

The Gospel Of Thomas Text

The Gospel Of Thomas Text The gospel of thomas text is one of the most intriguing and mysterious ancient writings associated with early Christian thought. Discovered in 1945 as part of the Nag Hammadi library in Egypt, this collection of writings has captivated scholars, theologians, and spiritual seekers alike. Unlike the canonical gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus, offering a different perspective on his teachings. Its unique content and origins have sparked debates about its place in Christian history and its spiritual significance. In this article, we will explore the gospel of thomas text in detail, examining its historical context, core themes, and relevance today.

Historical Background of the Gospel of Thomas

Discovery and Manuscript Details

The gospel of thomas was discovered in 1945 among a cache of ancient manuscripts near Nag Hammadi in Upper Egypt. The scrolls, written in Coptic, date back to the 3rd or 4th century CE. This text is part of a broader collection known as the Nag Hammadi library, which contains various Gnostic writings. The gospel of thomas is considered a Gnostic gospel because it emphasizes personal spiritual knowledge (gnosis) over institutional doctrine.

Origins and Authorship

Traditionally, the gospel of thomas is attributed to Didymus Judas Thomas, a figure associated with early Christian communities. However, scholars generally agree that it was likely composed by unknown authors in the early Christian era, possibly in the 2nd century CE. Its teachings reflect a different theological perspective that diverges from orthodox Christianity, emphasizing inner enlightenment and self-discovery.

Relation to Other Christian Texts

Unlike the canonical gospels, which narrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the gospel of thomas focuses solely on his sayings. It lacks a narrative framework and instead presents Jesus as a wise teacher whose sayings unlock spiritual truths. This difference has led scholars to classify it as a sayings gospel, akin to other early Christian texts like the Q source.

2 Core Themes and Teachings in the Gospel of Thomas

The Emphasis on Gnosis and Inner Knowledge

A central theme in the gospel of thomas is the importance of personal spiritual knowledge, or gnosis. Jesus is portrayed as a teacher who reveals inner truths about the divine nature within each individual. The text encourages believers to look inward and discover the divine light residing within. The Secret Nature of Jesus' Teachings Many sayings in the gospel of thomas suggest that Jesus' teachings are meant to be understood privately or spiritually, rather than through external rituals or church

doctrines. For example, saying 33 states, “Jesus said, ‘If a blind man leads a blind man, they will both fall into a pit,’” emphasizing personal discernment and inner guidance.

Reinterpretation of Salvation and the Kingdom of God The gospel presents a unique understanding of salvation, emphasizing self-awareness and enlightenment rather than faith alone. The phrase “the kingdom of God is inside you,” found in saying 3, underscores the idea that divine realization comes from within, not external institutions.

The Paradoxical Nature of Jesus’ Sayings Many sayings are paradoxical or provocative, designed to challenge traditional beliefs. For instance, saying 77 states, “Jesus said, ‘The kingdom is like a man who had a treasure hidden in his field but did not know about it,’” illustrating the idea that divine truth is often hidden and must be sought actively.

Differences Between the Gospel of Thomas and the Canonical Gospels

Absence of Narrative and Miracles Unlike Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, the gospel of thomas does not contain narratives of Jesus’ life, miracles, or resurrection. It solely consists of sayings, focusing on spiritual wisdom rather than historical events.

Theological Perspectives The gospel of thomas reflects Gnostic ideas, such as the belief in a divine spark within humans and the need for personal enlightenment. In contrast, canonical gospels emphasize faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection as the pathway to salvation.

Views on the Material World The gospel of thomas often presents the material world as an illusion or a trap, urging believers to transcend physical attachments. This contrasts with the more embodied view of Jesus’ earthly ministry in the canonical texts.

Significance and Influence of the Gospel of Thomas

Impact on Early Christian Diversity The gospel of thomas highlights the diversity of early Christian thought. Its presence indicates that different communities interpreted Jesus’ teachings in various ways, some focusing on mystical knowledge rather than institutional church authority.

