



EARLY CHURCH HISTORY 5

GNOSTICS AND
VALENTINIANS

Prechristian Gnostics

Henry Longueville Mansel



Prechristian Gnostics:

Pre-Christian Gnosticism Edwin M. Yamauchi, 2003-10-14 One of the most important issues facing New Testament scholarship today is the issue of Gnosticism So wrote the author in 1973 in the first edition With the publication since then of the entire Nag Hammadi library this observation has become even more incisive Was there a pre Christian Gnosticism Did Gnosticism directly or indirectly influence nascent Christianity Many modern scholars argue that Gnosticism preceded the emergence of New Testament Christianity and constituted the raw material from which the apostles formed their message about Jesus The author here analyzes the evidence used to support this thesis He notes a series of methodological fallacies in the use of this evidence and concludes that clearly Gnostic materials are late and pre Christian materials are not clearly Gnostic A new chapter in this paperback edition brings the discussion up to date

The Gnostics David Brakke, 2011 Brakke writes a pioneering study of the way the demon role relates to religious thinking and to cultural anxieties The author's sources include biographies of exceptional monks collections of monastic sayings and stories letters from ascetic teachers to their disciples sermons community rules and biblical commentaries When monks imagined the resistance that they had to overcome in cultivating their selves or the temptation that offered an easier path they saw supernatural beings that could take the shapes of animals women boys and false angels in their attempts to seduce monks away from their devotion to God And when they considered the inclinations in their own selves that opposed their best intentions they concluded that demons introduced such problematic thoughts to their minds Although the last twenty years has seen an explosion of scholarship on early Christian asceticism producing brilliant explorations of the body sexual renunciation fasting and gender combat with demons has been left relatively unexplored

Pre-Christian Gnostics Francis Legge, 2005-12-01 This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original Due to its age it may contain imperfections such as marks notations marginalia and flawed pages Because we believe this work is culturally important we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting preserving and promoting the world's literature in affordable high quality modern editions that are true to the original work

A Separate God Simone Pétrement, 1990

Gnostic Truth and Christian Heresy A. H. B. Logan, 1996 The sensational discovery of the Nag Hammadi Coptic Library in Egypt in 1945-46 has revolutionized the study of the origins and development of the ancient religious phenomenon known as Gnosticism It has brought to light many hitherto unknown Gnostic texts and is forcing a reappraisal of the traditional picture of Gnosticism as in essence a Christian heresy This work focuses on several foundational Gnostic texts the Sethian texts Earlier discoveries of Mandaean and Manichaean texts had suggested that the origins of Gnosticism might lie in an oriental religion of redemption culturally far removed from their pre Christian context But the Sethian texts suggest that these Pre Christian Gnostics were fundamentally influenced by Jewish ideas Alastair Logan identifies these Gnostics in their developing essentially Christian context isolates the earliest forms of their foundational myth in Irenaeus of Lyons 130-200 CE and the Apocryphon of John and traces its development until it

underwent a Sethian reinterpretation in the early third century CE In exploring the fascinating interrelationship of Gnostic and Christian ideas he relates a series of Nag Hammadi texts to the Gnostics examines the literary and theological evolution of the two main versions of the Apocryphon in terms of Gnostic cosmology anthropology soteriology and eschatology demonstrates how similar were the theological and soteriological concerns of Gnostics and orthodox and argues that the Gnostics were the first Christian Platonists the first to develop a Trinity of Father Mother and Son and the first to make post baptismal chrismation central to Christian initiation Dr Logan overturns many common misunderstandings about Gnosticism The Gnostics felt themselves to be Christians true interpreters of the message of the unknown God of love first revealed in Christ the heavenly Son

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

The Gnostic World Garry W. Trompf, Gunner B. Mikkelsen, Jay Johnston, 2018-10-03 The Gnostic World is an outstanding guide to Gnosticism written by a distinguished international team of experts to explore Gnostic movements from the distant past until today These themes are examined across sixty seven chapters in a variety of contexts from the ancient pre Christian to the contemporary The volume considers the intersection of Gnosticism with Jewish Christian Islamic and Indic practices and beliefs and also with new religious movements such as Theosophy Scientology Western Sufism and the Nation of Islam This comprehensive handbook will be an invaluable resource for religious studies students scholars and researchers of Gnostic doctrine and history

No Longer Jews Carl B. Smith, 2004 Reviews the theories about Gnosticism and its sources and details Smith's hypothesis offering an excellent introductory text on Gnosticism

