --> 00:24:40,300

And two rows of columns supported the large roof red tiles.

531

00:24:40,300 --> 00:24:43,300

And then I'm just now noticing all of this is mosaic.

532

00:24:43,300 --> 00:24:44,300

Yes.

533

00:24:44,300 --> 00:24:46,300

Not just a little mosaic either.

534

00:24:46,300 --> 00:24:51,300

The intricate tile work stretches across the entire floor from wall to wall.

535

00:24:51,300 --> 00:24:57,300

Along with the mosaic floors, I read that you found mosaic inscriptions in the floors.

536

00:24:57,300 --> 00:24:58,300

Yes.

537

00:24:58,300 --> 00:24:59,300

Yes.

538

00:24:59,300 --> 00:25:00,300

How many inscriptions have you found total?

539

00:25:00,300 --> 00:25:02,300

We found three inscriptions.

540

00:25:02,300 --> 00:25:04,300

Two of them are in the main hall.

541

00:25:04,300 --> 00:25:06,300

They preserved only partially.

542

00:25:06,300 --> 00:25:10,300

And right over here, we have the third inscription which preserved completely.

543

00:25:10,300 --> 00:25:12,300

It's below your feet.

544

00:25:12,300 --> 00:25:14,300

Literally below my feet?

545

00:25:14,300 --> 00:25:15,300

Completely.

546

00:25:15,300 --> 00:25:16,300

Like under the dirt?

547

00:25:16,300 --> 00:25:17,300

Under the dirt.

548

00:25:17,300 --> 00:25:18,300

And why is it covered?

549

00:25:18,300 --> 00:25:22,300

It's covered because we wanted to protect it after we discovered it.

550

00:25:22,300 --> 00:25:25,300

And this inscription is the one that connects to Bethsaida, yes?

551

00:25:25,300 --> 00:25:26,300

Yes.

552

00:25:26,300 --> 00:25:28,300

Is it possible to see what's down here?

553

00:25:28,300 --> 00:25:29,300

Yes, we'll have to work a little bit.

554

00:25:29,300 --> 00:25:30,300

I'm not afraid to work.

555

00:25:30,300 --> 00:25:32,300

Put on your gloves and let's go to work.

556

00:25:32,300 --> 00:25:34,300

Oh, manual labor?

557

00:25:34,300 --> 00:25:36,300

I didn't realize.

558

00:25:36,300 --> 00:25:41,300

Before you can say hail Mary, I'm geared up and moving dirt.

559

00:25:43,300 --> 00:25:50,300

The floor beneath our feet is priceless, so the work needs to be very, very careful.

560

00:25:50,300 --> 00:25:52,300

Getting close?

561

00:25:52,300 --> 00:25:55,300

Can smell it.

562

00:25:55,300 --> 00:25:59,300

We've made it through most of the topsoil, but to see what's hidden beneath the final layer,

563

00:25:59,300 --> 00:26:03,300

we're going to need to use a little finesse.

564

00:26:03,300 --> 00:26:05,300

Oh.

565

00:26:05,300 --> 00:26:06,300

Oh.

566

00:26:06,300 --> 00:26:07,300

Oh.

567

00:26:07,300 --> 00:26:09,300

Yes, look at this black mosaic right here.

568

00:26:09,300 --> 00:26:10,300

This is the inscription.

569

00:26:10,300 --> 00:26:11,300

Yep.

570

00:26:11,300 --> 00:26:13,300

High word.

571

00:26:13,300 --> 00:26:18,300

And this floor that we're revealing right now, this was laid down when?

572

00:26:18,300 --> 00:26:22,300

It was laid down at the end of the sixth century.

573

00:26:22,300 --> 00:26:25,300

So we are revealing a 1400-year-old inscription.

574

00:26:25,300 --> 00:26:26,300

Exactly.

575

00:26:26,300 --> 00:26:29,300

This is what we do in archaeology.

576

00:26:29,300 --> 00:26:35,300

Millimeter by millimeter, we expose ancient letters from beneath the soil,

577

00:26:35,300 --> 00:26:39,300

but making them legible is going to take a little more work.

578

00:26:39,300 --> 00:26:40,300

What's the next step?

579

00:26:40,300 --> 00:26:41,300

I'm washing it.

580

00:26:41,300 --> 00:26:42,300

Okay.

581

00:26:42,300 --> 00:26:43,300

Please.

582

00:26:43,300 --> 00:26:44,300

Steve.

583

00:26:44,300 --> 00:26:49,300

With the dirt swept away, all it takes is some water and elbow grease for the past to

584

00:26:49,300 --> 00:26:50,300

shine through.

585

00:26:50,300 --> 00:26:52,300

Wow, look at that.

586

00:26:52,300 --> 00:26:55,300

Oh, it's just coming to life.

587

00:26:55,300 --> 00:26:57,300

That's unbelievable.

588

00:26:57,300 --> 00:26:59,300

Can I see the scrubber?

