

## The "Good Shepherd" of Miseeda. An image in the context of the changing cultural landscape of the Third Cataract of the Nile.

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Miseeda is a village located at the Third Cataract, in a landscape where volcanic rocks meet the fertile floodplain of the Nile, a region that has been a cultural and political border area since millennia.



On one of the boulders in the barren landscape a male figure, leading two goats on a lead and holding spears with flags in his hands, was incised in Kushite period.

The meaning of this figure escapes us, but to early Christians in the region (Nobadia) he was a figure of Christ.

The church was built against the boulder with the rock drawing as its centrepiece. This church and its surroundings are the subject of the current research.

### First season Jan/ Feb 2022



The church with a group of local workers and builders that helped us excavating and restoring the church.



The areas around the church were excavated, yielding a large quantity of pottery from various periods and models.



In the sanctuary remains of paintings representing the 12 apostles on both sides of the rock drawing were found.



Local builders made mudbricks according to original dimensions, using traditional methods to reinforce and restore the walls.



The objects found in and around the church cover a span of millennia, indicating the long period of human presence and activity on this spot. Examples are a prehistoric arrow head, pottery from the Medieval period, and a stone token with an Arabic letter inscribed.

