

The Ancient Mysteries A Sourcebook Of Sacred Texts

The Diffusion of Ecclesiastical Authority
Healing Presence
Sacred Fire
Manifested in the Flesh
The Life of the World to Come
Chaos, Gaia, Eros
Storytelling
Folklore Sourcebook
Christianity & Western Thought
Backgrounds of Early Christianity
Between Athens and Jerusalem
New Testament Story
Beyond Gnosticism
The Ancient Mysteries
History and Literature of Early Christianity
The Ancient Mysteries
Black Madonnas
Video Sourcebook
Introduction to the New Testament: History, culture, and religion of the Hellenistic age
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Rosicrucian Digest
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The Early Church

The Diffusion of Ecclesiastical Authority

This masterful study of the early centuries of Christianity vividly brings to life the religious, political, and cultural developments through which the faith that began as a sect within Judaism became finally the religion of the Roman empire. First published in 1970, Grant's classic is enhanced with a new foreward by Margaret M. Mitchell, which assesses its importance and puts the reader in touch with the advances of current research.

Healing Presence

One of the most creative and consequential collisions in Western culture involved the encounter of Judaism with Hellenism. In this widely acclaimed study of the Jews who lived in Hellenistic Egypt, "between Athens and Jerusalem," John J. Collins examines the literature of Hellenistic Judaism, treating not only the introductory questions of date, authorship, and provenance but also the larger question of Jewish identity in the Greco-Roman world. First published in 1984, this landmark study by one of the world's leading experts in Hellenistic Judaism is now fully revised and updated to take into account the best of recent scholarship.

Sacred Fire

Contains abstracts of about one thousand books and major articles dealing with the church from the beginning of the second century roughly to the end of the sixth. well done in every way. --CHOICE This is almost certainly the best bibliography of patristic studies ever produced --THEOLOGICAL BOOK REVIEW

Manifested in the Flesh

"The energy of Eros is powerful--alluring, fascinating, compelling. Many people--especially those who are single or celibate by choice or by circumstance--struggle with the containment of erotic energies. Many people in all walks of life wonder how sexuality and spirituality can live together in harmony. The instinctual energy of Eros and the compelling archetype of Self fire and guide the desires that lead to psychological growth and ultimate spiritual development." "These issues were central to Jung as he began to formulate his theories over against Freud's. The Fires of Desire explores the consequences of Jung's split with Freud over the nature of libido as sexual energy and describes the vicissitudes of that energy's unfolding. The central question is: What is the nature of erotic energy and how may it be transmuted? Just as Jung looked to mythology and the alchemical mysteries of medieval Europe to find answers from the realm of the deep psyche, today one continues to wonder: How is the lead of life transformed into gold? How are ordinary erotic energies transmuted into the passionate yearning that leads the soul to mystical union with the Divine?" "In this book leading Jungians--psychotherapists, analysts, educators, and theologians--revisit the issue that created the Freud/Jung split and attempt to reformulate our understanding of Eros in relation to Spirit. The Fires of Desire follows a developmental path depicting human experience. It marks out the similarities and differences between psychosis and mystical experience. It sketches the structure of feminine and masculine development. It looks at the process of psychospiritual growth and at the transformations of religious experience. In addressing the essential question of the transmutation of erotic energy, it asks: After therapy, what then? In its answer, it delineates four stages in the quest for the Divine and describes the nature of conjunctio or mystical union."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

The Life of the World to Come

Presents a historical primer to Ancient Greece from the Mycenaeans of the Iliad to the eventual conquest of Greece by the Romans.

Chaos, Gaia, Eros

Widely used as a textbook since its publication in 1987, this work provides an analytical and systematic introduction to the Roman, Greek, and Jewish political, social, literary, and religious backgrounds necessary for a historical understanding of the New Testament in the early church.

Storytelling Folklore Sourcebook

Three essays on near-death experiences raise such issues as modern society's refusal to contemplate mortality, and interpretations of Christian dogma,

Christianity & Western Thought

Backgrounds of Early Christianity

Praise for the Previous Edition: "represents an act of passion for the profession. The work's value comes from its integration of scientific, creative, and spiritual philosophies as a core context for the complex nurse-patient interaction involved in the promotion of a healing environment. Recommended."