Gnostic Connections and Spiritual Teachings For those interested in Gnostic spirituality, the gospel of thomas offers insights into esoteric beliefs about the divine spark within and the journey toward spiritual awakening. Its emphasis on inner discovery aligns with many mystical traditions.

Modern Relevance and Interpretation Today, the gospel of thomas resonates with those seeking a more personal, introspective approach to spirituality. Its sayings inspire mindfulness, self-awareness, and inner peace. Many spiritual practitioners see it as a guide to awakening that complements modern contemplative practices.

Key Sayings from the Gospel of Thomas Below are some notable sayings that exemplify the core messages of the text: Saying 1: “And he said, ‘Whoever finds the interpretation of these sayings will not experience death.’” Saying 3: “The kingdom of God is inside you, and it is outside you.” Saying 22: “Jesus saw some babies nursing. He said to his disciples, ‘These nursing babies are like those who enter the kingdom.’” Saying 77: “Jesus said, ‘The kingdom is like a man who had a treasure hidden in his field but did

not know about it.’” Saying 114: “Simon Peter said to them, ‘Make Mary leave us, for females don’t deserve life.’ Jesus said, ‘Look, I will guide her to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every female who makes 4 herself male will enter the kingdom of heaven.’” Conclusion: The Enduring Mystery of the Gospel of Thomas The gospel of thomas text remains one of the most fascinating and enigmatic writings from early Christianity. Its emphasis on inner knowledge, spiritual awakening, and the radical reinterpretation of Jesus’ teachings continue to inspire spiritual seekers today. Whether viewed as an authentic record of Jesus’ sayings or a Gnostic masterpiece, the gospel of thomas invites us to explore the depths of inner truth and the divine potential within each of us. As interest in alternative spiritualities and historical Christianity grows, understanding this ancient text offers valuable insights into the diverse beliefs that shaped early spiritual thought and continue to influence modern spirituality.

Question Answer What is the Gospel of Thomas and how does it differ from the canonical Gospels? The Gospel of Thomas is an early Christian text consisting of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus. Unlike the canonical Gospels, it is a collection of sayings without a narrative of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection, emphasizing personal spiritual knowledge and inner enlightenment. Why is the Gospel of Thomas considered a non- canonical text? It is considered non-canonical because it was not included in the official New Testament canon, largely due to its Gnostic themes, lack of historical references, and differences in theological emphasis from the canonical Gospels. What are the main themes found in the Gospel of Thomas? The Gospel of Thomas focuses on self-knowledge, inner enlightenment, the Kingdom of God within, and the importance of personal spiritual discovery, of t institutional authority. How was the Gospel of Thomas discovered, and where was it found? The Gospel of Thomas was discovered in 1945 near Nag Hammadi in Egypt as part of a cache of Gnostic texts known as the Nag Hammadi library. It was written in Coptic and is believed to date back to the 2nd or 3rd century. What is the significance of the Gospel of Thomas for understanding early Christianity? It offers insights into diverse early Christian beliefs, especially Gnostic ideas, and highlights the variety of theological perspectives that existed in early Christianity, challenging the notion of a monolithic tradition. Is the Gospel of Thomas considered historically reliable? Scholars view the Gospel of Thomas as a valuable early Christian text that reflects certain theological ideas of its time, but it is not considered a historically reliable account of Jesus’s life, as it is primarily a collection of sayings with theological and mystical interpretations. 5 How do modern scholars interpret the teachings of the Gospel of Thomas? Modern scholars often interpret the Gospel of Thomas as emphasizing spiritual self-discovery and inner enlightenment, viewing it as a mystical or

esoteric text that complements rather than contradicts canonical teachings. What influence has the Gospel of Thomas had on contemporary spirituality and Christian thought? The Gospel of Thomas has influenced modern spiritual movements that prioritize personal inner knowledge and mystical experiences, and it has contributed to debates about the diversity of early Christian beliefs and the nature of Jesus's teachings. Are there any controversies surrounding the Gospel of Thomas? Yes, controversies include debates over its theological content, its Gnostic elements, and its authenticity. Some critics argue it presents teachings that diverge from orthodox Christianity, leading to discussions about its place in Christian history.

