

Cracking The Gnostic Code The Powers In Gnosticism

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Dive deep into the enigmatic world of Gnosticism as we attempt to crack its intricate code. This exploration uncovers the profound spiritual powers and hidden dynamics woven into the fabric of this ancient belief system, offering a compelling look at its unique philosophy, mystical interpretations, and the quest for ultimate knowledge.

Educators may refer to them when designing or updating course structures.

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Cracking the Gnostic Code

This publication seeks to challenge established thinking about the causes of violence in Northern Nigeria. It explores immediate and long-term effects of that violence through reflection, study, and survey of previous research. The fundamental argument within is that ethnic, political and religious violence has affected Christian perspectives and core values and thus has hampered efforts towards just peacemaking.

Cracking the Gnostic Code

Since the release of his first novel, *The Orchard Keeper*, in 1965, Cormac McCarthy's characters, intricate plots, and sometimes forbidding settings have captivated the attention of countless readers while exploring deep philosophical problems, including that of human agency and free will. This multiauthor volume places the full range of his novels in historical, literary, and cultural contexts and shifts the focus of critical engagement to questions of determinism, fatalism, and free will. Essayists over the course of eleven chapters show how McCarthy's protagonists and antagonists often confront grotesque realities and destinies, and find themselves prey to incessant subconscious and uncontrollable forces. In the process, these scholars reveal that McCarthy's works arrive thoroughly tintured with religious complexities, ambiguities of ancient and modern thinking, and profoundly splintered notions of morality, freedom, and ethics. Consequently, McCarthy's philosophical depth, mastery of language, and sometimes shocking psychological analysis are brought into sharp focus for longtime readers. With new scholarship from eminent critics, an accessible style, and precise attention to the lesser-known works, Cormac McCarthy's *Violent Destinies* re-introduces the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist's work under the twin themes of fatalism and determinism.

The Impact of Ethnic, Political, and Religious Violence on Northern Nigeria, and a Theological Reflection on Its Healing

Lost in antiquity, rediscovered in 1896, and only recently accessible for study, *The Secret Revelation of John* offers a firsthand look into the diversity of Christianity before the establishment of canon and creed. Karen L. King offers an illuminating reading of this ancient text--a narrative of the creation of the universe and humanity and a guide to justice and salvation, said to be Christ's revelation to his disciple John. Freeing the Revelation from the category of "Gnosticism" to which such accounts were relegated, King shows how the Biblical text could be read by early Christians in radical and revisionary ways. By placing the Revelation in its social and intellectual milieu, she revises our understanding of early Christianity and, more generally, religious thought in the ancient Mediterranean world. Her work helps the modern reader through many intriguing--but confusing--ideas in the text: for example, that the creator god of Genesis, a self-described jealous and exclusive god, is not the true Deity but a kind

of fallen angel; or, in an overt critique of patriarchy unique in ancient literature, the declaration that the subordination of woman to man was an ignorant act in direct violation of the "holy height." In King's analysis, the Revelation becomes not strange but a comprehensible religious vision--and a window on the religious culture of the Roman Empire. A translation of the complete Secret Revelation of John is included.

Cormac McCarthy's Violent Destinies

Principalities and Powers is an ambitious analysis of John Howard Yoder's complex sociological theory. Jamie Pitts' work transcends ideological boundaries, which have perplexed the many writers who have approached the legacy of John Howard Yoder after his death in 1997. Although there is much disagreement, a broad consensus is forming that his theology was, on the one hand, focused on the social and political meaning of the New Testament accounts of Jesus Christ and, on the other hand, sociologically reductive, hermeneutically tendentious and ecclesiologically ambiguous. *Principalities and Powers* proposes a revision of Yoder's theology that maintains its broadly sociological emphasis but corrects for its apparent methodological, political and metaphysical problems. Specifically, adjustments are made to his social theory to open it to spiritual reality, to hone its analytical approach, and to clarify its political import. To do so his preferred framework for social criticism, the theology of the principalities and powers, is examined in the context of his wider work and its critics, and then synthesized with concepts from Pierre Bourdieu's influential reflexive sociology.

