



Press Release

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Contact:

Molly Dewsnap Meinhardt
Biblical Archaeology Society
4710 41st St., NW
Washington, DC 20016
Tel: 202-362-9070, x234, Fax: 202-364-2636
E-mail: mdewsnap@bib-arch.org

An Archaeological Search for Jesus

An Archaeological Search for Jesus is a unique new documentary series that explores the first-century A.D. world in which Jesus lived and died. This non-denominational film is the first and only documentary focusing on the archaeological evidence of Jesus and early Christianity.

An Archaeological Search for Jesus is available as a 5-VHS or a 3-DVD set for \$149.95, shipping included. The series can be ordered by fax (202-364-2636), phone (1-800-221-4644, 202-364-3300), or on-line (<http://www.easycart.net/ecarts/bib-arch/VHNT.html> for VHS and <http://www.easycart.net/ecarts/bib-arch/9HNT.html> for DVD).

Join host Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, as he journeys to the land where Jesus grew up, preached, worked wonders, gathered followers and, finally, was crucified and buried. From Galilee to Jerusalem and the Judean Desert, trace the life of Jesus through archaeological exploration and interviews with eminent archaeologists and leading biblical scholars. Among the over twenty leading scholars featured in the series are Gabriel Barkay, Dan Bahat, John Dominic Crossan, Joseph Fitzmyer, André Lemaire, James Strange and James VanderKam.

An Archaeological Search for Jesus, produced by the Biblical Archaeology Society, is a series in five parts: Galilee Beginnings (Jesus' roots in Galilee); Galilee Fishing (life on the Sea of Galilee in the first century); Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls (what the scrolls tell us about the Jewish context of Jesus' teachings); Jerusalem Footsteps (Jerusalem at the time of Jesus); and Jerusalem Tombs (Jesus' crucifixion and burial).

The Biblical Archaeology Society is a nonprofit, nondenominational, educational organization dedicated to the dissemination of information about biblical archaeology, history and religion in a fair and accessible manner. The society is known for its role in unlocking the mysteries of the Dead Sea Scrolls and for making this information available to the general public under the leadership of Hershel Shanks, its founder and president. Mr. Shanks, a central figure of biblical archaeology, is editor-in-chief of *Biblical Archaeology Review* as well as *Bible Review* and *Archaeology Odyssey*.



Fact Sheet

An Archaeological Search for Jesus

(5-VHS or 3-DVD Set. 210 minutes. \$149.95)

In this new five-part documentary *Biblical Archaeology Review* editor Hershel Shanks travels from Galilee to Jerusalem in search of the first-century A.D. world in which Jesus lived and died. This non-denominational film, produced by the Biblical Archaeology Society, is the first and only documentary focusing on the archaeological evidence of Jesus and early Christianity.

- Features Shanks interviewing eminent archaeologists and New Testament scholars about the sites associated with Jesus and other gospel figures.
- Includes visits to Nazareth, Sepphoris, Capernaum, Bethsaida, Kursi, Jerusalem and Qumran, the site where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered.
- Stars over twenty leading biblical scholars, including Dan Bahat, John Dominic Crossan, Joseph Fitzmyer, James Fleming, Richard Freund, André Lemaire, James Strange and James VanderKam.

Part I: GALILEE *Beginnings*

Trace Jesus' roots and discover why some scholars think he was born in Nazareth, not Bethlehem. Understand the archaeology of Nazareth and the other Galilee towns of Jesus' early life. Explore the Roman town of Sepphoris and visit the remains of the synagogue in Capernaum where Jesus preached at the start of his career.

Part II: GALILEE *Fishing*

Visit the towns where Jesus' apostles lived and worked around the Sea of Galilee. See evidence of the lives of ancient fishermen and relive the discovery of a boat from Jesus' time recovered from the shore of the lake.

Part III: QUMRAN *and the Dead Sea Scrolls*

Visit Qumran, the Judean desert home of the Essenes, the Jewish sect that likely wrote—and hid—the famous Dead Sea Scrolls. Hear experts' thoughts on what these enigmatic texts reveal about Jesus, John the Baptist, early Christianity, and the Jewish context of Jesus' teachings.

Part IV: JERUSALEM *Footsteps*

Walk the streets of the city Jesus knew, visiting the remains of Jerusalem's first-century homes and monuments, including its recently discovered ancient theater, and explore the tombs of the Kidron Valley. Hear about the accidental discovery of the long-buried original Golden Gate, through which Jesus made his triumphal entry.

Part V: JERUSALEM *Tombs*

Visit the traditional sites of Jesus' crucifixion and burial—the Garden Tomb and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre—and explore which one has the better archaeological claim. See evidence of Roman crucifixions and visit Potters Field, where Judas Iscariot took his own life. Understand what the bone box (or ossuary) inscribed “James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus” —which recently made headlines—can tell us about Jewish burial practices of the first century.



About the Biblical Archaeology Society . . .

The Best of Biblical Archaeology Since 1975

The Biblical Archaeology Society (BAS) is a nonprofit, nondenominational, educational organization dedicated to the dissemination of information about archaeology in the lands of the Bible. BAS presents the latest scholarship in biblical archaeology, history and religion in a fair and accessible manner. The society delves into important new findings through its impressive array of high-quality informational and educational tools—books, videos, CD-ROMs, seminars and magazines—led by its flagship magazine, *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR), as well as *Bible Review* and *Archaeology Odyssey*.

BAR, *Bible Review* and *Archaeology Odyssey* are bimonthly publications, aimed at a popular audience. They feature exciting, informative and authoritative articles written by the world's greatest archaeologists and scholars, yet are edited for easy reading and brought vividly to life with beautiful photographs and art works spanning the last 3,000 years.

The society is known for its role in unlocking the mysteries of the Dead Sea Scrolls and for making this information available to the general public under the leadership of Hershel Shanks, its founder and president. More recently it broke the story of the controversial ossuary with an Aramaic inscription reading "James, son of Joseph, brother of Jesus." The society's work has received widespread acclaim and media attention in publications as diverse as *Time*, *People*, *Civilization*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and *The Jerusalem Post* and on television programs aired by CNN, PBS and the Discovery Channel.

About Hershel Shanks . . .

Hershel Shanks, a central figure of biblical archaeology, is founder of BAS and editor-in-chief of *Biblical Archaeology Review* (BAR), *Bible Review* and *Archaeology Odyssey*. Mr. Shanks is also the editor of *Moment*, the largest independent Jewish magazine in the country.

Educated at Haverford College (B.A.), Columbia University (M.A.), and the Harvard Law School (LL.B.), Mr. Shanks specialized in appellate litigation with the United States Department of Justice before going into private practice. His many legal publications include *The Art and Craft of Judging: The Decisions of Judge Learned Hand* (Macmillan, 1968).

In 1975, after a trip to Israel piqued his interest in biblical archaeology, Mr. Shanks founded BAS and started publishing *Biblical Archaeology Review*. In 1987 he stopped practicing law to devote himself full-time to BAS.

Mr. Shanks's numerous books on biblical archaeology include *The Mystery and Meaning of the Dead Sea Scrolls* (Random House, 1998), *Jerusalem: An Archaeological Biography* (Random House, 1995), and *The Brother of Jesus* (Harper San Francisco, 2003, with Ben Witherington III). His op-ed pieces have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and hundreds of other newspapers.