

HAS JAMES CAMERON FOUND THE TOMB OF CHRIST?

IS CHRISTIANITY MERELY A HOAX?

By Oleg Dei

The greatest movie ever made in terms of box office revenue of all time was the Titanic. This was a movie that was written, directed and produced by James Cameron. Has James Cameron produced the greatest documentary ever with *The Lost Tomb of Jesus* as well? Is this the greatest archeological discovery of all time?



When Producers of this documentary contacted Andrey Feuerverger, he was, to put it mildly, surprised. "This is not in the usual run of things one gets to do," says the University of Toronto statistician, alluding to Producers' somewhat unusual request that he calculate the odds that a particular tomb in Israel is the last resting place of Jesus Christ. Feuerverger spent two years crunching numbers. Finally when he was complete he contacted director James Cameron and award-winning investigative journalist Simcha Jacobovici. The final result was a one in 600 chance that the names—Jesus, Matthew, two versions of Mary, and Joseph—scribbled on five of the 10 ossuaries or caskets found in the Talpiot tomb could have belonged to a different family than the one described in the New Testament.

When Cameron and Simcha announced Feuerverger's calculations along with a package of other evidence which included forensics, DNA and archaeology the entire world was hit by a shock wave. Meanwhile biblical historian James Tabor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the primary historical advisor on the production team, reported that he calculated the odds were one in 250,000 that another family of that period would have the same names as those scrawled on the bone boxes. Considering that the population in Jerusalem was only 5,000 that likelihood of this being true was comparable to meeting an extraterrestrial alien in a restaurant. Feuerverger says that one in 600 families and that is being conservative would have that particular combination of names purely by chance. Among the parameters that Feuerverger used to determine the odds, was to determine the frequency and distribution of Jewish names in the era of Jesus.

In order to accomplish this he referenced a text, called the *Lexicon of Jewish Names in Late Antiquity* that was published in 2002. This text includes 2,509 names.

The Lexicon of Jewish Names, includes names from ossuaries, ancient texts and every other source available. If you reference the text you will find that the names unearthed in the so-called Jesus Family Tomb were among the most common of that era. One in every three women listed in the Lexicon was named Mary and one in every 20 Jewish men was called Yeshua, or Jesus.



When Feuerverger discovered that some of the names were exceptional, and fit with scholars' beliefs about the historical family of Jesus, his calculations became worthy of advertising. The most important parameter or name by far was the one that dealt with the inscription that appeared on the ossuary that the documentarians assert belonged to Mary Magdalene.

The extraordinariness of the *Mariemene e Mara* inscription because it is a very rare name and the fact that this name gets factored into the calculation is monumentally important. According to the historians and archaeologists working on this archeological expedition this inscription is so rare that Feuerverger could safely assume that this was the only woman who possessed this name out of all of those listed in the *Lexicon*. This dramatically changed the odds that this tomb belonged to just any Mary Magdalene from roughly one in three to extremely rare.

U.N.C. Charlotte historian Tabor, a consultant on the documentary, says "*Mariemene e Mara* means "of *Mariemenu*". This is a title. It means "This is the

ossuary of *Mariemene*, known as the *Mara*." This is a completely unique name, supporting his hypothesis that this is the grave of *the* Mary Magdalene who was buried with Jesus. DNA tests conducted on the supposed remains of Jesus and Mary Magdalene indicate they were unrelated.



In Jewish tradition in those days the only time an unrelated person was buried in a family tomb was when the female was the wife. Was Mary Magdalene really the wife of Jesus? There was also an ossuary of an infant. Was this the child of Jesus and Mary? It is a well known fact that the Da Vinci Code was based on fiction. But how much was fiction? Did the Catholic Church know about this? And if they did, did they try to conceal this from the rest of the world? If these were indeed the remains of Jesus clearly there was no resurrection!

If this was true it would certainly expose the Christian Religion as a hoax. Was Christianity the greatest hoax ever perpetrated on humanity?

Tabor disagrees with critics who dismiss the fundamental premise of his and Feuerverger's calculations—that the family of Jesus would have been buried in caves typical of wealthier Jews and not in the shallow dirt graves that were common in that era. Tabor responds to the charges that it is improbable that Jesus and his family had a burial cave in Jerusalem by noting that "if you know anything about messianic movements, the followers provided for their leader—they don't just throw him in a ditch when he died. Think of any Jewish sect—they always take care of their rabbi". There's no evidence this family ever went back to Galilee. James or Jesus's brother died in Jerusalem, Mary and his

brothers were there as well. There is no indication or evidence of any kind that anybody ever went back to Nazareth.

In other words, Tabor argues that it is not only likely that the family of Jesus could have afforded a burial cave, but that it most likely would have opted for one in Jerusalem. The number one in 600 was used in the documentary because this was calculated using the best data available.

The evidence presented by the Cameron team is compelling. More research and DNA testing is required. Just when things began to get really interesting the believers rushed in and ordered the tomb shut. If this was indeed the remains of Jesus, then clearly this would have been the end of the Christian religion.

When it comes to the subject of Jesus and the Bible, most believers are ignorant of the facts. The Bible clearly quotes Christ and his disciples - stating that Jesus would return for the second coming during their lifetimes. Clearly this never happened. Only two options are possible: (1) If indeed the Bible is wrong about the most important event in both the Old and New Testaments - the second coming, then the entire text disintegrates and is disproven.

(2) If Christ's prophesy of his second coming, as depicted in the Bible, has not been fulfilled, then he clearly was nothing other than a fraud and not the son of any god! Perhaps thanks to James Cameron we know why. Were his remains finally discovered? Perhaps James Cameron did more than sink the Titanic in the movie, maybe he sunk Christ the greatest hoax in human history!



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