

gnostic gospel

gnostic gospel refers to a collection of ancient religious texts that provide alternative perspectives on Christianity and spiritual enlightenment. These writings, often discovered in the deserts of Egypt, offer unique interpretations of Jesus' teachings, the nature of divinity, and the path to salvation. In this comprehensive article, you will explore the origins, main themes, and historical significance of the gnostic gospel, as well as the differences between Gnostic and orthodox Christian beliefs. We'll uncover the key texts, their influence on early Christian communities, and the reasons for their suppression. Whether you're a historian, spiritual seeker, or simply curious about religious history, this guide will help you understand the enduring intrigue of the gnostic gospel and its relevance today. Continue reading for a detailed breakdown in the Table of Contents.

- Origins and Definition of the Gnostic Gospel
- Key Texts of Gnostic Literature
- Main Themes and Beliefs Found in Gnostic Gospels
- Differences Between Gnostic and Orthodox Christian Teachings
- Discovery and Historical Impact of Gnostic Texts
- Modern Perspectives on Gnostic Gospels
- Frequently Asked Questions about Gnostic Gospel

Origins and Definition of the Gnostic Gospel

The term "gnostic gospel" encompasses a body of religious writings attributed to early Christian Gnostic movements, which flourished during the first few centuries AD. Gnosticism derives from the Greek word "gnosis," meaning knowledge, and reflects the belief in secret or esoteric wisdom as the path to spiritual liberation. Unlike canonical Christian texts, gnostic gospels emphasize personal spiritual experience and inner revelation over conventional doctrine. These texts often present alternative narratives about Jesus, his teachings, and the nature of God, challenging established religious authorities.

Gnostic gospels were not included in the official New Testament. Instead, they circulated among select groups who sought deeper understanding of spiritual mysteries. The writings were often composed in Greek or Coptic, and their teachings were considered heretical by the early church. Today, the term "gnostic gospel" typically refers to texts such as the Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Mary, and Gospel of Philip, among others.

Key Texts of Gnostic Literature

The Gospel of Thomas

The Gospel of Thomas is one of the most prominent gnostic gospels, consisting of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus. Unlike the narrative style of the canonical gospels, Thomas presents Jesus as a spiritual teacher who offers cryptic wisdom meant to awaken self-knowledge. The text does not recount Jesus' life or death but focuses on his spiritual insights and the importance of discovering the "light within."

The Gospel of Mary

The Gospel of Mary centers on Mary Magdalene, portraying her as a favored disciple with special access to Jesus' teachings. This gospel challenges traditional gender roles and suggests that spiritual authority is based on understanding rather than institutional hierarchy. Themes of direct revelation and inner transformation are prevalent throughout the text.

The Gospel of Philip

The Gospel of Philip explores concepts such as the nature of the soul, the sacrament of marriage, and spiritual union. It offers symbolic interpretations of Christian rituals and emphasizes mystical experiences over literal belief. The text also discusses the importance of knowledge in achieving salvation.

- Other significant gnostic texts include the Gospel of Truth, the Gospel of Judas, and the Secret Book of John.
- Many of these writings were discovered in the Nag Hammadi Library in Egypt in 1945.
- Gnostic gospels are notable for their poetic language, metaphorical teachings, and focus on personal enlightenment.

Main Themes and Beliefs Found in Gnostic Gospels

Dualism and the Nature of Reality

Gnostic gospels often present a dualistic worldview, dividing existence into realms of spirit and matter. According to Gnostic teachings, the material world is a flawed or illusory creation, overseen by a lesser deity known as the Demiurge. The true divine realm is spiritual and transcendent, accessible only through inner awakening and knowledge.

Self-Knowledge and Spiritual Liberation

The quest for gnosis is central to Gnostic belief. Salvation is achieved not through faith alone, but by attaining secret knowledge that reveals the divine spark within each person. This path emphasizes introspection, meditation, and the pursuit of wisdom over external rituals or dogma.

Role of Jesus and Other Figures

In the gnostic gospel tradition, Jesus is depicted as a revealer of hidden truths rather than a sacrificial savior. His primary mission is to impart wisdom that enables followers to transcend the physical world and return to the divine source. Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and other disciples are portrayed as recipients of special spiritual insights, sometimes challenging the authority of Peter and other conventional leaders.