The Gospel of Thomas: An Investigative Examination of Its Origins, Content, and Significance

The Gospel of Thomas has long captivated scholars, theologians, and spiritual seekers alike as one of the most enigmatic texts associated with early Christian literature. As a collection of sayings attributed to Jesus, it offers a distinctive perspective that diverges from canonical gospels, prompting ongoing debates about its origins, theological implications, and historical authenticity. This investigative review delves into the multifaceted aspects of the Gospel of Thomas, exploring its historical context, textual features, theological themes, and its place within the broader landscape of early Christian writings.

Historical Background and Discovery

The Nag Hammadi Library and the Revelation of Thomas

The Gospel of Thomas was brought to prominence in 1945 with the discovery of the Nag Hammadi library in Upper Egypt. This collection of Gnostic texts, comprising thirteen codices, provided scholars with invaluable access to early Christian diversity. The Gospel of Thomas, numbered as Codex II in the Nag Hammadi collection, is believed to have been composed in the early 2nd century CE, although some scholars suggest a slightly earlier or later date. The text was originally written in Greek, but the version most studied today is a Coptic translation, which indicates its transmission through the Egyptian Christian milieu. Its absence from the canonical New Testament canon, which was solidified by early church authorities by the 4th century, raises questions about its theological stance and community affiliations.

The Gospel Of Thomas Text

6 Authorship and Source Criticism

Traditionally, the text attributes its sayings to "Didymus Judas Thomas," a figure considered by some to be a twin of Jesus or an alternative name for Thomas the Apostle. However, modern scholarship questions the direct authorship by the apostle himself, viewing the text instead as a product of a Gnostic or proto-Gnostic community influenced by diverse theological currents. Source criticism suggests that the Gospel of Thomas may draw upon earlier oral traditions, sayings collections, or other texts, possibly serving as a complement or alternative to the synoptic narratives. Its unique emphasis on secret knowledge and individual realization of the divine distinguishes it from the more narrative-driven canonical gospels.

Content and Structure

Core Composition and Literary Features The Gospel of Thomas comprises 114 sayings (logia), many of which resemble parables or aphorisms. Unlike the narrative style of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Thomas is purely a sayings gospel, lacking stories of Jesus' miracles, death, or resurrection. Key features include: – **Conciseness:** The sayings are brief, often cryptic, requiring interpretation. – **Repetition and Variants:** Several sayings appear in different forms, indicating oral transmission and editing. – **Emphasis on Personal Revelation:** Many sayings focus on inner enlightenment and self-discovery.

Notable Sayings and Themes Some of the most discussed sayings include: – "If you bring forth what is within you, what you bring forth will save you" (saying 70) – "The kingdom of God is inside you, and it is outside you" (saying 3) – "Split a piece of wood, and I am there; lift up the stone, and you will find me there" (saying 77) – "Whoever finds the meaning of these sayings will not experience death" (saying 1) These sayings reflect themes of: – Inner spiritual knowledge over external rituals – The divine presence within every individual – The pursuit of gnosis (knowledge) as a path to salvation – A mystical interpretation of Jesus' teachings, emphasizing personal enlightenment

Comparative Analysis with Canonical Gospels

Differences in Content and Emphasis The Gospel of Thomas diverges significantly from the canonical gospels in several respects: – **Lack of Narrative:** It contains no stories about Jesus' birth, miracles, crucifixion, or resurrection. – **Focus on Sayings:** The emphasis on sayings shifts the focus to teachings The Gospel Of Thomas Text 7 rather than events. – **Gnostic Overtones:** Some sayings reflect Gnostic ideas of spiritual awakening and dualism, contrasting with orthodox Christian doctrines. For example, whereas the Gospel of John emphasizes Jesus' divine incarnation and sacrificial death, Thomas centers on personal inner realization and the immediate discovery of the divine within.

