

Hide-and-Seek

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (First Greek Form)

The Infancy Gospel of Thomas (Latin Form)

The Arabic Infancy Gospel

The Gospel of Pseudo-Matthew

by Don Falkos

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One day Jesus was playing hide-and-seek with a group of boys. Some women hid the boys in a large furnace beside their house. When Jesus saw the women standing there, he asked if they had seen his friends. They claimed they hadn't. Then Jesus asked, "What's that noise I hear coming from this furnace?"

The women replied, "Oh... uh... that's where we house our goats."

So Jesus called out, "Come out of there, goats!" Then the boys, in the form of goats, came out, and began to prance around Jesus. The women were overcome with fear and pleaded with Jesus to restore the boys to their proper form.

Jesus again called out, "Come on, guys, let's go play." Instantly, while the women watched, the goats became boys once again.

Another time Jesus was with a boy who was collecting firewood, when a poisonous snake suddenly appeared and latched on to the boy's hand. He was instantly racked with pain; he fell to the ground and was on the verge of death. Jesus commanded the snake, "Take back your poison."

The snake sucked out all the poison, released the boy's hand, and burst open, spilling its innards all over the ground.

Jesus gently placed his hand on the boy, and he was healed.

A few days later, a baby in the neighborhood died. When Jesus heard the mother weeping, he went in and touched the baby, saying, "Don't be dead. Be alive. Your mother needs you."

The baby immediately opened her eyes and laughed. The mother's tears of sorrow became tears of joy, and those who saw what had happened said, "This child is either God or an angel of God. Everything he says happens."

Then Jesus went outside to play with the other children.