

## Deeper Waters

Diving into the ocean of truth

---

**Tag: Robert J. Marks II**

---

### Book Plunge: Buried Hope Or Risen Savior?

What do I think of this book edited by Charles Quarles and published by B&H Academic? Let's plunge into the Deeper Waters and find out.

For the most part, the Talpoit Tomb theory that this book is dedicated to answering is done and gone. It was a flash in the pan that got the attention of sensationalists, but not the attention of the leading scholars. Unfortunately, it also shows that this is where we're at. On both sides of the aisle, people want to go to the press immediately with a "finding" that they have and present themselves as a scholar even if they're not (Joseph Atwill anyone?) and not let their work be peer-reviewed and tested. So it was with Talpoit with the only scholar I know of coming to its defense being James Tabor.

Still, that doesn't mean we can't learn something from a work like this even if the theory it's meant to debunk has already been thoroughly debunked. Charles Quarles has put together an elite team to deal with specific questions of the tomb theory. The first one is Steven Ortiz. In his chapter, he deals with how archaeology is done. It really isn't done the same way Indiana Jones does it. It actually can be described as a rather mundane practice in many ways, though the conclusions are no doubt fascinating. Ortiz also recommends that findings be kept in their historical context and be subject to peer review.

Craig Evans gives a look on burial in the time of Jesus. His writing is mainly about the use of ossuaries which were boxes the bones of the loved ones were kept in. He points out that Jesus was indeed given a proper burial, but it sure wasn't an honorable one. This is an important fact to point out as it increases the likelihood of the accuracy of the burial narratives. A shameful burial would not be made up.

Another issue with the ossuaries is the names on them. Who better to deal with this from the Christian side than Richard Bauckham? He goes into detail on studies of names in the time of Jesus and how common the names on the boxes would be. The problem is this chapter can get very technical and it's easy to get lost in.

By far, the most technical chapter is the next one by William Dembski and Robert J. Marks II. Those names might seem out of place in a book on the NT, but they're there because they're dealing with the probability claim as one statistician said the odds are 1 in 600 that the Talpoit Tomb is NOT the tomb of Jesus. Dembski and Marks look at this claim and apply their own mathematical approach that argues otherwise. This is the most technical chapter in the book and you would need a good knowledge of probability theory I think to understand it.

Gary Habermas comes next and gives us the basic case for the resurrection of Jesus and how Talpoit fails to explain the data that we have. Of course, he's not saying Talpoit is wrong because Jesus rose from the dead. He's saying it's wrong because we have data agreed to by NT scholars that Talpoit is not capable of explaining.

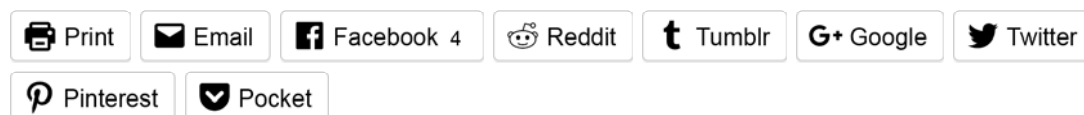
But would it matter even if it was the burial place of Jesus? Couldn't Jesus just have risen spiritually and we would all be fine even if His bones were found? Mike Licona takes this one arguing that a spiritual resurrection is not allowed when we look at the writings of Paul, our earliest source on the resurrection.

Finally, Darrell Bock wraps it all up as he reviews every chapter and tells us what he thinks we should learn from them. The read overall is not a lengthy one, but it will be an informative one. Even though the theory as I said is discarded for the most part now, we can look at something like this as a way of knowing how to examine such theories and learn something about the relevant fields in the meanwhile.

The tomb theory is done and gone, but the information in response lives on. Such is the way things seem to go. That which is meant to be a death knell to Christianity usually shows itself to make that which it wants to destroy even stronger.

In Christ,  
Nick Peters

---

**SHARE THIS:**

---

**LIKE THIS:**



One blogger likes this.

---

📅 21st February 2017   👤 Nick Peters   📁 Apologetics, Book Plunge, Historical Jesus, Resurrection   🔒 Charles Quarles, Craig Evans, Darrell Bock, Gary Habermas, James Cameron, James Tabor, Mike Licona, Richard Bauckham, Robert J. Marks II, Steven Ortiz, Talpoit, Tomb, William Dembski   💬 0 Comments

---

Proudly powered by WordPress