

Abstract

This article centers on the importance of Theory and Hypothesis as scientific tools and how they could be used in the scientific studies of religious tradition, institutions, and founders. Using James Tabor's Hypothesis a scholar can easily understand the underlining biased factors that affect scholars in the scientific studies of Religion and several ways these scientific tools have been employed for theological studies which have led to the formation of various concepts and religious doctrines about Jesus' nature and birth in particular. With the critique involved in Tabor's Hypothesis, several scientific and historical evidence have been called into question for their validity and further verification and clarification namely, the historicity of Celsus and the reliability of his information about Jesus' illegitimacy, the reliability of archeological evidence in religion and theological studies, and the Realness of Mary's infidelity as regard to Adultery if Justified.

Key Words: Jesus' Birth, scientific theology, religious theory, hypothesis, James Tabor

Introduction

Originally, it is a tradition of religions with different belief systems to develop theological hypothesis and theories like Kenosis theory (Oord 2010) and the Swoon hypothesis (David Strauss 1879) to justify certain doctrines and dogma. Central to the traditional Christian Christology is the dual nature of Christ, his origin and the doctrine of "immaculate conception" which several scholastic theologians have tried to justify using hypothesis and theories to support differing religious "beliefs". Generally Hypothesis denotes a supposition or perhaps proposed explanation (for a phenomenon) made on the basis of limited evidence, as a starting point for further investigation. Using hypothesis for the development of theological tradition or researches in theological related projects, several controversial and religious conflicting ideas that will definitely contradict already established dogma have been developed but with little conflicting ideology because of the elements of scientific principles employed for empirical inquiry and analysis of a test methods used for the explanation of phenomenon through hypothesis and its contradiction against certain religious belief and doctrines which has caused several controversies both within and outside the religious context. In the formal logic-hypothesis denote the antecedent of a proposition, and Logically it can be explained as ;

If P then Q

P is the hypothesis or antecedent thus the assumption in a (possibly counterfactual) *what if* question

Q can be called a consequent

In theology, it is generally believed that the dual nature of Christ comprises of both his spiritual and human nature. This doctrine is called the doctrine of the *hypostatic union*, which from the Greek word means "hypostasis" (e.i. *substantive reality*). [Early church](#) figures such as [Athanasius](#) used the term "*hypostatic union*" (the P antecedent) to describe the teaching (Hypothesis) that these two distinct natures (divine and human) co-existed substantively and in reality in the single person of Jesus Christ. The aim was to defend the doctrine using theological theories and hypothesis that Jesus was simultaneously truly God and truly man. Contrary to the theological Justification of deification of Jesus from the theological support little did theologians understand justification of Jesus' biological father by a Greek Philosopher- Celsus in the *contra celum* 1.33. Here, his statement has in this modern time led to the development of several social scientific theories and Hypothesis in the empirical studies of Jesus Biological Father. The 1:33 of the *contra Celum* states:

"Let us return however, to the words put into the mouth of the Jew, where the mother (Mary) of Jesus is described as having been turned out by the carpenter who was betrothed to her, as she

had been convicted of adultery and had a child by a certain soldier named panther.” (p.32)

About 177 AD Celsus, in his book ‘The True Word’, expressed what appears to have been the consensus Jewish opinion about Jesus’ Paternity; that his father was a Roman soldier called Pantera. ‘Pantera’ means Panther and was a fairly common name among Roman soldiers. The rumor is repeated in the Talmud and in medieval Jewish writings where Jesus is referred to as “Yeshu ben Pantera”. This idea of Jesus biological father was propagated by many historians who perhaps may have little empirical knowledge to justify the Historical events centered on the life of Christ, like the defense of Origen and Celsus. Basing his Argument from Celsus Apologetic Defense of the ancient Italian religion and his attack against Christ’ legitimacy,

James Tabor’s Hypothesis

During the construction of a railroad in Bingerbrück in Germany, tombstones for nine Roman soldiers were discovered. One of the tombstones was that of Tiberius Julius

:

*Tib(erius) Iul(ius) AbdesPantera
Sidoniaann(orum) LXII
stipen(diorum) XXXX miles exs(ignifer?)
coh(orte) I sagittariorum
h(ic) s(itus) e(st)*