Choice At the center of professional nursing lies the "authentic presence" of the nurse -- the intention and commitment that brings us to the profession, and unfolds as we develop as nurses. In this new edition, JoEllen Koerner explores the intersection of scientific, creative, and spiritual ways of knowing that inform and inspire this "healing presence" in caregiver and patient. Revised, updated, and refocused, the book integrates traditional nursing practice with cutting-edge alternative and integrative medicine. The author expands our awareness of Allopathic and alternative ways of healing as rooted in Native Healing practices. The book also explores new models for transpersonal caring through the lens of philosophy, spirituality, and complexity science. It is a profoundly important resource for nurse educators, students, and practitioners. Key features: Presents the Nursing Triad model: nurse as scientist, artist, and healing presence Examines the bioenergetic body-the "five bodies" that comprise our being and infuse our becoming Discusses the physiology and philosophy behind healing presence Analyzes the healing process between nurse and patient, from embracing suffering to transcending polarities and enhancing capacity

Between Athens and Jerusalem

The only book you'll ever need to read about Christianity. This remarkable book provides a critical overview of Christian beliefs and the evidence for them. Where did these beliefs come from? Are there good reasons to believe Christianity is true? Bill Zuersher clearly explains each of Christianity's major beliefs. He then proceeds to demonstrate significant difficulties with each of them. The book tackles these beliefs in a logical order, beginning with the problems at the root of virtually all religions, suffering and death, and culminating in their supposed resolution through Jesus. Mr. Zuersher also examines the evidence for Christianity, namely religious writings and the historical fact of the early Jesus movement. He makes the case that this evidence does not support the religion's claims and he provides naturalistic alternative explanations for how its core beliefs arose. In these pages we see the coalescence of Jewish and Zoroastrian religious ideas with those of Greek philosophy and mystery cults, to form the belief system we recognize as Christianity today. The result, Mr. Zuersher argues, is not revealed truth, but rather a human patchwork which contains unwarranted assumptions and logical flaws, all founded upon questionable evidence. Entertaining throughout, it is must-reading for skeptics, apologists, and anyone interested the world's largest religion or the culture wars behind today's politics - an invaluable resource for students and teachers, writers and debaters.

New Testament Story

In A General Doctrine of the Sacraments, Johann Auer aims to achieve a deeper understanding of the inner structure of the sacraments and of how they determine the structure of our Christian existence. In The Mystery of the Eucharist, Auer takes account of the biblical, historical, and theological aspects of the Church's teaching on the Eucharist.

Beyond Gnosticism

This book examines Willa Cather's conceptions through her numerous works. Hively's study combines Cather's interest in the historians, the philosophers, and the mythographers, to examine nine of her novels on three levels. First, it postulates a cyclical design, beginning with *O Pioneers!* and ending with *Shadows on the Rock*, which traces a rise, maturity, and fall of the civilization of the American West, and presents a new beginning in the final books. The second level relates to Vico's theory that language follows and adapts to succeeding periods of civilization's cycle and that genre, a convention of language, has a connection with a particular age, expressing a relationship to the world view of the time. The third level is religion, specifically the mystery religions that pervaded that Roman world and marked the early stages of civilization. Documentation here relies much on earlier critics, many of them contemporaries of Cather who, more often than do the modern critics, comment on the nationalist and religious themes of the novels. Contents: Acknowledgments; Introduction; THE LAW BEHIND THE VEIL; Cather's Novel Cycle; Vichian Philosophy; The Mystery Religions; PRAIRIE DAWN: THE AGE OF GODS; *O Pioneers!*; The Song of the Lark; My Antonia; THE MEMORY OF OUR VANISHED KINGDOM: THE AGE OF HEROES; One of Ours; A Lost Lady; IN MEDIA VITA: THE AGE OF MEN; The Professor's House; My Mortal Enemy; WITH ATTRIBUTES OF GODS: RICORSO; Death Comes for the Archbishop; *Shadows on the Rock*; SOMETHING COMPLETE AND GREAT; Notes; Bibliography; Index.

