



# The Boyhood of Jesus

Luke 2:41-52



## Where We Left Off (Luke 2:39-40)

**39** When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. **40** The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.



## **Jesus' Childhood in Nazareth**

**These are called “the silent years” because there is no mention of any events during these years except Luke 2:41-52, the visit to the Temple at the age of 12.**

**H**  
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HISTORY

# BANNED FROM THE BIBLE

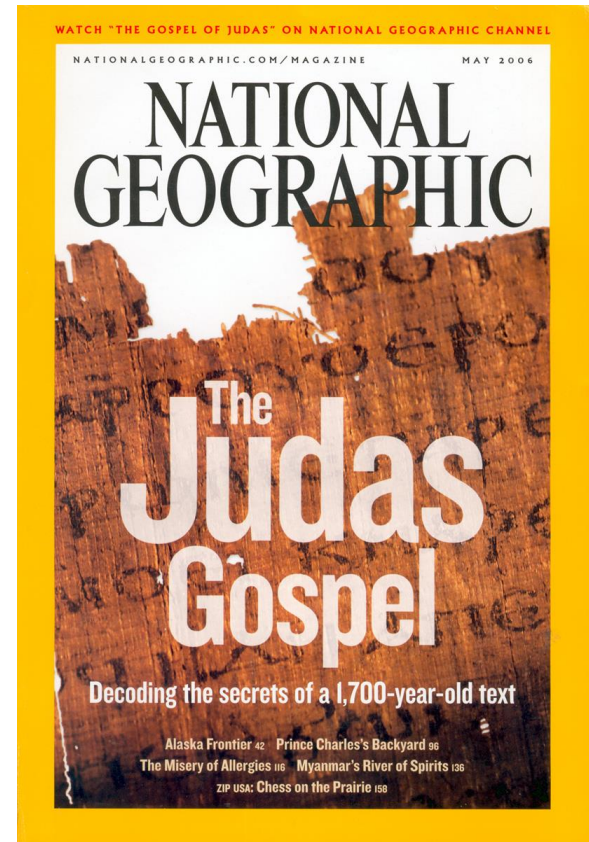
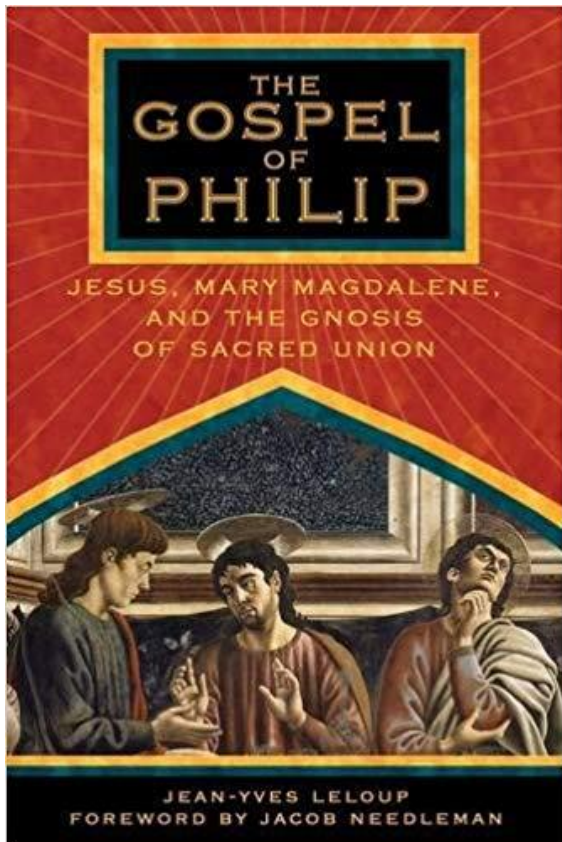
SECRETS OF THE APOSTLES