James Tabor linked his Hypothesis with Tiberius Julius AbdesPantera’s artifacts discovered by historians in German. Judging by Tabor’s Hypothesis, a scientific study of Jesus’ origin leads to a radical conclusion that Jesus is a biological produce of nature as skeptics alleged or a spiritual product of a supernatural force. This article will help provide empirical methods, though highly controversial to theological faith, of studying Jesus birth apart from a traditional Christian doctrine that has no scientific Justification, and also provide a better way *Hypothesis* and Social scientific *Theories* can be employed for non-theological scholarly study of unexplained and “mysterious” events that have no Empirical proves. To understand the critical analysis of this article, a closer understanding of Tabor’s hypothesis is required.

AbdesPantera and is presently kept in the *Römerhalle* museum in Bad Kreuznach, Germany (Rousseau 1995). The inscription, according to Campbell (1994) in (CIL XIII 7514) on the tombstone of AbdesPantera, reads

*Tiberius Julius AbdesPantera
from Sidon, aged 62 years
Served 40 years, former standard
bearer (?)
of the first cohort of archers
lies here*



The Photograph above showed Tiberius Pantera's tombstone in Bad Kreuznach and Pantera (Left), and a Roman legionary (right), who archeologists maintained that he remains a plausible biological father for Jesus. James Tabor hypothesized the possible connection between the two Panteras hinging on the assumption that Celsus' information about Jesus' paternity was correct, the Rabbinic Talmud calls Jesus "Ben Pantera", son of Pantera and a soldier with this name, living at the right period, might be his father. Tiberius Julius Abdes Pantera's career would place him in Judea (present-day Israel) as a young man around the time of Jesus' conception, and Tabor has hypothesized that as a connection (Tabor 2006). According to Tabor, *Tiberius Julius Abdes Pantera* (c. 22 BC – AD 40) was a Roman soldier whose tombstone was found in Bingerbrück, Germany, in 1859.

Analysis Of The Inscription

The name "Pantera" is Greek, although it appears in Latin in the inscription. It was perhaps his last name, and means panther. The names Tiberius Julius are acquired names and were probably given to him in recognition of serving in the Roman army as he obtained Roman citizenship. The name "Abdes" means "servant of God" (Latin form of Aramaic *Ebed*) and suggests that Pantera had a Semitic or even Jewish background. Pantera was from Sidonia, which is identified with Sidon in Phoenicia, and joined the Cohors I Sagittariorum (first cohort of archers)(James Whitehead 2009). Pantera is not an unusual name, and its use goes back at least to the 2nd century (Craig A. Evans 2003). Prior to the end of the 19th century, at

various times in history scholars had hypothesized that the name Pantera was an uncommon or even a fabricated name, but in 1891 French archeologist C. S. Clermont-Ganneau showed that it was a name that was in use in Judaea by other people and Adolf Deissmann later showed with certainty that it was a common name at the time, and that it was especially common among Roman soldiers (Adolf Deissmann 2003). At that time Roman army enlistments were for 25 years and Pantera served 40 years in the army until his death at 62. The reign of Emperor Tiberius was between 14 and 37 and the Cohors I Sagittariorum was stationed in Judaea and then in Bingen. Pantera was probably the standard bearer (signifer) of his cohort (James Tabor 2006). A possible connection between the two Panteras discovered differently has been hypothesized by James Tabor, and hinges on the assumption that Celsus' information about Jesus' paternity was correct, and a soldier with this name, living at the right period, might be his father. Tiberius Julius Abdes Pantera's career would place him in Judea (present-day Israel) as a young man around the time of Jesus' conception, and Tabor has hypothesized that as a connection with Jesus (Tabor 2006)

