

For immediate release

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Cradle of Christianity with Evening at Emory and the Michael C. Carlos Museum

ATLANTA, Ga. – August 10 – Evening at Emory, a program of Emory University’s Center for Lifelong Learning, is pleased to present “Cradle of Christianity: Jews and Christians in the Greco-Roman World,” beginning on Monday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m. The course, which debuted to rave reviews in June of 2007, is offered in conjunction with the “Cradle of Christianity” exhibition currently housed at Emory University’s Michael C. Carlos Museum.

Drawn from the rich archaeological collections of the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the exhibition sheds light on Christianity’s earliest days, from its emergence against the backdrop of Jewish society to its development alongside Jewish communities in the Holy Land over six centuries. “Cradle of Christianity” boasts “...some of the greatest treasures of biblical archaeology: the burial box of Caiaphas, the high priest; the only known inscription with the name of Pontius Pilate, the governor who sentenced Jesus to be crucified; pieces of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the astonishing cache of ancient texts found in the Judean desert more than a generation ago,” said James D. Davis, Religion Editor for the *South Florida Sentinel*.

Participants in this eight week course will have the incredible opportunity to view these extraordinary artifacts, many of which have never before traveled outside of Israel. They will also have the privilege of exploring the development of formative Judaism and early Christianity under the expert guidance of esteemed faculty members from Emory’s Department of Religion, the Candler School of Theology, and the Institute for Jewish Studies. Lectures will focus on the chafing of the Jews under Roman rule and cover several different topics ranging from the diversity of Judaism prior to the destruction of the Temple to how the Jewish “Jesus Movement” became Christianity. The \$110 tuition includes a complimentary one-time admission to the “Cradle of Christianity” exhibition as well as access to a personal audio guide.

“Getting a chance to see relics that date back to the 1st century, and listening to people who are so knowledgeable and so passionate talk about them, is fascinating,” said James Cool, one of the Atlanta filmmakers responsible for the “Cradle of Christianity” documentary that airs Monday, August 13th on Public Broadcasting Atlanta’s Channel 30.

“Part of the Carlos Museum’s mission is to educate, not just bring exhibits. One of Emory’s venues for adult education is Evening at Emory, so, shortly after the Carlos Museum knew that they were getting this exhibit, the collaboration began. Evening at Emory is offering eight lectures, which are open to the public for a nominal fee, that place the exhibit and its artifacts into a more robust and detailed context. The list of luminaries delivering these lectures features several very impressive scholars who have helped shape our current understanding of this time period... I encourage people to go to the Evening at Emory website and check out the schedule so they can enjoy these intellectual treats while they are here in Atlanta,” said Dr. Michael S. Berger, Associate Professor of Religion at Emory University.

Evening at Emory offers more than 150 academically challenging, socially-engaging classes in a wide variety of areas ranging from foreign language, sports instruction and dance to wine tasting, yoga and writing novels. Begin your personal renaissance with Evening at Emory!

To register and/or view a full schedule of course locations and descriptions, please visit: www.EveningatEmory.org or call 404-727-6000.

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