Welcome  
to the  
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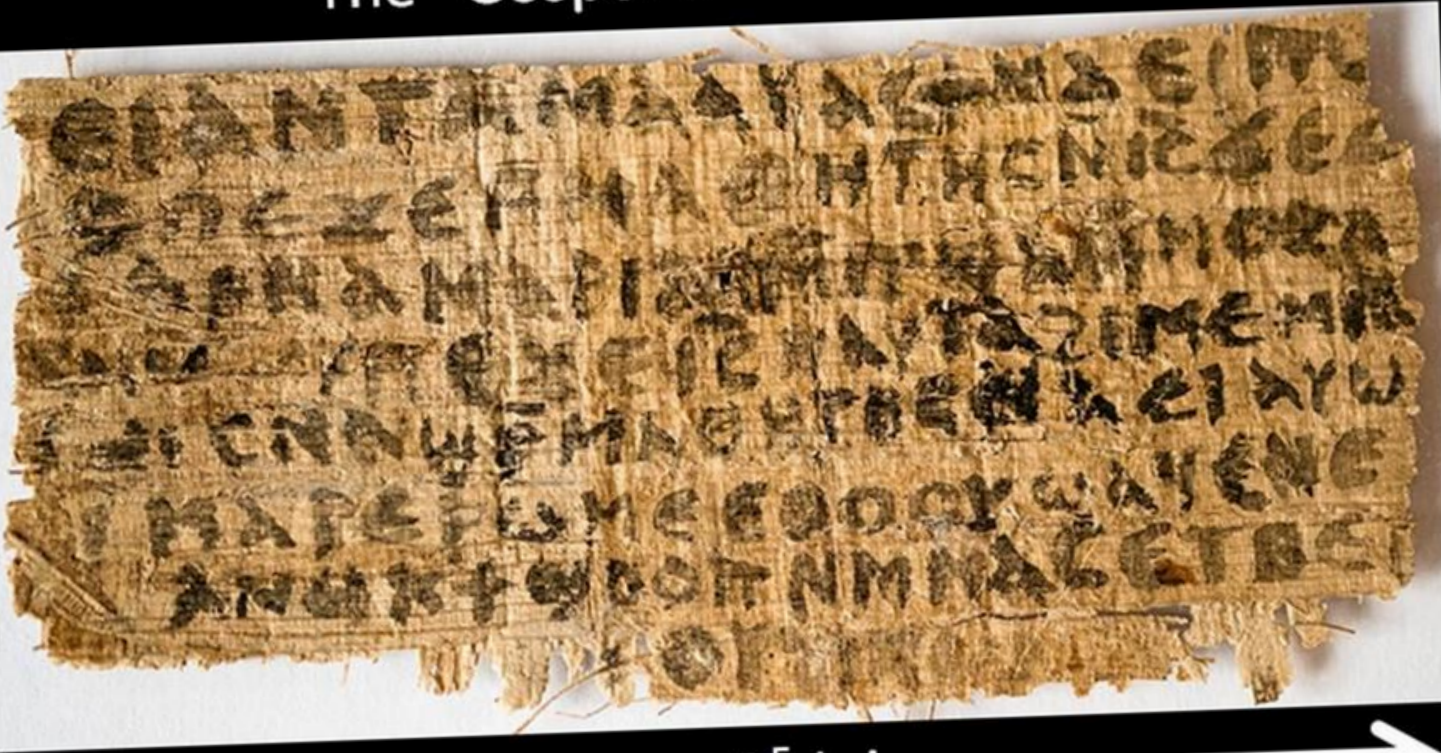
3<sup>rd</sup> Century

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Late-2<sup>nd</sup> Century



# The "Gospel of Jesus' Wife"



← 8cm =  $3\frac{5}{32}$ in →



# Karen King Responds to 'The Unbelievable Tale of Jesus's Wife'

The Harvard scholar says papyrus is probably a forgery.