Hypothetical Connection With Jesus

According to Historians, It appeared that this First Cohort of Archers moved from Palestine to Dalmatia in 6 AD and to the Rhine in 9 AD. Pantera came from Sidon, on the coast of Phoenicia just west of Galilee, presumably enlisted locally. He served in the army for 40 years until some time in the reign of Tiberius. On

discharge he would have been granted citizenship by the Emperor (and been granted freedom if he had formerly been a slave), and added the Emperor's name to his own. Tiberius ruled from 14 AD to 37 AD. Pantera's 40 years of service would therefore have started between 27 BC and 4 BC. As Pantera would probably have been about 18 when he enlisted, it means he was likely born between 45 BC and 22 BC. He could have been as old as 38 or as young as 15 at the time of Jesus' conception in the summer of 7 BC. In 6 AD when Jesus was 12, Judas of Galilee led a popular uprising that captured Sepphoris, the capital of Galilee. The uprising was crushed by the Romans some four miles north of Nazareth. It is possible (and appealing to lovers of historical irony) that Pantera and Joseph fought on opposite sides. As Joseph is never heard of again he may well have been killed in the battle, or have been among the 2,000 Jewish rebels crucified afterwards. So Julius AbdesPantera is indeed a possibility as Jesus' father according to Tabor. The only thing we know for certain is that Mary's husband Joseph wasn't the father, and that Mary was already pregnant when they married. It *could have been rape*, or Mary may have been *a wild young teen who fell for a handsome man in a uniform*, even if he was part of an occupying army (Simcha Jaconbovici 2014). Originally AbdesPantera adopted the name "Tiberius" after he gained freedom. According to Jaconbovici (2014), General Varus (during the Roman battle for conquest) moved to Germany from Judea and

fought war with less success. He tried to expand the Roman Empire across the Rhine, leading three Roman legions to one of the worst defeats in Roman history. On September 9th, 9 CE/AD, thirteen years after his victory in Judea, the General marched three legions east of the Rhine and into an ambush, led by Arminius. The slaughter was total. Roman Armies were captured and sacrificed to Germanic gods; others were caged and burned alive. Varus was decapitated; kind of what he did to Simon of Peraea. Worse, the Germanic tribes captured the Romans' standards i.e., their as if their very gods had been defeated. The defeat at Teutoburg Forest was avenged by the Roman general Germanicus, adopted son of Emperor Tiberius, in 14 and 15 CE. Germanicus recaptured two of the lost eagles and even managed to capture the pregnant wife of Arminius, the tribal chief who defeated Varus. In Germanicus' army, there was an officer named Tiberius Julius Pantera, a Bowman who died at the age of 62 and was buried with honors in Bingerbrück. He carried the standards of the legion. He was not originally from Germany, nor was he from Rome, but in fact born in Sidon, just north of the Galilee and it seems that he served in the area of Judea just after Herod died and before Jesus was born, during the reign of Emperor Tiberius. Originally, he had been taken captive but he got his freedom after serving in the Roman army and he took on the name "Tiberius", after the emperor who liberated him. It was during this emperor's reign that Jesus was crucified.

Critical Analyses Of Tabor's Hypothesis

James Tabor's hypothesis came into existence within the scope of the Christian theology of Christ's Humanness theory. In many New Testament references like the Gospel account of Matthew, Jesus was referred to as the son of Mary or perhaps that of the carpenter Joseph (13:55). Again, his blood brothers and sisters were even mentioned (Matthew 55:56). Possibly, he was born through the birth Canal of a woman which is the natural process for birth in man. The possibility of birth through the female carnal to take place without fertilization that occur between the sperm cells of the man and the female oocyte in mammals has not yet been established in man except the controversial case reports of In vitro Parthenogenesis in Mammals which is still one of the greatest religious controversies against science. For example,

Scientists at Tokyo University of Agriculture in April 2004 used parthenogenesis successfully to create a fatherless mouse. Using gene targeting, they were able to manipulate two imprinted loci H19/IGF2 and DLK1/MEG3 to produce bi-maternal mice at high frequency and subsequently show that fatherless mice have enhanced longevity (Kawahara 2009). Again, On August 2, 2007, after much independent investigation, a South Korean scientist named Hwang Woo-Suk unknowingly produced the first human embryos resulting from parthenogenesis. Initially, Hwang claimed he and his team had extracted stem cells from cloned human embryos, a result later found to be fabricated. Further examination of the chromosomes of these cells show indicators of parthenogenesis in those extracted stem cells, similar to those found

in the mice created by Tokyo scientists in 2004. Although Hwang deceived the world about being the first to create artificially cloned human embryos, he did contribute a major breakthrough to stem cell research by creating human embryos using parthenogenesis (Williams Chris 2007). The truth was discovered in 2007, long after the embryos were created by him and his team in February 2004. This made Hwang the first, unknowingly, to successfully perform the process of parthenogenesis to create a human embryo and, ultimately, a human parthenogenetic stem cell line.

