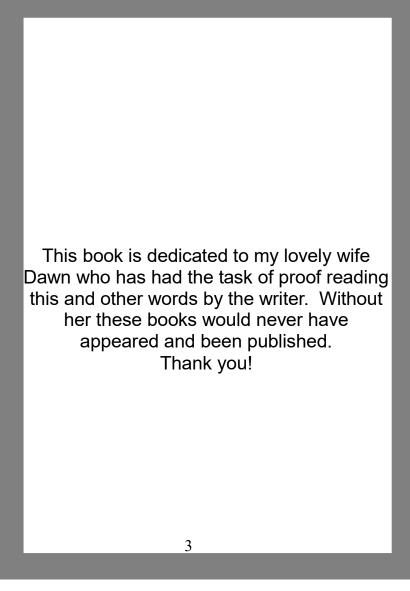


OUT OF TIME ENCOUNTER AT MID-DAY

A Novel By

DEREK P. BLAKE



PROLOGUE

OUT OF TIME - ENCOUNTER AT MID-DAY

Is a sequel to the novel 'The Time Before'

In 2022 Jo Merkson was on holiday in Cyprus with her parents, Jim and Carol Markson and her younger brother Peter, when the young Jo accidentally discovered a treasure hoard. The hoard included advanced technology that was thousands of years old.

This discovery changed the lives of the whole family and the huge reward from the Cypriot government resulted in the establishment of the Jo Markson Research Trust (JMRT). Nine years on the trust was responsible for the discovery of the ancient Ark of the Covenant, a long-lost artefact of Israel, built by Moses under the direction of God. The JMRT were also responsible for discovering ancient chambers in several locations across the old world, which they dubbed 'Control Rooms'. These chambers contained ancient technology that ultimately were the greatest discoveries ever made by modern archaeology and were the source of the,

so called, 'God Tapes', known also as 'The Revealation'.

The 'God Tapes' were discovered to be a three dimensional video record of God's dealings with man, from creation to the death of God's Son, Jesus Christ. The discovery had a huge effect on the world, on militant Islam, and on members of the Christian faith, because it contained, 'The Final Warning'.

Now read on . . .

OUT OF TIME

ENCOUNTER AT MID-DAY

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." The Bible

(<u>2 Timothy 3:1</u>)

Out of Time - Encounter at Mid-day.

In the summer 2031 an organisation that went by the name of the Joanne Markson Research Trust uncovered an advanced communication system that dated back many thousands of years and some ancient video and audio recordings that showed that God existed. In the course of the investigations, and excavations, the JMRT team discovered and retrieved the Ark of the Covenant, which was placed in the care of Israel. The finding of the Ark prompted the Israeli Government to commence the building of the third Temple.

The recordings showed that the God of the Jews and Christians did indeed create the universe, instigate the Flood of Noah and that the Bible was essentially a factual book as it traced the history of the Hebrew nation up to the resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

The Trust issued a press release a few weeks after the main discovery in Crete, which was met with an astonished silence.

". . . I have actually seen many hours of the virtual recordings, I was there when some of the discoveries were uncovered, and I can vouch that both the discoveries and the recordings are genuine, and date back many thousands of years," continued Declan Brook during a news night special, the day after the announcement. "It is often said that no one can understand the present, or prepare for the future, without understanding the past. Well viewers, we have certainly misunderstood the past, but hopefully we can understand what is happening today and, more importantly, prepare for whatever the future has in store for us. This is Declan Brook and you have been watching 'The World Today'. Good-night."

As the world digested the news the only tangible reaction was the endless stream of TV programs that spewed out of every video production company across the Earth. Each of the world's great unions viewed the news with a different slant. The SAU (South American Union) was possibly the most upbeat as the lower half of the American continent continued to be home to a high proportion of the world's Roman Catholics. In Rio huge celebrations were staged and queues formed at the confessionals. Europe was muted in its response, and the EU president announced an investigation into the Trust that had made the discovery, and the EU government threatened to expel the Republic of Cyprus

over irregularities in the funding of the Trust. The Moslem world accused Christians of perpetrating a hoax aimed at discrediting Islam, and one Mullah ordered Islam to completely ignore the find; an order that would prove impossible.

As would be expected the media coverage in the USA was wall to wall, especially in the deep southern Biblebelt, where many churches suddenly found they did not have enough seats to cater for new members. President Orwell, only the third independent president after Washington and John Tyler in 1841, publicly accepted the find and advised all Americans to "Embrace the new proof of God's existence, and to reunite as "one nation under God." The President's appeal was met with mixed response from the established parties, who had been busy secularising over the past three decades. Supposed Christian militia called for a taking up of arms, and an increase in attacks on gays, Moslem's, and known atheists were reported in local news reports. The National Guard were called out to an all out battle that exploded between the Alabama Salvation Militia and a large abortion clinic in Tyler, resulting in eleven deaths.