ARIEL SABAR JUN 16, 2016





# Gnostic Gospels

- **The Infancy Gospel of James – Late 2<sup>nd</sup> century**
  - First to explicitly claim that Joseph was a widower, with children, at the time that Mary is entrusted to his care.
  - Establishes the perpetual virginity of Mary.
- **The Infancy Gospel of Matthew - Early 7<sup>th</sup> century**
  - First known mention of an ox and a donkey being present at the nativity of Jesus.





# THE YOUNG MESSIAH

DRAMA FILM

DISCOVER THE SAVIOR  
WHEN HE WAS A CHILD

IN THEATERS MARCH 11

DISCOVER THE SAVIOR  
WHEN HE WAS A CHILD.

the YOUNG MESSIAH

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#TheYoungMessiahMovie

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Inspired  
by  
*Scripture*  
and  
rooted  
in  
*history*

the **YOUNG MESSIAH**  
**IN THEATERS MARCH 11**





# The Infancy Gospel of Thomas

- Late 2<sup>nd</sup> century
- In one episode, Jesus brings clay pigeons to life, which is also referenced in the Quran.
- In another he heals his brother, James, from a poisonous snake bite.
- He performs resurrections – once on a child who had died of illness and again on a man who died in a construction accident.
- He also carries water on cloth, produces a feast from a single grain, and stretches a beam of wood to help his father finish constructing a bed.



## *The Life of Christ, Frederic Farrar*

“But how different is the boy of the New Testament Apocrypha! He is mischievous, petulant, forward, revengeful. Some of the marvels told of Him are simply aimless and puerile – as when He carries spilt water in His robe; or pulls the short board to the requisite length; or moulds sparrows of clay, and then claps His hands to make them fly; or throws all the cloths into the dyer’s vat, and then draws them out each stained the requisite colour.”



# And Most Troubling

- Jesus curses a boy, which causes the child's body to wither into a corpse.
- Later, Jesus kills another child when Jesus curses him after he apparently accidentally bumps into Jesus.
  - When Joseph and Mary's neighbors complain, they are miraculously struck blind by Jesus.



# But Before We Get Too Upset...

- **Jesus says:**

“Now let those bear fruit that were barren, and let them see that were blind in heart. I am come from above that I may curse them, and call them to the things that are above, even as he commanded which hath sent me for your sakes. And when the young child ceased speaking, immediately all they were made whole which had come under his curse.”

- **It then reads:**

“And no man after that durst provoke him, lest he should curse him, and he should be maimed.”



## **Farrar Continues:**

**“But some are...simply distasteful and inconsiderate, as when He vexes and shames and silences those who wish to teach Him; or rebukes Joseph; or turns His playmates into kids; and others are simply cruel and blasphemous, as when He strikes dead with a curse the boys who offend or run against Him until at last there is a storm of popular indignation, and Mary is afraid to let Him leave the house.”**



# **These Are Easily Dismissed**

**1. John 2:1-11**

**2. Matthew 13:54-58**

**HERESY**



**HERESY EVERYWHERE**



# The Home Life of Jesus

- **Joseph**

- Hard working; of noble character and disposition; provided a comfortable life for his family, though they were certainly quite poor by the standards of the community.

- **Mary**

- Godly, humble; of a loving character and disposition; a student of the Scriptures; a fond and sensitive mother.



# Jesus' Brothers and Sisters

- **Luke 2:7 –**

“And she gave birth to her firstborn son...”

- **Matthew 13:55-56 –**

“Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us?”

- **And we know from John 7:5 –**

“For not even His brothers were believing in Him.”



## **The Point:**

**Jesus' boyhood was  
happy, comfortable,  
busy, and normal, while  
at the same time  
undeniably unique.**



# Jesus' Education

- The importance of education among the Jews:
  - “A father had as well bury his son as neglect his instruction.”
  - Josephus: “Our ground is good, and we work it to the utmost, but our chief ambition is for the nurture of our children.”

