

View

March 4, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: David Posey

5 PM – Singing, **Prayer**, Lord's Supper, Sermon, Classes

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Auditorium: Outlining Your Bible

Room 11-12: Revelation – The Seven Churches of Asia

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: Tuesday, Karlsson's home, 7 PM

Wednesday

10:00 AM – OT History - 10 AM at the building.

7:30 PM – Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium – Galatians

Room 11-12: The First Century Church

News & Prayer Concerns

"First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."

New Arrivals!

Ashtyn Marie Cain was born on February 22nd, weighing 7#, 7oz. Everyone is doing well. Congratulations to Barrett and Aimee!

The news has been positive regarding Jackson Agee's condition, but continue to pray for him and the family.

Prayer Concerns

Sharon Jones is doing pretty well, but she still needs some assistance and our constant prayers.

Keep others in your prayers: Ben Woodside (death of grandmother); Hank and Kathy Wilson; Carl Hanson.

Continue to pray for those who are expecting: Candee Dickey, Amber Karlsson, Sarah Cain and Nicole Grinnell. Also, as we rejoice with these, pray for the couples who would like to have children, but have not been able.

Also, continue prayers for our men in uniform, including: Steven Sabath (Arletta's son), Brandon Folkert (the Terrys' nephew) and Danny Boyer.

Group Meetings

We will be starting a new round of group meetings soon, with a new topic to discuss. We'll keep you informed.

Vacation Bible School

We have set the date for this year's VBS: June 25-29.

Please make your plans accordingly.

Out of Town

Dave & Carly; Jeanette Norton; David and Christie Posey will be leaving for a gospel meeting in Alabama; and Randy and Sally Clark will be out of town next week.

Classes

Our Tuesday night class on John will meet this week, at the home of Magnus and Amber at 7 PM. There will be no class next week; it will resume on March 20th.

The OT History class will not be held for the next two weeks; it will resume on March 21st here at the building (10 AM).

Gospel Meetings

Reminder: Mark your calendar for October 8-10, 2007 for a meeting with Ed Harrell. We have also booked gospel meetings with Bob Owen for 2008, Paul Earnhart for 2009 and Dee Bowman for 2011.

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**Read your Bible
each day, and
spread the word!**

The Discovery Channel's Bonehead Show *The Lost Tomb of Jesus*

Will it never end? Well, no, it won't. Efforts to discredit the Bible are frequent and legion. But when big-time film makers and popular TV stations get into the debunking-the-Bible business, people take notice. But have they gone too far this time? The evidence suggests they have.

Here's a report, a version of which you have undoubtedly heard, from CBS/AP and an excerpt of comments from scholars and archeologists:

An Oscar-winning director is about to challenge the most elemental tenets of Christianity, claiming the bones of Jesus Christ were found in a Jerusalem tomb, but many archaeologists and clergymen have been quick to cast doubt on the movie's assertions.

James Cameron's "The Lost Tomb of Christ," which the Discovery Channel will run on March 4, argues that 10 ancient ossuaries — small caskets used to store bones — discovered in a suburb of Jerusalem in 1980 may have contained the bones of Jesus, according to a press release issued by the Discovery Channel.

In fact, the astounding claim is that the entire Holy Family was buried in a vault, reports CBS News correspondent Mark Phillips. Astounding, critics say, because Jesus' family was famously poor and such tombs were the fashion of the wealthy.

One of the caskets even bears the title, "Judah, son of Jesus," hinting that Jesus may have had a son. And the very fact that Jesus had an ossuary would contradict the Christian belief that he was resurrected and ascended to heaven.

But Phillips reports that, although archeologists have long argued over the factual and historic accuracy of Christianity's version of history, in this case, the archeological establishment has lined up to label this claim as bunk.

Amos Kloner, the first archaeologist to examine the site, said the

idea fails to hold up by archaeological standards but makes for profitable television.

"They just want to get money for it," Kloner said.

"What's the story, they found the DNA connecting Jesus to God? Can you check the DNA of God,"

"...although archeologists have long argued over the factual and historic accuracy of Christianity's version of history, in this case, the archeological establishment has lined up to label this claim as bunk."