589

00:26:59,300 --> 00:27:00,300

Sure.

590

00:27:00,300 --> 00:27:03,300

If it looks like we shouldn't be doing this, don't worry.

591

00:27:03,300 --> 00:27:06,300

The mosaic has lasted 14 centuries in a harsh world.

592

00:27:06,300 --> 00:27:09,300

A little spit and polish ain't going to hurt it.

593

00:27:09,300 --> 00:27:10,300

Wow.

594

00:27:10,300 --> 00:27:13,300

My brain is exploding right now.

595

00:27:13,300 --> 00:27:16,300

It looks like it was written just a few hours ago.

596

00:27:16,300 --> 00:27:18,300

It really does.

597

00:27:18,300 --> 00:27:23,300

I can't describe what an honor it is to be able to see this and to reveal it to the

598

00:27:23,300 --> 00:27:29,300

world in its entirety for the very first time.

599

00:27:29,300 --> 00:27:31,300

This is unbelievable.

600

00:27:31,300 --> 00:27:33,300

I mean, look at this.

601

00:27:33,300 --> 00:27:34,300

It's extraordinary.

602

00:27:34,300 --> 00:27:36,300

The entire inscription is here.

603

00:27:36,300 --> 00:27:40,300

Not the letter is missing.

604

00:27:40,300 --> 00:27:44,300

In the news articles, I saw like a corner of this, but not the whole thing.

605

00:27:44,300 --> 00:27:48,300

Really, this is the first time publicly it's being shown clearly.

606

00:27:48,300 --> 00:27:52,300

This is the first time the world has seen this in 1400 years.

607

00:27:52,300 --> 00:27:53,300

Amazing, isn't it?

608

00:27:53,300 --> 00:27:57,300

Ha, it's unreal.

609

00:27:57,300 --> 00:27:59,300

Okay, now the big question.

610

00:27:59,300 --> 00:28:00,300

What does it say?

611

00:28:00,300 --> 00:28:03,300

I read ancient Greek about as well as I swing dance.

612

00:28:03,300 --> 00:28:08,300

Fortunately, Steve and Moti have Professor Jacob Ashkenazi on hand to do the translating.

613

00:28:08,300 --> 00:28:11,300

Okay, so Professor, help us out here.

614

00:28:11,300 --> 00:28:12,300

What does this say?

615

00:28:12,300 --> 00:28:18,300

The word here, kapa, omikon ro, it means the chief of what?

616

00:28:18,300 --> 00:28:20,300

Right, the chief of what?

617

00:28:20,300 --> 00:28:25,300

Of apostolon, the apostles.

618

00:28:25,300 --> 00:28:27,300

The apostles.

619

00:28:27,300 --> 00:28:29,300

Chief of the apostles.

620

00:28:29,300 --> 00:28:30,300

Peter.

621

00:28:30,300 --> 00:28:32,300

Peter is nobody else.

622

00:28:32,300 --> 00:28:34,300

He is the chief of the apostles.

623

00:28:34,300 --> 00:28:35,300

Okay.

624

00:28:35,300 --> 00:28:42,300

The apostle Peter, who of course was from Bethsaida, was first among equals in Jesus' devout dozen.

625

00:28:42,300 --> 00:28:49,300

It was to Peter that Jesus would entrust his church and to whom he gave the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

626

00:28:49,300 --> 00:28:54,300

Now, I'm reading his title right here on the floor.

627

00:28:54,300 --> 00:28:58,300

So there is no doubt at all that we are talking about Peter.

628

00:28:58,300 --> 00:28:59,300

Zero doubt.

629

00:28:59,300 --> 00:29:06,300

How common is it to find an inscription like this that is a dedication to Saint Peter?

630

00:29:06,300 --> 00:29:07,300

Zero common.

631

00:29:07,300 --> 00:29:08,300

This has not happened before.

632

00:29:08,300 --> 00:29:09,300

Yes, this is a unique one.

633

00:29:09,300 --> 00:29:13,300

So when you first found this, what was your reaction?

634

00:29:13,300 --> 00:29:15,300

It's not the smoke and gun, it's a bomb.

635

00:29:15,300 --> 00:29:16,300

Right.

636

00:29:16,300 --> 00:29:17,300

Okay?

637

00:29:17,300 --> 00:29:26,300

We have hundreds of years after the time of the apostles in the Byzantine era, this beautiful

basilica is built here and appears to be dedicated to the apostle Peter.

638

00:29:26,300 --> 00:29:27,300

Yes.

639

00:29:27,300 --> 00:29:29,300

So why would they have done that?

640

00:29:29,300 --> 00:29:34,300

I think the church here commemorates the home of Peter, Andrew and Philip.

641

00:29:34,300 --> 00:29:41,300

Byzantine churches like this were frequently placed atop sites believed to have been the locations of biblical events.