Differences Between Gnostic and Orthodox Christian Teachings

Understanding of God and Creation

Gnostic gospels describe a complex cosmology where the ultimate God is unknowable and remote, distinct from the creator god of the physical universe. Orthodox Christianity, by contrast, affirms a single, benevolent Creator who is actively involved in human destiny.

Path to Salvation

For Gnostics, salvation is a process of awakening and remembering one's divine origin. Orthodox Christianity emphasizes faith in Jesus' sacrificial death and resurrection as the path to redemption. Rituals such as baptism and communion have different meanings in each tradition, with Gnostics often interpreting them symbolically.

Authority and Scripture

Gnostic communities valued personal revelation and direct experience over institutional authority and established scripture. This led to tension with orthodox leaders, who sought to unify Christian teaching under the New Testament canon and church hierarchy.

1. Gnostics prioritize spiritual knowledge (gnosis) over blind faith.
2. Orthodox Christianity relies on apostolic succession and formal doctrine.
3. Gnostic texts frequently challenge traditional interpretations of Jesus' message.

Discovery and Historical Impact of Gnostic Texts

The Nag Hammadi Library

The most significant discovery of gnostic gospel texts occurred in 1945, when a collection of codices was unearthed near Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt. These manuscripts included previously unknown gospels, treatises, and mystical writings, shedding new light on early Christian diversity. The Nag Hammadi Library remains a primary source for scholars studying Gnostic beliefs and practices.

Impact on Early Christianity

Gnostic movements flourished in the second and third centuries, influencing theological debates and spiritual practices. Their teachings attracted followers seeking deeper meaning beyond literal interpretations of scripture. However, as the orthodox church consolidated power, Gnostic writings were condemned, suppressed, and lost to history until their modern rediscovery.

Influence on Modern Thought

Since their rediscovery, gnostic gospels have inspired renewed interest in alternative spirituality, mysticism, and the quest for inner truth. Scholars, theologians, and seekers continue to explore these texts to understand the complexity of early Christianity and the enduring appeal of esoteric wisdom.

Modern Perspectives on Gnostic Gospels

Academic Research

Contemporary scholars analyze gnostic gospels for their historical, literary, and philosophical significance. The study of these texts has expanded our knowledge of religious diversity in antiquity and challenged assumptions about the development of Christian doctrine.

Spiritual and Cultural Influence

Many people today are drawn to the gnostic gospel tradition for its emphasis on personal spiritual growth and self-discovery. Gnostic themes appear in literature, film, and modern spiritual movements, reflecting ongoing fascination with the mysteries of existence and the pursuit of enlightenment.

Controversies and Debates

The interpretation of gnostic texts remains a subject of debate among theologians and historians. Some view them as valuable supplements to Christian tradition, while others see them as heretical deviations. Regardless, the gnostic gospel continues to provoke thought

and inspire dialogue about faith, knowledge, and the nature of reality.

Frequently Asked Questions about Gnostic Gospel

Q: What is the gnostic gospel?

A: The gnostic gospel refers to ancient religious texts that present alternative views on Christianity, focusing on spiritual knowledge and personal enlightenment rather than orthodox doctrine.

Q: How does the Gospel of Thomas differ from the canonical gospels?

A: The Gospel of Thomas contains mystical sayings of Jesus, emphasizing direct spiritual insight, while canonical gospels focus on Jesus' life, death, and resurrection within traditional Christian beliefs.

Q: Why were gnostic gospels excluded from the New Testament?

A: Gnostic gospels were considered heretical by early church leaders because they challenged orthodox teachings and authority, leading to their exclusion from the official Christian canon.

Q: What is the Demiurge in Gnostic belief?

A: The Demiurge is a lesser deity in Gnostic cosmology, believed to have created the material world, which is seen as imperfect or illusory compared to the true spiritual realm.

Q: Who discovered the Nag Hammadi Library?

