Debunking “Bible Secrets” Television Shows

Bible Text: Deut 6:4-19

I. “Bible Secrets” documentaries are more common than ever
   A. Christmas and Easter - when new Bible stories bloom
   B. In Search of… Novelty!
   C. Americans – armchair experts made in 60 minutes flat
   D. Drawing from some recent examples
      1. The Bibles Buried Secrets (Nova/PBS – original air date 11/2008)
      2. The Lost Tomb of Jesus (Discovery Channel - original air date 3/2007)
      3. Jesus’ Tomb (National Geographic Channel - original aired 2005)

II. Christians Need to be Prepared!
   A. Your friends and neighbors are being swayed by these programs
   B. Know the real really well
   C. Turn on your baloney detectors

III. Looking at the “Bible Secrets” shows
   A. What makes up an expert?
      1. Stacking the deck – picking the scholars that will “sell it”

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2. Some scholars want to show they can be good critics – retreading traditional ideas won’t do it

B. *New isn’t necessarily true*

1. Documents are innocent until proven guilty

2. The closer I get to the events, the better chance I have to find the truth

3. Older ideas have more staying power

C. *Dismissing the miraculous*

1. Presuppositions can color conclusions

2. Why rule out the miraculous?

D. *Bait and Switch*

1. Separating the facts from the theories

2. Where do they draw their evidence?

3. Reading pet theories into the text

4. What are the scholars’ motives/biases?

E. *Absence of Evidence Doesn’t Imply Evidence of Absence*

IV. Conclusion

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