642

00:29:41,300 --> 00:29:46,300

Hence, the churches became destinations for pilgrims.

643

00:29:46,300 --> 00:29:48,300

This is very compelling evidence.

644

00:29:48,300 --> 00:29:53,300

This is something you don't often get at an archaeological site in the Holy Land, a complete inscription.

645

00:29:53,300 --> 00:29:55,300

One word is missing, Bethsaida.

646

00:29:55,300 --> 00:29:56,300

Right.

647

00:29:56,300 --> 00:29:57,300

That's it.

648

00:29:57,300 --> 00:30:00,300

If it said Bethsaida, then it would be a done deal.

649

00:30:00,300 --> 00:30:05,300

But just short of that, there is yet hope for finding that one word.

650

00:30:05,300 --> 00:30:11,300

The Basilica's mosaic floor continues outward and it could contain more inscriptions.

651

00:30:11,300 --> 00:30:14,300

Here we have only pieces of the mosaic floor.

652

00:30:14,300 --> 00:30:15,300

Right.

653

00:30:15,300 --> 00:30:16,300

And here we have a wall.

654

00:30:16,300 --> 00:30:17,300

This is a lighter wall.

655

00:30:17,300 --> 00:30:20,300

It is from the 12th, 13th century Crusader period.

656

00:30:20,300 --> 00:30:27,300

The wall is covering the original mosaic and since an inscription could confirm that this is Bethsaida, the choice is simple.

657

00:30:27,300 --> 00:30:29,300

The wall has got to go.

658

00:30:29,300 --> 00:30:31,300

Anything could be under here.

659

00:30:31,300 --> 00:30:33,300

There's always surprises in archaeology.

660

00:30:33,300 --> 00:30:34,300

That's right.

661

00:30:34,300 --> 00:30:35,300

Okay.

662

00:30:35,300 --> 00:30:36,300

So, should we see what's there?

663

00:30:36,300 --> 00:30:37,300

Let's go.

664

00:30:37,300 --> 00:30:38,300

Let's move the wall.

665

00:30:44,300 --> 00:30:45,300

Dirty enough?

666

00:30:45,300 --> 00:30:46,300

Not yet.

667

00:30:46,300 --> 00:30:49,300

We got lots of dirt for that.

668

00:30:49,300 --> 00:30:56,300

The lost city of Bethsaida, where Jesus reportedly walked on water, may be beneath the ruins of this medieval wall.

669

00:30:56,300 --> 00:31:01,300

The wall was built one stone at a time and we're taking it down the same way.

670

00:31:06,300 --> 00:31:16,300

The team's project manager, Akia Kontavor, stands nearby to preserve any artifacts we find, like the pottery that is literally wedged in the mortar.

671

00:31:17,300 --> 00:31:20,300

Fifth, sixth, seventh century, something like that.

672

00:31:20,300 --> 00:31:22,300

Very fancy dishes.

673

00:31:22,300 --> 00:31:23,300

How cool is that?

674

00:31:25,300 --> 00:31:31,300

But the pottery is just the beginning of what we find built into this wall, like ancient Roman glass.

675

00:31:31,300 --> 00:31:33,300

How beautiful is that?

676

00:31:33,300 --> 00:31:34,300

How delicate it is.

677

00:31:34,300 --> 00:31:39,300

I mean, so thin pieces of marble.

678

00:31:39,300 --> 00:31:41,300

If we get enough of these, I'm going to redo my kitchen counter.

679

00:31:41,300 --> 00:31:42,300

Hold on to this.

680

00:31:42,300 --> 00:31:45,300

And shards of finely made vessels.

681

00:31:45,300 --> 00:31:46,300

That's a handle.

682

00:31:46,300 --> 00:31:47,300

What?

683

00:31:47,300 --> 00:31:49,300

That is insane.

684

00:31:49,300 --> 00:31:52,300

This is a handle of a jug, a small bottle.

685

00:31:52,300 --> 00:31:57,300

So this would either be like an offering brought to the church or something that a pilgrim would take from the church?

686

00:31:57,300 --> 00:32:07,300

Yeah, they had their capsules of holy oil from the church that you can buy and take with you back to your congregation.

687

00:32:07,300 --> 00:32:12,300

And in this case, holy oil maybe from the church of Peter or the church of the apostles?

688

00:32:12,300 --> 00:32:13,300

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

689

00:32:13,300 --> 00:32:14,300

Wow.

690

00:32:14,300 --> 00:32:23,300

This may be more evidence of a place visited by Christian pilgrims, something that could be verified by additional inscriptions on the floor.

691

00:32:26,300 --> 00:32:27,300

Watch your fingers.

692

00:32:27,300 --> 00:32:28,300

Watch your fingers.

693

00:32:40,300 --> 00:32:45,300

After a few hours, we remove the final blocks and the last bit of dirt.

694

00:32:45,300 --> 00:32:50,300

Beneath the edges of the wall, more beautiful mosaic tiles from the Byzantine church.

