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The Lost Tomb Of Jesus The Bottom Line

For the past several weeks I have discussed the program which aired on March 4th, 2007 entitled “**The Lost Tomb Of Jesus**” on the Discovery channel. There may be a large number of individuals who have not seen the program and so may not have any exposure to the ideas promoted in the film. However, while there may be many who have not seen the film, there may be quite a few who frequent bookstores and may have seen “**The Jesus Family Tomb**” coauthored by Simcha Jacobovici and Charles Peregrino. Another individual, James Tabor, who teaches religion at the University of North Carolina—Charlotte, and who consulted on the film, also has a book on the subject entitled, “**The Jesus Dynasty: The Hidden History Of Jesus, His Royal Family, And The Birth Of Christianity**” suggests that Christ’s real father was a Roman soldier and even goes far enough to name him in the book. James Tabor consulted with Simcha Jacobovici on the making of the film. Although Mr. Tabor teaches religion, he obviously has no belief or faith in it. The bottom line is that a group of individuals have put together a very convincing production that presents alleged scientific evidence. The danger in this film is that many will not look into the claims made in the film. They will not see the problems with the arguments that are made, nor will they critically review both sides of the discussion to make a reasoned decision concerning the validity of the Bible. The problem is that many, perhaps seeking God, may come upon these books or see the program. Instead of looking for God in the pages of the inspired book that serves as the only source of reliable spiritual information, people will turn to the writings of “learned” and “scholarly” writers and filmmakers who will undoubtedly cause some to choose the path of unbelief. None of this is new. Unbelief and criticism of the scriptures have always been around. Not even Adam and Eve believed God and that is why they weakened, sinned and suffered the consequences. There is however much that taints the production. It appears that there is a bias toward the conclusion that the tomb that has been found is

indeed the tomb of Jesus that we read about in the Bible. Simcha Jacobovici, born in Israel and raised in Montreal, Canada, has been involved in many notable activities over the years and hosts a show on Canadian television called “**The Naked Archaeologist**”. By the time that the film was made there appears to be a great deal of research that Jacobovici had already done and this would account for his insistence on his view in the program as well as his choice of advisors and consultants for the film. One of the criticisms made was that portions of interviews were edited out in the film so that opposing views were not defined. This of course occurs in films of all sorts. The medium is a way for a filmmaker, journalist or anyone else to promote and distribute their ideas. There are Christians who have used the same methods although through smaller distribution channels. There is however a disturbing pattern that filmmakers and others, both believers and unbelievers alike follow. They first look for historical documents and artifacts to validate what the Bible states. When, or if, these cannot be found we have the beginnings of a problem. Events and actions, particularly those of God, are seen as having to have happened in more or less normal ways. This is a lack of faith or acceptance in the power of God. If God is able to create worlds by speaking them into existence then surely he is able to do the things that we read about in the scriptures. To attempt to explain the acts of God in physical or earthly terms is a lack of understanding. The bottom line is that there is enough evidence to support accepting the scriptures as true. I do not believe that it is necessary, nor possible, to find artifacts and references to the major figures of the Bible. One thing that the makers of the film could consider is a careful forgery contrived to try and discredit Christianity. But that would be too much to believe.

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