2015

Quarles' "Buried Hope or Risen Savior: The Search for the Jesus Tomb" (Book Review)

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intends to follow this book with another, more in-depth study of “American political development” (p. xii). Here, DiIulio makes a persuasive argument for hiring more highly qualified and trained bureaucrats in order to tame the “Leviathan by Proxy” (p. 21). His phrase refers to the government mess composed of overworked bureaucrats as well as myriad contractors who are not held accountable for poor performance or for lobbying congress for their own interests (p. 16). He suggests that having more bureaucrats would lead to better management of monies and increased security (pp. 64, 68). Besides increasing the number of official government workers, he proposes that the executive and legislative branches perform their constitutional roles rather than – as they are currently doing – trade them with each other (pp. 93–97). In the final chapters, E. J. Dionne Jr. and Charles Murray offer their liberal and libertarian (respectively) critiques. While all agree that the American government requires dramatic improvement, they disagree on the nature of the problem and the solutions (p. 131). DiIulio ends by summarizing their responses and further clarifying his position. Recommended for public libraries, universities, and anyone interested in political science.


Reviewed by Hannah Bitner, Librarian, Calvary Bible College and Calvary Theological Seminary, Kansas City, MO

Charles Quarles presents Buried Hope or Risen Savior: The Search for the Jesus Tomb as a response to Simcha Jacobovici’s documentary The Lost Tomb of Jesus, which aired in 2007, and the book that accompanied the documentary, The Jesus Family Tomb. Both the documentary and book claim the tomb of Jesus has been found along with His ossuary.

An introduction from Charles Quarles explains the background of the Talpiot tomb, the documentary, and why a response is needed. Next, experts from the fields of archaeology, Jewish ossuaries, statistics, and New Testament studies each write a chapter in response to the claims made by Jacobovici. Finally, a conclusion by Darrell Bock summarizes each scholar’s arguments along with his own observations.

Steven Ortiz begins the response to Jacobovici’s findings by examining the idea that the original excavation process left much to be desired. Craig Evans looks at the burial rites during New Testament times and claims about markings on the tomb and ossuary being early Christian symbols. David Bauckham addresses the assertion that the names found in the Talpiot tomb were virtually unique to the family of
Jesus. Walter Dembski and Robert Marks II examine the same claim about the uniqueness of this collection of names from a slightly different angle by testing the accuracy of the statistics that support it. Gary Habermas rebuts James Tabor, a New Testament scholar and supporter of the findings of the documentary, who proposes that there was a second hasty burial of Christ, leading to the New Testament reports of an empty tomb after the third day. Last, Michael Licona considers the claim that Paul taught that the resurrection of Christ was purely spiritual, not physical.

_Buried Hope or Risen Savior_ is a comprehensive response to the claims made in the documentary. Thoroughly researched with clear analysis of every finding, these scholars prove the Talpiot tomb does not house Jesus’ remains.

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*Reviewed by Joshua M. Avery, Director of Library Services, God’s Bible School and College, Cincinnati, OH*

Much has been written in evangelical circles about the integration of faith and learning and, more recently, about the importance of the doctrine of vocation. Richard J. Mouw, an accomplished philosopher, theologian, provost, and president blends these strands of inquiry into a slender and highly readable volume. Mouw looks over his decades as a professor (and administrator) in higher education and offers wisdom from his personal and professional journey as both a scholar and follower of Christ.

The book offers nineteen brief chapters, some only a page or two, filled with insight into how scholars can faithfully cultivate their minds in the service of Christ. While some readers will find his relatively limited use of scripture troubling, others will be content with the personal nature of his reflections. The largest and dominant portions of Mouw’s scholarly life have been spent inside Christian institutions of higher education, yet his wisdom is equally suitable for those who seek to twin scholarship and discipleship outside of the evangelical academy. Indeed, the target audience for his volume are graduate students but this book will serve as a wonderful reminder to senior scholars that they should approach the challenges of scholarship with hope, humility and a love “for what God has created” (p. 18).

*Called to the Life of the Mind* is a delightful volume that is a recommended for all college and university collections.