The Secret Revelation of John

Walter Wink's widely acclaimed trilogy from Fortress Press - *Naming the Powers* 0-8006-1786-X (1984), *Unmasking the Powers* 0-8006-1902-1 (1993), and *Engaging the Powers* 0-8006-2646-X (1992) - has sold over 80,000 copies. The Powers are good; the Powers are fallen; the Powers must be redeemed, says Wink; and the illustrious theologians and ethicists in this volume apply this suggestive analysis to economics, politics and government, war and peace, personal ethics and ecological and social justice. Contributors include: Ray Gingerich, Eastern Mennonite University Ted Grimsrud, Eastern Mennonite University Nancey Murphy, Fuller Theological Seminary Daniel Liechty, Illinois State University Walter Wink, Auburn Theological Seminary Willard M. Swartley, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary Glen Stassen, Fuller Theological Seminary

Principalities and Powers

Enigmas and Powers is a celebration and engagement of the work of the noted author, biblical scholar, peace activist, pastor, speaker, and workshop leader, Walter Wink. Among Wink's numerous influential works are *The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of the Man*, *The Bible in Human Transformation*, *Homosexuality and Christian Faith*, *Jesus and Nonviolence: A Third Way*, and *The Powers* trilogy (*Naming the Powers*, *Unmasking the Powers*, and *Engaging the Powers*). This is the only volume devoted to responses by Walter's colleagues and students to the entire range of his work and its vast impact across disciplines, from biblical studies to peace studies, from theology to psychology. You hold in your hands an unusual book. In it you will find essays, letters, speeches, prayers, toasts, reminiscences, arguments, footnotes, and open-ended conversation. You will find addressed--and by addressed, I mean that the authors are variously talking to these persons/entities--God; the Spirit; Psyche; Walter Wink the person; Walter Wink the essay, book, theory, method, and/or argument(s); and finally, and throughout, you, the reader. Most of all, you will find, I hope, truth. Or, at least, meaningful, productive, and enticing approaches toward truth itself, and toward the world in light of truth. --from the introduction

Transforming the Powers

"The papers collected in this volume shift the focus away from "heretics" and "heresy" to heresiological discourse, by contextualizing the late antique Jewish and Christian groups that produced our extant literature. The contributors to the volume draw from multiple literary corpora and genres, bringing a variety of late antique perspective to explore the discursive construction of the Other. They unravel ethnic identities, and re-create the multiple voices textured in the dialogue between the "orthodox" and "heretical" writers."--BOOK JACKET.

Enigmas and Powers

The timeless message of the New Testament applies to people of every culture and generation. Yet there is great value in understanding the world in which that message was first revealed - its social manners, politics, religious customs, and culture. Exploring the New Testament World, written by classics and Bible scholar Dr. Albert A. Bell, Jr., illuminates the living context of the New Testament, immersing its readers in the intriguing world of Jesus and the early church. An authority on ancient Greek and Roman language, culture, and history, Dr. Bell writes in a readable style that is accessible and enjoyable to any reader - an uncommon accomplishment among New Testament scholars today. Surveying Jewish factions of the era, the social and political structure of the Roman Empire, and the philosophies and religions that surrounded the early church, Dr. Bell helps his readers learn to think like first-century Jews, Greeks, and Romans, illuminating puzzling New Testament passages for clear understanding. Comprehensive Scripture and Subject Indexes make this volume even more useful as a "manners and customs" Bible companion. This authoritative guide receives high praise from college professors and Sunday school teachers alike, proving its appeal to both popular and academic audiences. A "must-have" reference for every pastor and an indispensable resource to any Bible reader.

Heresy and Identity in Late Antiquity

Violence is not just physical; like everything in life, it bears spiritual implications. Thus, nonviolence offers more than just a method for resisting oppression. It offers a spiritual revolution – a way of seeking life to cultivate the reality of God's kingdom in a world where the myth of redemptive violence is rampant. In this book, Dr Aung Htoo places Walter Wink's political theology in conversation with both Aung San Suu Kyi and the work of Martin Luther King Jr. Locating this dialogue against the political backdrop of Myanmar's history, Htoo explores the theological and political implications of nonviolence in the cultural context of the country's people groups. He draws on the shared Buddhist and Christian foundation of commitment to loving kindness to suggest a new political reality for Myanmar – one in which its citizens work together for the transformation of their shared homeland. Ultimately, Htoo challenges Christians to dethrone the spirit of domination and bear witness to the holistic gospel in every aspect of their lives. This is an excellent resource for anyone interested in theology, peace studies, or the intersection between faith and politics.

