

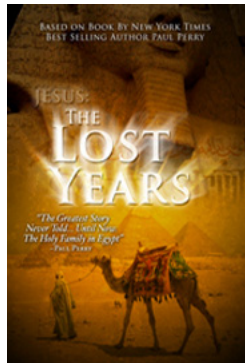
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# Uncover the Secrets of Jesus' Childhood

*Jesus: The Lost Years* documentary DVD unearths clues to Jesus' early life in Egypt, unveiling insight into once untold mysteries

**Syracuse, NY** — The Bible contains few verses about the time Jesus and his family spent in Egypt—fleeing King Herod's murderous vow to kill all baby boys, to the family's weary journey through the Sinai Desert and eventual return to Palestine (Mat. 2:14).



But what really happened during Jesus' five years in Egypt? Can evidence separate fact from speculation? What stories of Jesus in Egypt exist?

***Jesus: The Lost Years***, a documentary film based on the book *Jesus in Egypt* by *New York Times* bestselling author Paul Perry, seeks the answers, and unveils fascinating insights to “the greatest story never told.”

Intrigued that only three years of Jesus' life are presented in the Bible, the plight of the Holy Family in Egypt became Perry's obsession—he interviewed hundreds of people from numerous religions, from document specialists, priests and bishops to Egypt's Coptic Pope—and began studying ancient texts to piece together the unknown. “There are no stories in the Bible about what Jesus did in the five years he was in Egypt, but I knew that such stories existed in the form of oral tradition and stories written outside of the Bible,” says Perry.

Perry teamed with internationally acclaimed Historical Researcher John de Bry and filmmaker Marlin Darrah to traverse the sands of Egypt, following the Holy Family's actual route, stretching nearly 1,000 miles, across the burning sands of the Sinai Desert to a dizzying path down the Nile. It was on the Holy Family Trail, a route outlined by Egyptian Coptic Orthodox Christians and officially certified as authentic in 2000, where Perry heard of medical miracles, visions and a powerful faith. “Jesus left a trail of miracles that were followed like bread crumbs by King Herod's soldiers in hot pursuit,” Perry says.

## **Pressing Questions Encountered in *Jesus: The Lost Years***

- How did Egypt change Jesus' life and influence his teachings?
- Can the ancient oral stories become a part of history? Why or why not?
- Did Jesus perform miracles in Egypt?
- Where did Jesus go while in Egypt? Who did he meet? What did he see?

“This extraordinary film shows sites and tells stories about Jesus which are virtually unknown outside of Egypt,” says Executive Producer Norman A. Miles, who formed Bent Pyramid Productions to create the documentary. “It reveals the secret childhood of Jesus.”

*Jesus: The Lost Years* combines adventure, spirituality and a modern-day pilgrimage into the ancient and often baffling land of Egypt. Shot in HD and filmed deep in the recesses of ancient church catacombs, the teeming back streets of Cairo, in shrines thronged by worshipers and desert wastes haunted by saints, Perry turns up shards of the past and recounts recent stories passed down through countless generations, to reveal a very different side of Jesus.

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Perry is seeking to bridge the gap between Eastern and Western thinking, including the authenticity of visions and oral tradition. “It’s really easy for the Middle Eastern mind to accept visions, but it’s not easy at all for the Western mind to accept them,” Perry says. “Egyptians believe in visions because they’ve seen them.”

While many skeptics and conservatives demand hard historical proof, *Jesus: The Lost Years* relies heavily on evidence from oral traditions and stories surviving unaltered for centuries. Perry seeks to open skeptics’ minds, marked first in the Bible in Matthew 2:12, reading, “When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt.”

Perry heard countless fascinating stories, from Jesus performing miracles as a child, to a fifth century vision of the Virgin Mary revealing the Holy Trail to Egypt’s Pope Theophilus, to large stones believed to hold the footprint of Jesus. Skeptical, Perry dug deeper into the sites, text and research—even into his own spirituality.