A: The Nag Hammadi Library was discovered in 1945 by local farmers in Upper Egypt, revealing a rich collection of previously unknown gnostic texts.

Q: Are gnostic gospels used in modern religious practice?

A: While not officially recognized by mainstream Christian denominations, gnostic gospels influence some contemporary spiritual movements and are studied by individuals seeking personal enlightenment.

Q: What role does Mary Magdalene play in gnostic gospels?

A: Mary Magdalene is portrayed as a prominent disciple with special spiritual knowledge, challenging traditional gender roles and authority structures in early Christianity.

Q: What are the main themes of gnostic gospels?

A: Key themes include dualism, the pursuit of secret knowledge, spiritual liberation, and a mystical interpretation of Jesus' teachings.

Q: Are gnostic beliefs considered heretical today?

A: Gnostic beliefs are not part of mainstream Christianity and are still regarded as unorthodox by most churches, but they are valued for their historical and philosophical insights.

Q: How have gnostic gospels influenced modern thought?

A: Gnostic gospels have inspired interest in mysticism, alternative spirituality, and self-discovery, impacting literature, art, and contemporary spiritual practices.

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Gnostic Gospel: Unveiling the Hidden Teachings of Early Christianity

Are you intrigued by the mysteries surrounding early Christianity? Have you heard whispers of secret gospels, hidden teachings, and a different path to salvation than the one presented in the canonical New Testament? Then you've stumbled upon the right place. This comprehensive guide delves into the fascinating world of the Gnostic Gospel, exploring its key tenets, historical context, and enduring legacy. We'll unravel the complexities of this often-misunderstood branch of early Christianity, separating fact from fiction and providing a clear understanding of its significance in

the history of religious thought.

What is the Gnostic Gospel?

The term "Gnostic Gospel" doesn't refer to a single, unified text but rather encompasses a diverse collection of writings discovered primarily in the Nag Hammadi library in Egypt in 1945. These texts offer alternative narratives of Jesus's life and teachings, radically different from the orthodox Christian accounts found in the Bible. Gnosticism, the underlying philosophy, emphasizes the importance of gnosis, or spiritual knowledge, as the path to liberation from the material world and union with the divine.

Key Features of Gnostic Gospels:

1. The Divine Spark Within:

Unlike orthodox Christianity, which often emphasizes sin and redemption through faith, Gnostic Gospels highlight the inherent divinity within each individual. They posit that a divine spark, a piece of the creator God, is trapped within the material world. Salvation, therefore, isn't about atoning for sin but about recognizing and liberating this inner divinity through spiritual enlightenment.

2. The Demiurge and the True God:

Gnostic texts often introduce a complex cosmology. The creator God of the Old Testament, the Demiurge, is portrayed not as the supreme being, but as an inferior, flawed creator who inadvertently created the material world and trapped the divine sparks within it. The true God, often referred to as the Monad or Pleroma, remains unknowable and transcendent.

3. Secret Knowledge (Gnosis):

The acquisition of gnosis, or esoteric knowledge, is paramount in Gnostic thought. This knowledge isn't gained through faith or adherence to dogma but through spiritual insight, self-reflection, and often through the guidance of a spiritual teacher (often called a "Sophia" in some texts). This secret knowledge reveals the true nature of reality and the path to liberation.

4. Different Portrayals of Jesus:

Gnostic Gospels present a different image of Jesus compared to the canonical Gospels. He is often depicted not simply as a divine teacher but as a divine being who came to reveal the true nature of the God and to assist humanity in liberating the divine spark. His crucifixion and resurrection might

have symbolic or allegorical meanings rather than being interpreted literally.

Historical Context and Significance:

The Gnostic Gospels emerged during the same period as orthodox Christianity, vying for dominance within early Christian communities. Their discovery profoundly impacted our understanding of early Christianity's diversity and the complex theological debates that shaped its development. While the church fathers ultimately rejected Gnostic teachings as heresy, the Gnostic Gospels provide valuable insights into alternative interpretations of Jesus and the nature of the divine. Their influence on later religious and philosophical movements, particularly within Neoplatonism and esoteric traditions, is undeniable.