**What OT verses comes to mind that sum up obedience to these principles?**



# The Education of a Jewish Boy

- Began very young, at the knee of his mother.
- **3 Chief Means of Teaching in the Home:**
  1. Careful, Personal Instruction
  2. Ornaments/Decoration of the Home
  3. Feast Seasons



**J. Dwight Pentecost,**  
*The Words and Works of Jesus Christ*

“...the festive illumination of the house during a week in midwinter in commemoration of the Dedication of the Temple by Judas the Maccabee; the feast of Purim, in celebration of the deliverance through Esther; the feast of the Passover, setting forth the visit of the Death Angel and Israel’s going out from Egypt; followed by the Fast of the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles, with its strange leafy booth; all were calculated to impress the childish mind.”



# Jewish Spiritual Education

## 1. Beth Sefer (“house of the book”)

- 5 or 6 years old: Classes 5 days a week, and by the time they were about 10 years old, they had memorized all of the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures.

## 2. Beth Talmud (“house of learning”)

- 10-14 years old: Memorized the entire OT, and schooled in Jewish rhetoric.



### 3. Beth Midrash (“house of study”)

- If you were smart enough and knew your scriptures well enough to make it this far, you were given the opportunity to go to a rabbi (teacher) to seek further education.
- The rabbi would grill you and ask you all kinds of questions, because he was trying to find out if you were good enough to be his student.
- If he decided that he didn't think you could do it, then he would tell you to go back to the family business, but if he thought highly enough of you, he would become your teacher and it would be your goal to become like him in every way.



# The Student Becomes a Disciple

- You would agree to take on his “beliefs” and his interpretations of the scriptures.
- This was called his “yoke” and he would say to you, “come follow me.”
- This was a huge privilege that was offered to very few people, and the disciple’s job was to become like the rabbi in every way.



# So Much So...

If the rabbi was hurt and had a limp, you might see his healthy disciples walking behind him (in his footsteps) with a limp.





## Now Listen to Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30

“**Come to Me**, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. **Take My yoke** upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For **My yoke** is easy and My burden is light.”