China gave the most surprising response of any national government, the Central Committee announced that it was taking the evidence under advisement and invited the Christian League of China [CLC] to advise and authenticate the finds and recordings. Chairman Lu Son Pen, the most liberal Chairman since the cultural

revolution made a statement to the Chinese people saying that he had a great interest in the Christian faith and that "If the recent discoveries are proved to be genuine, there may be a case for Christianity becoming the official religion of the People's Republic of China," he added that "after a study of the person Jesus, He could be regarded as a true communist."

London, Wednesday 5th November 2031 10:30 hrs - Extraordinary Meeting of the General Synod of the Anglican Church.

Archbishop of Canterbury, Doctor Jonathan Benn called the synod to order, and welcomed the Houses of Bishops, Clergy and Laity, he then outlined the reason for the special meeting and introduced the video that had been sent to him and the media back in August. Previously only clips had been shown to the general public, so, for many, this was first chance to see the full sixty-minute video. There was utter silence during the showing and not one person left the chamber until the showing was over. As the final frames of the video faded from the screen Archbishop Benn came to his feet and addressed the assembly.

"My brothers and sisters in Christ, today we meet to discuss what is, obviously, a huge problem for the Anglican Church worldwide. The time is approaching mid-day and at two o'clock we will be Joanne and James ioined by Markson. archaeologists who made the discovery that we have just seen. Can I suggest that we break into informal groups for the next hour in order to discuss the implications between ourselves? Lunch will be served at one o'clock and the Marksons will actually arrive in time to partake in lunch; can we reserve any discussions with our guests until the afternoon session. Thank you." The archbishop concluded in prayer for God to guide discussions their and the assembled members wandered off in small groups.

Jo and her Dad, Jim, arrived at just after one-thirty and had to run the gauntlet of demonstrations outside of the Central hall. There seemed to be three distinct factions. one was obviously atheistic, and banners demanded the destruction of the artefacts or proclaiming that the discoveries were false. Another group who seemed to be Christians seemed to take the same view as the atheists, but the third group were also Christians who wanted the synod to accept the messages discovered in the recordings. One of the demonstrators, from the Christian group that wanted the destruction of all the artefacts, made a grab at Joanne and managed to drag her into the barricade. "You are doing the work of the devil," the man shouted in Jo's ear. Fortunately there were many police officers on duty and one was quick to rescue Jo and then arrest her assailant. Jo and her Dad were ushered into the hall and were shown directly to the table where Archbishop Benn and the Archbishop of York were seated. Jo looked shaken, which prompted the Archbishop of York, Geoffrey Milton, to ask if she were feeling unwell.

"One of your supporters outside has just molested my daughter," answered Jim with not a little resentment.

"Oh my, we tried to keep this meeting a secret, so this would not happen," said Archbishop Benn, "I do apologise on behalf of the church Miss Markson." He turned to an aid and asked him to contact the assistant commissioner of the Met with a view to getting the street outside cleared.

"It's hard to keep a secret with so many people

involved," said Jo, "we have had our own security issues."

Jim and Jo accepted a cup of coffee and a plate of spaghetti with Soya-meat and sauce, and tried to relax a little. The Archbishop allowed them an extra fifteen minutes in order to compose themselves, but at two-fifteen they were called to the podium.

"My lords, ladies and gentlemen, may I now formally welcome Joanne and her father James Markson, whom I am sure need no introduction since the news broke a couple of months ago. They have elected not to make any statement to this synod as there is little they can add to what you have seen in the video this morning. So we now would open the floor to questions."

Bishop Anthony of Liverpool's hand was visibly the first to rise and was recognised by the Archbishop.

"I have to state that I am far from convinced as to the age of the recordings that you have found, how can you convince me that they date from the period that you claim," asked Liverpool.

"Bishop there is a host of evidence as to their ages," stated Jo, "we have used every scientific dating system known to us; can I refer you to the fact-sheets that I believe are available in the coffee lounge, one of which presents the dating methodology and the supporting evidence."

"But surely the current radiometric dating systems have been discredited to a great extent," replied Anthony Liverpool, "what makes your dating any more accurate?" "We don't use any of the standard radiometric systems," came in Jim, "standard testing relies on residual isotopes of certain substances, C14, argon, etc. Our methods now rely upon measuring the amount of radioactive cosmic particles that the material has absorbed, it's the opposite of residual."

"And it can be calibrated by using samples that have known ages, lava, material from the deep sea bed, etc." added Jo, "we can actually calculate your age from the amount of particles your body has absorbed since your birth, accurate to within a month."

Jim jumped in again and offered, "We can demonstrate the process if you would like to donate a nail clipping or a hair, if you would like us to. We have brought a hand held unit with us."

"That will not be necessary, thank you," the Bishop of Liverpool quickly replied.

Another hand went up, followed by several others, the Archbishop pointed to one hand, "Yes, the lay member from Leicester, I believe."

"I don't doubt your sincerity Miss Markson, but is there, in your opinion, the slightest chance that the disks with the recordings are of modern origin and a possible stunt by some electronics manufacturer?"