The Misconception of Gnosticism:

It is crucial to dispel some common misconceptions about Gnosticism. It's often portrayed as a nihilistic or dualistic system that denigrates the material world. While some Gnostic texts exhibit elements of dualism, the complexity of Gnostic thought defies simplistic categorization. Many Gnostic teachings emphasize the importance of self-knowledge and ethical living within the material world, even while seeking liberation from its limitations.

Conclusion:

The Gnostic Gospels offer a captivating glimpse into a vibrant, diverse, and intellectually challenging branch of early Christianity. Their discovery challenges our conventional understanding of religious history, forcing us to reconsider the monolithic narrative often presented. Studying these texts requires careful consideration, understanding their historical context and recognizing the diverse range of beliefs and practices within Gnosticism. While not considered canonical within mainstream Christianity, the Gnostic Gospels remain vital sources for understanding the intellectual and spiritual ferment of early Christianity.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. Are Gnostic Gospels part of the Bible? No, the Gnostic Gospels are not included in the Bible's canon. They were deemed heretical by early church fathers.
2. Where can I find translations of Gnostic Gospels? Many translations of Gnostic texts are available online and in academic bookstores. Look for reputable publishers and scholarly translations.
3. What is the difference between Gnosticism and orthodox Christianity? The core difference lies in the understanding of salvation. Orthodox Christianity emphasizes faith in Jesus's sacrifice, while Gnosticism emphasizes achieving gnosis (spiritual knowledge) to liberate the divine spark within.
4. Were all Gnostic groups similar in their beliefs? No, Gnosticism was a diverse movement with various schools of thought and different theological interpretations.
5. How did the discovery of the Nag Hammadi library impact our understanding of early Christianity? The discovery revealed the significant diversity of religious thought within early Christianity and challenged the notion of a single, unified early Christian tradition. It provided a more nuanced and complex picture of early Christian history.

gnostic gospel: The Gnostic Gospels Elaine Pagels, 2004-06-29 Selected by the Modern Library as one of the 100 best nonfiction books of all time The Gnostic Gospels is a landmark study of the long-buried roots of Christianity, a work of luminous scholarship and wide popular appeal. First published in 1979 to critical acclaim, winning the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award, The Gnostic Gospels has continued to grow in reputation and influence over the past two decades. It is now widely recognized as one of the most brilliant and accessible histories of early Christian spirituality published in our time. In 1945 an Egyptian peasant unearthed what proved to be the Gnostic Gospels, thirteen papyrus volumes that expounded a radically different view of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ from that of the New Testament. In this spellbinding book, renowned religious scholar Elaine Pagels elucidates the mysteries and meanings of these sacred texts both in the world of the first Christians and in the context of Christianity today. With insight and passion, Pagels explores a remarkable range of recently discovered gospels, including the Gospel of Thomas and the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, to show how a variety of "Christianities" emerged at a time of extraordinary spiritual upheaval. Some Christians questioned the need for clergy and church doctrine, and taught that the divine could be discovered through spiritual search. Many others, like Buddhists and Hindus, sought enlightenment—and access to God—within. Such explorations raised questions: Was the resurrection to be understood symbolically and not literally? Was God to be envisioned only in masculine form, or feminine as well? Was martyrdom a necessary—or worthy—expression of faith? These early Christians dared to ask questions that orthodox Christians later suppressed—and their explorations led to profoundly different visions of Jesus and his message. Brilliant, provocative, and stunning in its implications, The Gnostic Gospels is a radical, eloquent reconsideration of the origins of the Christian faith.

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gnostic gospel: The Secret Teachings of Jesus , 1986-05-12 In December 1945, two Egyptian fellahin, digging for natural fertilizer in the Nile River valley unearthed a sealed storage jar. The jar proved to hold treasure of an unexpected sort: a collection of some fifty-two ancient manuscripts, most of which reflect the teachings of a mystical religious movement we call Gnosticism (from the Greek word gnosis, knowledge). The texts are also, with few exceptions, Christian documents, and thus they provide us with valuable new information about the character of the early church, and about the Gnostic Christians within the church. In this volume, Marvin W. Meyer has produced a new English translation for general readers of four of the most important and revealing of these

early Christian texts -- the Secret Book of James, the Gospel of Thomas, the Book of Thomas, and the Secret Book of John.

