

# **Bart Ehrman mentions Epicurus and the forged letters**

**Post by “Don” of April 22, 2023 at 8:49 PM**

<https://youtu.be/TW5b07T5VNM>

Start At 25:16

Bart Ehrman mentions the forged letters of "Epicurus" that tried to slander him.

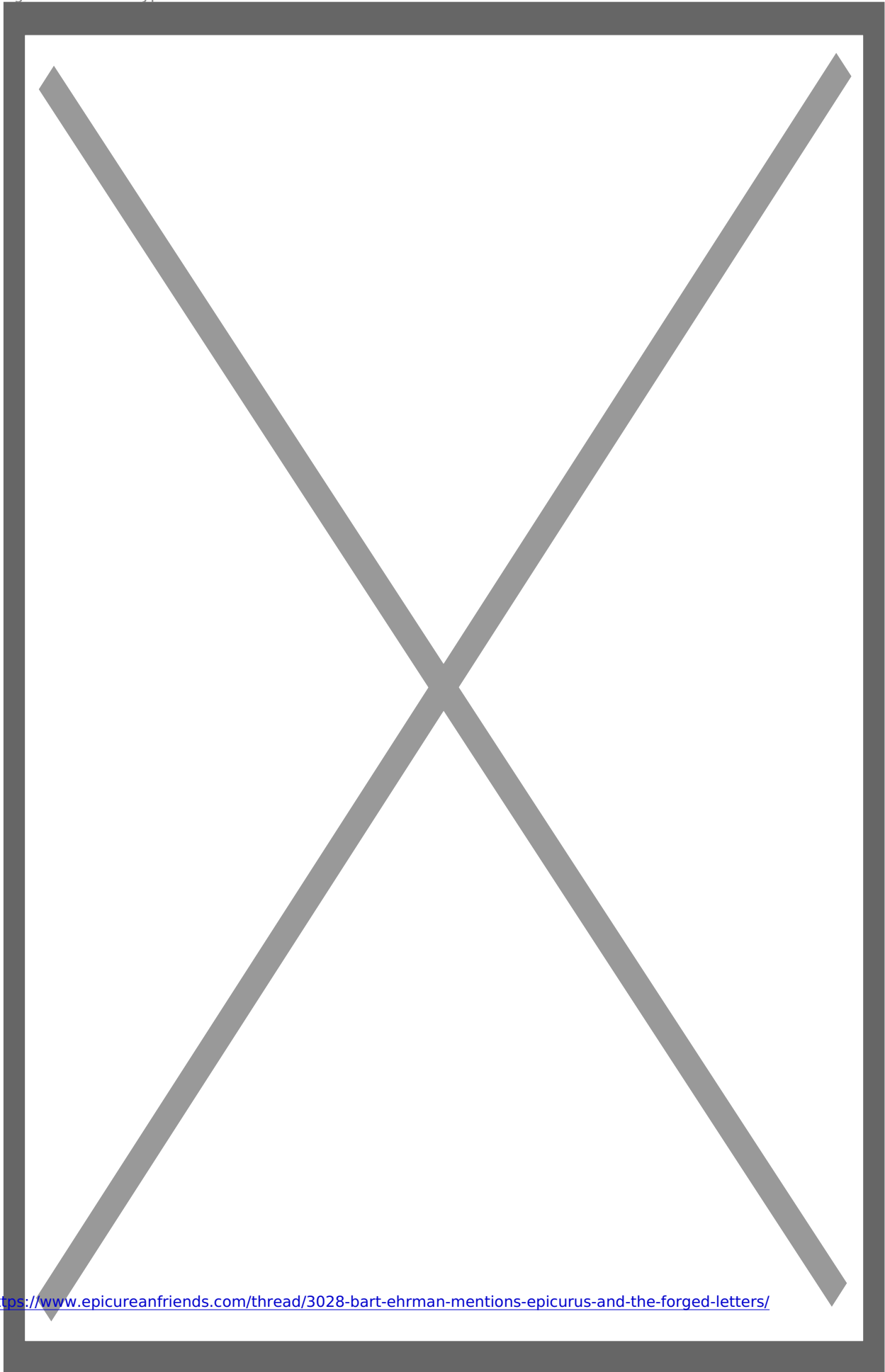
Dr. Ehrman mentions earlier in the podcast that the biblical book of Ecclesiastes relied on Epicurean philosophy! I think DeWitt claims the same thing. I may have to dig into that a little more now.