The Ancient Mysteries

A modern philosophy suggests that there are three main forces working to shape our lives

History and Literature of Early Christianity

This lucid introduction approaches the New Testament from a consistently historical and comparative perspective, emphasizing the rich diversity of the earliest Christian literature. Rather than styling away from the critical problems presented by these books, Ehrman addresses the historical and literary challenges they pose and shows why scholars continue to argue over such significant issues as how the books of the New Testament came into being, who produced them, what they mean, how they relate to contemporary Christian and non-Christian literature, and how they came to be collected into a canon of Scripture. Distinctive to this study is its emphasis on the historical, literary, and religious milieu of the Greco-Roman world, including early Judaism. As part of its historical orientation, this text also discusses works by other Christian writers who were roughly contemporary with the New Testament, such as the Gospel of Thomas, the Apocalypse of Peter, the letters of Ignatius. Instead of simply setting forth scholarly views without explanations, Ehrman includes the evidence of scholars that have found persuasive for their views, engaging students and demonstrating why scholars have taken the positions they have. Ideal for undergraduate and seminary classes in the New Testament, Biblical Studies, and Christian Origins, *The New Testament: A Historical Introduction to the Early Christian Writings, Second Edition*, is an accessible, clearly written introduction that encourages students to consider the historical issues surrounding these writings. The book is equally appealing to the wide non-academic readership interested in the Bible and the historical Jesus. Ehrman's *The New Testament and Other Writings: A Reader* serves as an ideal companion to this text. Features new to the second edition include expanded material covering Jesus, and the addition of boxes throughout addressing numerous topics, including alternative approaches to the historical Jesus and

additional material covering women. The new edition also includes a color photo insert.

The Ancient Mysteries

"This work provides information on the modern practice of Isis worship, portraying the goddess as a universal rather than specifically Egyptian deity. It contains rituals and exercises demonstrating how to divine the future using the Sacred Scarabs, cast love spells, and more."--Amazon.

Black Madonnas

The Diffusion of Ecclesiastical Authority explores the leadership of the church in Acts from a sociological perspective. Two primary models emerge from a sociologically informed investigation of first-century Greco-Roman and Jewish religious leadership: "manager-leader" and "innovator-leader." An examination of seven passages in Acts reveals that the leaders of the early church, although initially conforming to cultural expectations, are best described as innovator-leaders whose counter-cultural actions resulted in the empowerment of new leaders and the advancement of the gospel. Through the use of fictive kinship language, the voluntary sharing of authority, the fostering of a sense of mutual dependence on God as the common patron, and the redefinition of what is honorable, the leaders in Acts consistently enabled others to share authority in the church.

Video Sourcebook

From classroom aids to corporate training programs, technical resources to self-help guides, children's features to documentaries, theatrical releases to straight-to-video movies, The Video Source Book continues its comprehensive coverage of the wide universe of video offerings with more than 130,000 complete program listings, encompassing more than 160,000 videos. All listings are arranged alphabetically by title. Each entry provides a description of the program and information on obtaining the title. Six indexes -- alternate title, subject, credits, awards, special formats and program distributors -- help speed research.

Introduction to the New Testament: History, culture, and religion of the Hellenistic age

This cross-cultural primary source reader provides an opportunity for readers to examine the role of major female figures in Western and non-Western religions and mythology. Primary sources from a variety of cultures and religious traditions offer insight