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overcame his fears and when he smashed open the jar, gold seemed to float into the air. To his disappointment, it was papyrus fragmenst, not gold, but for scholars around the world, it was invaluable. Meyer then discusses the pre-Christian forms of wisdom that went onto influence what Christians believe today. In addition, some Nag Hammadi texts are attributed to Valentinus, a man who almost became Pope, and whose rejection changed the church in significant ways. Text by text, Meyer traces the history and impact of this great find on the Church, right up to our current beliefs and popular cultural fascination with this officially suppressed secret knowledge about Jesus and his followers.

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2011-02-24 "It came to pass, when Jesus had risen from the dead, that he passed eleven years discoursing with his disciples, and instructing them." The Apostles wrote down what Jesus taught them during those eleven years, resulting in The Pistis Sophia, the most important Gnostic scripture. Includes an extensive commentary by Samael Aun Weor.

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does so, she explains the images of Jesus in terms of the strategies and purposes of the writers Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.—Thomas D'Evelyn, Christian Science Monitor

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gnostic gospel: The Gnostic Gospels of Thomas, Mary & John Katherine John, 2013-01-28 Collected here are three gnostic writings from Thomas, Mary, and John. These books that were left out of the New Testament shed light on the life and relationships of Jesus Christ and his friends and family, especially his mother Mary.

gnostic gospel: The New Testament and Gnosis Alastair Logan, Alexander J. M. Wedderburn, 2015-01-29 Important essays on Gnosis and Gnosticism. Contributors include Rudolph, Pagels, Grant, and Barrett.

gnostic gospel: The Gospel of Thomas Jean-Yves Leloup, 2005-02-16 A new translation and analysis of the gospel that records the actual words of Jesus • Explores the gnostic significance of Jesus's teachings recorded in this gospel • Explains the true nature of the new man whose coming Jesus envisioned • Translated and interpreted by the author of the bestselling *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* and *The Gospel of Philip* One of the cache of codices and manuscripts discovered in Nag Hammadi, the Gospel of Thomas, unlike the canonical gospels, does not contain a narrative recording Christ's life and prophecies. Instead it is a collection of his teachings--what he actually said. These 114 logia, or sayings, were collected by Judas Didymus Thomas, whom some claim to be Jesus's closest disciple. No sooner was this gospel uncovered from the sands of Upper Egypt than scholars and theologians began to bury it anew in a host of conflicting interpretations and polemics. While some say it is a hodgepodge from the canonical gospels, for others it is the source text from which all the gospel writers drew their material and inspiration. In this new translation of the Gospel of Thomas, Jean-Yves Leloup shows that the Jesus recorded by the infinitely skeptical and infinitely believing Thomas has much in common with gnostics of non-dualistic schools. Like them, Jesus preaches the coming of a new man, the genesis of the man of knowledge. In this gospel, Jesus describes a journey from limited to unlimited consciousness. The Jesus of Thomas invites us to drink deeply from the well of knowledge that lies within, not so that we may become good Christians but so we may attain the self-knowledge that will make each of us, too, a Christ.

gnostic gospel: The Gnostic New Age April D. DeConick, 2016-09-27 Gnosticism is a countercultural spirituality that forever changed the practice of Christianity. Before it emerged in the second century, passage to the afterlife required obedience to God and king. Gnosticism proposed that human beings were manifestations of the divine, unsettling the hierarchical foundations of the ancient world. Subversive and revolutionary, Gnostics taught that prayer and mediation could bring human beings into an ecstatic spiritual union with a transcendent deity. This mystical strain affected not just Christianity but many other religions, and it characterizes our understanding of the purpose and meaning of religion today. In *The Gnostic New Age*, April D. DeConick recovers this vibrant underground history to prove that Gnosticism was not suppressed or defeated by the Catholic Church long ago, nor was the movement a fabrication to justify the violent repression of alternative forms of Christianity. Gnosticism alleviated human suffering, soothing feelings of existential brokenness and alienation through the promise of renewal as God. DeConick begins in ancient Egypt and follows with the rise of Gnosticism in the Middle Ages, the advent of theosophy and other occult movements in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and contemporary New Age spiritual philosophies. As these theories find expression in science-fiction

and fantasy films, DeConick sees evidence of Gnosticism's next incarnation. Her work emphasizes the universal, countercultural appeal of a movement that embodies much more than a simple challenge to religious authority.