695

00:32:50,300 --> 00:32:55,300

Hundreds of literal puzzle pieces, slotting together into a work of art.

696

00:32:55,300 --> 00:33:02,300

But we find no additional inscriptions mixed in, which leaves us with an incomplete picture of El-Araj.

697

00:33:02,300 --> 00:33:09,300

We definitely have a fishing village on the water, check and check, and this remarkable church.

698

00:33:09,300 --> 00:33:16,300

But somebody might say, hey, you know, just because you've got a Byzantine church here, that doesn't mean this is Bethsaida.

699

00:33:16,300 --> 00:33:19,300

If it was just the church, then you could have some doubts.

700

00:33:19,300 --> 00:33:20,300

Right.

701

00:33:20,300 --> 00:33:28,300

What you need together with that is evidence of what we read in the historical sources about a site that becomes a Roman polis, a Roman city.

702

00:33:28,300 --> 00:33:29,300

Right, right.

703

00:33:29,300 --> 00:33:39,300

For El-Araj to be Bethsaida, Stephen and Moti need to prove that it was once a Roman polis, which means it has to be bigger than the single church they're exploring.

704

00:33:39,300 --> 00:33:45,300

An aerial scan of the site could help reveal the extent of El-Araj for the first time.

705

00:33:45,300 --> 00:33:49,300

If it's too small, it's a village and not Bethsaida.

706

00:33:49,300 --> 00:33:56,300

For help, they've brought in Terra-Log Innovation, a company run by Avi Buzaglo and his son Eldar.

707

00:33:56,300 --> 00:33:58,300

How big an area are we going to be scanning today?

708

00:33:58,300 --> 00:34:03,300

So we're going to fly like half a grid of around one and a half square miles.

709

00:34:03,300 --> 00:34:04,300

Okay, should we do it?

710

00:34:04,300 --> 00:34:05,300

Let's do it.

711

00:34:05,300 --> 00:34:06,300

Let's go.

712

00:34:07,300 --> 00:34:09,300

Okay, we're ready to go.

713

00:34:09,300 --> 00:34:10,300

Eldar, who can take off?

714

00:34:10,300 --> 00:34:11,300

Taking off.

715

00:34:11,300 --> 00:34:12,300

Okay, here we go.

716

00:34:15,300 --> 00:34:16,300

She's up.

717

00:34:16,300 --> 00:34:19,300

This drone is carrying a special payload.

718

00:34:19,300 --> 00:34:24,300

Strapped to the bottom is a state-of-the-art magnetometer, which is measuring the Earth's magnetic field,

719

00:34:24,300 --> 00:34:30,300

able to extrapolate the location of stone walls and structures buried beneath the surface.

720

00:34:32,300 --> 00:34:33,300

And so what do we do?

721

00:34:33,300 --> 00:34:34,300

We wait.

722

00:34:34,300 --> 00:34:35,300

We wait.

723

00:34:35,300 --> 00:34:36,300

I'm good at that.

724

00:34:37,300 --> 00:34:46,300

The drone flies through a pre-programmed grid, covering over a square mile and a half near the basilica.

725

00:34:49,300 --> 00:34:54,300

Until it finishes its course and lands, and we extract the data for analysis.

726

00:34:54,300 --> 00:34:58,300

Let's see how big this ancient town really is.

727

00:34:58,300 --> 00:34:59,300

All right, what do we have?

728

00:34:59,300 --> 00:35:00,300

The big moment.

729

00:35:03,300 --> 00:35:04,300

Whoa!

730

00:35:04,300 --> 00:35:06,300

Is this construction all these red areas?

731

00:35:06,300 --> 00:35:07,300

Yeah.

732

00:35:07,300 --> 00:35:13,300

I assume that all these walls are the Roman villas, and we have it.

733

00:35:13,300 --> 00:35:15,300

We have houses from the Roman period.

734

00:35:15,300 --> 00:35:22,300

The data reveals structures that Moti believes to be from the first century, the era of the apostles.

735

00:35:22,300 --> 00:35:26,300

That's surprising, because on surface you see nothing.

736

00:35:26,300 --> 00:35:28,300

Right, it's just vegetation out there.

737

00:35:28,300 --> 00:35:29,300

That's vegetation.

738

00:35:29,300 --> 00:35:31,300

And did you expect there would be this much here?

739

00:35:31,300 --> 00:35:32,300

I wanted.

740

00:35:32,300 --> 00:35:33,300

You hoped.

741

00:35:33,300 --> 00:35:34,300

This is unbelievable.

742

00:35:34,300 --> 00:35:35,300

Indeed.

743

00:35:35,300 --> 00:35:41,300

And just for reference, this here, this is the tarping on the main site of the Byzantine church.

744

00:35:41,300 --> 00:35:42,300

Yes.

745

00:35:42,300 --> 00:35:43,300

And look at the size of this area.