Fertilization as we know from the science of biology, involves the fusion of the oocyte with the sperm cells to form a zygote through mitotic and mitotic division mechanism (pre-natal development). This process usually occurs in the ampulla of the fallopian tube of the female reproductive tract in the case of human, and takes nine months through various Biological transformations to form a baby that will be delivered. Infact, this mechanism naturally cannot take place without copulation in man, except in the case of advanced medical therapeutic methods for fertility problem like artificial insemination or in-vitro fertilization method, but must involves the two cells – spermatozoa and oocyte. According to Gospel account of John 6:42, the Jews stated that they are sure of his father Joseph and his Mother Mary. And is it also possible to believe that his brother James, Joseph, Simon and Judas and his sisters were all born through the same birth carnal by copulation between Joseph and Mary, except him? Why is his own case exceptional and the acceptance of fertilization prior to his birth very difficult to accept. Infact Mary the mother of Jesus, even questioned the possibility of “fertilization and birth” to take place without sexual relationship between a man and a woman (Luke 1:34). Furthermore, an attempt to divorce Mary by her betrothed is a suspect of infidelity from the human standpoint (Mathew 1:19). Although the Jews referred to Jesus as son of Joseph, but Gospel writers never acknowledge Joseph as His human father, but acknowledged Mary to be his mother, except Philip who referred to him as the son of Joseph from Nazareth (John 1:45). As far as the Jews were concerned, he was a real man, of flesh and blood as other men were. To them, Jesus was not a phantom or apparition but truly a man born of a woman. On the contrary Christian Theologians

believed that Jesus claimed that he was from God as a spirit being who lived in a transcendental realm; heavens, as his origin (John 6:40, 6:38). By this, was Jesus referring to himself as demigod if he claims an ultimate supreme being above all to be his father? Or perhaps does it means that the god of the Christian faith and that of the Jews has the transforming ability of the Greek God-king Zeus who fathered generations of heroes and heroines and featured in their mythologies?

In review of James Tabor’s Hypothesis of Jesus biological, how come all the founders of various religious groups – cults, sects, denomination etc – trace their origin from aparents that comprises of both a father and a mother while traditional Christian teachings of Jesus Birth took a different shape of a single parent of one single woman? For instance, in the case of the ⁽¹⁾ Founder of Judaism – **Moses** – the Book of Exodus (Among the Pentateuch) 2:1-2 reads,

“... About that time, a certain man of the house of Levi married a daughter of Levi. And the woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw how beautiful he was, she kept him concealed for three months.”

Verses 20 of chapter 6 of the Exodus identified the parents as Amram (father) and Jochebed (mother). The parents of the ⁽²⁾ Founder of Islam – **Prophet Muhammad** – are Abdullah Ibn Abdul – Muttalib (father) and Aminah (mother). In fact, as regard his spiritual natures, Gerald Benedict (2008 pg. 380) stated, *“unlike Jesus of Nazareth, he (Muhammad) made no claim to divinity and repudiated any power to it.....”*. In ⁽³⁾ Buddhism, Buddha’s parents are not hidden as evidence showed tragic event that affected his parents shortly after his birth and his father’s role and supports towards his training. Buck and his researcher (2016) recorded that Buddha’s father was ruler of a poor Indian tribe, the Shakyas and his mother died seven days after giving birth to him. Infact, the the above mentioned authors stated, *“that... **Gautama’s**(Buddha’s) father, in order to prevent him from worrying about the problems of suffering, death and in justice, build a special place for him surrounded with distracting luxuries. Gautama eventually Married and had a son... but later Historic research identified Buddha’s parents as king Suddhodana (his father) and Queen Maya Devi (His mother), but*

he was raised by his mother's younger sister MahaPajapati (Ferdinand Herold 1922).

