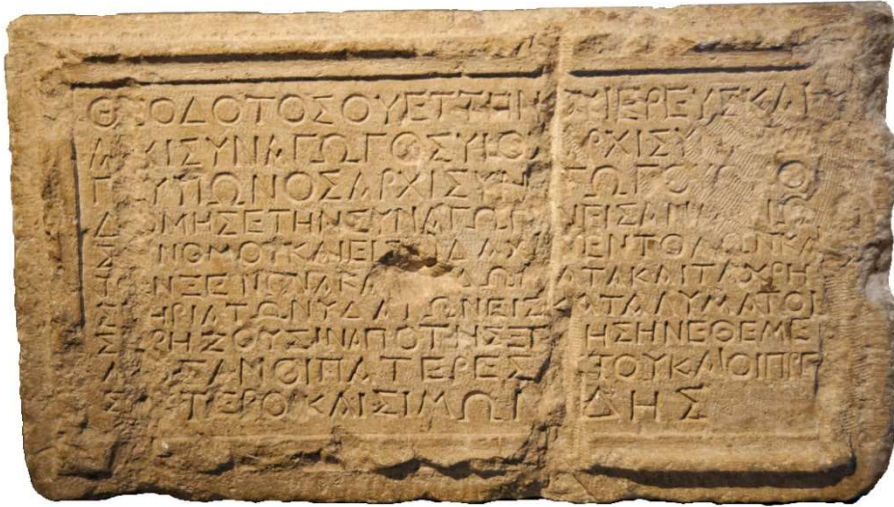


Acts 6:8-15

Stephen's Short Ministry

"But some men from what was called the **Synagogue of the Freedmen**, including both Cyrenians and Alexandrians, and some from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and argued with Stephen" (Acts 6:9).



"Theodotus, son of Vettanos, a priest and an *archisynagogos*, son of an *archisynagogos* grandson of an *archisynagogos*, built the synagogue for the reading of Torah and for teaching the commandments; furthermore, the hostel, and the rooms, and the water installation for lodging needy strangers. Its foundation stone was laid by his ancestors, the elders, and Simonides"

The name Vettanos belonged to a Roman family, suggesting that this Jewish man or an ancestor once lived in Rome and took the Latin name of his master when he was freed from slavery. Thus it is possible, but not certain, that this inscription comes from the same "synagogue of the Freedmen" mentioned here by Luke. At the very least, it provides archaeological confirmation for the existence of a synagogue of Greek-speakers in Jerusalem, contemporary with the Book of Acts.

"And they stirred up the people, the elders and the scribes, and they came up to him and dragged him away and **brought him before the Council**" (Acts 6:12).



13-14 - They put forward false witnesses, who said:

He speaks against this _____

He speaks against the _____

Jesus the Nazarene will destroy _____

Jesus will alter the traditional Mosaic _____

Food for Thought

- Those who _____ God also _____ those sent by him.
- Those who oppose God are not bound to truth, honesty, or morals.
- We need to be prepared for such _____, and be practiced to identify it.