

While The World Is At War

Gary McDade

While dedicated and highly trained young men and women risk their lives in war half a world away fighting to slow the blood flow of a heathen nation and endangering their personal futures to guarantee the freedoms to which we have grown accustomed, greedy filmmakers absorbed in comfort and luxury produce a short film denying and attacking the very foundation of the religion that alone offers peace and hope of life everlasting. James Cameron, producer of famous movies like the Alien series, the Terminator series, Predator, and the award winning Titanic disaster recreation, is responsible for a so-called “documentary” alleging the bones of Jesus Christ have been found in an ossuary (or box) from Palestine. Never mind that the names supposedly inscribed on the box are among the most common names in Palestine at the time from which the box is supposed to come. And, never mind that the box was originally found in 1980, more than a quarter of a century ago giving the opportunists plenty of time to fabricate a tale around it. And, never mind that Cameron has no background, training, or experience in archaeology or osteology. Never mind all those considerations because when Hollywood speaks everyone listens and many, if not most, believe the fantasy and build their lives around whatever it is.

For those willing to evaluate the lame claim we have one internet website commenting on “The Lost Tomb of Jesus” so-called documentary that was critical of the 1980 find of about 200 ossuaries during an excavation to build apartments, “Sporting their own biblical scholar, they quoted Professor Robert Eisenman (of Dead Sea Scrolls fame) as commenting about Cameron’s discovery, that ‘it should be obvious that names of the kind found in the “Jesus Burial Cave” were so widespread at the time that finding a family tomb with ossuaries inscribed with them proves nothing at all” (*James Cameron vs. Jesus*, <http://www.dailygrail.com/node/4277>).

The translation of the inscriptions deserves review, “Stephen Pfann, a biblical scholar at the University of the Holy Land in Jerusalem, is unsure that the name ‘Jesus’ on the ossuary was read correctly, since ancient Semitic script is difficult to read. He thinks it’s more likely that the name is ‘Hanun.’ Bar-Ilan University Prof. Amos Kloner indicated that ‘Jesus son of Joseph’ inscriptions had been found on several other ossuaries over the years. In addition, Kloner indicated, ‘There is no likelihood that Jesus and his relatives had a family tomb. They were a Galilee family with no ties in Jerusalem. The Talpiot tomb belonged to a middle-class family from the 1st century CE” (Rich Deem, “*The Lost Tomb of Jesus*”: *Have the Bones of Jesus Christ Been Found in Jerusalem?* http://www.godandscience.org/apologetics/bones_of_jesus.html).

Could the coffin be that of Jesus debunking two millennia of absolutely overwhelming credible evidence to the contrary? Let me calm down and allow cooler heads to prevail. The late respected scholar among churches of Christ Rex A. Turner, Sr. in *Sermons and Addresses on the Fundamentals of the Faith* (1972) wrote, “**The Resurrection of Christ—Some Facts Granted by Friend and Foe Alike.**”

“Concerning the question of the resurrection of Jesus, there are certain facts that are granted by both the Christian and the infidel alike. Those facts thus granted are as follows:

1. Both grant that a man by the name of Jesus lived.
2. Both grant that he arose to great heights of prominence, particularly among the common people.
3. Both grant that he suffered the crucifixion of the Roman Cross and was thought to be dead when he was taken from the cross.
4. Both grant that his body was buried in the new tomb of Joseph of Arimathea.
5. Both grant that a great stone was laid at the mouth of the tomb.

6. Both grant that the seal of the Roman Governor was affixed thereto.
7. Both grant that a Roman guard—consisting of from fifteen to sixty men—was stationed about the tomb.
8. Both grant that sometime after the third morning the body of Jesus disappeared.
9. Both grant that his disciples came to believe with unshakable confidence that their Lord had been raised from the tomb by the power of God” (p. 14).

What was it that gave the disciples of Christ that “unshakable confidence” about which brother Turner speaks? Luke answers, “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God” (Acts 1:1-3). A convincing list of eyewitness to the resurrection of Christ was supplied to the world by the apostle Paul, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time” (I Cor. 15:1-8).

Isn't it about time America returned to God? Can it be the case that the precious blood of our youth now being sacrificed on foreign soil for the principles of freedom may serve to drive the nation back to submission to God? If not, pray tell what will it take if possible at all? The ancient Psalmist wrote the truth, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord” (Psa. 33:12).