As for ⁽⁴⁾Confucius (the founder of Confucianism) record had it that his father Shuliang He- Kong He and his mother, Yan Zhengzai had prayed at Nigu mountain for a son, and so they named their child after that mountain. His father passed away three years later after his birth and his mother passed away after seventeen years (Su-Fen Lin 2011). Furthermore, according to the records of the Historical (slipstitch) believed that Confucius's father divorced his first wife at an advanced age because she had borne him only daughters and one disfigured son. He then married a fifteen – year-old girl from yen clan, who gave birth to Confucius. SSu-ma Ch'ien refers to the relationship as a "wild- Union," which very possible indicates that Confucius was an illegitimate child, or perhaps a child born out of wedlock (Collins 2016).

⁽⁵⁾Loa – Tzu was another founder of Taoism whose birth has mysterious events based on mythological and legendary tales. His personal life is shrouded in mystery and there are many legends associated with his birth and life. One "Shiji" written by Sima Qian (Historian of 145 BC) is the only reliable account for his life. He explained that Lao Tzu was born in the Ku County of the state of Chu- the present day Luyi County of the Henan province. Legend said that he was born after spending eight or eight years in his mother's womb, for which he was called the "the old child". Perhaps, there is silence on the biological father because his origin is based on mythological folktales of the ancient Chinese tradition.

Discussion

Apart from the scientific explanation of the mechanism behind Jesus birth, Tabor's Hypothesis called into question ⁽¹⁾ the possibility of self and auto fertilization in the body of Mary only without copulation with Joseph if his Hypothesis is not scientifically proven. Or perhaps does it mean that Mary is a Hermaphrodite; a living person bearing two genital organs of the opposite sexes or was Jesus formed as Chimeras? Chimeras are the result of fusion of two zygotes to form a single embryo, producing an individual with genetically different kinds of tissue. If the fused zygotes are of different sex, the individual develops both ovarian and testicular tissues. But if from one sex

it produces one. However majority of these people are best reared as females and many pregnancies with living offspring have been reported in persons reared as female, and several cases has fathered a child. Here, during ovulation, a negative pressure occurs in the lumen of the oviduct and it produces a vacuum effect which has made several pregnancies possible in subjects lacking in ipsilateral ovary by allowing the transperitoneal migration of oocyte from the contralateral gonad. In science, self-fertilization has been reported in many flowering Plants, kind of fish, in a case of rabbit. Here they have both eggs and sperms cell in their body and at fertilization, one sperm cell fuses with oocyte to form an embryo. Tabor's Hypothesis ⁽²⁾ projected Mary as a woman of infidelity; an idea contrary to the immaculate theology of the Orthodox Church. Perhaps she could have been stoned since her attitude could be considered a gross sin against the Jewish law (Exodus 20:14 and compare with Deuteronomy 32:2), in fact, Leviticus 20:10 stated, "*Now regarding a man who committed adultery with another man's wife: The one who commits adultery with the wife of his fellow man should be put to death without fail, the adulterer and the adulteress*".

In fact, an attempt was made to stone a woman accused of such by the Jews Matthew { }. On the hand Mary was not yet married as the Gospel writer put it she was engaged to her betrothed as a virgin, but the Jewish law made provision for a punishment of both the engaged Virgin and her violator. Deuteronomy 22:23-4 states;

"If a virgin is engaged to a man, and another man happens to meet her in the city and lies down with her, you should bring them both out to the gate of that city and stone them to death, the girl because she did not scream in the city and the man because he humiliated the wife of his fellow man. So you must remove what is evil from your midst."

If by James Tabor's hypothesis that panther begot Jesus, does it mean that Jesus is an illegitimate son like Confucius as Collins (2016) stated? Perhaps that could violate the Jewish Law of illegitimacy or as Picknet termed him "*the bastard son of Mary*"! The book of Deuteronomy 32:2 states:

"No illegitimate son may commit into the congregation of (Jehovah) God. Even to the tenth

germination, none of leg decedents may come into the congregation of Jehovah.”

