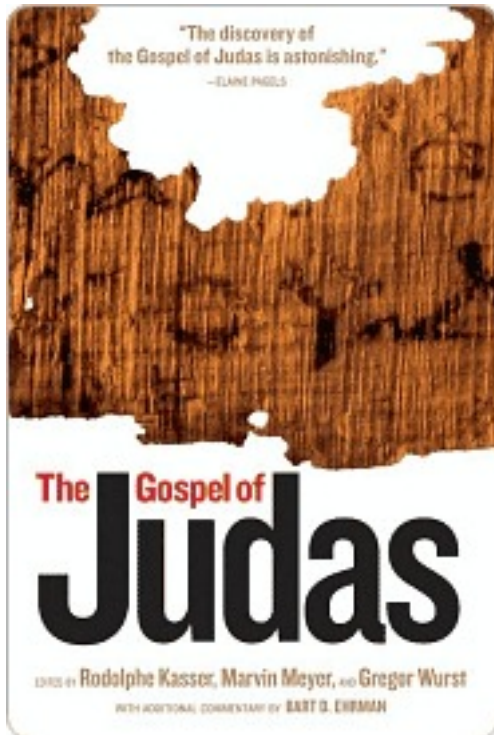

Rodolphe Kasser

The Gospel of Judas



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Description

For 1,600 years its message lay hidden. When the bound papyrus pages of this lost gospel finally reached scholars who could unlock its meaning, they were astounded. Here was a gospel that had not been seen since the early days of Christianity, and which few experts had even thought existed—a gospel told from the perspective of Judas Iscariot, history's ultimate traitor. And far from being a villain, the Judas that emerges in its pages is a hero.

In this radical reinterpretation, Jesus asks Judas to betray him. In contrast to the New Testament Gospels, Judas Iscariot is presented as a role model for all those who wish to be disciples of Jesus. He is the one apostle who truly understands Jesus.

This volume is the first publication of the remarkable gospel since it was condemned as heresy by early Church leaders, most notably by St. Irenaeus, in 180. Hidden away in a cavern in Middle Egypt, the codex (or book) containing the gospel was discovered by farmers in the 1970s. In the intervening years the papyrus codex was bought and sold by antiquities traders, hidden away, and carried across three continents, all the while suffering damage that reduced much of it to fragments. In 2001, it finally found its way into the hands of a team of experts who would painstakingly reassemble and restore it.

The Gospel of Judas has been translated from its original Coptic in clear prose, and is accompanied by commentary that explains its fascinating history in the context of the early Church, offering a whole new way of understanding the message of Jesus Christ.

Insightful reviews

Guillermo: Let's get this straight. I finished the text, not the entire book. I'm sure the essays that followed *The Gospel of Judas* are interesting and provide historical insight to the lost text, it doesn't further my pursuit of reading as many religious texts as I promised - a stupid idea last year, but I bought all these books so I better damn read them.

It's hard to "review" a religious text - especially one that is considered a "lost book" of the Bible. Especially hard when said "lost book" also has several lines of text missing. We also know the ending - "Judas answered them as they wished. And he received some money and handed him over to them."

So what this book offers is an unique insight to the times before Judas' betrayal. It even offers a hint that Jesus already knew and warned Judas of said betrayal: "But you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me./Already your horn has been raised,/your wrath has been kindled,/your star has shown brightly/and your heart has [...]."

It's a new look at Judas Iscariot, the betrayer, as well as, Jesus the messiah. It's also no wonder why this text will never make it into any canon. Interesting read and you should definitely pick it up.

Michael McCarthy: An interesting Gnostic perspective of Jesus's teachings originally written in the Coptic language around 180 AD. Some parts of the text are missing. According to the Gnostic philosophy Jesus was sent as the Son of the "true spirit God", not of one of the lesser "earth gods". His mission was to show humanity that God resides in every human being, and that salvation lies in connecting with this God within. Through embracing the "internal God", human beings can return to an imperishable realm. I personally don't agree with Gnostic philosophy, but it was an interesting historical text to read. I would recommend it as a good read.

Nancy Rynes: This is a good intro into the world of early Christianity because it gives the reader a sense of just how diverse the Christian "landscape" was. It personally gave me something profound to consider: maybe Judas isn't what the New Testament gospels claim he was.

It was also a fascinating read into the recovery of a book long thought lost. It's a tale of looting, black market deals, and theft, but leaves us with a good ending: the recovery of the book, its restoration, and translation. I can also recommend watching the National Geographic special on DVD that features this book's authors'...it's a great companion to the book and gives a little more insight into the restoration and authentication of the original manuscript of Judas' gospel.