Reception and Controversy Throughout history, the Gospel of Thomas has been viewed with suspicion and fascination. Early Church Fathers, such as Irenaeus, denounced it as heretical, associating it with Gnostic movements that diverged from orthodox teachings. In modern scholarship, debates persist over: – Its theological orientation: Is it Gnostic or proto-Gnostic? – Its relationship to the synoptic gospels: Does it reflect an earlier tradition or a later development? – Its authenticity: Was it genuinely authored in the first century, or a later compilation?

Theological and Philosophical Implications

Gnostic Elements and Divergences The Gospel of Thomas contains several passages that resonate with Gnostic ideas: – **Emphasis on secret knowledge ("gnosis") as salvation** – **Dualistic worldview:** spirit versus matter – The notion that salvation is accessible through inner spiritual awakening rather than external rites

However, some scholars argue that Thomas reflects a more existential and mystical strand of early Christianity, not necessarily aligned with full Gnostic doctrine.

Implications for Early Christian Diversity The existence and survival of texts like Thomas demonstrate early Christian

plurality. The diversity of beliefs—ranging from strict orthodoxy to Gnostic mysticism—was more pronounced in the second century than later church authorities acknowledged. The gospel challenges contemporary understandings by emphasizing: – Inner spiritual knowledge over institutional authority – Personal experience as the key to understanding Jesus’ teachings – A non-dualistic approach that sees the divine present in everyday life

Modern Reception and Significance

Academic and Theological Perspectives

Scholars continue to analyze the Gospel of Thomas for insights into: – The diversity of early Christian thought – The development of Christian mysticism – The relationship between oral traditions and written texts

Some view Thomas as a valuable window into a form of Christianity that prioritized direct spiritual experience. Others caution against overinterpreting its mystical elements as representative of all early Christian communities.

Influence on Contemporary Spirituality

In recent decades, the Gospel of Thomas has gained popularity among spiritual seekers interested in Gnostic, esoteric, or mystic traditions. Its emphasis on inner knowledge and personal enlightenment aligns with contemporary spiritual practices that favor introspection and self-realization.

Conclusion: The Legacy of the Gospel of Thomas

The Gospel of Thomas remains one of the most intriguing texts from the early Christian era. Its unique focus on sayings, emphasis on inner enlightenment, and Gnostic undertones provide a compelling alternative perspective to the canonical gospels. While its origins and theological orientation continue to be debated, its influence on the understanding of early Christian diversity and mystical spirituality is undeniable. As an investigative subject, Thomas challenges modern readers and scholars to reconsider notions of orthodoxy, tradition, and personal spirituality. Its enduring mystery and philosophical depth ensure its relevance in both academic and spiritual contexts, making it a vital piece of the complex mosaic that is early Christianity.

In summary: – Discovered in the Nag Hammadi library (1945) – Composed in the early 2nd century CE, likely in Egypt – Features 114 sayings emphasizing inner spiritual knowledge – Diverges from canonical narratives, focusing on personal enlightenment – Reflects Gnostic influences, yet retains unique mystic elements – Continues to influence modern spiritual thought and scholarly debates

The Gospel of Thomas stands as a testament to the rich theological diversity of early Christianity—a text that invites ongoing exploration, interpretation, and reflection.

Gospel of Thomas, Gnostic texts, early Christian writings, Nag Hammadi library, secret teachings, apocryphal gospels, sayings of Jesus, Christian mysticism, esoteric Christianity, ancient manuscripts

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 Gospel of Thomas Annotated & Explained
 The Gospel of Thomas and Jesus
 The Gospel of Thomas
 The Gospel of Thomas