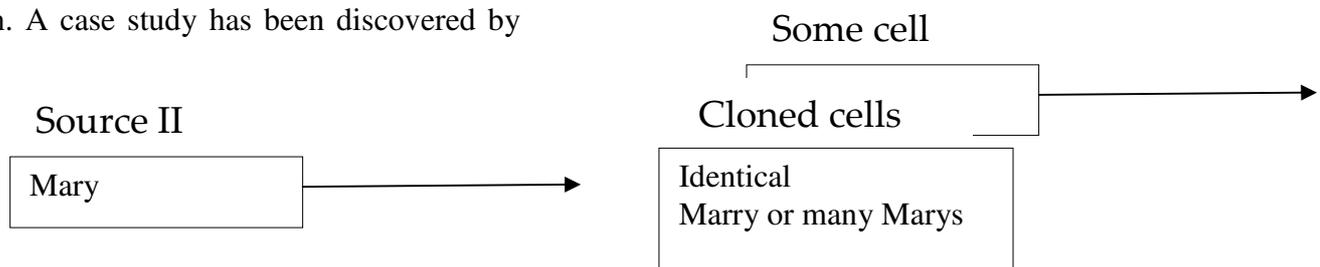
(New World Translation 2013)

Naturally, it is always difficult for a woman who is sexually humiliated to openly discuss, debate, or make public the violated experience to another person because of psychological trauma, feeling of shyness, and embarrassment. Even, most female victims of rape don't easily open up! Most cry because of feeling of dejection and humiliation when the violator or perhaps the rapist is subjected for public prosecution. On the other hand, it is not common for a young man to easily marry a pregnant woman whose pregnancy he's not responsible for.

The Gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John did not record any emotional trauma and disturbance of a sexual experience on account of Mary but only the trembling and fear of seeing a strange being (Luke 1:29-30), it can be possible for her to conceal the "assumed secret sexual act" because of fear of being stoned to death, humiliation, public disgrace and embranchment or perhaps in other not to make her a public spectacle, Joseph decided to obey the Jewish law by intended to divorce her secretly (Matthew 1:19). In the Hebrew Scripture, the book of Deuteronomy 24:1, 4 states,"

"If a man marries a woman but she does not please him because he found something indecent about her, he must write out a certificate of divorce for her, hand it to her, and dismiss her from his house her first husband who dismissed her will not be allowed to take her back again as his wife after she has been defiled...."

In the case of self-fertilization, it also occurs in human. A case study has been discovered by



Possibly if we go by the theory of cloning, a source cell will be cloned or replicated to the same identical cells (as sketched in the above diagram). Therefore Mary can be cloned to become pregnant and beget Mary or many Mary(s), and if her gene is altered or manipulated to any length to yield XY chromosome of a zygote possibly Jesus could be termed a

MK Irmak (2010) where a woman has a son without a father. She is a Chimera of 46, XX/46, XY type resulting from the fusion of two zygotes of different sex types and she develops both ovary and testis in her body. Since XX cells tend to gather on the left side while XY cell on the right, she develops an ovary on the left side with an oviduct and a testis on the right side located in an ovarian position with no duct. Mullerian duct regression on the right side is mediated by the anti-Mullerian hormone derived from the ipsilateral testis and testosterone secreted from Leydig cells does not prevent the regression of the Wolffian duct. Therefore neither an oviduct nor an epididymus and Vas deferens is present next to the testes on the right side, and lumen of a well-developed rete testis have an open access to the abdominal cavity allowing the sperms to be picked up by the contra lateral oviduct. Both gonads are functional and produce spermatozoa and oocyte respectively after puberty. At the time of ovulation, estrogen increases the motility of the oviduct on the left side which results in a negative pressure in the tube and oocyte and sperm cells are picked up into the tube with the help of this vacuum effect, taking both gametes to the fertilization site in the oviduct. Since the sperm contains a Y chromosome, this fertilization gives rise to a XY male embryo.

Again Tabors Hypothesis if accepted called for the possibility of ⁽³⁾ Gene Cloning to have taken place in-vivo in the case of Jesus birth. From molecular biological knowledge, the idea of gene cloning involves production of a population or (even single cell) of cells with identical DNA molecules.

"Mutant" if we go by the theory of mutation in Genetics. Gene cloning as we know it refers to the production of exact copies (clones) of a particular gene or DNA sequence using genetic engineering techniques. The DNA containing the target gene(s) is split into fragments by restriction enzymes. The fragment is then inserted into a cloning vector (bacteria plasmid

or bacteriophage) which transfer the recombinant DNA to suitable host cells. Alternatively a complementary DNA is inserted into the vectors, or naked DNA fragments can be taken up directly by a host bacterium from its medium. Once in the host cell the DNA undergoes replication (the host will give rise to a colony of cells containing the cloned target gene) to produce a replica of the source cell or to facilitate DNA sequencing- production of large quantities of desired protein.