"Firstly, call me Jo please, and I am sure my Dad would prefer to be addresses as Jim," beside Jo, Jim nodded vigorously, "Now to your question, It took me a few weeks to actually come to terms with the idea, and yes, for weeks after the discovery I had huge doubts, especially as Sony were developing a similar technology. But this ancient technology is far in advance of anything we have today; our tame professor

tell us that their are millions of layers in the disks, each one just a few atoms thick. Professor Gwilliam of UMIST says that it is almost as if the atoms themselves store the data for the recording, sort of an advanced quantum processor. We don't even know what the disks are made of; it's an element but not one known to this planet. So my answer now has to be, 'no' I do not have the slightest doubt."

Another delegate asked, "We have all heard the voice on the introduction disk, do you think that this is the voice of God, and if so why is it in English?"

Jim stepped forward and batted this time, "No I don't think that the recording is the actual voice of God, but I have come to believe that they are the words of God. As to the voice speaking English, we are advised that there is some sort of translator program involved within the equipment in the control rooms. When we first heard the commentary it was in an entirely unknown language, we went through a good number of languages before we hit on English, and that was as much of a surprise to us as when the recording knew there were five of us."

The Archbishop stepped forward and asked, "Do you think the first voice you heard was God's voice, Jim."

"I don't think so, the best guess is that it's like a voice synthesizer, it's a part of the program."

Another member of the clergy asked, "How many of your staff and consultants were believers previously and how many are now?"

"I cannot tell you how many were believers previously, as people's beliefs are unimportant for us. However,

ninety-five percent of staff have expressed some degree of belief since the discovery, some have a greater belief than others."

So the questioning went on for almost two and a half hours, some questions were openly hostile others were obviously genuine interest questions. At around three-thirty everyone heard a commotion outside, and bullhorns announced that the police were clearing the street, much to Jo's relief. Just before five o'clock the Archbishop thanked Jo and Jim for their time and their sincere answers. Jo and Jim Markson then retired to the lounge for a well earned coffee, a few minutes later the Archbishop approached them.

"Thank you both so much for this afternoon, much of it cannot have been too comfortable for you," the Archbishop said.

"What happens now Your Grace," asked Jo, "is that it."

"Please Jo, no one uses that old title these days, you can call me John, as Christians we should use each other's Christian names. No, there is much more to come yet Jo," answered the Archbishop, "we have designated three days for this opening discussion, then the delegates take everything back to their parishes and church councils and they will consult with them. Then they come back here in couple of months to express the grass-roots opinions, then we discuss it all over again. Nothing happens very quickly in the Anglican Church, it could take years to make a decision."

"But what if you don't have years John," asked Jo; concerned.

"Then my dear, we must all take our chance and hope that what we believe is enough," answered the Archbishop with a very sad look on his face, "I would like to keep in touch, if that is possible, Jim. I think I may need to answer many more questions and should like to offer any help I can, you never know, the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury can open many doors." "That would be good John, here is my personal com address, said Jim, "call me at any time."

When Jo and her Dad left the Central Hall to walk to the parking facility the street was empty and darkness had descended upon London and already there were fireworks lighting up the sky. November fifth in the UK is traditionally a time for muted celebration of a rebel called Guy Fawkes who tried to blow up parliament with barrels of gunpowder, no one is ever sure whether the celebration is because he attempted the feat, or that he failed and was burnt at the stake. There was a prewinter chill in the air as they walked in silence the two-hundred meters to the vehicle park. Once in the LIMO and the cabin heaters had taken effect, Jo asked, "How much time do you think we have Dad."

"The truth is Jo, nobody knows for certain, I've been reading up on the Bible predictions, and it seems that it could be any time now, but I think we have at least seven years, maybe more. It seems that the third temple has to be built on or at the Temple Mount first so no doubt that will take several years"

"Where does the seven years come from though," asked Jo.

"You know Jo, I am not sure," her Dad answered, "I am just going by what the experts and Bible scholars are saying, it's a really complicated translation and calculation. In the book of Daniel it says that the period will be seven days, not years."

"Wow, that's fast."

"Other experts stick to three and a half years, I looked at a well respected book called the 'Wycliffe Commentary' that quotes Daniel 12:7 that gives us 1260 days or forty-two months, which is three and a half years."

Government House, Jerusalem, Israel. Friday 14th November 2031 14:40 hrs (local time)

Prime Minister, Heidi Goldbloom, sat at the head of her cabinet table, the all-day meeting had been going since nine that morning, and they had just reconvened after a heavy lunch which was having a soporific effect on the ministers. The next two items on the agenda were the 'Rebuilding of the Temple', and 'The Palestinian Claim', both happened to be emotive subjects.

P.M. Goldbloom called the cabinet meeting to order, "Ladies and gentlemen, we have only two items left on today's agenda, but I expect them to be hefty subjects, I hope that your respective families are not expecting you for dinner tonight," she opened. "Firstly, we decided a couple of months ago that Israel would rebuild the temple, this decision, I feel, may have been a knee-jerk decision after the restoration of the Ark of the Covenant

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