Full disclaimer: I'm a big fan of Bart Ehrman's from way back.

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**Post by “Don” of April 23, 2023 at 7:14 AM**

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[Epicureans in the Bible](#)

Bible verses on Epicureans from Nave's Topical Bible Concordance.  
www.naves-topical-bible.com

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**Post by “Cassius” of April 23, 2023 at 8:58 AM**

Just watched the video -- very good - thanks for posting.

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**Post by “Don” of April 27, 2023 at 7:09 AM**

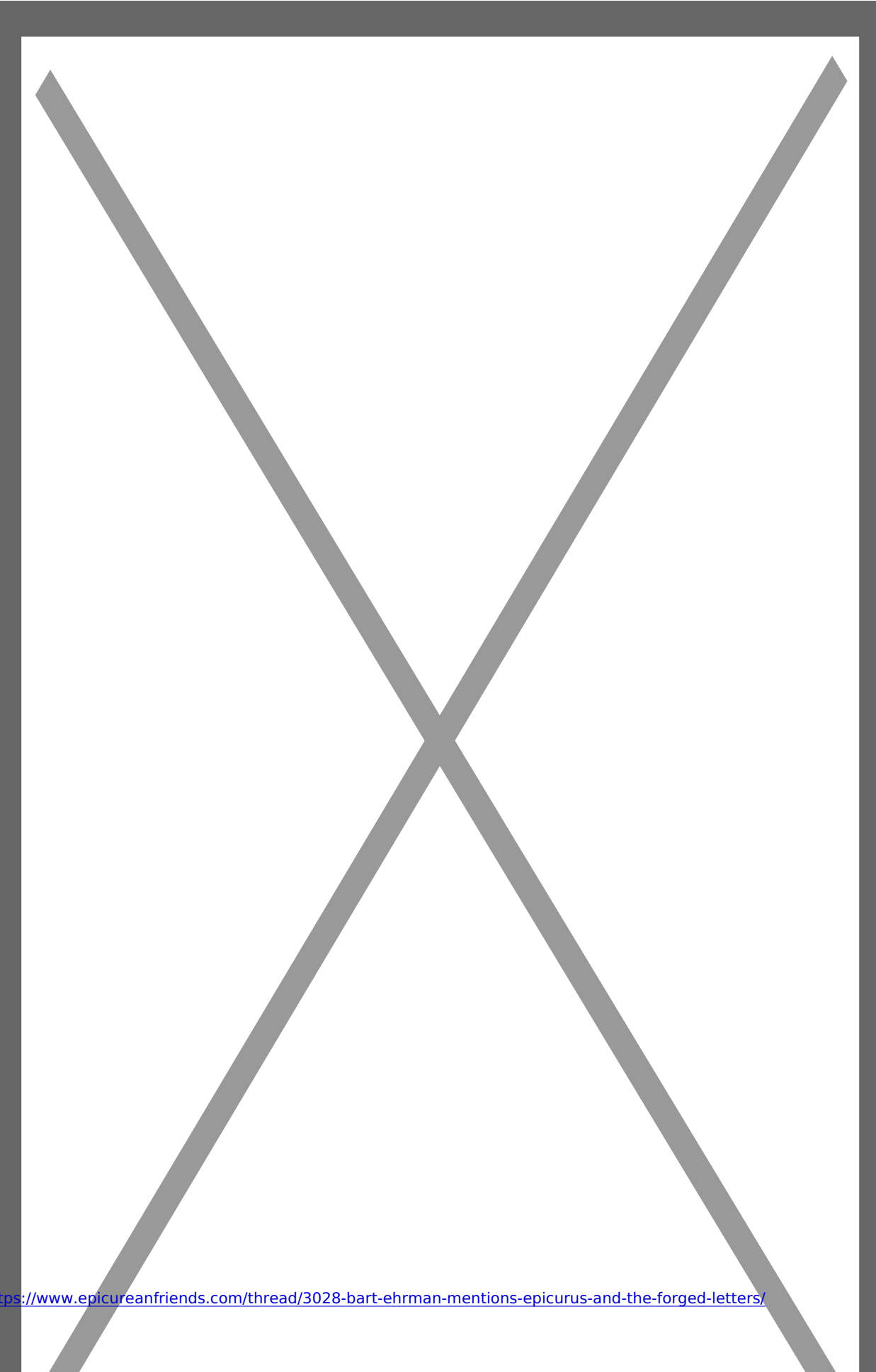
Here's the person Ehrman references about the forged letters:

[Diotimus the Stoic - Wikipedia](#)

According to that report, Diotimus was put to death as a result of the lawsuit of Zeno the Epicurean. Ouch! Too bad there aren't more details on all that.

PS

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[Who Is Diotimus? An Introduction To The Man Who Made An Extraordinary Mistake](#)

INTRODUCTION Of the Ancient Stoics, we know the least about Diotimus. He lived sometime around the early-first-century BC, and he might have known the...  
dailystoic.com

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**Post by “kochiekoch” of April 28, 2023 at 9:55 PM**

They could have just fined him 787.5 million drachmas! 😊

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**Post by “Sonderling” of April 29, 2023 at 12:43 PM**

I'm a big fan of Biblical studies. Thank you for sharing this, it's very fascinating.

Also I can't believe they straight up killed that dude just for forging letters.

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**Post by “Cassius” of April 29, 2023 at 1:03 PM**

[Quote from Sonderling](#)

I'm a big fan of Biblical studies

If so, you might find Norman DeWitt's "St Paul and Epicurus" particularly interesting (if you've not already heard of it) -

[Epicurus.info : E-Texts : Title](#)

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**Post by “Sonderling” of April 29, 2023 at 1:12 PM**

oh I have not heard of this, I'm already intrigued, thanks for sharing

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## Post by “Cassius” of April 29, 2023 at 1:20 PM

As you read the forum further you will see Don and I go back and forth on our views of that book. Both of us agree that DeWitt probably goes too far in the analogies that he draws, but depending on one's background one will find the book either super-interesting or unnecessarily speculative. It will be interesting to hear your thoughts as you read through it so if you have reactions worth posting, please do!

Here's a thread dedicated to that book, and this would probably be the best place for new discussions of it:

Post

### [RE: DeWitt \(Norman\) - "St. Paul And Epicurus"](#)

Going through these Bible verses in St Paul and Epicurus reminds we why the book has good information, but is somewhat narrowly targeted to people who want to compare Epicurus to Christianity. Many of the cites in the table are to rather fine points of Christian theology. The ones I think are most useful are those where it seems clear that in complaining about "elements" and similar things, Paul is directly criticizing Epicurean philosophy. Those are worthwhile finding for future use.

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Cassius

April 6, 2019 at 12:43 PM

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## Post by “Titus” of April 30, 2023 at 1:03 PM

### [Quote from Cassius](#)

Both of us agree that DeWitt probably goes too far in the analogies that he draws, but depending on one's background one will find the book either super-interesting or unnecessarily speculative.

I tend to be part of the super-interesting wing, while I also agree the tone of his arguments sounds speculative. He claims there is a philological underpinning of his arguments and that his

new translations are able to demystify passages he claims to be making no sense in a classical way of reading.

It would be quite important to consult an expert on this issue to check some of his claims.

What's still impressive to me is the fact that it seems DeWitt doesn't introduce any kind of new theological interpretation. Instead he sharpens Paul's profile. Indeed, Paul's message sounded more impressive and attractive to me than I did expect in the beginning.