Exploring the New Testament World

Dans sa deuxième épître aux Corinthiens, l'apôtre Paul mentionne qu'autrefois il a été ravi aux cieux, sans donner de détails. Cette brève allusion a une ascension céleste a suscité la curiosité de générations de lecteurs, et quelques-uns d'entre eux, voulant combler les lacunes du texte paulien, ont inventé leurs propres récits de ce qui s'est passé pendant ce voyage céleste. Un de ces récits, la *Visio sancti Pauli*, a connu une grande fortune dans l'antiquité tardive et au Moyen-âge, et a exercé une influence considérable sur la création de la *Divine comédie* de Dante. Il existe d'autres récits analogues, parmi lesquels se trouve l'Apocalypse de Paul conservée dans une version copte, et d'origine gnostique, récit beaucoup plus obscur que la *Visio*, mais tout aussi fascinant. Son auteur utilise de façon pleinement consciente, la tradition judéo-chrétienne des apocalypses d'ascension, une tradition constituée de textes qui racontent l'ascension aux cieux d'un visionnaire. L'Apocalypse de Paul se sert des motifs de cette tradition pour construire son propre récit. La seule copie de cette Apocalypse de Paul qui nous soit parvenue se trouve dans le cinquième codex de la bibliothèque de Nag Hammadi. D'une importance considérable pour quiconque s'intéresse aux écrits pauliniens ou apocalyptiques, ce texte possède en lui-même un charme certain. Le présent volume contient une nouvelle édition du texte copte, accompagnée d'une traduction française, d'une ample introduction, d'un commentaire exhaustif, rédigé en anglais, et d'index copte et greco-copte; il offre l'analyse la plus complète à ce jour de cet écrit. L'auteur de commentaire propose de voir dans l'Apocalypse de Paul un ouvrage de propagande valentinien, rédigé pour convaincre ses lecteurs de la domination du dieu créateur, alors que l'auteur de l'introduction adopte un point de vue différent.

Engaging Politics in Myanmar

September 11 and the subsequent War on Terror continues to cast a long shadow over the world. Religion, Terror and Violence brings together a group of distinguished scholars from a range of backgrounds and disciplines to explore the claim that acts of violence – most spectacularly the attack of September 11, 2001 and the international reaction to it – were intimately linked to cultural and social authorizing processes that could be called 'religious.' This book provides a nuanced but incisive insight into the reaction of the discipline of religious studies to the post 9/11 world.

Catholic Social Thought: Twilight or Renaissance?

Christians in the Public Square is a collection of essays from the 2nd SAIACS Consultation that took place during November 2011 at SAIACS, Bangalore. The articles are about Christian engagement in the arena where politics and religion, environment and ethics, leadership and education, all collide. The authors of these essays come as scholars and practitioners and they address various issues related to the South Asian context from a Christian point of view. The 11 articles featured here include a wide range of topics such as Business as Mission, Christians in Government, Justice and Law, Public Religion, Education, and Environment.

Religion, Terror and Violence

Do "eschatology" and "peace" go together? Is eschatology mostly about retribution and fear--or compassion and hope? Compassionate Eschatology brings together a group of international scholars representing a wide range of Christian traditions to address these questions. Together they make the case that Christianity's teaching about the "end times" should and can center on Jesus's message of peace and reconciliation. Offering a peace-oriented reading of the Book of Revelation and other biblical materials relevant to Christian eschatology, this book breaks new ground in its consistent message that compassion not retribution stands at the heart of the doctrine of the last things. Besides its creative treatment of biblical materials, Compassionate Eschatology also makes a distinctive contribution in how several essays engage the thought of Rene Girard and his mimetic theory. Girard's project is shown to reinforce the biblical message of eschatological peace.

Christians in the Public Square

The topic of spiritual warfare is an issue of ongoing interest in a number of sectors of the contemporary church. This four-view work brings together leading theologians and ministry leaders to present major views on spiritual warfare in dialogical fashion--all authors present their views and then respond to each of the other views. Contributors include: • Walter Wink with Gareth Higgins and Michael Hardin • David Powlison • Gregory Boyd • C. Peter Wagner and Rebecca Greenwood This volume provides a balanced, irenic approach to a much-discussed and often controversial topic. Offering a model of critical thinking and respectful dialogue, it highlights the differences between contributors, discusses a full range of important topics on the subject, and deploys biblical as well as theological arguments.

Compassionate Eschatology

In this book, Philip Tite explores the role of biblical texts in the promotion of peace and violence. He begins by exploring the function of religious texts as ideological elements, recognizing that the New Testament affects the social construction of 'realities' or cultures within which people read and apply authoritative writings to ethical discussions. Arguing that an 'engaged reading' of these texts is central within moral discourse, Dr. Tite explores such issues as feminist challenges to biblical ethics, Jewish-Christian relations, and gay and lesbian ethical disputes in Christianity.