Words of Jesus in the Gospel of Thomas
 The Gospel of Thomas
 The Gospel of Thomas and Christian Wisdom
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in 1945 a coptic document containing sayings attributed to jesus was discovered deep within an ancient egyptian cave this lost gospel the gospel of thomas was written at the same time as the canonical gospels of matthew mark luke and john and is now considered one of the greatest religious discoveries of the twentieth century it contains 150 sayings approximately half of which are found in the new testament the other half of which are found only here these new sayings offer an original perspective on jesus message most notably they emphasize that the kingdom of heaven exists right before us in this present moment and all that we have to do is recognize it this edition includes an extensive foreword by andrew harvey as well as commentary that explains biblical terms philosophical concepts and historic contexts

in december 1945 at the base of cliffs that run along the Nile river near the modern day town of Nag Hammadi an Egyptian farmer discovered a sealed jar containing thirteen ancient coptic codices this discovery represented arguably the most significant manuscript discovery of the twentieth century for the study of the new testament and christian origins of all the texts found none has been more important than the gospel of thomas for our understanding

of early christianity this classic book presents the best text and the best translation of thomas in user friendly form additional chapters provide a general introduction to the gospel of thomas and tell the fascinating story of that discovery itself by one who was directly involved in bringing this new gospel to light an annotated list for further reading completes the volume this new edition features updated material which takes account of recent research on the gospel of thomas the translation has been refined at points and the bibliographical material updated

the recently discovered mystical sayings of jesus with facing page commentary that brings the text to life for you the gospel of thomas really is i believe the clearest guide we have to the vision of the world s supreme mystical revolutionary the teacher known as jesus to those who learn to unpack its sometimes cryptic sayings the gospel of thomas offers a naked and dazzlingly subversive representation of jesus defining and most radical discovery that the living kingdom of god burns in us and surrounds us at all moments from the foreword by andrew harvey this ancient text can become a companion for your own spiritual journey in 1945 twelve ancient books were found inside a sealed jar at the base of an egyptian cliff one of those texts was the gospel of thomas one of the most important religious archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century while illuminating the origins of christianity it raises the question whether the new testament s version of jesus teachings is entirely accurate and complete written at the same time as the canonical gospels the gospel of thomas portrays jesus as a wisdom loving sage the aphoristic sayings emphasize the value of the present teaching that the kingdom of god is here and now rather than a future promise or future threat it presents a new way of looking at the challenging and intriguing figure of jesus and reminds us that the divine can be found right here on earth now you can experience the gospel of thomas with understanding even if you have no previous knowledge of early christian history or thought this skylight illuminations edition offers insightful yet unobtrusive commentary that explains references and philosophical terms shares the inspiring interpretations of famous spiritual teachers and gives you deeper understanding of thomas s innovative message that self knowledge and contemplation of the nature of this world are the keys to the kingdom of heaven

for the first time this volume offers a commentary of the gospel of thomas which has previously been accessible only to theologians and scholars

the gospel of thomas a book of sayings and wisdom of jesus compiled as early or earlier than the new testament gospels can transform your spiritual life there are many academic

commentaries on the gospel of thomas but this book has a different aim it is meant to be a guidebook that is a translation of the sayings into daily practice the goal of such practice is to become jesus s twin this does not of course mean becoming an olive skinned bearded mediterranean peasant wearing sandals it is more about manifesting in our lives the same christ consciousness revealed in the person we know as jesus of nazareth from the introduction in the decades since its discovery the gospel of thomas has intrigued people of all faiths around the world shedding new light on the origins of christianity the gospel of thomas raises questions about whether the new testament s version of jesus s teachings is entirely accurate and complete in the gospel of thomas we see jesus as a wisdom loving sage sharing aphorisms about the value of the present and each person s role in the creation of the kingdom of god here on earth but these inspiring sayings can leave you wondering what next now you can learn how to start applying jesus s wisdom to your own life and in turn to the world around you this unique guidebook leads you through thomas offering practices that help you translate jesus s wisdom into a more fulfilling enriching daily life including becoming a spiritual adult sorting out the old and the new being a healing presence daring to be a city on a hill god s reign calls for ready hands spirituality is not skygazing and much more

this book offers a detailed analysis of the gospel of thomas in its historic and literary context providing a new understanding of the genesis of the jesus tradition discovered in the twentieth century the non canonical gospel of thomas is an important early text whose origins and place in the history of christianity continue to be subjects of debate aiming to relocate the thomasine community in the wider context of early christianity this study considers the gospel of thomas as a bridge between the oral and literary phases of the christian movement it will therefore be useful for religion scholars working on biblical studies coptic codices gnosticism and early christianity

