

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



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GRAND PRELATE'S EASTER MESSAGE

Oscar award-winning director James Cameron, best known for his highly acclaimed movie "Titanic," has announced that he has found the burial site of Jesus. Discovered in a southwest Jerusalem neighborhood, nowhere near the traditional garden tomb site, he has discovered ten ossuaries containing human remains. One of these is marked with the name "Mariamene," translated "Mary Magdalene." On another of the nearby ossuaries, it says "Judah, son of Jesus." Cameron offers this as proof that Jesus married Mary Magdalene, and they had children. Of course, if this is true, it would destroy the entire foundation of the Christian faith.

Well, it isn't like it hasn't happened before. After all, in Genesis, Chapter 3, verse 1, Satan asked Eve the fateful question "yea, hath God said?" Satan's plan in the life of any Christian is simple; to cause enough doubt in God's truth that his holiness, his righteousness, and his judgment are no longer relevant in our lives.

Making the risen savior "unrisen" is the goal of every movie that purports to mock the Christian faith, and by implication, the name of Christ himself.

The problem with Mr. Cameron's work, of course, is that it is all a big lie, and it isn't even good science. He is basing his "discovery" on the statistical probability that the remains in the other ossuaries are Jesus, since we have these two names given. But, it does bring up a point. What if Christ is NOT risen?

I'm so glad you asked. The Bible is clear in answering that question, as it is every other. The answer is found in the book of I Corinthians, Chapter 15. This well known book was addressed to a church not unlike the churches of America today—stale, pallid edifices lacking spiritual power for the most part, not realizing the

power of God to transform lives. Paul was reminding them of the importance of a risen Lord in the lives of his disciples.

First of all, a risen Lord is our **LIFE**. In Verse 13 of that chapter, he says "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen." If Christ is not risen, then we have no hope of eternal life.

This leads us to the second reason, which is that a risen Christ is our **FOUNDATION**. Verse 14 says "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain." If Christ is in one of those ossuaries of Mr. Cameron's today, Sir Knights, then every preacher of every label is a professional liar, and our faith is a useless fantasy exercise.

Third, a risen Lord is our **HOPE**. In verse 17, Paul writes "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then, they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." I have a sister I have never met. She went to glory as an infant some seven years before I was born. If Christ is not risen, I have no hope of meeting her...ever.

Finally, a risen Christ is our **VICTORY**. If Christ is not risen, death has won, and we have no hope of overcoming the grave and death. But in Revelations, we are told by Christ that he has the keys of death and hell. The only way he could have possibly done this, Mr. Cameron notwithstanding, is to walk out of the grave...on his own power. That I believe, Hollywood or not.

Hallelujah! The Lord is Risen! Have a blessed Easter, Sir Knights!

Courteously and Fraternaly,
S.K. Rev. Daniel Williams
Eminent Grand Prelate

Philippians 3:10-12

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (NIV)