Keith Davis: Christian culture depicts Judas because the final betrayer, promoting out the Son of God for 30 silver coins. Orthodox Christian theology teaches that Jesus used to be incarnated which will sacrifice himself for the sins of mankind. If Jesus' complete reason behind current used to be to die through crucifixion then how used to be Judas' motion that of a traitor? was once it as an alternative a holy mission? The Gospel of Judas provides of model of the connection of Judas and Christ that reads like Christian contrary Day. The Gospel of Judas is a truly short Coptic textual content believed thus far from the second one century. All that was once understand of it for hundreds of years was once that early church fathers denounced it as heretical. It was once believed misplaced endlessly until eventually a duplicate used to be stumbled on buried in a cavern in Egypt within the 1970's. In the textual content Jesus laughs at his disciples' ideals and tells them that not anyone in their iteration will comprehend who he is. Judas steps up and states that Jesus comes from the immortal realms. Jesus takes Judas apart and teaches him secrets and techniques in regards to the nature of the cosmos. This Gnostic cosmology sounds much just like the Neoplatonic writings of Plotinus. Emanations and self-generated aeons ship forth angels and luminaries in a sequence of generations until eventually a fallen Archon creates the corrupt actual global as a mockery of the religious world. The gospel ends with Judas rescuing Jesus from the actual international via handing him over to be executed. by way of finishing his existence trapped in a actual physique he has freed Jesus to come to the blessed immortal geographical regions of the spirit. The bulk of the ebook is taken up via commentaries at the brief Gnostic text. Rodolphe Kasser presents a compelling account of ways the rfile was once chanced on and restored. He occasionally loses his clinical detachment whereas describing his outrage over how the rfile used to be mishandled and nearly destroyed by means of antiquities buyers who desired to maximize their gains without regard for historical past or science. The continuously debatable Bart Ehrman examines the theology of the gospel. Gregor Wurst examines the query of no matter if this rfile is similar Gospel of Judas that Irenaeus hooked up in opposed to Heresies. ultimately Marvin Meyer places the paintings within the higher Gnostic context by way of evaluating it with records from

Nag Hammadi.

Belsac : Very fascinating Gnostic textual content and clever discussion. Of course, i do not think any of the Gnostic texts are actual to the first c, most mavens position them within the second c. that is a long way too overdue to be a correct narrative. The Gnostics had radical ideals and that i see this Gospel as a second c propaganda piece to advertise their wish to substantially regulate Christianity from every person should be kept to only the enlightened should be saved. regardless of my deep skepticism in regards to the authenticity of the Gospel, the writer does an outstanding task of offering it and explaining the textual content within the context of the second c. early Christian Church with out accepting or rejecting the text. it's a attention-grabbing learn and a needs to for a person attracted to the early background of the church.

Erik Graff: round one hundred eighty Irenaeus, Bishop of what is now known as Lyon, in his Adversus Haeresis, 5 books denouncing the blunders of these deviating from his personal orthodoxy, pointed out a gospel of Judas. within the overdue seventies this kind of textual content used to be stumbled on and, finally, over thirty years later, partly restored by way of specialists and entered into the general public record. The Coptic holograph itself carbon dated to approximately 300, however the unique of which this used to be a replica may--or may possibly not--be the textual content pointed out by way of Irenaeus. If so, it originated ahead of 180. Like its origins, the textual content itself is obscure, relatively whilst it information its cosmology. right here one is reminded of diverse 'gnostic' texts just like the Pistis Sophia--and of what Irenaeus referred to as 'the delirious melons' of Valentinus. whereas this publication provides, as well as a translation of the surviving text, a observation by way of Marvin Meyer which makes an attempt to provide an explanation for a few of the aeonic generations, I definitely did not get it--nor, I suspect, does Meyer or somebody else. Beyond that, yes, the hype is true. during this gospel the main favourite of the disciples is certainly Judas. He on my own is entrusted with Jesus' rationalization of the genuine nature of things. He on my own is entrusted with the undertaking of securing his master's arrest and execution. What this and the myriad different gospels and apocalypses which failed to make the present canon say in regards to the early, pre-monarchical Church is the main extraordinary element of the whole, in a different way overblown, affair. Yes, The Gospel of Judas substantially demanding situations 'the fantasy of Christian beginnings' as represented, say, by means of Acts or through Eusebius, yet so too do the others.

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