Kloner...sarcastically asked during an interview for the CBS News Early Show...

...Stephen Pfann, a biblical scholar at the University of the Holy Land in Jerusalem who was interviewed in the documentary, said the film's hypothesis holds little weight. "I don't think that Christians are going to buy into this," Pfann said. "But skeptics, in general, would like to see something that pokes holes into the story that so many people hold dear."

This is the second time The Discovery Channel has been involved in a disputed claim about an ancient tomb, Phillips reports. The man at the center of the previous case is now facing trial for forgery.

Excerpts from another article...
More controversial than The Da Vinci Code?

Get out of the way Dan Brown—The Da Vinci Code hype may be surpassed by an even bigger controversy about Jesus Christ — the claim that archaeologists have

discovered his tomb! In a new Discovery TV documentary, producer James Cameron (The Titanic) and Jewish director, Simcha Jacobovici, attempt to prove that Jesus' burial cave and body were discovered near Jerusalem. Cameron and Jacobovici

further cite evidence that Jesus sired a son with Mary Magdalene.

Dan Brown's enormous success with The Da Vinci Code was largely due to his leveraging some facts into a gigantic stretch of the imagination. And The Da Vinci Code set records in the bookstores as well as becoming an international movie blockbuster. But once scholars had a chance to plow through Brown's claims, (e.g., that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married, the New Testament was rewritten, and Constantine invented Jesus' divinity) his theories proved to be spurious scholarship, judged by historians as mere hype to sell books and movie tickets.

So now the sensational claim is that Jesus Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension was a hoax — at least that's what Jacobovici's book, The Family Tomb of Jesus and Cameron's Discovery TV documentary attempt to prove. And if Jesus Christ's tomb has really been discovered, then all of Christian history has been based upon a false claim —that

Jesus physically rose from the dead, was seen alive by over 500 followers at once, spent 40 days teaching his disciples, and then ascended into heaven. But before we get caught up in another Da Vinci type conspiracy, let's look at the facts behind Cameron's claims:

1. In 1980 ten limestone bone boxes (ossuaries) were discovered in an excavated tomb in the Jerusalem suburb of Talpiot.
2. Six inscriptions were discovered with names similar to or the same as some of Jesus Christ's family and disciples:
 - Jesua, son of Joseph,
 - Mary
 - Mariamene e Mara
 - Mathew
 - Jofa
 - Judah, son of Jesua.
3. Mariamene e Mara could be translated, "Mary known as the master," which Cameron thinks might be Mary of Magdalene.
4. DNA analysis identifies that tissues from the ossuaries of Jesua and Mariamene e Mara were not related, raising the possibility they may have been married and had a child.
5. The inscriptions and ossuaries have been attested as Herodian, dating to the first century.
...It is the fact that these particular names have been discovered in the same tomb that has fueled speculation that it really could be Jesus' tomb. But there are many contradictory questions that need to be answered before one jumps to a conclusion that overturns centuries of historical scholarship.

If it was really Jesus' Tomb –

1. Why don't Cameron and Jacobovici cite scholars who disagree with their conclusions? For example, in 1996, when the British Broadcasting Corp. aired a short documentary

on the same subject, archaeologists challenged the claims.

2. Since the custom was to bury the dead in their home town, why would Mary and Joseph's family tomb be in Jerusalem instead of Nazareth? Middle East researcher and biblical anthropologist Joe Zias states, "It has nothing whatsoever to do with Jesus, he was known as Jesus of Nazareth, not Jesus of Jerusalem, and if the family was wealthy enough to afford a tomb, which they probably weren't, it would have been in Nazareth, not here in Jerusalem." Zias dismisses Cameron's claims as "dishonest".
3. Why didn't Jesus' enemies, the Jewish leaders, expose the tomb? They searched unsuccessfully throughout Jerusalem for any evidence of Jesus' body, claiming that Jesus' disciples had stolen it. They hated Jesus enough to want him crucified, and would have been elated to discover his tomb, if it indeed existed.
4. Why didn't the Romansexpose the inscriptions as belonging to Jesus? Roman soldiers controlled the entire city of Jerusalem, and they knew his body was missing from a tomb they had been guarding.
5. Why didn't contemporary Roman or Jewish historians write about the tomb? Not one single contemporary historian mentions the tomb in question.
6. Why was the James Ossuary, which has been labeled a forgery, cited by Cameron and Jacobovici as one of the reasons for the tomb's validity? CBS News correspondent Mark Philips reports "the archeological establishment has lined up to label this claim as bunk. This is the second time The Discovery Channel has been involved in a disputed claim about an ancient tomb," reports Phillips.

