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The Lost Tomb Of Jesus *A Twisted Match*

The conflict between believers and unbelievers, science and religion have continued for centuries. Each generation has been armed with new tools that have been used to attempt to prove or discredit the scriptural record. In recent years the double helix, the DNA molecule, has been presented to the public eye as a cornerstone of science. Popular television programs such as CSI and it's related spin-off programs, have made the idea of DNA analysis a common concept that was once restricted to the realm of scientists, pathologists and criminal investigators. Armed with ideas about the nature of Christianity and the story of Christ and his disciples, the film "The Lost Tomb Of Jesus" includes DNA analysis of bone fragments found in the ossuaries as "proof" that they were on the right track. During the program, the analysis is shown as it is conducted on material taken from some of the ossuaries. From this, conclusions are apparently solidified and the assumptions that are set forth from the beginning are amplified. DNA is known as the building block of life. Within it is contained the genetic code that shapes us. Individuals have a specific DNA structure or signature that can be used to establish the relationships between others. Paternity can be established from such findings and the margin of error is greatly reduced when it is coupled with other pieces of information such as fingerprints. One of the discoveries is that the DNA examined from the ossuary inscribed with the name "Jesus" is compared with that gathered from another ossuary that is presented as being that of Mary Magdalene. In the discussion, moderated by Ted Koppel, the point is made that the DNA samples do not show a familial relationship. Interpretations of this evidence are then used to cement the conclusion that Jesus had a relationship with Mary Magdalene and that they had a son. The filmmaker goes on to propose that, for purposes of protection, Christ instructed his disciples to conceal this information. In the discussion this conclusion is countered when it is brought out that DNA analysis cannot be used to establish a marital relationship since husbands and wives, both

from different families, would have dissimilar DNA. Simcha Jacobovichi, the maker of the film, repeatedly states that he only followed the science to draw his conclusions. Such interpretations, based on supposition and questionable texts, such as the Gnostic Acts of Philip, and Gospel of Mary Magdalene, are presented as if they are factual in the film. Jacobovichi alternately states that he is only a journalist and appears to become angry when even Ted Koppel points out that such conclusions cannot be drawn from the "evidence" at hand. The danger of this is that many who are unfamiliar with the Gospel accounts and the nature of the false teachings of the Gnostics, will more than likely be drawn into the elusive world of supposition, interpretation and the alleged suppression of the real truth. Jacobovichi insists that others must "keep an open mind" while he himself appears to be closed to accepting that the scriptures could in fact be truthful. The film presents DNA analysis, along with statistical probabilities, to secure the idea that Christ was the author of a complex cover-up. We must ask how this could be. How could such an individual actively construct and promote a lie while teaching others to be truthful and obey God? Such allegations tear at the very heart of faith in the Bible. The argument constitutes a denial of that which is divine and fails to adequately explain the survival of the scriptures and their influence on the world. We have discussed the improbability of this occurrence in past articles. Just as geologists insist that the earth was formed from hot gases over millions of years, the film presents an interpretation of events based on subjective supposition and conclusions that avoid a greater body of evidence to the contrary. In the end there is more confusion than fact and answers are not forthcoming. **Next: A Compelling Comparison**

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