Perry prayed, “Is the Holy Family Trail real? Are the stories true?” In Deir Al-Muharraq in Assiut, where tradition says an angel told the Holy Family that King Herod had died. That night Perry took a photo of the church of St. Mark. To his surprise, the photo revealed a vision of an “orange spray of light.” After talking to local religious authorities, Perry’s photo was declared an official vision. “I feel as though that vision I photographed was an answer to that prayer. I think the answer is, yes, this trail is authentic, this trail is real,” Perry says.

“What I found truly surprised me. Jesus was not an abstract deity, like those found on the walls of Pharaonic temples. His presence in Egypt announced the arrival of a brave new religion, one that still exists two thousand years later,” Perry says.

### **Are Egypt’s Churches among the World’s Oldest?**

Finishing the grueling 1,000 mile trail, yet pushed even further by his curiosity, Perry explored little known Christian churches, uncovering how Christianity eventually spread throughout Egypt. While the outside of many of the temples were Pharaonic, the insides are embedded with vivid Christian imagery.

“The Egyptians were the first people to practice resurrection religion,” Perry says. These ancient temples represent the historical intersection of Egypt’s three primary religions—Pharaonic, Christianity and Islam. In fact, the Egyptian Islam community and scholars also contributed stories and accounts in support of *Jesus: The Lost Years*.

“I had seen nothing to confirm the actual existence of Jesus in Egypt—at least nothing that would withstand the scrutiny of Western archeologists. But I had seen plenty of sites, and heard dozens of stories, all of which made the Holy Family a living, breathing presence for millions of believers. His presence has been everywhere in this ancient land of myth and magic,” Perry says. It’s there, where *Jesus: The Lost Years* shines.

### **About *Jesus: The Lost Years*:**

*Jesus: The Lost Years* DVD will be available in stores and online Nov 13, 2007 (\$19.95, UPC 893261001608) Visit the website at [www.lostyears-themovie.com](http://www.lostyears-themovie.com).

## The People Behind *Jesus: The Lost Years*

### About Paul Perry: Documentary Writer, Producer and Host

**Paul Perry** is the co-author of several *New York Times* bestsellers, including the *Closer to the Light* series and *Saved by the Light*, which was made into a popular movie by FOX



Entertainment. His books have been published in more than 30 languages around the world, while his work has appeared in *National Geographic Adventure*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Outside Magazine*, *Reader's Digest*, among others. He's participated in a number of archaeological expeditions, including a Discovery Channel expedition in Madagascar to find the sunken flagship of Captain William Kidd, the 18th century English pirate. A graduate of the MFA program at Antioch University and of Arizona State University, Perry is a former fellow at the Gannett Center for Media Studies at Columbia University in New York City. He lives in Paradise Valley, Arizona.

### About John de Bry: Historical Researcher



**John de Bry** is an internationally recognized historical researcher. He is the founder and director of the Center for Historical Archaeology, a non-profit scientific organization based in Indialantic, Florida. He also is a paleographer—a manuscript document specialist—conducting archaeological investigation research in England, France, Spain and Cuba on behalf of universities and museums around the world. He's been featured as a scientific consult to the Discovery Channel and has been in several Discovery Channel, National Geographic TV, History Channel and NOVA documentaries.

### About Marlin Darrah: Director / Cinematographer



**Marlin Darrah** is the President of International Film and Video and has produced and directed more than 80 travel and documentary programs in over 120 countries. His work has been featured on National Geographic, Explorer, NBC, CBS, FOX, Discovery Channel, History Channel and CNN.



### About Norman A. Miles: Executive Producer

Norm Miles, A Professional Financial Planner in Syracuse, New York became involved in the project after having read Perry's book. Bent Pyramid Productions, LLC was created and Miles began to work with author Paul Perry to do what was necessary to send a film crew to Egypt to begin filming. Having limited background in the making of documentary films, Mr. Miles called upon his experience in business and those relationships established while working with The National Geographic Channel.