746

00:35:43,300 --> 00:35:47,300

And you can see here the edges up here and up here.

747

00:35:47,300 --> 00:35:50,300

It means that the site is much larger.

748

00:35:50,300 --> 00:35:51,300

Right, it must extend out.

749

00:35:51,300 --> 00:35:52,300

Extend out, no doubt.

750

00:35:52,300 --> 00:35:56,300

Because we see walls or disturbances right on the edges of all of this.

751

00:35:56,300 --> 00:35:57,300

Yes.

752

00:35:57,300 --> 00:35:59,300

I mean, this is incredible.

753

00:35:59,300 --> 00:36:04,300

So if you had to guess, how far do you think this site extends?

754

00:36:04,300 --> 00:36:07,300

I would assume 15 acres.

755

00:36:07,300 --> 00:36:15,300

In the first century, 15 acres was a sizable settlement, certainly big enough for consideration as a polis.

756

00:36:15,300 --> 00:36:24,300

So when we put all of this together, right, we have evidence of this fishing village here, this Jewish fishing village on the shores of the Sea of Galilee.

757

00:36:24,300 --> 00:36:30,300

Hundreds of years later, we have this beautiful Byzantine church dedicated to Peter the Apostle.

758

00:36:30,300 --> 00:36:35,300

Now we have evidence here, geophysical evidence, that this is a polis, a Roman city.

759

00:36:35,300 --> 00:36:38,300

When you put all of this together, what does it say to you?

760

00:36:38,300 --> 00:36:42,300

It says to me we have here the archaeological evidence and the historic evidence.

761

00:36:42,300 --> 00:36:49,300

And therefore, I think this is, you can strongly identify the place as a bit sidel.

762

00:36:49,300 --> 00:36:50,300

You think this is the place?

763

00:36:50,300 --> 00:36:52,300

I think this is the place.

764

00:36:54,300 --> 00:36:59,300

El-Iraj, like Etel before it, has a strong case for being the city of miracles.

765

00:36:59,300 --> 00:37:03,300

But for now, more work needs to be done exploring both sites.

766

00:37:03,300 --> 00:37:07,300

And there's enough to keep these guys busy until the second coming.

767

00:37:12,300 --> 00:37:16,300

As for me, I've just gotten word of something, well, kind of miraculous.

768

00:37:16,300 --> 00:37:25,300

Another site nearby that isn't claiming to be Bethsaida, but where a new discovery may tie it to the Apostle Peter in a shocking way.

769

00:37:25,300 --> 00:37:32,300

I travel to the ruins of what was once the regional capital, a place known as Caesarea Philippi.

770

00:37:32,300 --> 00:37:41,300

Even before the Romans were here, this place was considered sacred, home to a natural spring that flows out of the rocks and into the Sea of Galilee.

771

00:37:41,300 --> 00:37:45,300

Deep inside the site, I find an active dig.

772

00:37:45,300 --> 00:37:48,300

Hello. Hi. Adi.

773

00:37:48,300 --> 00:37:49,300

Thank you.

774

00:37:49,300 --> 00:37:55,300

Near the back of the ruins, beneath a soaring grotto in the side of a cliff, I find archaeologist Adi Erlich.

775

00:37:55,300 --> 00:37:56,300

Please.

776

00:37:56,300 --> 00:37:57,300

Hi, I'm Josh. Nice to meet you.

777

00:37:57,300 --> 00:37:59,300

Hi, nice to meet you. I'm Adi.

778

00:37:59,300 --> 00:38:04,300

What an incredible site. This place is like otherworldly.

779

00:38:04,300 --> 00:38:08,300

So a few thousand years ago, this would have looked like what?

780

00:38:08,300 --> 00:38:13,300

It was full of water, very, very deep water, as we are told by the ancient sources.

781

00:38:13,300 --> 00:38:16,300

So this would have been a very mystical kind of place, right?

782

00:38:16,300 --> 00:38:17,300

Yeah.

783

00:38:17,300 --> 00:38:19,300

A dark grotto flooded with deep water.

784

00:38:19,300 --> 00:38:24,300

We know the place started to be dedicated to the God Pan in the third century BCE.

785

00:38:24,300 --> 00:38:27,300

Okay. I know Pan. Human on top, goat on the bottom.

786

00:38:27,300 --> 00:38:28,300

Exactly.

787

00:38:28,300 --> 00:38:33,300

Porns. Pan is the god of like nature, wilderness, shepherds, things like that, right?

788

00:38:33,300 --> 00:38:34,300

Exactly.

789

00:38:34,300 --> 00:38:38,300

So the Romans start coming here to worship and building things here in the first century.

790

00:38:38,300 --> 00:38:39,300

Yes.

791

00:38:39,300 --> 00:38:41,300

Christianity hasn't caught on yet. It's not a thing just yet.

792

00:38:41,300 --> 00:38:43,300

And so we're still worshiping gods like Pan.