By this, Cloning refers to the replication of one molecule to produce a population of cells with identical DNA Molecules and involves the use of DNA sequence from two different organs: The species that is the source of the DNA to be cloned and the species that will serve as the host for replication of the DNA. From this advanced genetic idea, can this research conclude that Jesus was a product of supernatural cloning? That is *God cloned the oocyte of Mary through a supernatural mechanism unknown to man (compare Ecclesiastes 3:11) during her ovulation and Passed a force (spiritual force) that stimulate mitotic and myotic division of the oocyte at the fallopian tube. Again the gene of the cell altered the DNA through an unknown mechanism to replicate to Chromosome XY to produce possibly a male "mutant" or perhaps a "hybrid" product of human with supernatural traits who could perform supernatural activities beyond human understanding then. Mary's chromosome is XX, and how come the Y chromosome could be unknown. Possibly, the genes were altered, changed, or in any way transformed to replicate for the presence of Y chromosome. It could be a process of mutation, since the cloning was in vivo.*

Tabor's hypothesis called into question the reliability of most archeological evidence as Tiberius Julius Abdes Pantera's Tombstone was found in Bingerbrück, Germany. In the first place, several arguments have risen concerning the acceptance of ancient discoveries centered on Jesus who has caused controversies in and outside the Christian faith. For instance, all the four Christian gospel accounts about Christ were preserved on several ancient manuscripts and survived this day in modern formats. Again their authenticity was confirmed by leading ancient historians and church fathers of the Catholic Church. For example, the first manuscript of the Christian Greek scripture was written on papyrus that was one of the traditional style of

publishing until about fourth century C.E. in the 19th century, Archeologists have discovered few biblical papyri that contain the authentic writings of the Greek Scriptures (New Testaments). In 1931, a papyrus was discovered containing parts of II codices which contain 15 books of the Christian Greek Scripture. And it ranges in date of writing covering these second and fourth century C.E. Major Part of the papyrus were preserved in the Chester Beatty collections and were listed as P⁴⁵, P⁴⁶, and P⁴⁷. In the Codices, the P⁴⁵ were bound together as the four gospel account and Acts, and the P⁴⁶ covers 9 of the 14 letters of St. Paul thus showing that the Christian sacred scriptures were assembled shortly after the death of the apostles. Again, other manuscripts as Archival documents have been discovered with different contents of Jesus biography but none has yet explained his biological fathers except the Gnostic Gospel that conveyed controversial concepts of his marital statute. In fact, Vellum, Erasmus' Text, Textus Receptus of Stephanus (1550), Westcott and Hort Text, Jerome's Latin Vulgate etc all contain details for the Greek scriptures' authenticity.

On the other hand, artifacts of archeological importance have brought to light many interesting evidences to support the contents of the Greek Scripture. Here we have the Denarius Coin with Tiberius inscription which the Gospel writers explained was used during Christ's ministry when Tiberius Caesar was ruling in Rome. In fact the Tiberius coin was put in circulation about 15 C.E. and brought added support to the record stating that John the Baptist's ministry commenced in the 15th Year of Tiberius, or the spring of 29 C.E. (Luke 3:1,2). Tabor's Hypothesis as a "hypothesis" is based on Archeological discoveries unearthed as ancient archives for scientific studies and not like the fabricated shroud of Turin discovered by Geoffroi De Charnay in 1354 over a millennium after the Death of Jesus Christ and the built tomb of Jesus constructed in Talpiot of modern Jerusalem.

Finally Tabor's Hypothesis Questioned the reliability of Celsus' words concerning Jesus. According to his Origen, Celsus referred Mary to be 'turned out by the carpenter who was betrothed to her, as she had been convicted of adultery and had a child by a certain soldier named Panthera' (Chadwick 1980). Unfortunately, Celsus' claim is only known from

Origen's reply, but Celsus' view drew responses from Origen who considered it a fabricated story which Raymond E. Brown considered a fanciful explanation of the birth of Jesus which includes very little historical evidence (Brown 1978). Celsus' wide ranging criticism of Christianity included the assertions that Christians had forsaken the laws of their fathers, that their minds had been held captive by Jesus and that the teachings of Jesus included nothing new and were simply a repetition of the sayings of the Greek philosophers (Antonia Tripolitis 2001). Again Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan state that given the antagonism of Celsus towards Christianity, his suggestion of the Roman parentage of Jesus might derive from the memory of Roman military operations suppressing a revolt at Sepphoris near Nazareth around the time of Jesus' birth. The "common legionary name" Panthera could have arisen from a satirical connection between "Panther" and the Greek word "Parthenos" meaning virgin (Eerdmans and Rapids 2000).