Introduction to the New Testament

A General Doctrine of the Sacraments and the Mystery of the Eucharist

"Italy is an intriguing paradox: a center of Catholicism in which echoes of goddess worship resonate in everyday Christian ritual. In the Christian tradition, whiteness symbolizes purity, blackness evil. In the religions of Old Europe, however, blackness evoked the fecundity of the earth. White madonnas embody the church doctrine of obedience and patience; black madonnas, many of which have been retouched to appear white, symbolize the equality of all creatures." "In this fascinating study, Lucia Chiavola Birnbaum demonstrates that Italy's black madonnas represent a point of convergence between ancient and modern religious traditions. Drawing on a solid ground of original research, she argues that they are an amalgam of the Christian madonna, African and Asian dark woman divinities, and the ancient goddess of Old Europe. Through them, long submerged prehistoric religious and political beliefs have erupted, forming the core of twentieth-century Italian feminism." "Birnbaum has discovered that areas of radical political activity in Italy are often near archaeological sites of prehistoric goddess worship. And these sites are nearly always the locations of black madonnas. Following a thread of common themes - equality, resistance to injustice, and regeneration - Birnbaum demonstrates that the values associated with goddess worship are those that surround black madonnas. And the same themes are the backbone of left-wing political movements - from feminism to socialism to the green movement - in twentieth-century Italy." "Black Madonnas recounts the ways in which the church attempted to eradicate the popular beliefs of the peasantry and examines the traditions that have survived. The book catalogues the customs and rituals, ceremonies and celebrations, stories and songs, and the everyday lives of peasant women to uncover the traces of ancient practices that permeate modern Christian ritual."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

Women and Goddesses in Myth and Sacred Text

Early Christianity

The Fires of Desire

"In 1895 Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her "Revising Committee" produced The Woman's Bible, a commentary on passages in the Bible that "do not exalt or dignify women" and "those also in which women are prominent by exclusion." The women's movement has come a long way in the last hundred years, but so too have our knowledge and appreciation of religions other than Judaism and Christianity." "Serinity Young's Anthology of Sacred Texts by and about Women is the first comprehensive comparative sourcebook on women and religion. It makes available readings by and about women from the primary texts of the world's religions. The religions treated include not only the "big seven," Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism, but the religions of northern Europe, the Ancient Near East, Greece, and Rome, shamanism and tribal religions, as well as more recent alternative religious movements. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to the religion in question, providing a historical overview with particular regard to women. Then follow representative texts about women (each with its own introduction) from works that are central to their respective traditions. These texts include creation stories, biographies of founders (in which women often play a prominent role), law codes, folklore and fairy tales, the "texts" of tribal peoples, and works explicitly by women. Folklore and fairy tales have particular importance in this book because they generally reveal the beliefs of the

"little tradition," which are often in the hands of women, while the "great tradition" is represented by the male-dominated forms of orthodoxy. The works by women here take many forms from theological treatises to mystical poems to poems mourning the loss of a child or husband to the matter-of-fact statements by tribal women, such as Nisa, expressing the uncertainties of any religious knowing." "Many of the texts included in this anthology are not only "representative texts about women" but formative texts of the various traditions, texts that have seeped into the language and consciousness of their culture and shaped its view of women. In her introduction the author sketches certain themes that are of central importance for the cross-cultural or comparative study of women in world religion: representations of women as evil, women as role models, wisdom as feminine, women religiosi, dualities, goddesses, sex changes and sex disguises, myths and stories of gender conflict. These themes can help guide the reader as she makes her way through virtual libraries of the world's sacred texts. Reading sacred texts in this way, from the perspective of women, can be a radical activity, an activity that, at its best, subverts male dominance of the text."--BOOK JACKET. Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

An Anthology of Sacred Texts by and about Women

Publisher description

Study Guide to Accompany PBS Adult Learning Service Television Course: Joseph Campbell, Transformations of Myth Through Time

The Historical Jesus in Context

Drawing on anthropological models and epigraphic and archaeological evidence, this book aims to show that the Hekhalot literature preserves the teachings and rituals of real religious functionaries who flourished in late antiquity, functionaries quite like those called shamans by anthropologists.

Philosophy as a Rite of Rebirth

"A very balanced selection of sources for the study of the ancient so-called mystery religions, starting with Eleusis and ending with mysteries in Judaism and Christianity. . . . No other modern sourcebook exists in this field."—Kurt Rudolph

The Colossian Syncretism

Drawing upon little-known angel inscriptions, magical texts, and archaeological evidence from Asia Minor, the author argues that the Colossians tried to combine Paul's teachings about Christ with local pagan and Jewish folk beliefs. The result was a syncretism that kept them captive to the fear of evil spirits, dependent on the power of magic and amulets, and blind to the liberating power of the indwelling Christ, the supreme Creator and Lord of all spiritual

principalities and powers. In addition to unearthing the historical background of Paul's letter to the Colossians, *The Colossian Syncretism* presents Paul's strategy for addressing the religious syncretism he faced there. It thus provides a working model for Christian missionaries and evangelists discipling converts from today's religiously pluralistic societies.