For an interview with Paul Perry or Norm Miles, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or [Ben@purepublicity.com](mailto:Ben@purepublicity.com).

## **Interview Questions for Paul Perry** Writer of *Jesus: The Lost Years*

1. Why did the Holy Family enter Egypt? How long were they there? Why did they eventually leave Egypt?
2. What was King Herod's "slaughter of the innocents?" Were King Herod's soldiers following the Holy Family for an extended period of time?
3. How old was Jesus when he was in Egypt? Did he attend school?
4. How influential was religion in Egypt during the time of Jesus? How did Jesus alter the religious landscape of Egypt?
5. When was the Coptic Orthodox Church founded? How many Christians are in Egypt?
6. Can oral tradition and history be trusted? Why or why not?
7. What are some of the stories you heard about Jesus' time in Egypt?
8. What does the discovery of ancient Christian churches in Egypt signify?
9. Did Jesus knock down the stone idols in Egypt? What evidence supports that? Did Jesus perform his first public miracles in Egypt?
10. What are the differences between the Eastern and Western thought on accepting supernatural events like visions?
11. Were you skeptical with some of the stories of visions you encountered? Are you still?
12. Tell us about your "vision" you experienced at the church of St. Mark. Was it a confirmation of the authenticity of your research?
13. What would the Holy Family say and think about the Egyptians pyramids?
14. Is it possible that Jesus taught the Egyptians about healing and spirituality?
15. What was it like traveling to Egypt immediately after the 9/11 terrorist attacks?
16. In Cairo, the population is 85 percent Muslim and 15 percent Christian. How can this city maintain peace with so much worldwide conflict and unrest over religion?
17. Were you ever afraid while you were in Egypt? How were you treated?
18. What are some of the most reliable texts you examined in making this documentary?
19. What are "the infancy gospels"? Are they part of the Biblical Canon?
20. What is the lasting significance of *Jesus: The Lost Years*? For Christians? Non-Christians? Academia?

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# **Sites & Stories Explored In-Depth in *Jesus: The Lost Years***

## **The Fallen Idols of Tell Basta:**

This fascinating footage walks viewers through a field of fallen idols believed to have been knocked down by an angry Jesus as a child. Bubastis, the ancient name of the site, is mentioned in the Bible and was for a short period of time the capital of Ancient Egypt under the Pharaoh Sheshonk (945-924 B.C.) Bubastis was the center of the cult-worship of the Cat Goddess Bastet.

In honor of this feline there was an annual festival that included ritual intoxication and promiscuous sex. It is at this site that Jesus is said to have performed two miracles; the springing of water (Jesus' well), and the toppling of the temple and its idols.

Archaeologists have not been able to explain why these idols tumbled, a phenomenon made even more mysterious by the fact that there is no logical explanation for the destruction. "It represents Jesus throwing down the gauntlet, and saying, I'm here to strike down the old religion," Perry says.

## **The Holiest Site in Egypt:**

The first ever footage shown in the West of the altar at Deir Muharraq, a stone from Pharaonic ruins believed to have been the bed of Jesus for the time the Holy Family lived in this desert outpost. Historical Researcher John de Bry has determined that this altar has not been tampered with in modern time, and that early Christian worshippers used stones from Pharaonic temples to enclose, shelter and protect this altar.

## **The Visions of Assiut and Zeitoun:**

*Jesus: The Lost Years* contains photos of visions witnessed by millions at the Cairo church of Zeitoun and a never-before-seen color photo of a vision taken by Perry at the spot in the town of Assiut where the Holy Family started its return to Israel. Historical Researcher John de Bry examined all the archaeological sites of the Holy Family trail, and although he was unable to uncover irrefutable proof that the Holy Family had physically been there, he was able to date cultural material to the time of Christ.

Like his colleagues before him, de Bry could not determine how the temple and idols of Tell Basta were toppled. When asked how he felt about oral tradition, de Bry stated that archaeologists had revised their position on oral history and were now putting more credence in such tradition.

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