these are the hidden sayings that the living jesus spoke and didymos judas thomas wrote down with this opening statement the gospel of thomas legendary apostle to the east introduces a startlingly profound list of jesus ancient wisdom sayings similar to the collections of quotations copied by the gospels of matthew and luke thomas gospel contains a hundred and fourteen sayings half of which don t appear in the new testament once known from only a handful of ancient sources third century greek fragments of this gospel first turned up at the end of the nineteenth century but it wasn t until the middle of the twentieth that a complete coptic manuscript was discovered the gospel of thomas a new translation for

spiritual seekers not only cuts through the ensuing debate but also presents the very first public domain translation of this amazing discovery

discovered in egypt in 1945 as part of the nag hammadi library the gospel of thomas was long considered irrelevant to the study of jesus teachings stevan davies influential the gospel of thomas and christian wisdom overturned this view and enabled the gospel of thomas to be taken seriously as a source for the earliest christianity this bardic press edition brings a classic work of accessible scholarship back into print a entirely new forty page introduction discusses recent developments in scholarship looks at thomas independence from the new testament gospels discusses the role of mary magdalene in the gospel thomas and offers a variety of valuable insights a fascinating additional essay speculates that thomas may have been used as an oracle text in a similar way to the i ching

this revision of marvin meyer s masterful translation is the most complete up to date and literary version of the gospel of thomas meyer universally respected as the authority on thomas has refined his translation in light of the latest research and updated the notes and bibliography a new section has been added on the oxyrhynchus 1224 gospel the greek fragment of thomas which reproduces and translates the greek text the full coptic and greek texts are included along with their translations harold bloom s brilliant commentary adds a unique and distinguished dimension to this definitive version marvin meyer is the foremost expert on the nag hammadi texts and the texts about jesus outside the new testament he is griset professor of bible and christian studies and co chair of the department of religious studies and director of the albert schweitzer institute at chapman university orange ca thomas tells us more about the historical jesus than all of the dead sea scrolls put together a superb presentation of the most important early christian text discovered in this century john dominic crossan author of the historical jesus

the gospel according to thomas commonly shortened to the gospel of thomas is a well preserved early christian non canonical sayings gospel which many scholars believe provides insight into the oral gospel traditions it was discovered near nag hammadi egypt in december 1945 in one of a group of books known as the nag hammadi library the gospel of thomas was found among a collection of fifty two writings that included in addition to an excerpt from plato s republic gospels claiming to have been written by jesus s disciple philip scholars have speculated that the works were buried in response to a letter from bishop athanasius who for the first time declared a strict canon of christian scripture 1 the coptic language text the second of seven contained in what modern day scholars have designated as codex ii is

composed of 114 sayings attributed to Jesus. 2 almost half of these sayings resemble those found in the canonical gospels while it is speculated that the other sayings were added from gnostic tradition. 3 its place of origin may have been Syria where thomastic traditions are strong. 4 the introduction states these are the hidden words that the living Jesus spoke and didymos Judas Thomas wrote them down. 5 didymus Greek and Thomas Aramaic both mean twin. some critical scholars suspect that this reference to the apostle Thomas is false and that therefore the true author is unknown. 6 it is possible that the document originated with a school of early Christians possibly proto-agnostics. 7 some critics further claim that even the description of Thomas as a gnostic gospel is based upon little other than the fact that it was found along with gnostic texts at Nag Hammadi. 8 the name of Thomas was also attached to the book of Thomas the Contender which was also in Nag Hammadi Codex II and the Acts of Thomas. it is important to note however that while the Gospel of Thomas does not directly point to Jesus' divinity it also does not directly contradict it and therefore neither supports nor contradicts gnostic beliefs. when asked his identity in the Gospel of Thomas Jesus usually deflects ambiguously asking the disciples why they do not see what is right in front of them. this is similar to passages in the canonical gospels like John 12:16 and Luke 18:34. the text itself however continuously reflects gnostic teachings by continuously referring to Jesus' sayings as secret and mysterious which were common gnostic catchphrases.

