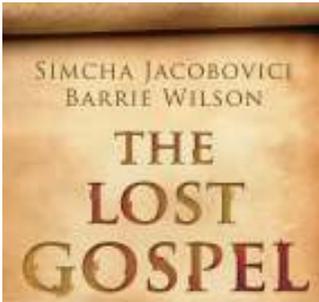


# Gate Breaker News Digest

Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against



## The Lost Gospel - Really?



The Apostle Paul foretold of a time in which people would believe fables rather than the plain truth (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 4:3-4). That certainly applies to some of the tales woven about the Lord Jesus and Mary Magdalene.

*The Lost Gospel*, a new book by Simcha Jacobovici and Barrie Wilson proclaims that Jesus Christ was married to Mary Magdalene and that they had two children. Their presumption is based on a 1,500 year old Aramaic text. Simcha Jacobovici is a Jewish Canadian filmmaker. Barrie Wilson is a professor at York University in Toronto.

The ancient text, according to most scholars, is actually a story about the Patriarch Joseph of Genesis and his marriage to the Egyptian woman named Aeseneth, but Jacobovici and Wilson state that the sixth century version has a deeper meaning and that these names were really code names of Jesus and Mary. Skeptical scholars say that no decoding was necessary.<sup>1</sup>

The fact that the names Jesus

and Mary are never actually mentioned in the story did not stop Jacobovici from sensationalizing Mary Magdalene by stating, "She's not just Mrs. Jesus, she is a co-deity, a co-redeemer, she's called a 'Daughter of God' as he's called 'Son of God.'"<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps *The Lost Gospel* was the type of deceptive piece that the Apostle Peter was writing about when he wisely surmised that there would be false teachers who simply want to

exploit [Christians] with deceptive words" (2nd Peter 2:1-3). The word exploit in the Greek is about making merchandise

(1710 in the Strong's concordance). The idea here is that they use deceptive stories to trick Christians out of their money.

Jacobovici has a history of trying to reshape the historical views about the risen Savior, and he makes money

(Continued on page 2)



## My Job in the Pit

By Kathleen Fleming

King David had his own personal experience of being in a pit, and he made this proclamation in **Psalm 40: 1-3**: *I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord.*

Try as I may, I cannot deliver my child out of the pit; it is the Lord's job. My job is to pray!

We have probably read this passage many times, but just recently, I saw these verses in a

whole new light; I saw the delineation between the Lord's job and my job. The boundaries are very clear, in fact.

As I pondered and studied, the "teacher in me" drew a T-chart. I labeled the left side ME, and the right side GOD. Then I began to divide the "jobs" found in each verse into their appropriate column. Interestingly enough and not surprising, I only had one job to do! Yes, just one. That is all? I am used to juggling a lot of things at once, many jobs! Would it be possible for me to handle just one?

My one job is found at the very beginning of the passage: *I waited patiently for the Lord.* The two words, *waited* and *patiently*

actually go together; they both have the same Hebrew word (See H6960 in Strong's). It means "lying in wait." A footnote in the New American Standard Version translates it to waiting "intently." The dictionary definition is "firmly; steadfastly fixed (eyes or mind); sharply focused."

It is straightforward. My responsibility, my job, is to keep my focus on the Lord and to wait intently on Him, not on the problem and not even on my deliverance. My deliverance is the Lord's job!

In fact, the Lord has quite a lot of responsibilities that He does not share with us! 1) He literally bends His ear toward us and listens 2) He brings us out of a (horrible) pit 3) He sets our feet on a rock 4) He establishes our steps 5) He puts a new song in our mouth.

That is all well and good until I was tested! I basically had told the Lord, "Ok Lord, I am ready for the

(Continued on page 4)

### Inside this issue:

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| The Lost Gospel - Really? | 1 |
| My Job in the Pit         | 1 |
| Ecola Bible School        | 3 |
| Updates                   | 4 |
| Contact Information       | 4 |
| Website Information       | 4 |

## The Lost Gospel - Really? (Continued)



for it. For instance, he worked with director James Cameron in 2007 on the Talpiot tomb in Jerusalem trying to convince the world that Jesus was buried there and never rose from the dead.<sup>3</sup>

A part of the hype that occurs when a book like this surfaces comes from the media who treat it as though it has some merit. In his article "Media Fall for 'Married Jesus' Hoax, Again", Thomas D. Williams writes about how to get rich by using modern pseudo-scholarship about sensational stories pertaining to Jesus and then getting the media to report on it. Like the fictional works of *The Last Temptation of Christ* and *The DaVinci Code*, *The Lost Gospel* claims that Jesus was married. This entices reporters who make the book famous before it is even released to the book stores. Of Jacobovici, Williams writes that he is "a professional biblical debunker who has made a good career out of fabricating sensational stories and passing them off as scholarship."<sup>4</sup>

Years ago a woman at a regional Christian gathering near our church in northern Idaho upset a few others by slamming her bible on the table and challenging the group, "Where in the Bible does it say that Jesus was not married?"

