

TRUTH IN THE DEEP

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More than 2,000 years ago, a ship sank in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of a small Greek Island named Antikythera. This particular shipwreck drew considerable interest from archaeologists due to some of its unusual and unique artifacts. Discovered in 1900, the shipwreck yielded its historical treasures at first to sponge divers. In 1902, further exploration revealed what looked like a stone, which turned out to be a calcified artifact of unparalleled interest. The object was in fact an ancient computer. Certainly, it was not a computer like the modern PC, but a mechanical computer; the likes of which would not be seen again until Charles Babbage proposed his Difference Engine in 1822. This machine came to be known as the Antikythera Mechanism, or the First Computer. Archaeologists believe the device calculated astronomical events and maybe even social events like the Olympics. Many wild theories have been advanced about the device's origins and purpose, including the theory that it was created or built by the ancient engineer/thinker Archimedes. Most of these claims remain in the area of speculation and are, at best, educated guesses.

In 2015, archaeologists began to realize the debris field from the wreck was much larger than previously believed and covered 300 square meters. In 2016, the renewed exploration turned up a find almost as rare and interesting as the computer, namely, a human skeleton. Hannes Schroeder, an expert in ancient DNA from the Natural History Museum of Denmark commented on the find, saying, "(The bones) looked surprising well-preserved for being 2,000 years old and at the bottom of the sea. It's a very rare thing to find something like this" (Said-Moorhouse).

This story ran on the CNN website in September 2016. CNN is a media outlet well-known for pushing liberal ideology, but removed from a social context, the writer of the story published a statement of an exuberant scientist. This statement is not only contrary to CNN's "Brave New World," but is diametrically opposed thereto. Schroeder went on to explain his excitement over getting DNA samples for testing saying, "This is where the DNA can provide some information, because sexing based on the DNA is fairly straightforward" (Said-Moorhouse). According to the scientist, DNA can reveal the sex/gender of a human being. CNN consistently runs stories promoting the idea of gender fluidity but forgot to temper this story since it was out of the context of social discourse. Schroeder was correct, regardless of the greater narrative of today's media.

Disciples of pop culture encounter a great dilemma in times like these when their deeply held beliefs are in conflict. Specifically, their belief that "science" has all the truth, and that the truth is fluid. What ought they do when a scientist like Schroeder asserts by implication that gender is binary and may be objectively ascertained by DNA testing? For many people living in today's world, "Science" is not merely a process whereby some truths may be learned and established, but it is a personification of an unknown deity who dispenses truth at her will. Like pagans of old, these believers have another god, a god of culture who is now at war with science, much like the petty rivalries of Athena and Ares. To which god will they sacrifice, and who will they appease when there is a conflict?

God is a God of truth and not the author of confusion (John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 14:33). The truth is that in the beginning God Himself created a male and a female (Mark 10:6).

Man cannot change that, true science sustains that, and the faithful will believe and live consistently therewith (Romans 3:4)!

Exploration of the deep is certainly exciting and ought to be encouraged. Scientists who speak as Schroeder has in this matter ought to be commended, but we do not rely on exploration, research, or science to learn the basic truths of our existence. Mankind should dive deeply into God's word to find the truth concerning the world around them and within them.

WORKS CITED

Said-Moorhouse, Lauren. "Human skeleton found in Antikythera shipwreck." *Cable News Network*. 17 Nov. 2016. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/20/europe/antikythera-shipwreck-human-remains-discovered/>.~