gnostic gospel: Judas and the Gospel of Jesus Nicholas Thomas Wright, 2006 N.T. Wright, an ancient historian, biblical scholar, and bishop, offers a Christian response to the discovery (and the sensation surrounding that discovery) of the Gospel of Judas.

gnostic gospel: Cold-Case Christianity J. Warner Wallace, 2013-01-01 Written by an L. A. County homicide detective and former atheist, *Cold-Case Christianity* examines the claims of the New Testament using the skills and strategies of a hard-to-convince criminal investigator. Christianity could be defined as a “cold case”: it makes a claim about an event from the distant past for which there is little forensic evidence. In *Cold-Case Christianity*, J. Warner Wallace uses his nationally recognized skills as a homicide detective to look at the evidence and eyewitnesses behind Christian beliefs. Including gripping stories from his career and the visual techniques he developed in the courtroom, Wallace uses illustration to examine the powerful evidence that validates the claims of Christianity. A unique apologetic that speaks to readers’ intense interest in detective stories, *Cold-Case Christianity* inspires readers to have confidence in Christ as it prepares them to articulate the case for Christianity.

gnostic gospel: The Nag Hammadi Scriptures Marvin W. Meyer, James M. Robinson, 2010-09-14 The Nag Hammadi Scriptures, edited by Marvin Meyer, is the most complete, up-to-date, one-volume, English-language edition of the renowned library of Gnostic manuscripts discovered in Egypt in 1945, which rivaled the Dead Sea Scrolls find in significance. It includes the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, and the recently discovered Gospel of Judas, as well as other Gnostic gospels and sacred texts. This volume also includes introductory essays, notes, tables, glossary, index, etc. to help the reader understand the context and contemporary significance of these texts which have shed new light on early Christianity and ancient thought. The compilation of ancient manuscripts that constitute The Nag Hammadi Scriptures is a discovery that challenges everything we thought we knew about the early Christian church, ancient Judaism, and Greco-Roman religions.

gnostic gospel: *The Origin of Satan* Elaine Pagels, 1996-04-30 From the National Book Award-winning and National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of *The Gnostic Gospels* comes a dramatic interpretation of Satan and his role on the Christian tradition. Arresting...brilliant...this book illuminates the angels with which we must wrestle to come to the truth of our bedeviling spiritual problems. —The Boston Globe With magisterial learning and the élan of a born storyteller, Pagels turns Satan’s story into an audacious exploration of Christianity’s shadow side, in which the gospel of love gives way to irrational hatreds that continue to haunt Christians and non-Christians alike.

gnostic gospel: Hidden Gospels Philip Jenkins, 2002-12-05 This incisive critique thoroughly and convincingly debunks the claims that recently discovered texts such as the Gospel of Thomas, the Gospel of Mary, and even the Dead Sea Scrolls undermine the historical validity of the New Testament. Jenkins places the recent controversies surrounding the hidden gospels in a broad historical context and argues that, far from being revolutionary, such attempts to find an alternative Christianity date back at least to the Enlightenment. By employing the appropriate scholarly and historical methodologies, he demonstrates that the texts purported to represent pristine Christianity were in fact composed long after the canonical gospels found in the Bible. Produced by obscure heretical movements, these texts have attracted much media attention chiefly because they seem to support radical, feminist, and post-modern positions in the modern church. Indeed, Jenkins shows how best-selling books on the hidden gospels have been taken up by an uncritical, drama-hungry media as the basis for a social movement that could have powerful effects on the faith and practice of contemporary Christianity.

gnostic gospel: The Other Gospels , 2013-11-20 Bart Ehrman--the New York Times bestselling author of *Misquoting Jesus* and a recognized authority on the early Christian Church--and Zlatko Pleše--a foremost authority on Christian Gnosticism--here offer a valuable compilation of over