This challenge tried to place the burden for proof square on the shoulders of those who believed that Jesus was single and celibate his entire life.

Yet, are the adherents who hold the traditions of Jesus as a virgin His entire life really the ones who must prove that he was not married? I think not! The burden of proof squarely falls on those who take the position that He was married to prove it because there is virtually no credible proof that He was married.

For instance, the Bible would have plainly stated if Jesus were married. The Scripture expounds upon the personal lives of other notable figures such as Moses, Noah, Abraham, and Peter who all had wives whereas Jeremiah was told not to take a wife (Jer. 16:2). Paul said he was unmarried (1st Co. 7:8). Certainly then, the marriage of the most important Person in the Bible

would have been clearly stated.

Jesus did refer to Himself in parables as "the bridegroom" (MT 9:15; 25:1-10), but his followers knew that He was not literally married to one woman. Both Paul and John understood that He is the bridegroom of the Church and they stated it. (Eph. 5:25; Rev. 19:7)

Today, fictional writers and movie makers try to reinvent Jesus' marital and paternal status for money making schemes. However, the early Church Fathers knew better.

Consider the ancient evidence of the following Church Fathers in regard to this.

As early as 96 AD Clement of Rome associated Isaiah 53:8 as a prophetic passage referring to Jesus: "No one will ever recount his descents, for his life was destroyed from off the earth."<sup>5</sup>

Justin Martyr (100 - 165 AD) wrote of Jesus: "And when He had been born, and had submitted to the other conditions of the flesh, - I mean food, drink, and clothing, - this one condition only of discharging the sexual function He did not submit to; for regarding the desires of the flesh, He accepted some as necessary, while others which were unnecessary, He did not submit to. . . . At the same time He foretold that, in the future world, sexual intercourse should be done away with."<sup>6</sup>

Tertullian (150 - 220 AD), the great early Latin theologian, when writing about Jesus' words in Matthew 19:12 stated, "The Lord Himself opens 'the kingdom of

heaven' to eunuchs, as being Himself . . . a virgin."<sup>7</sup>

Methodius (260 - 312 AD) stated well Jesus' position in his discourse *The Banquet of the Ten Virgins*: "It was fitting that He who was first and chief of priests, of prophets, and of angels, should also be saluted as first and chief of virgins . . . . And the Word, when He was incarnate, became chief Virgin."<sup>8</sup>

These men, ancient scholars who lived much nearer to the time of Christ than the sixth century text from which *The Lost Gospel* comes, knew that Jesus was a virgin. He was not married. He had no children.

Furthermore, the only gospels that were canonized were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John because all other supposed gospels, many of them from second and third century Gnostic sources, had problems with authorship and authenticity. Irenaeus, the great early Greek theologian of the second century named these four as the only true gospels. The Muratorian canon of the second century only included these four gospels, the same ones we use today.

Modern day revisionists like the authors of *The Lost Gospel* not only try to persuade people to accept the idea that Jesus was married and had children, but they go much further, denying that He rose from the dead. So, in the end analysis, for these types of authors, Jesus was merely a man who was married, had children, and now is dead and buried. Ultimately then, He could not really give eternal salvation to anyone.

Yet, Jesus' empty tomb in Jerusalem refutes these authors of this fiction. So do the many witnesses who saw the risen Christ. He was seen by 500 witnesses. Jesus ascended into Heaven before them. He proclaimed that someday He would return as a bridegroom for His true bride, the Church. His followers proclaimed His resurrection and were martyred as witnesses of the truth.

Before Jesus rose from the dead, He allowed Himself to be put to death on the cross for the sins of all of mankind. He gave His life for any who would choose to believe and to trust in Him as their Lord and Savior. Peter wrote about Jesus that He "bore our sins on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness" (1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:24).

Those who give their lives to Christ become part of the Church and thus the true bride of Christ for whom Jesus will one day return.