Conclusion

Criticism against Tabor's hypothesis has given rise to many questions concerning the validity of archeological evidence for supporting certain proofs for academy use. Again it has also questioned the possibility of using scientific knowledge to explain the unexplainable phenomena that have been considered supernatural both in mythological folklores and in the ancient world. Or could the mind of a believer becomes strongly feeble and remained unknowingly biased because of the influence of dogmatism? As a result this has questioned the superiority and validity of secular science over the dogmatic theological knowledge of religion in the modern world. Perhaps could post-modern system of thinking be used as a tool to justify beliefs and faith with empirical evidence as it is in most scholarly works and theological research works? The academic study of religion does not require assumptions or faith, as it is in theology, but requires social scientific knowledge and more recently phenomenological approach as advocated by Geraldus Van der lew. Tabor's hypothesis is for academic use for the scientific study of the origin of the founder of the Christian faith from empirical perspectives, and not to support or criticize faith as most theistic and Christian scholars and theologians

misunderstood, like wise the used of evolution for explanation of man's origin from pre-historic era through biology and anthropological perspective. the science of history of religion does not concern theological claims apart from their historical significance, but center on the historicity of religious figure, events, and the evolution of doctrinal matters with empirical knowledge which calls for the use of archeological discovery like that of tombstone of AbdesPantera and its inscription. Celsus criticism against the Jesus' Immaculate Conception was rejected by mainstream scholars of the Christian faith and judged as blasphemous idea because of the pejorative acknowledgement of his ancient Italian religion as "pagan", but as one of the "pagans" he used the historical criticism against the Christian founder as an apologetic defense of his traditional roman religion. By faith and belief in the religious stories of Christian theology, Jesus' nature and origin can be attributed to any supernatural or perhaps unimaginable events. After all there are several mysterious events centered on the birth and activities of most founders of Religious based on myths and beliefs on supernatural events. For instance, the birth of John the Baptist was prophesied and the birth of Muhammad, according to Koran, was a "spiritual revelations" of the words of Allah from angel Gabriel according to Islamic tradition. Tabor's Hypothesis is severely criticized by theistic scholars most likely mainstream scholars, given that there is no evidence to support it as a result of "bounded rationality" (Daniel Kahneman) and due to the inability to contradict one's already established belief which has indirectly become glaring in the acceptance of pre-historic studies and knowledge for the scientific study of man's origin. The greatest scientist of all time is the atheistic scientist who searches through the unknown with experimentation and not with belief to explore and discover phenomenon behind natural occurrences. Tabor's hypothesis, like the Avogadro's hypothesis in Chemistry, is an academic social scientific skills for academic use and not be criticized with "bounded rationality" due to dogmatism or to be used as a critical techniques to support or criticized faith as some scholars and theologians of both the western and African world misunderstood. By scholastic method of studying New testaments studies in tertiary institutions, the Gnostic Gospels that have been violently rejected by

Mainstream and traditional orthodox Christian have because of numerous controversial details it reveals against Jesus Christi have been used in the Scientific, historical n archeological and Gnostic Mysteries studies of Jesus Christi in the Academic disciplines. Max Muller (1873) Advised that is should be the duty of those who have devoted their life to the study of the principal religions of the world in their original documents, and not value and reverence it in whatever form it may present itself; to take possession of this new territory (science) in the

name of true science. My argument is this, “*hypothesis*” is a scientific skillemployed for the explanation of phenomenon and mechanism in the secular academic tradition and not for enhancement of indoctrination, and as such should not be criticized with “bounded rationality”. In fact with “*hypothesis*” and “*theory*” from scientific perspectives, “*God*” can be bad and “*Satan*” can be good. That is the academic tradition in the scientific study of Religion.

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