

Akeptous? Who is Akeptous? April 2025

What we know about Akeptous from a recent discovery of a 230 CE Christian prayer hall within the complex of a prison in the town of Megiddo, Israel, is that Akeptous was God-loving. She was a woman who dedicated the Eucharistic table in the prayer hall to the God Jesus Christ. The inscription which bears her name in its Mosaic floor is right beside the space where this dining table (not an altar of sacrifice) would have been.

Her message in the floor facing west reads: “The God-loving Akeptous dedicates this (dining) table as a memorial to the god Jesus Christ.” On the opposite side of this Eucharistic table facing east, the translation from the Greek is:

“You have to remember Primilla, Dorothea, Cyriaca and moreover, Chreste – all women.

How these five women celebrated at this table where they are commemorated separated from the men, articles and scholars will tell you, we do not know for sure. But like the photographs of priests and bishops and the pope that adorn the walls of parish churches I agree with the chief archeologist on the project when I heard him say that, if her name is here, described in this way, “She had something to do” with the table. Two men are also mentioned on the perimeter of the floor –a centurion who would like to be remembered for having paid for the floor, and the artist, Brutius, who rendered the artistic imagery in the floor.

You can hear about the discovery on this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2lcDvAMzQ8&t=384s>

You can read more about the floor here:

<https://rcwpcanada.altervista.org/TheReviewJanuary12025C.html>

And here is a more indepth, scholarly report: <http://www.rollstonepigraphy.com/>

You can see the floor here (and in many other articles) since it was shipped to a museum in Washington in late 2024. <https://dannythedigger.com/megiddo-mosaic/>

Akeptous had “something” to do with the Eucharistic table. She is the saint whom we invite to intercede for us at LICCF which celebrates an open table, inclusive language and women celebrants. We move in her spirit as God-loving people serving up plenty of hospitality. Akeptous, who, with her sisters we are to remember, too, would pour herself and her means into the Christian celebration of Eucharist. Akeptous who would dedicate the table upon which the gifts were brought. Akeptous before the emphasis on the cross and males sacrificing at an altar. Akeptous before Constantine and the patriarchal re-fashioning of the Early Christian Church.