### Notes

1. Terry Moran, "Lost Gospel", Good Morning America, ABC News (Nov. 12, 2014) ABCNews.com
2. Nico Hines, "Is 'The Lost Gospel' Book a Fraud?" The Daily Beast (Nov. 12, 2014) Thedailybeast.com
3. "Lost Gospel" claims Jesus was married, had children, Fox News (Nov. 10, 2014) Foxnews.com
4. Thomas D. Williams, PH.D., "Media Fall for 'Married Jesus' Hoax, Again" Breitbart, (Nov. 11, 2014), Breitbart.com
5. Clement, *1st Epistle of Clement*, chap. 16.
6. Justin Martyr, *On the Resurrection*, chap. 3.
7. Tertullian, *On Monogamy*, chap. 3.
8. Methodius, *Banquet of the Ten Virgins*, chap 4-5.



The entrance to the tomb of Christ in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Old Jerusalem. Spiritual pilgrims have been visiting the place of Jesus' resurrection since He rose from the dead

# Ecola Bible School

For many years I have had the privilege of teaching at Ecola Bible School, which is located in one of the most beautiful places in the western United States - Cannon Beach, Oregon.

Director David Duff has been running the one - year program for over thirty years. The quality of the program, the amazing setting, and the unique modular teaching method has made this school a destination spot for post - high school and college graduates, as well as folks in mid-life who want to have a spiritual realignment.

One of the amazing strengths of the program, and this is something that I have not found in any other Bible school, is that students will be taught by about fifty instructors. Each week, the school brings in two instructors from various parts of the country who are experts in whatever field they are asked to teach.

For instance, in the spring, I teach for one week about the subject of cults from a Christian perspective. Students are tested on the subjects of the instructors and then move on the next week to new subjects.

One of the best parts about the school is that it helps students to really focus on the Lord and their relationship with Him. This, of course, is important for all Christians.



Haystack Rock located in Cannon Beach is a famous feature of the Oregon coast.

After they graduate, many go on to secular college or a career. The year of orientation to the Lord Jesus empowers them for life.

The size of the student body for the one - year program varies from around sixty students to well over one hundred. The community has embraced the school, and many of the students have part time jobs. In fact, many of the local businesses count of hiring students from Ecola.

During free time, students have access to one of the most gorgeous beaches, only one or two blocks from student housing. There are hiking trails, historic landmarks, fishing, rafting, etc. Cannon Beach is also a quaint city with many shops for tourists. Just a few miles north is Seaside, Oregon, with more businesses, shops, and another beautiful beach.

One of the amazing strengths of the program, and this is something that I have not found in any other Bible school, is that students will be taught by about fifty instructors.

The School of Ministry, a second year program, was developed by Josh Duff, the assistant director, to help students focus on ministry and missions. I teach at the S.O.M. in the fall on the subject of the History of the Early Church.



Students listening to a lecture at Ecola

The School of Ministry ranges in size from 18 to over 30 students. Some of the graduates go on to serve the Lord in the

mission field. I have taught students who went on to New Tribes, Wycliffe Bible Translators, and others mission



schools after graduation. There are others who have been hired on staff at churches or Bible camps.

If your son or daughter is close to graduating from high school or college and is wondering what to do next in life, they should check out Ecola Bible School.

For information on courses, instructors, finances, campus life, staff, housing, short - term missions and other ministry opportunities visit the school's website at [www.ecola.org](http://www.ecola.org). You will see that the school has a very well-rounded and highly practical approach to Bible training. You can also check them out on Face Book.



The School of Ministry class of Ecola Bible School that I taught in the fall of 2014.

# Updates

## Pakistan

GBM continues its ministries in Pakistan despite the unrest in that part of the world. We continue to run our Christian ministries and to spread the gospel about Jesus Christ to as many as we can.

We have the two schools for slave children who must work twelve hours a day in brickyards. They take a break from work in the middle of the day, put on school clothes, and attend school for a couple of hours. The schools are next to the brick yards. In these GBM Hope schools, the students learn how to read and write in both Urdu and English, and they are taught math, science, and the Bible.

The six schools for women teach them how to become seamstresses. Some also teach them to become cosmetologists. This allows these women, many of them Christians, to get a job in an Islamic dominated society. This is a critical need. Of course, each day there is time for Bible reading and prayer.

We also continue with the two churches that GBM started, called Light City church. They are growing and meeting people's needs.

GBM provides money each month for teacher salaries, curriculum, sewing machines, etc. Please pray for GBM and these ministries that are making an impact in the Islamic world.