**So, What Does It  
Mean To Be A  
Disciple Of  
Christ?**



## **Luke 6:40 (ESV)**

**“A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.”**

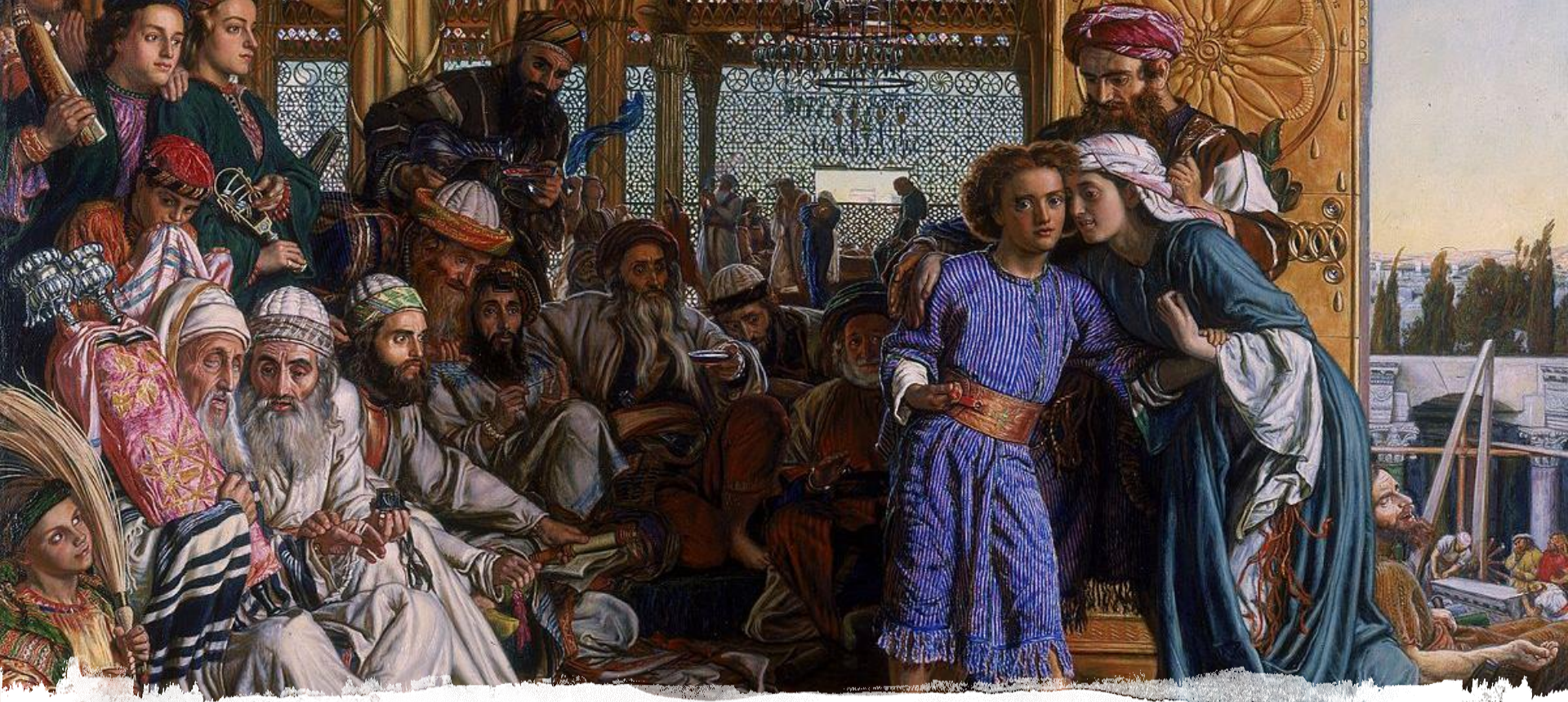




**Jesus was also trained in a trade.**







**Turn to Luke 2:41-52**



# **The Significance of the Event**

**At about the age of 12, a Jewish boy becomes a “son of the law,” and is admitted to the privileges of adulthood in the religion and society of Israel.**

**Understand that in the Jewish culture, a boy did not become a “son” until this event, at which point he would focus on being about his “father’s business.”**



## **David Smith, *The Days of His Flesh***

**“Jesus, twelve years old...joined with Joseph and Mary the train of pilgrims traveling southward to Jerusalem to keep that sacred feast which year by year in the month of April was celebrated in commemoration of Israel’s deliverance from her bondage in Egypt...He had longed for the day when He should go thither and see it all with His own eyes; and now at length His desire is fulfilled. The week of sacred solemnity was like a wondrous dream to the Holy Child. He would feast His eyes on the impressive pageant and drink in all that He heard.”**



# Jesus is Left Behind

- His parents return to find Him, but in the meantime, Jesus communes with the rabbis.

- **Pentecost notes:**

“It was not strange that Jesus should ask questions, but it was extraordinary that His questions should show such insight as to attract the special attention of the learned doctors; and that He should manifest such facility in answering the questions which were put to Him.”



## Mary's Rebuke & Jesus' Response

**“Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.”**

**“Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?”**



## Luke 2:51-52

**51** And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.



“For 18 years He toiled with hammer and saw, knowing all the while Who He was and wherefore He had come, yet hiding the wondrous secret in His breast and never, until His hour arrived, revealing it by word or sign. Not were those silent years lost. They served in the providence of God as a preparation for the work which had been given Him to do. All the while He would be brooding over those sacred Scriptures which spake of Him, foretelling His advent and prefiguring His redemption. And He would be looking abroad, with keen eye and sympathetic heart, upon the world which He had come to save. To the unwitting fold of Nazareth He seemed as one of themselves, but to Him they were His Father’s lost children; and, as He mingled with them He would take earnest notice of them...considering their temptations, and sharing their sorrows, that, when the time should come, He might speak to them as One who knew their hearts and had understanding of their needs.”

• *David Smith, The Days of His Flesh*





**Next Week: Jesus' Ministry Begins!**