Events that Changed Ancient Greece

The thesis of this book is that every New Testament writing stands within a story, even if it does not tell stories. The approach allows readers to view the documents as vital elements in the lives of real persons. The book maintains its focus on bringing the writings alive and shows how critical study enhances understanding of their meanings. Its prime goal is teaching students to read these writings for themselves, bridging the chasms of language, history, and culture that separate them from us. The latest methods of research are utilized in this quest, but the focus always remains on the New Testament documents.

Critical Review of Books in Religion

History, Culture, and Religion of the Hellenistic Age

Goddess

Classical Mythology

While the first American edition of this book, published more than a decade ago, was a revised translation of the German book, *Einführung in das Neue Testament*, this second edition of the first volume of the *Introduction to the New Testament* is no longer dependent upon a previously published German work. The author hopes that for the student of the New Testament it is a useful introduction into the many complex aspects of the political, cultural, and religious developments that characterized the world in which early Christianity arose and by which the New Testament and other early Christian writings were shaped.

The Mysteries of Isis

This work has established itself as a classical text in the field of New Testament studies. Written in a readable, non-technical style, it has become an indispensable textbook and reference for teachers, students, clergy, and the educated layperson interested in a scholarly treatment of the New Testament and its background in the Judaic and Greco-Roman world.

The New Testament

Seeing Through Christianity

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Augustus to Constantine

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Rosicrucian Digest

Valentinus was a popular, influential, and controversial early Christian teacher. His school flourished in the second and third centuries C.E. Yet because his followers ascribed the creation of the visible world not to a supreme God but to an inferior and ignorant Creator-God, they were from early on accused of heresy, and rumors were spread of their immorality and sorcery. Beyond Gnosticism suggests that scholars approach Valentinians as an early Christian group rather than as a representative of ancient "Gnosticism"-a term notoriously difficult to define. The study shows that Valentinian myths of origin are filled with references to lifestyle (such as the control of emotions), the Christian community, and society, providing students with ethical instruction and new insights into their position in the world. While scholars have mapped the religio-historical and philosophical backgrounds of Valentinian myth, they have yet to address the significance of these mythmaking practices or emphasize the practical consequences of Valentinians' theological views. In this groundbreaking study, Ismo Dunderberg provides a comprehensive portrait of a group hounded by other Christians after Christianity gained a privileged position in the Roman Empire. Valentinians displayed a keen interest in mythmaking and the interpretation of myths, spinning complex tales about the origin of humans and the world. As this book argues, however, Valentinian Christians did not teach "myth for myth's sake." Rather, myth and practice were closely intertwined. After a brief introduction to the members of the school of Valentinus and the texts they left behind, Dunderberg focuses on Valentinus's interpretation of the biblical creation myth, in which the theologian affirmed humankind's original immortality as a present, not lost quality and placed a

special emphasis on the "frank speech" afforded to Adam by the supreme God. Much like ancient philosophers, Valentinus believed that the divine Spirit sustained the entire cosmic chain and saw evil as originating from conspicuous "matter." Dunderberg then turns to other instances of Valentinian mythmaking dominated by ethical concerns. For example, the analysis and therapy of emotions occupy a prominent place in different versions of the myth of Wisdom's fall, proving that Valentinians, like other educated early Christians, saw Christ as the healer of emotions. Dunderberg also discusses the Tripartite Tractate, the most extensive account to date of Valentinian theology, and shows how Valentinians used cosmic myth to symbolize the persecution of the church in the Roman Empire and to create a separate Christian identity in opposition to the Greeks and the Jews.

Descenders to the Chariot

Collects characters, artifacts, customs, and motifs from oral traditions around the globe, providing a wide range of source material for storytellers

The Early Church

Gathering seventy-five noted tales of Goddess mythology, an introduction describes a divine figure's growth throughout history, chronicling her first appearances during the Ice Age and her re-emergences in modern religion, psychology, and science. UP.

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