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Comments from Chuck Colson

When even Harvard and NPR call your bit of revisionism "preposterous," you know that you are way out on a limb. Then again, Cameron is far from the first person to dash his credibility to pieces against the stone that was rolled away that first Easter.

Like others, his ultimate explanation for what happened that Sunday morning is a cover-up. Like others, he has no explanation for why the Apostles would be willing to die for what they presumably knew to be a lie. I know a thing or two about cover-ups and conspiracies: No conspirator willingly dies for what he knows to be untrue—or, in the case of Watergate, even go to jail. The closest men around the president of the United States testified against him to save their own skins. You're going to tell me the Apostles maintained their story at the cost of their lives? Impossible.

What's worse than Cameron's "preposterous" claims is the credulous reaction of the media.

At the website Get Religion (which analyzes the media's coverage of religion), Daniel Pulliam put it this way: Many "news organizations [are] reporting [Cameron's] words as gospel truth." He's right. A headline in the New York Times's blog read "Raising the Titanic, Sinking Christianity?" Time followed, proclaiming that "this time, the ship [Cameron's] sinking is Christianity."

While Newsweek magazine did manage to quote Cameron's critics, as Pulliam pointed out, "their words [were treated] as equal to that" of the moviemaker—who, by the way, admits he's not a "theologist or an archaeologist," just a filmmaker.

Pulliam is right when he says that "at this point" the coverage of this story "is an embarrassment to reporters." And they wonder why they are held in low esteem among believers?

Stories like this and the fuss over the "Gospel of Judas" are slickly packaged revisionism. After the revisionism has been shredded, the only thing sinking beneath the waves is the media's credibility.

Calendar for the Folsom Point church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 The Lord's Day Young Peoples' Class	5	6 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	7 7:30 PM Bible Classes	8	9	10
11 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	12	13	14 7:30 PM Bible Classes	15	16	17
18 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	19	20 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	21 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	22	23	24
25 The Lord's Day Assembly 9:30 AM & 5 PM	26	27 7 PM In-Home Bible Study	28 OT History Class: 10AM 7:30 PM Bible Classes	29	30	31

Mark Your Calendar

June 25-29, Vacation Bible School

October 8-10, 2007 - Meeting with Ed Harrell

The View contains news and articles of interest to the members of the Folsom Point church of Christ. Announcing an activity or event does not necessarily imply that we financially sponsor the event or that the elders specifically endorse every component of that event, since it may not fall under the direct oversight of the elders. The church's work and the elders' oversight is limited by Scripture. We will not announce events that are primarily social in nature. However, we do want to publicize and encourage those activities that provide an opportunity to be built up in the faith and provide an opportunity for you be a more involved and active member of the body at Folsom Point.

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The man at the center of the previous case is now facing trial for forgery." Ben Witherington, an early Christianity expert who was deeply involved with the James Ossuary, says "there are physical reasons to believe it couldn't have originated in the Talpiot plot."

7. Why are Jacobovici and Cameron waiting until just prior to Easter to launch both the book and documentary? Amos Kloner, the first archaeologist to examine the site, said the idea fails to hold up by archaeological standards but makes for profitable television. "They just want to get money for it," Kloner said.

8. Why would Jesus' disciples endure torture for claiming he was resurrected, if they knew it was a hoax? New Testament scholar Darrell Bock asks, "why would Jesus' family or followers bury his bones in a family plot and then turn around and preach that he had been physically raised from the dead?"

William Dever, an expert on near eastern archaeology and anthropology, who has worked with Israeli archeologists for five decades, said specialists have known about the ossuaries for years. "The fact that it's been ignored tells you something," said Dever, professor emeritus at the University of Arizona. "It would be amusing if it didn't mislead so many people."