Understanding Spiritual Warfare

Douglas Moo's excellent, accessible commentary on these two Pauline letters evaluates the merits of plausible constructed 'backgrounds', combines exegesis with sound practical insight, balances scholarship with pastoral concern, and applies the meaning of the texts powerfully to twenty-first century readers.

Conceiving Peace and Violence

This is a sequel to the immensely useful Nag Hammadi Bibliography 1948-1969, which was the first volume to appear in the Nag Hammadi Studies series. The volume provides a complete integration of Supplements I-XXIV to the Bibliography as published in Novum Testamentum 1971-1997, with additions and corrections. In total the update contains over 6092 entries. Nag Hammadi and Gnostic studies continue to be of critical importance for the study of ancient religions in the Graeco-Roman world and for the study of the world of early Christianity, and the present bibliography provides an indispensable reference tool for work in these fields.

Unveiling Empire

Questions about how to negotiate belief and non-belief in social and public spheres are attracting an increasing amount of attention from academics in a range of disciplines, and from concerned members

of the public. This volume addresses the emergence of 'new atheism' and the developing 'spiritual but not religious' phenomenon. Avoiding simplistic accounts of atheism, and of religious belief, it provides readers with insight into a wide range of nuances within theism and atheism, as well as spiritual practice and faith. The chapters by an international panel of contributors focus on topics such as: a typology or cartography of atheisms and agnosticism; contrasting types of atheism within Christianity and Buddhism; questions about cognitive and doxastic stances in atheisms; theist rejections of and atheist embracing of 'God'; and atheist aesthetics. Reaching beyond the Christian tradition, the book will be of particular interest to scholars of the philosophy of religion, as well as religious studies and theology more generally.

The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon

Recommended by top scholars in the field of Gnostic studies for many years, but has been virtually impossible to find until now. One of the best books on the subject, essential for any serious researcher. A virtual gold mine of Gnostic material, some translated and presented here for the first time.

Nag Hammadi Bibliography 1970-1994

This study demonstrates that the rabbinic belief-system regarding the afterlife and the human soul was the paramount influence on the development of the doctrine of reincarnation that was crystallized in the *Sefer ha-Bahir* (The Book of Clarity/Illumination) a 12th-century work written in Hebrew and Aramaic. Prior research has noted the great impact Gnosticism had on early Jewish mysticism in general and the *Sefer ha-Bahir* in particular. The analysis of the talmudic and midrashic sources presents a broad spectrum of ideas concerning the eternity and immortality of the soul, the nature and characteristics of the soul and the notions of the resurrection of the dead and reincarnation. These ideas, brought together in the study as a systematic theology, reveal a fairly developed tradition that was probably known to the author or editor of the *Sefer ha-Bahir*.

Atheisms

Revised edition. Volume 2 of 5. The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible has been a classic Bible study resource for more than thirty years. Now thoroughly revised, this new five-volume edition provides up-to-date entries based on the latest scholarship. Beautiful full-color pictures supplement the text, which includes new articles in addition to thorough updates and improvements of existing topics. Different viewpoints of scholarship permit a wellrounded perspective on significant issues relating to doctrines, themes, and biblical interpretation. The goal remains the same: to provide pastors, teachers, students, and devoted Bible readers a comprehensive and reliable library of information. • More than 5,000 pages of vital information on Bible lands and people • More than 7,500 articles alphabetically arranged for easy reference • Hundreds of full-color and black-and-white illustrations, charts, and graphs • 32 pages of full-color maps and hundreds of black-and-white outline maps for ready reference • Scholarly articles ranging across the entire spectrum of theological and biblical topics, backed by the most current body of archaeological research • 238 contributors from around the world

Toronto Journal of Theology

The Gnostics were an early Christian mystical sect. They were persecuted and documents destroyed because the Church desired a uniform set of beliefs to operate under. Only now have we begun to better appreciate these early Christian mystics. The purpose of this gospel is to awaken us, and aid in the process of spiritual freedom.

Critical Review of Books in Religion

In this brilliant culmination of his seminal Powers Trilogy, now reissued in a twenty-fifth anniversary edition, Walter Wink explores the problem of evil today and how it relates to the New Testament concept of principalities and powers. He asks the question, "How can we oppose evil without creating new evils and being made evil ourselves?" Winner of the Pax Christi Award, the Academy of Parish Clergy Book of the Year, and the Midwest Book Achievement Award for Best Religious Book.

The Gospel of the Gnostics

Translated by R. McL. Wilson A full-scale study based on the documents of the Coptic Gnostic library found at Nag Hammadi providing a comprehensive survey of the nature, the teachings, the history and the influence of this religion.