The Wisdom of Egypt Anthony Hilhorst, George H. van Kooten, 2018-12-10 This collection of essays published on the occasion of Gerard Luttikhuizen's retirement highlights the Egyptian subject matter background or provenance of many Jewish Early Christian and Gnostic texts It covers a broad spectrum of themes genres and traditions It shows that Egypt was a vibrant point of reference sometimes even a focal point and cradle for Jews Christians and Gnostics and their thought The first part of this book examines various aspects of the relation between Judaism and Egypt mainly in the Graeco Roman period The second part deals with several connections between early Christianity and Egypt whereas the third part considers Egypt as the place where many Gnostic texts were found This collection pays homage to Gerard Luttikhuizen's life long interest in Egypt and Gnosticism

Gnosticism Robert McQueen Grant, 1961

The Gnostic Heresies of the First and Second Centuries Henry Longueville Mansel, 2024-07-17 Henry Longueville Mansel's *The Gnostic Heresies of the First and Second Centuries* is a profound and scholarly exploration of the diverse and often enigmatic Gnostic sects that emerged during the early Christian era With meticulous research and insightful analysis Mansel delves into the origins teachings and impacts of these early heresies offering readers a comprehensive understanding of their place in religious history Mansel's work begins by setting the historical context of the first and second centuries a period marked by

intense theological debate and the proliferation of various interpretations of Christian doctrine He carefully examines the roots of Gnosticism tracing its influences from pre Christian thought including Platonic Jewish and Eastern philosophies Through this historical lens Mansel elucidates how Gnostic beliefs diverged from orthodox Christianity Central to The Gnostic Heresies of the First and Second Centuries is Mansel s detailed exposition of the key tenets of Gnostic thought He explores the Gnostic worldview characterized by a dualistic perception of reality the concept of secret knowledge gnosis and the belief in a divine spark within humans seeking liberation from the material world Mansel provides clear explanations of these complex ideas making them accessible to both scholars and general readers Mansel also delves into the major Gnostic sects such as the Valentinians the Basilideans and the Marcionites detailing their distinctive beliefs and practices He highlights the theological conflicts between Gnosticism and emerging orthodox Christianity illustrating how early church fathers such as Irenaeus and Tertullian responded to and refuted Gnostic doctrines The Gnostic Heresies of the First and Second Centuries is an invaluable resource for students of early Christianity theology and religious history Mansel s rigorous scholarship and engaging writing provide a thorough and balanced perspective on the Gnostic movements emphasizing their significance in the broader context of Christian development

Nag Hammadi, Gnosticism & Early Christianity Charles W. Hedrick, Robert Hodgson (Jr.), 1986 Includes thirteen papers presented at the Working Seminar on Gnosticism and Early Christianity March 30 April 2 1983 held at Springfield Missouri

Studies in the New Testament and Gnosticism George W. MacRae, 2007-09-01 George W MacRae SJ 1928 1985 was an internationally known scholar in the field of New Testament studies He received his doctorate from Cambridge University in New Testament studies taught New Testament at Weston School of Theology and was Stillman Professor of Roman Catholic Studies at Harvard University where he was serving as acting dean of the theology faculty at the time of his death He was a renowned scholar on the Gospel of John Book jacket

The Gnostics and Their Remains Charles William King, 1887

[Nag Hammadi, Gnosticism, and Early Christianity](#) Charles W. Hedrick, Robert Hodgson, 2005-10-17 This book acquaints the beginner with the topic of gnosticism and early Christianity and presents to the specialist some of the new frontiers their colleagues are exploring For the beginner there is a concise introduction to gnosticism It covers the issues of origin literature leading ideas and possible links with early Christianity Each contributor has prepared a preface to his or her paper that points to its salient features and explains how the essay fits into the overall subject of the book from the Preface

The 'logia of the Lord'; or, Pre-historic sayings ascribed to Jesus the Christ Gerald Massey, 1887

Paul, the Gnostic Opponent of Peter, Not an Apostle of Historic Christianity Gerald Massey, 1887

The Gnostics Alastair Logan, 2006-06-23 This book is an attempt to demonstrate the existence and explore the character theology liturgy and cultic beliefs and practices of the Gnostic movement This is a fascinating study into the past to identify the Gnostics as a cult movement originating in the late first century and arising out of Christianity Logan explores the Gnostics own sense of identity against the Catholics seeks to

reconstruct the unique Gnostic rite of initiation from Nag Hammadi and related texts and finally argues that the early third century Hypogeum of the Aurelii in Rome with its remarkable series of paintings represents a cult centre of Gnostics where they recalled their initiation and theology and buried their dead The Gnostics A. H. B. Logan, 2006 Gnosis Barbara Aland, 1978

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Prechristian Gnostics Introduction

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