



1st Century
AD



Yehohanan's Crucified Foot



East
Jerusalem



Hebrew
University



Crucifixion
Nail



Organic



The nail going through Yehohanan's foot measured 11.5 cm in total length.

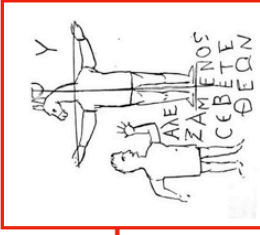
Yehohanan, the man in whom the foot belonged, was a 1st century Jew. His ossuary (burial bone box) was found in 1968 when builders working in East Jerusalem accidentally uncovered his tomb.

The earliest forms of crucifixion develop in ancient Persia, where the practice eventually replaced impaling as a form of punishment. Where as the Persians may have invented it the Romans perfected it.



Similar crucifixion nail wounds have been found in Italy. An archaeological survey outside of Venice revealed two heel bones with nail wounds indicative of a crucifixion wounds quite akin to Yehohanan's.

One of the biggest ramifications of the Yehohanan ossuary discovery was the implication that what was described concerning Jesus in the Gospels — that crucified Jews could be and were in fact, buried in family tombs — had corroborative archeological witness alongside the literary description of the practice within the Gospels.



The Alexamenos Graffito, is a 2nd or 3rd century piece of Roman graffito scratched in plaster of a wall in Rome, portraying an individual worshipping a crucified donkey-man. It reads, "Alexamenos worships [his] god" and is believed by many to be a mockery of Christians, who worshipped the crucified Jesus.

Given the placement of the nail it appears that the victim's feet were placed on either side of the horizontal cross beam and the nail was forced through the calcaneum (heel bone) sideways on either side of the plank.

Very few examples of crucifixion nails exist due to the fact that crucifixion nails within antiquity (and in the early Middle Ages) were collected as medicinal and magical items.