Reincarnation in Jewish Mysticism and Gnosticism

Includes various reports of the Association.

The Zondervan Encyclopedia of the Bible, Volume 2

Sex, violence, power, and redemption. In recent decades, scholars of New Testament and early Christian traditions have given new attention to the relationships between gender and imperial power in the Roman world. In this surprising work, Celene Lillie examines core passages from three Gnostic texts from Nag Hammadi, *On the Origin of the World*, *The Reality of the Rulers*, and the *Secret Revelation of John*, in which Eve is portrayed as having been humiliated by the cosmic powers, yet experiencing restoration. Lillie compares that pattern with Gnostic savior motifs concerning Jesus and Seth, then sets it in the broader context of Roman cosmogonic myths at play in imperial ideology. The Nag Hammadi texts, she argues, offer us a window into symbolic forms of Christian resistance to imperial ideology. This groundbreaking study highlights the importance of the Nag Hammadi writings for our fuller appreciation of the currents of Christian response to the Roman Empire and the culture of rape pervasive within it.

Pistis Sophia

Lee Martin McDonald provides a magisterial overview of the development of the biblical canon --- the emergence of the list of individual texts that constitutes the Christian bible. In these two volumes -- in sum more than double the length of his previous works -- McDonald presents his most in-depth overview to date. McDonald shows students and researchers how the list of texts that constitute 'the bible' was once far more fluid than it is today and guides readers through the minefield of different texts, different versions, and the different lists of texts considered 'canonical' that abounded in antiquity. Questions of the origin and transmission of texts are introduced as well as consideration of innovations in the presentation of texts, collections of documents, archaeological finds and Church councils. In the first volume McDonald reexamines issues of canon formation once considered settled, and sets the range of texts that make up the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) in their broader context. Each individual text is discussed, as are the cultural, political and historical situations surrounding them. This second volume considers the New Testament, and the range of so-called 'apocryphal' gospels that were written in early centuries, and used by many Christian groups before the canon was closed. Also included are comprehensive appendices which show various canon lists for both Old and New Testaments and for the bible as a whole.

Engaging the Powers

The Codex Bruce was bought during the 18th century by the famous traveller James Bruce in Upper Egypt. After his return to England, the text was copied with many errors and the original papyri badly bound. This 1933 book corrects many of the earlier errors associated with this unusual Gnostic text.

Gnosis

A professor of biblical interpretations uses the epithet "the son of the man" to explore not only early Christology but also the anthropology articulated in the gospels. He explores how Jesus' self-referential phrase came to be universalized as the "Human Being" or "Truly Human One".

The Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Hans-Friedrich WeiÃ zeigt anhand der Rezeption der Schriften des Neuen Testaments in den Ã¼berlieferten Quellen der frÃ¼hchristlichen Gnosis die Integration des ur- und frÃ¼hchristlichen Schrifttums in ein genuin gnostisches Rahmenkonzept auf. Die bisherige Forschung eher belastende Frage nach einer vor-christlichen Gnosis wird auf diese Weise zwar nicht zweifelsfrei anhand chronologisch eindeutiger Daten beantwortet. Sie wird am Ende jedoch in dem Sinne modifiziert, dass es sich bei der frÃ¼hchristlichen Gnosis des 2. Jh.s nicht um ein sekundÃ¤res PhÃ¤nomen gegenÃ¼ber dem frÃ¼hen Christentum handelt, sondern um ein eigenstÃ¤ndiges PhÃ¤nomen der spÃ¤tantiken Religionsgeschichte. Dieses hat seinen universalen Anspruch im Zeitalter des spÃ¤tantiken Synkretismus

in einer spezifisch gnostischen Rezeption der genuin christlichen Äußerlieferung in Gestalt der Schriften des Neuen Testaments geltend gemacht.

The Acts of Peter and the Twelve Apostles (NHC 6.1)

Lost for more than fifteen hundred years, the Gospel of Mary is the only existing early Christian gospel written in the name of a woman. Karen L. King tells the story of the recovery of this remarkable gospel and offers a new translation. This brief narrative presents a radical interpretation of Jesus' teachings as a path to inner spiritual knowledge. It rejects his suffering and death as a path to eternal life and exposes the view that Mary Magdalene was a prostitute for what it is--a piece of theological fiction. The Gospel of Mary of Magdala offers a glimpse into the conflicts and controversies that shaped earliest Christianity.

The Rape of Eve

The Formation of the Biblical Canon: Volume 2