793

00:38:43,300 --> 00:38:45,300

Exactly.

794

00:38:45,300 --> 00:38:47,300

This site was once home to Roman temples.

795

00:38:47,300 --> 00:38:52,300

So when Adi's team began to dig, she expected to find pagan ruins.

796

00:38:52,300 --> 00:38:59,300

Instead, they made a discovery that may change what we know about the origins of Christianity.

797

00:38:59,300 --> 00:39:00,300

Wow.

798

00:39:00,300 --> 00:39:02,300

Yeah. Look what we found here.

799

00:39:02,300 --> 00:39:04,300

Unbelievable. Beautiful mosaic floor.

800

00:39:04,300 --> 00:39:06,300

You were amazed to find this floor.

801

00:39:06,300 --> 00:39:12,300

I mean, why would we have a mosaic floor in a cultic place to the God Pan?

802

00:39:12,300 --> 00:39:13,300

Right.

803

00:39:13,300 --> 00:39:16,300

And then we realized that this floor is much later.

804

00:39:16,300 --> 00:39:20,300

During the fifth century BCE, the place has become a beautiful church.

805

00:39:20,300 --> 00:39:22,300

They built a church here.

806

00:39:22,300 --> 00:39:23,300

They built a church here.

807

00:39:23,300 --> 00:39:27,300

In the middle of this pagan grotto, there's a Byzantine church.

808

00:39:27,300 --> 00:39:28,300

Exactly.

809

00:39:28,300 --> 00:39:32,300

Unlike at El-Araj, this floor didn't have any intact inscriptions.

810

00:39:32,300 --> 00:39:36,300

However, Adi's team found something else that speaks volumes.

811

00:39:36,300 --> 00:39:40,300

A major clue that this church was another pilgrimage site.

812

00:39:40,300 --> 00:39:44,300

Josh, I would like you to have a look at this stone.

813

00:39:44,300 --> 00:39:45,300

Yes, here?

814

00:39:45,300 --> 00:39:47,300

Yes, this unique slab of stone.

815

00:39:47,300 --> 00:39:55,300

This is one of the reasons that make us think this is not yet another ordinary church, but a

pilgrim center.

816

00:39:55,300 --> 00:39:59,300

This stone carries rows of crosses.

817

00:39:59,300 --> 00:40:01,300

Oh, yeah. Look at that.

818

00:40:01,300 --> 00:40:03,300

There's crosses all over this.

819

00:40:03,300 --> 00:40:05,300

That is crazy.

820

00:40:11,300 --> 00:40:18,300

Expedition Unknown is a well-oiled machine that requires every member of my team to stay laser focused,

821

00:40:18,300 --> 00:40:22,300

unless you're my camera guy Ryan at the world's oldest tattoo parlor.

822

00:40:22,300 --> 00:40:24,300

Dude, what is going on?

823

00:40:24,300 --> 00:40:25,300

I'm in a tattoo.

824

00:40:25,300 --> 00:40:27,300

What do you mean you're getting a tattoo?

825

00:40:27,300 --> 00:40:29,300

I can't not come here and get a tattoo.

826

00:40:29,300 --> 00:40:30,300

Dude, you're working.

827

00:40:30,300 --> 00:40:34,300

What is the tattoo?

828

00:40:34,300 --> 00:40:35,300

Love and family.

829

00:40:35,300 --> 00:40:39,300

Love and family? Do you have one for work and responsibility?

830

00:40:39,300 --> 00:40:40,300

I couldn't find that one.

831

00:40:40,300 --> 00:40:42,300

Yeah, no kidding.

832

00:40:42,300 --> 00:40:45,300

Okay, I'll just film the show then, I guess.

833

00:40:45,300 --> 00:40:47,300

I'm docking your pay for this.

834

00:40:47,300 --> 00:40:48,300

At least you got a tattoo.

835

00:40:48,300 --> 00:40:51,300

All right, Waseem. I said it was going to come back.

836

00:40:51,300 --> 00:40:52,300

Next time.

837

00:40:52,300 --> 00:40:53,300

Next time.

838

00:40:53,300 --> 00:41:06,300

We believe that people came here and marked crosses to commemorate something wrong to worship.

839

00:41:06,300 --> 00:41:07,300

Right.

840

00:41:07,300 --> 00:41:17,300

Near Egrado in the one-time Roman city of Caesarea, Philippi, archeologists are finding clues that this was a place of immense importance to the early Christian church.

841

00:41:17,300 --> 00:41:19,300

This is something you see at pilgrimage sites.

842

00:41:19,300 --> 00:41:24,300

This is like the crosses on Helen's staircase in the church of the Holy Sepulchre.

843

00:41:24,300 --> 00:41:27,300

So the big question is why?

844

00:41:27,300 --> 00:41:31,300

Like why put a church here at all and why does it become a pilgrimage site?

845

00:41:31,300 --> 00:41:37,300

So I think we have a clue and you can find it in the Gospels.