40 ancient gospel texts and textual fragments that do not appear in the New Testament. This comprehensive collection contains Gospels describing Jesus's infancy, ministry, Passion, and resurrection, and includes the controversial manuscript discoveries of modern times, such as the Gospel of Thomas and the most recent Gospel to be discovered, the Gospel of Judas Iscariot. Each translation begins with a thoughtful examination of important historical, literary, and textual issues in order to place the Gospel in its proper context. This volume is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in early Christianity and the deeper meanings of these apocryphal Gospels.

gnostic gospel: Studies in the New Testament and Gnosticism George W. MacRae, 1987

gnostic gospel: *Stolen Identity* Peter Jones, 2005-12 In his newest work, Jones confronts the Gnostic idea of Jesus, and contrasts it with the true, biblical person of Jesus. Through this treatise, author Peter Jones shows readers that Our Savior can be personally known.

gnostic gospel: *The Gospel of the Gnostics* Duncan Greenlees, 2006-10 Recommended by top scholars in the field of Gnostic studies for many years, but has been virtually impossible to find until now. One of the best books on the subject, essential for any serious researcher. A virtual gold mine of Gnostic material, some translated and presented here for the first time.

gnostic gospel: *Theæ Gospel of the Egyptians* Alexander Böhlig, 1975

gnostic gospel: *The Gnostic Gospel Illuminated* Cyd Charise Ropp, Ph.D., 2019-03-21 Hidden secrets of the Gnostic Gospel are demystified for the first time in history. Gnosis is freely dispensed within these pages for those who have eyes to see and a desire for truth. Each Gnostic feature is illustrated by the author in a way that makes the meanings clear. I have purposely stripped away unnecessary details that do nothing but confuse the matter. No lists of names of aeons nor discussions of numerology. Just the simple gnostic gospel presented in 50 full-color, glossy pages. Enlightenment, salvation, and redemption may be found within these pages. The Kingdom is at hand.

gnostic gospel: A Study Guide for Elaine Pagels's "The Gnostic Gospels" Gale, Cengage Learning, 2016

gnostic gospel: *The Secret History of the Gnostics* Andrew Phillip Smith, 2015-11-24 Learn more about the myths, practices, history, and recent resurgence of Gnosticism as a Gnostic scholar seeks to answer why this Christian mystical movement has inspired the likes of Dan Brown and Philip Pullman. The Secret History of the Gnostics offers long-awaited illumination on the mystical movement that teaches 'gnosis'—knowledge of God as opposed to unquestioning faith. Acclaimed author Andrew Phillip Smith delves into the myths and practices of this ancient movement, exploring its popularity during 2nd century AD, its subsequent decline under the weight of orthodoxy in the Church, and its present-day resurgence. Gnosticism has travelled a fascinating path—from the Manichaeans in Modern Persia between the 3rd and 7th centuries AD, to the triumphs and tragedies of the Cathars in Southern Europe between the 12th and 14th centuries, to, finally, today's Mandaeans in Iraq. However, as the author points out, the revival of Gnosticism extends further than these narrow sects, offering inspiration to a legion of literary figures, including Dan Brown and Philip Pullman. Gnosticism's emphasis on personal over organized religion—in keeping with the doctrine of the early Christian era during which it thrived—has found particular resonance with today's multicultural world. In addition to discussing the Gnostic gospels and the sect's practical beliefs and customs, *The Secret History of the Gnostics* is also, in effect, a manifesto, an appeal to those inspired by or drawn to the Gnostic faith not to forget its origins.

gnostic gospel: *What is Gnosticism?* Karen L. King, 2003 A study of gnosticism examines the various ways early Christians strove to define themselves in a pluralistic Roman society, while questioning the traditional ideas of heresy and orthodoxy that have previously influenced historians.

gnostic gospel: *The Gnostic Scriptures* Bentley Layton, 1995-01-08 This introduction to the gnostic scriptures takes a look at the theology, religious atmosphere and literary traditions of ancient Christianity and Hellenistic Judaism.