

Shirley Paulson, PhD, of Early Christian Texts shares insight about After Jesus Before Christianity: New Discoveries with members of your church or organization!

In-Depth presentation offered in-person or online

Shirley Paulson, PhD



Shirley Paulson's exploration and research into the 'Bible and Beyond' began with her Master of Theological Studies work at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, which led to her PhD in Religion and Theology from the University of Birmingham (UK).

The unique contribution of Shirley's work is the combination of her contemporary ecumenical work with research in early Christian thought and writings. Combining her experience in healing, theological scholarship, and Practical Theology with research in Biblical and extracanonical texts evokes ever-new questions and conversations for scholars, spiritual seekers, and Bible enthusiasts. The foundational text for her research is the *Secret Revelation of John*.

Shirley has over three decades of experience presenting lectures, classes, and workshops on early Christian texts. Since 2017 she has been the driving force behind Early Christian Texts (earlychristiantexts.com), an organization offering an assortment of online educational programs including a newsletter, articles, blog, podcast, discussion series, and adult learning courses.

Her first book, *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John*, was published by Cascade Books in April of 2022.



Class Description

In-Depth Study of After Jesus Before Christianity: New Discoveries

This course is based on the book, *After Jesus Before Christianity*. It highlights the most important findings of the new discoveries of the Westar Institute's Christianity Seminar. These include such topics as a new look at examples of women in leadership roles, ancient understandings of gender, and the painful reality of living with Roman violence. Diverse ideas regarding self-identity, suffering, and death among Jesus's followers help us gain a more vivid interpretation of antiquity. Wide-ranging views of Jesus, Paul, and Mary, the Magdalene, expand our insights regarding these important Bible characters. And the variety of texts available before there was any such thing as a New Testament create surprising new perspectives on so-called "Gnosticism" and "heresy."

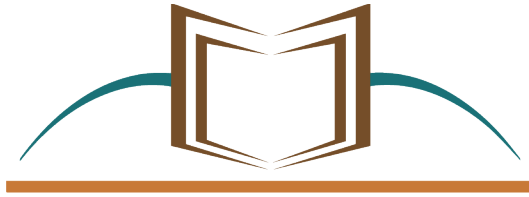
Dr. Deborah Saxon and Dr. Shirley Paulson co-instruct the video lectures, and Dr. Paulson leads the discussions in person.

How the Classes Work

Onsite presentations are composed of live or prerecorded lectures interspersed with extensive in-person discussions, held over the course of one to three days for a maximum of eight hours of programming.

Online presentations include approximately two hours of prerecorded instruction which participants can watch at any time, and six hours (total) of scheduled interactive Zoom meetings for discussion of the material. The Zoom meetings can be configured to fit your organization's needs (six one hour sessions, three two hour sessions, or two three hour sessions).

Classes are offered throughout the year, either at your location or online. You choose the venue, time, and date of your event. Please contact Shirley for availability.



What Is Included

Organizations sponsoring in-depth presentations are provided with materials needed to promote and host a successful event, including:

- Up to 35 Printed flyers to post or distribute.
- Text and images you can post on your website and use in your email newsletters.
- 3 copies of the book by Shirley Paulson, *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light*, to use as gifts or registration incentives.
- Handout materials relevant to the subject.
- An online registration form (if requested – collecting registration payments is the responsibility of the sponsoring organization).
- Online courses additionally include:
 - Access to a private web page with information about the class, course handouts, and the pre-recorded lectures.
 - The link to the Zoom discussions.

Costs

There is a sliding scale pricing structure in place for the Bible and Beyond in-depth presentations. Online presentations will generally cost less than in-person events because of the cost of reimbursing Shirley's travel and lodging expenses.

Your organization will set the fee for presentation participants.

Please email connect@earlychristiantexts.com for additional pricing information.