846

00:41:37,300 --> 00:41:43,300

Adi believes that the reason people might have traveled to this place is available to us in black and white.

847

00:41:43,300 --> 00:41:46,300

The book of Matthew to be precise.

848

00:41:46,300 --> 00:41:47,300

Here we go.

849

00:41:47,300 --> 00:41:48,300

This is a clue from the book of Matthew.

850

00:41:48,300 --> 00:41:57,300

So when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea, Philippi, which is right where we are, he says to his disciples, who do you say that I am?

851

00:41:57,300 --> 00:42:02,300

And Simon Peter answered, you are the Messiah and the Son of the living God.

852

00:42:02,300 --> 00:42:04,300

And Jesus answered him, blessed are you.

853

00:42:04,300 --> 00:42:12,300

So he's saying, I will tell you, you are Peter and on this rock, I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

854

00:42:12,300 --> 00:42:16,300

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven.

855

00:42:16,300 --> 00:42:20,300

So this is really the moment when Jesus has called the Messiah.

856

00:42:20,300 --> 00:42:25,300

This is the moment when he's kind of handing the church over to his apostles.

857

00:42:25,300 --> 00:42:27,300

So is that why this is here?

858

00:42:27,300 --> 00:42:35,300

Because it happens somewhere in Caesarea, Philippi, they said, let's build a church here and venerate this story and make it a pilgrimage site.

859

00:42:35,300 --> 00:42:37,300

Yes, but I think there's even more than that.

860

00:42:37,300 --> 00:42:38,300

OK.

861

00:42:38,300 --> 00:42:42,300

And in order to expand this to you, I would like to take you into the grotto.

862

00:42:42,300 --> 00:42:43,300

Into the grotto.

863

00:42:43,300 --> 00:42:44,300

Yeah.

864

00:42:44,300 --> 00:42:46,300

Josh, are you Christophobic?

865

00:42:48,300 --> 00:42:49,300

No.

866

00:42:51,300 --> 00:42:52,300

What?

867

00:42:52,300 --> 00:42:53,300

What is this?

868

00:42:53,300 --> 00:42:55,300

This is a Roman aqueduct.

869

00:42:55,300 --> 00:42:56,300

That goes to the grotto.

870

00:42:56,300 --> 00:42:58,300

Goes straight to the grotto.

871

00:42:58,300 --> 00:42:59,300

Oh boy.

872

00:42:59,300 --> 00:43:00,300

OK.

873

00:43:03,300 --> 00:43:04,300

OK.

874

00:43:04,300 --> 00:43:13,300

This passageway that Addy has sent me through is an ancient aqueduct, a long, dark water channel that's been here since Caesar was in diapers.

875

00:43:14,300 --> 00:43:22,300

These Roman aqueducts are held up with these flat, heavy stones that are set into an A-frame.

876

00:43:22,300 --> 00:43:29,300

They've been holding for a couple thousand years, but on the other hand, there's not much holding them there other than gravity.

877

00:43:29,300 --> 00:43:33,300

Lord only knows what's waiting for me on the other side.

878

00:43:33,300 --> 00:43:35,300

And I'm out.

879

00:43:35,300 --> 00:43:37,300

Well, you made it, Josh.

880

00:43:37,300 --> 00:43:38,300

What?

881

00:43:39,300 --> 00:43:41,300

Wait, why couldn't I walk around?

882

00:43:41,300 --> 00:43:45,300

Well, you have to work hard in order to learn the truth.

883

00:43:45,300 --> 00:43:46,300

What are you, a fortune cookie?

884

00:43:46,300 --> 00:43:47,300

All right, come on.

885

00:43:47,300 --> 00:43:54,300

I've done the work, and it turns out the aqueduct is an important clue to learning why this grotto is so important.

886

00:43:54,300 --> 00:43:56,300

Wow.

887

00:43:58,300 --> 00:44:03,300

I mean, you really don't feel the enormity of this grotto until you're inside of it.

888

00:44:03,300 --> 00:44:07,300

And to think the 2,000 years ago, all of this would have been underwater.

889

00:44:07,300 --> 00:44:08,300

Well, not all of it.

890

00:44:08,300 --> 00:44:12,300

The top of this rock was exposed.

891

00:44:12,300 --> 00:44:15,300

And what would have been on top of this rock during Roman times?

892

00:44:15,300 --> 00:44:22,300

We believe there could have been a statue, maybe a pan statue, standing here on top of the rock.

893

00:44:22,300 --> 00:44:24,300

Like a little island in this lake?

894

00:44:24,300 --> 00:44:25,300

Like a little island here.

895

00:44:25,300 --> 00:44:26,300

Right.

896

00:44:26,300 --> 00:44:27,300

Okay.

897

00:44:27,300 --> 00:44:32,300

Josh, I want you to think about that aqueduct that you just crawled through for a reason.