## Kenya

I continue to travel several times a year to Kenya to train pastors at Kenya College of Ministry.

Pastors learn theology and practical ministry which is transforming their ministries and the churches that they pastor.

This December we will begin the sixth year of the school. For the first time, the school will have pastors from Tanzania. As

## Contact Information

Dr. Stan Fleming, Gate Breaker Ministries,  
824 E. Sicily Court, Meridian, Idaho 83642  
Website: Gatebreakers.com  
Face Book: Gate Breaker Ministries  
Email: sfleming@ gatebreakers.com  
Cell Phone: (208) 290-4007

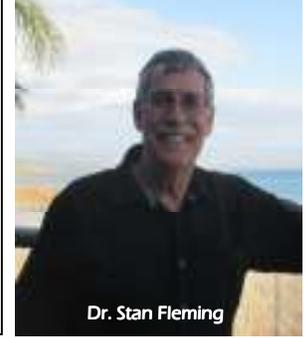


**Questions:** For inquiries, please email me.

**Prayer requests:** Send us your need and we will prayer for it.

**Board Members:** Cary Chrisman, Brian Dockins, Stan Fleming, Ron Hamel, Larry Starke

On the Sea of Galilee



Dr. Stan Fleming

## My Job in the Pit (continued)

next time I find myself in a pit, and I will be sure to focus on You alone!" I said it with such conviction, of course. Funny thing, or not so funny, it ended up being different than I imagined. Instead of me being in the pit, one of my children was in the pit.

That kind of threw me off guard because after studying this passage, I was ready to battle the pit and stay strong if I should find myself there. However, when it came to my child being in a pit, I started to panic, and all of a sudden, I was filled with woe because this was not the pit I had expected. Thankfully, because I was armed with the Word of God and had just worked through this whole idea of the pit, I quickly collected my thoughts within a matter of minutes and was filled with faith.

Even though I would gladly go into the pit in place of my children, obviously, this is impossible. Furthermore my natural inclination to panic and feel sorry for myself only puts the emphasis on me. Clearly, this was not about me. In other words, my child's job and my job were the same: we had to keep our eyes on the Lord! Try as I may, I cannot deliver my child out of the pit; it is the Lord's job. My job is to pray!

As long as we are doing our assigned job, our peace will remain. *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You (Isaiah 26:3).*

Finally, according to verse three of Psalm 40, the Lord has put a new song in our mouth. This is the Lord's doing; it is He who has put a new song in us. Why would He give it to us if He did not intend for us to sing it? This gives us cause to ask ourselves some questions. *Am I singing old songs from my past? Do I default to a woeful song of complaint? Am I singing the same ole' same ole' over and over again?* The Lord has put a new song in our mouth, and His song is always the best!

Obviously, no one wishes to be in a pit, nor do we ever want to see our kids in a pit, but we have the promise of God that He will bring us out of it. It is comforting to remember that we have a specific job description, and we are not supposed to take over God's jobs.

the school gains in status, there are pastors from many regions who are becoming interested.

Please pray that the Lord will use the school to influence that entire part of Africa for glory of the Lord.

## Regional

Recently, I have been in Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington teaching at various churches, Bible schools, and one family camp. One of the short seminars that churches have had me teach on recently is *Understanding Islam in the Modern World*. In light of recent events in the Middle East, Christians have been quite interested in the subject.

## Israel

In February, I will be taking another team to Israel on a prayer tour. This is one of the most extraordinary experiences for Christians as

we not only visit the Holy sites of early Christianity but minister in prayer in various settings. For information about future prayer tours to Israel, please contact me.

## Ireland

For Easter 2015, I have been invited to the Chinese Gospel Church of Dublin, Ireland. Pastor Cedric Chau has asked me to minister to both the congregation and the leaders. The following weekend I will be at the Dungarvan Christian Fellowship in Dungarvan, Ireland. When I was pastoring at the House of the Lord in northern Idaho, our church started the church in Dungarvan.

Our family had a wonderful new addition on June 12 of this year. Audrey Grace was born to our daughter, Naphtali, and her husband, Anthony Murphey. Congratulations!!

Here she is smiling and playing at five months old. She is ready to explore, have fun, and take charge.



This is the Lord's doing; it is He who has put a new song in us. Why would He give it to us if He did not intend for us to sing it?

## Website

GATEBREAKERS.COM

## Face Book

Gate Breaker Ministries