#7 The earliest evidence for a crucifixion victim.

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The first of many...

1. First known church building.
5. First known picture of Jesus.
6. First known hymn.
7. First known archaeological evidence of crucifixion.
Crucified?

There are many historical references to crucifixion among the Seleucids, Carthaginians, and Romans from about the 6th century BC to the 4th century AD.

But until 1968 no archaeological evidence for the practice had been found.

Victim's bodies were seldom buried. They were usually left to the animals or thrown to the garbage.

Slaves and rebels were no Roman citizens were crucified. Beheading was the more humane method for executing a criminal.
In 1968, a construction crew found four tombs near Jerusalem.

Fifteen limestone ossuaries (small caskets) were found which contained the bones of thirty-five individuals.

One of these, a man between twenty-four and twenty-eight years of age was crucified.
The name Jehohanan was written on his ossuary.

Based on other objects found at the tomb, he was crucified probably between 10 BC and 66 AD, the beginning of the war against Rome.

An example of an ossuary from Jehohanan’s time.
One immediately notices from the foot, that the nail pierces the heel and not the foot as Jesus is traditionally pictured in paintings.

Josephus the historian writes about the Roman’s war against the Jews in 70 A.D.

"the soldiers out of rage and hatred amused themselves by nailing their prisoners in different postures. And so great was their number that space could not be found for the crosses nor crosses for their bodies."
The lower third of Jehohanan’s right radial bone contains a groove that was probably caused by the friction between a nail and the bone. So his arms were nailed to the cross beam through the forearms and not through the wrists, the bones of which ‘were found undamaged.’

Is it possible that Jesus’ wrists or arms were nailed to the cross rather than the palms of his hands?
Were the nails put into Jesus’ hands or through his wrist?

The Bible says “hands”. John 20:27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

However, the word “hand (χειρ)” means “A hand or any relevant portion of the hands, including, for example, the fingers.” (Nida & Louw, Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains, Vol. 1, p. 98.)
Philippians 2:5-8
(5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
(6) who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
(7) but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
(8) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Cross was the Lowest Point