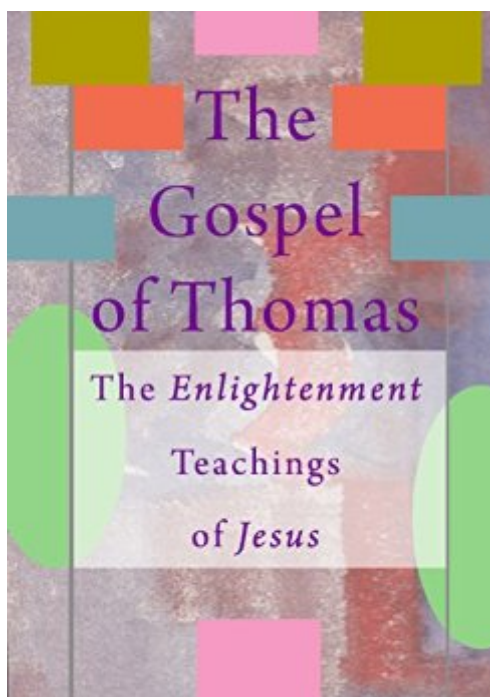


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The Enlightenment Teachings Of Jesus: The Gospel Of Thomas



Synopsis

"I have been re-reading your Gospel of Thomas commentary. Â What a gift...taking the reader with you into dizzying heights. Â Yet the utmost clarity remains, and ends up lodged in the heart forever. Â Your explanation of the relative and Absolute is a work of genius. Â You combine poetic prose with straight-talking dialogue. Â You manage to explain that which is beyond explanation." -- J. G. (Germany)

This book by Robert Wolfe explores the church history around the Gospel of Thomas and why it has been hidden and censored over the centuries, namely because it shows Jesus teaching nondual enlightenment and (like other recent discoveries) shows his relationship to Mary was very different than has been taught by the Church tradition. After more than a millenium of being lost in an Egyptian desert, might the uncensored message of Jesus finally be heard in the modern world?

Scholars have said about the discovery of The Gospel of Thomas scripture:*

- "The single most important non-canonical book yet to be uncovered."
- "A very important discovery--probably doing more as a single text to advance our understanding of the historical Jesus (and of the transmission of his teachings) than all the Dead Sea Scrolls put together."
- "One of the most important archaeological finds in the history of New Testament scholarship--every bit as revolutionary for the study of the New Testament as the Dead Sea Scrolls are for the study of the Hebrew bible."
- "A gospel that understands 'salvation' to come from some other means than a 'risen' Jesus."

The Gospel of Thomas as Robert Wolfe shows is very different from the New Testament gospels.

- + There are no miracles; no crowds of followers; no temple confrontations.
- + No crucifixion or resurrection tales; no theology of sin, judgment, hell or redemption.
- + No misogyny (Salome and Mary are two of the five disciples named); no discussion of founding a church; no talk of a Second Coming; and no pious rephrasing of Old Testament commandments.
- + There is no talk of a post-crucifixion bodily resurrection, nor any miracle sagas which one could accept only on faith.

As this book explores, Jesus about himself in the Gospel of Thomas as the embodied Presence of an enlightened sage or master. If you read The Gospel of Thomas: The Enlightenment Teachings of Jesus you will discover:

- Does The Gospel of Thomas record the nondual enlightenment teachings of Jesus--and were they left out of the New Testament for that reason?
- Do conventional understandings of Thomas miss its real significance?
- How does the message of Jesus in The Gospel of Thomas exemplify the ancient teachings of nondual enlightenment?

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Customer Reviews

Robert Wolfe's superb book is an important contribution to the understanding of who Jesus was and what he said. Many of us who have read translations of the "Thomas Gospel" over the years have pondered how different Jesus' teachings are in the "Thomas Gospel" to what is largely attributed to him in the New Testament. This new book gives one a magnificent opportunity to delve into the "Thomas Gospel" and meet a Jesus unencumbered with hierarchy, virgin births, sin & salvation and much more. I think many people will greet this book with gratitude and joy while others may feel it challenges too deeply long held beliefs within traditional Christian understanding. I urge anyone interested in these matter to buy Mr. Wolfe's book for it is beautifully written, organized, persuasive and, as stated above, deeply challenging.

After eading The Power of Now: A Guide to Spiritual Enlightenment what struck me the most in Eckhart Tolle's book was how the words of Jesus were brought to life and held a whole new meaning that they had never had for me before I was so moved that I thought that I would like someday to compile all of Jesus' words and illuminate them as Tolle had. But I no longer have to do that, because Mr. Wolfe has all ready done that for us in this enlightening book. He, in like fashion to Tolle, takes the words of The Gospel of Thomas and points to how they are, in turn, filled with

pointers to the Truth of Non-Duality. And although he deals with only the 114 saying of this gospel, it is done so well that, when reading any of the Canonical Gospels one can see the pointers extant in them, notwithstanding the alterations made by the early Pauline/Constantinian church, as explained in the first part of the book. For those, "with eyes to see" this book can be a great revelation and a "key" to Jesus' teachings.

This book is a stunning exposé of the new testament. Not just about the non-cannonical Gospel of Thomas, but exposes truths about the whole new testament that I never knew. Learning when and more importantly why the books of the new testament were written and why the standard incarnation of the bible came to be was enlightening (pun intended). After reading this, my whole perspective on Christianity has changed, prompting me to disregard the religion entirely and focus on the teachings of the MAN called Jesus, who was undoubtedly enlightened.

the structure of this book made it difficult to keep my interest. Should have put the phrases from the Gospel and then an explanation on how they relate to non duality...instead it feels like he is going around in circles too much and it's hard to stay focused.

Robert Wolfe has created nothing short of a Thomasine Masterpiece. His scholarly resources from Academia is breathtaking! I appreciate how Robert brought together his arguments using a large spectrum of experts to make his points of view. He is a master of simplifying sometimes very complex Church History. Robert goes into great detail on how the Nondualistic Approach to The Gospel of Thomas fits so perfectly with the corpus itself and to the teachings of the First Century Sage from Galilee. As the President of The Gospel of Thomas Association, I have recommended Robert Wolfe's book to many of my friends. I am happy to report that they also enjoyed Robert's book. As one delighted reader told me, "This is a book that is going on my nightstand." I have already read it once, and am now rereading it as I am skipping around to my favorite parts. This is a book I can reread and reread again and again! I must say to you all, I have truly been Enlightened by, "The Gospel of Thomas, The Enlightenment Teachings of Jesus."

I first read the Gospel of Thomas many years ago shortly after the scholars had begun working with it. I have learned much in this book that was not then available. I recommend it highly!Richard

This excellent book reviews not only the history and content of the Gospel of Thomas, but also the

state of new testament scholarship regarding the canonical gospels. Wolfe's writing is the essence of heretical, from the standpoint of orthodox christianity. I suspect that fact would have pleased Yehoshua immensely. He conveys the flavor of nonduality, shows the historical and thematic connections between vedic nondual teachings and the Gospel of Thomas, and to my great delight decimates the authority of traditional scripture. Bravo.

Robert Wolfe put a lot of detail into presenting this material in such a way that is useful to the reader. The subject is of value to anyone interested in Jesus's direct teachings of Self-realization. I really appreciate the work the author did in gathering and presenting this material for the reader's benefit.

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