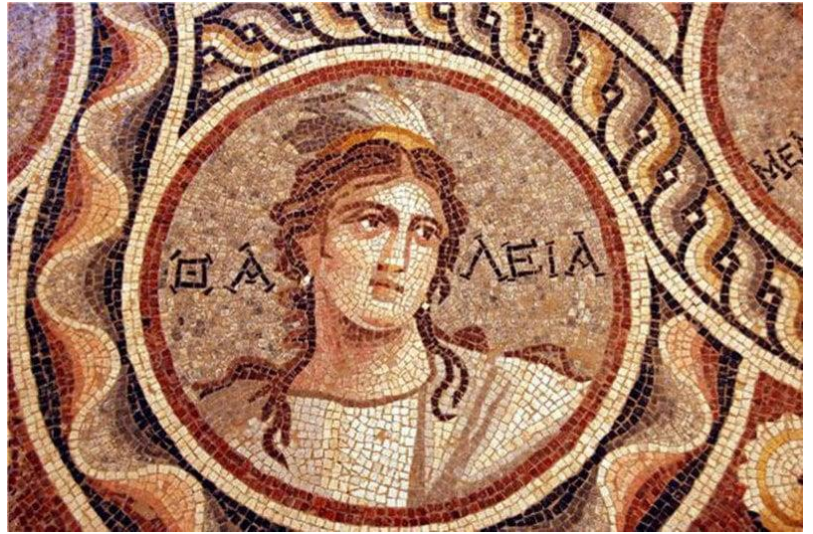


My Beloved Ones,

I greet you with love in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Today, I wish to share with you some fascinating news, which concerns our heritage as proud Hellenes.

Since the year 2007, archaeologists have been carefully uncovering remains of the Ancient city of Zeugma, including homes, most of which are still underwater. Most recently however, the work has uncovered several second century mosaics of ancient Gods and Goddesses, including one that depicts all Nine Muses (seen here is Thalia, the Muse of Comedy).



Despite the pagan dedication of this mosaic, I think of this discovery as a testament to the fearless spirit of the Greek people. This ancient city, full of houses and structures (like a soup kitchen) shows that for all our supposed progress, very little is different.

Today, we see a society that is in such a rush towards the future, it seems too willing to forget the past. Lessons learned decades ago are cast aside, to say nothing of the thousands of years. And so, I bring this unique historical discovery to your minds—not simply to reinforce your pride in the strength of the Greek spirit—but also to remind you that the past is far from ancient. Perhaps many generations from now, when conducting excavations, future archaeologists will uncover our modern cities to discover that we too lived, worked and played.

With this in mind, I wonder who they will see of religious significance in these future ruins. As a spiritual shepherd, I only humbly hope that they recognize an icon of Christ as simply these archaeologists see the Muses.

+ALEXIOS

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