The Gospel of Thomas, a collection of words of Jesus, is one of the most significant extrabiblical texts of the early Christian era. This edition presents the texts in the classical languages and provides an English translation and a readily readable commentary. It includes an introduction to the Gospel of Thomas, the complete Coptic text, the text of the Greek fragments, and a Greek retranslation of all logia with parallel texts from the canonical gospels. It also includes an English translation, an extensive commentary, illustrations of the Coptic manuscript, an appendix with an index and bibliography. The introduction and commentary do not assume knowledge of the classical languages, making the Gospel of Thomas accessible to a broad audience. Dr. Uwe Karsten Plisch is a renowned specialist in extrabiblical texts of the early Christian era (2nd-3rd centuries). He participates in the German translation of the texts from Nag Hammadi.

Many scholars believe that the Gospel of Thomas, the famous collection of Jesus' sayings found in Nag Hammadi in 1945, radically changes our understanding of the origins of Christianity. The Gospel is generally studied closely for the new light it throws on pre-canonical traditions and for the different world of wisdom it seems to represent by contrast. Risto Uro seeks to locate

the gospel of thomas on the map of early christian literature and history by comparing the gospel to other related writings and traditions of the period these include the writings ascribed to the mysterious apostle judas thomas other documents from nag hammadi paul and stoic teachers and the gospel of matthew uro argues that the conventional methods scholars have been using in their studies are in need of rethinking and refinement among many conclusions is the author s belief that thomas is an early second century work written by people who like many other first and second century christians understood jesus message in terms of the hellenistic belief in the divine origin of the self

the best text and the best translation of the gospel of thomas are presented in this user friendly form in addition two essays have been included for those who may be unfamiliar with this new gospel or with the events that led to its discovery and publ

jesus style was to avoid giving straightforward answers even though his disciples kept asking for explanations his unique sayings are the beatitudes those about turning the other cheek and the injunction to love enemies but treat people in the way you want to be treated is closer to jesus perspective this book lists 114 secret sayings by jesus preserved by his twin brother judas jude thomas and discovered in 1945 near the egyptian town of nag hammadi author jerome rewrites the words into twenty first century english

this commentary is opened by a study offering information about all aspects of the gospel of thomas especially about its relation to other texts of early christian literature including the canonical gospels the successive commentary is based upon the coptic version and discusses also all fragments of the original greek text the volume is divided into two parts the first discusses the function of each logion saying within the frame of piety and theology of the thomasine group for which the gospel is composed the second part discusses its literary shape and its history including its relation to the historical jesus the result is a portrait of the gospel as a radical interpretation of jesus heritage still preserving some forgotten features of his teaching

the gospel of thomas is one of the most debated early christian writings discovered as a coptic translation in the nag hammadi library its date message and relation to the canonical gospels have been the subject of much divisive argument this book offers new perspectives on the gospel and demonstrates the various ways in which it sheds light on the ideological and social history of early christianity expert scholars go to the heart of current issues in thomasine studies such as the role of oral and written traditions in the composition of the

gospel thomas relationship with the gospel of john and with gnostic and ascetic tendencies in early christianity the gospel s attitude to women followers of jesus and to jewish ritual practices

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

in this new commentary on the controversial gospel of thomas simon gathercole provides the most extensive analysis yet published of both the work as a whole and of the individual sayings contained in it this commentary offers a fresh analysis of thomas not from the perspective of form criticism and source criticism but seeks to elucidate the meaning of the work and its constituent elements in its second century context with its lucid discussion of the various controversial aspects of thomas and treatment of the various different scholarly views this is a foundational work of reference for scholars not just of apocryphal gospels but also for new testament scholars classicists and patrologists

explores tough questions that have occupied scholars since the discovery of the gospel of thomas in the sands of nag hammadi egypt in the 1940 s where did this gospel come from when was it written who wrote it why was it composed what is its meaning this book

examines these issues

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