

Beneath a Wisconsin Lake, an Ancient Discovery Older Than the Pyramids Is Reshaping History

A remarkable prehistoric discovery beneath Lake Mendota is forcing archaeologists to reconsider the depth and sophistication of ancient life in North America, revealing evidence of organized communities thriving thousands of years earlier than previously believed.

A Daily Mail article reports that researchers have uncovered six previously undiscovered ancient canoes from the lake, including one estimated to be about 5,200 years old – older than the Great Pyramid of Giza, which dates to roughly 4,500 years ago.

Since 2021, a total of 16 prehistoric “dugout” canoes have been found submerged about 30 feet below the surface.



Wisconsin Historical Society

The boats were carved from individual tree trunks using fire and simple tools such as stones and shells. Scientific testing revealed that the canoes were constructed between 3000 B.C. and 1300 A.D., indicating thousands of years of continuous human activity in the region.

Researchers said the discovery suggests a previously unknown civilization that relied on the lake as part of a sophisticated travel network used for fishing, trade and possibly spiritual journeys across what is now the Midwest.

“The canoes were found in clusters near natural paths, suggesting the lake was a busy spot for generations,” the

report said.

The findings are being led by researchers from the Wisconsin Historical Society, who say the discovery dramatically alters long-held assumptions about North American history.

The oldest canoe places the ancient ancestors of the Ho-Chunk people on a timeline comparable to that of early Egyptian civilization in terms of technological development, particularly in boat-building skills.



Pre-Order Amanda Grace's New Book, "Brace For Impact" on !

So far, only two of the 16 canoes have been removed from the lake and are nearing the end of a multi-year preservation process, including a 14-foot-long vessel estimated to be about 3,000 years old.

Most of the boats were crafted from durable hardwoods such as red and white oak. Researchers noted the use of red oak was unusual because it typically absorbs water through open pores, making vessels heavier and less buoyant.

However, archaeologists believe the builders may have intentionally prepared the trees to form natural blockages called tyloses, which seal the wood against water and rot and improve flotation. Some experts suspect the trees may have been stressed or deliberately wounded while growing to produce more resistant trunks.

Maritime archaeologist Tamara Thomsen compared the discovery process to assembling a puzzle.

"Archaeology is kind of like putting together pieces of a puzzle, and the more pieces you can find, the better you can start to form a picture of what was going on and why during a period of history," Thomsen said.

“We can’t go back in time to get answers to our questions, but we can examine the available data alongside knowledge from First Nations and cultural history to form theories to answer our questions,” she added.

The canoes were also found with rocks carefully placed on top of them while underwater, which experts believe was done to prevent warping during the winter months.

While the Ho-Chunk tribe historically lived in the Lake Mendota region, archaeologists note the area’s earliest inhabitants were Paleo-Indian peoples who arrived roughly 12,000 years ago. The Ho-Chunk are believed to have migrated to the region no earlier than 800 A.D.

Beyond its archaeological importance, the discovery resonates powerfully with biblical prophecy.

The book of Daniel foretells that in the latter days “many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.” While that passage is often associated with modern technology and global connectivity, discoveries like those beneath Lake Mendota reveal another dimension of that prophecy being fulfilled.

Knowledge is not only expanding forward but backward. Long-buried truths are resurfacing. Civilizations once assumed to be lost or primitive are being revealed as advanced, intentional and enduring.

As the tides of history continue to recede, what was hidden is coming into view – just as Scripture said it would.

James Lasher, a seasoned writer and editor at Charisma Media, combines faith and storytelling with a background in journalism from Otterbein University and ministry experience in Guatemala and the LA Dream Center. A Marine Corps and Air Force veteran, he is the author of *The Revelation of Jesus: A Common Man’s Commentary* and a contributor

to Charisma *magazine*.