898

00:44:32,300 --> 00:44:35,300

Oh, so it's like maintaining the water level in here.

899

00:44:35,300 --> 00:44:42,300

It's maintaining the water level in order to keep this giant rock exposed.

900

00:44:42,300 --> 00:44:44,300

So this is like a design feature.

901

00:44:44,300 --> 00:44:48,300

Now think about the verse from Matthew that you just read.

902

00:44:48,300 --> 00:44:54,300

And on this rock, I will build my church.

903

00:44:54,300 --> 00:45:00,300

And the gates of Hades will not prevail against it.

904

00:45:00,300 --> 00:45:01,300

Correct.

905

00:45:01,300 --> 00:45:04,300

The entrance to the underworld itself, the gates of Hades,

906

00:45:04,300 --> 00:45:06,300

is exactly what this place looks like.

907

00:45:06,300 --> 00:45:07,300

Exactly.

908

00:45:07,300 --> 00:45:15,300

And so this moment, this moment where Jesus effectively founds the church,

909

00:45:15,300 --> 00:45:20,300

the birth of Christianity, may have happened on this rock?

910

00:45:20,300 --> 00:45:26,300

On this rock, or at least assumed as happening here by the believers during the fifth century,

911

00:45:26,300 --> 00:45:28,300

those people who built this church.

912

00:45:28,300 --> 00:45:31,300

They may have seen this as the place where that happened.

913

00:45:31,300 --> 00:45:32,300

Yeah.

914

00:45:32,300 --> 00:45:37,300

And to make this rock one of the holiest sites in Christendom.

915

00:45:37,300 --> 00:45:39,300

I agree.

916

00:45:39,300 --> 00:45:41,300

It's not just unbelievable.

917

00:45:41,300 --> 00:45:46,300

It's, this is, you know...

918

00:45:46,300 --> 00:45:47,300

Touching?

919

00:45:47,300 --> 00:45:48,300

Yeah.

920

00:45:48,300 --> 00:45:51,300

This is...

921

00:45:51,300 --> 00:45:53,300

It's overwhelming to think about.

922

00:45:53,300 --> 00:45:54,300

Yeah.

923

00:45:54,300 --> 00:45:59,300

It would make it stand alongside the Church of the Nativity,

924

00:45:59,300 --> 00:46:01,300

the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

925

00:46:01,300 --> 00:46:05,300

It would make this place what it was, a pilgrimage site.

926

00:46:05,300 --> 00:46:08,300

You might have a whole lot more visitors here soon.

927

00:46:08,300 --> 00:46:09,300

Thank you for coming.

928

00:46:09,300 --> 00:46:12,300

Thank you for sharing it.

929

00:46:12,300 --> 00:46:16,300

I walk away from the grotto in a state of elated shock.

930

00:46:16,300 --> 00:46:21,300

In the Holy Land, I may have just seen the most sacred place of all.

931

00:46:22,300 --> 00:46:26,300

The 19th century scholar, Ernest Renan,

932

00:46:26,300 --> 00:46:32,300

wrote that the Holy Land should actually be considered the fifth gospel of Jesus Christ,

933

00:46:32,300 --> 00:46:37,300

describing this place as torn but still legible.

934

00:46:37,300 --> 00:46:41,300

It has been inspiring to work alongside the men and women

935

00:46:41,300 --> 00:46:47,300

committed to deciphering the history written here into the very earth itself.

936

00:46:48,300 --> 00:46:53,300

We can't yet say with certainty which of our two candidates is the authentic Bethsaida,

937

00:46:53,300 --> 00:46:59,300

though I think there's a terrific case to be made for Elerage and its newly unveiled mosaic.

938

00:47:03,300 --> 00:47:06,300

But I also leave with another discovery.

939

00:47:06,300 --> 00:47:11,300

I realize, for the first time, what it means to walk amongst pilgrims.

940

00:47:11,300 --> 00:47:15,300

I have been able to touch the tangible fragmented earth,

941

00:47:15,300 --> 00:47:19,300

the people to touch the tangible fragments of their faith

942

00:47:19,300 --> 00:47:24,300

in venerated churches both past and still vitally present.

943

00:47:24,300 --> 00:47:28,300

The pilgrim symbols are etched on the walls of the Holy Sepulchre

944

00:47:28,300 --> 00:47:31,300

and in a remote grotto,

945

00:47:31,300 --> 00:47:36,300

and even on the very skin of those who make the journey to Jerusalem.

946

00:47:36,300 --> 00:47:39,300

Belief is a powerful companion,

947

00:47:39,300 --> 00:47:43,300

and these ruins vibrate with the possibility that here,

948

00:47:43,300 --> 00:47:47,300

beneath our feet, is the same ground where Jesus and his apostles

949

00:47:47,300 --> 00:47:52,300

created the faith that still animates the spirits of billions today.

950

00:47:52,300 --> 00:47:58,300

Whether you're a true believer or not, it is a history worth discovering.