

1,400-year-old manuscript points to Jesus' wife and children, authors say

by [Anne Steele](#)

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([The Christian Science Monitor](#)) An ancient text depicts Jesus Christ as having a wife and two children, according to a book due out this week, but academics have been quick to shut down the claim.

Simcha Jacobovici and Barrie Wilson lay out in *The Lost Gospel* that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, pointing to a manuscript from AD 570, according to *The Daily Mail*.

The manuscript, written in Syriac on vellum, has been in the British Library's archives for 20 years. Scholars who have studied the document over the past 160 years have considered it "pretty unremarkable."

The authors, who translated the text from its Aramaic dialect into English, said the book is six years in the making.

But Mark Goodacre, a professor of religious studies at Duke University, is among skeptics of the theory.

"I don't think that there is any credibility in these claims at all," Goodacre told *Good Morning America* on Monday. "There is simply no evidence in this text or anywhere else that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, much less that they had a couple of children."

The theory is based on the belief the document is encrypted and written by a group of persecuted Christians, *The Daily Mail* reported.

The authors said the document is coded and Jesus's marriage is hidden in the story of the Old Testament character Joseph and his wife Aseneth. They theorize that Joseph was actually Jesus and Aseneth was Mary Magdalene.

The idea that Christ Jesus was married has previously surfaced in study and pop culture. An ancient Egyptian papyrus—known as the "Gospel of Jesus's Wife"—has Jesus referring to "my wife," though it was written centuries after he died.

In *The Da Vinci Code*, the novel's author Dan Brown raises the possibility that Mary Magdalene was Jesus' wife.

More "revelations"—including the names of Jesus and Mary Magdalene's children—are expected Wednesday, when a press conference is scheduled for the book release, according to the *Times of India*.