

LOST CHRISTIANITIES

The Battles for Scripture and
the Faiths We Never Knew

BART D. EHRMAN

Lost Christianities

**BART D. EHRMAN, Bowman and Gordon
Gray Professor of Religious Studies
Bart D Ehrman**

Lost Christianities:

Lost Christianities Bart D. Ehrman, 2005 Focusing on key historical texts a biblical authority offers a revealing look at the early church and the intense struggle to form the canon of the New Testament 11 halftones **Lost Christianities** Bart D. Ehrman, 2005-09-15 The early Christian Church was a chaos of contending beliefs Some groups of Christians claimed that there was not one God but two or twelve or thirty Some believed that the world had not been created by God but by a lesser ignorant deity Certain sects maintained that Jesus was human but not divine while others said he was divine but not human In *Lost Christianities* Bart D Ehrman offers a fascinating look at these early forms of Christianity and shows how they came to be suppressed reformed or forgotten All of these groups insisted that they upheld the teachings of Jesus and his apostles and they all possessed writings that bore out their claims books reputedly produced by Jesus s own followers Modern archaeological work has recovered a number of key texts and as Ehrman shows these spectacular discoveries reveal religious diversity that says much about the ways in which history gets written by the winners Ehrman s discussion ranges from considerations of various lost scriptures including forged gospels supposedly written by Simon Peter Jesus s closest disciple and Judas Thomas Jesus s alleged twin brother to the disparate beliefs of such groups as the Jewish Christian Ebionites the anti Jewish Marcionites and various Gnostic sects Ehrman examines in depth the battles that raged between proto orthodox Christians those who eventually compiled the canonical books of the New Testament and standardized Christian belief and the groups they denounced as heretics and ultimately overcame Scrupulously researched and lucidly written *Lost Christianities* is an eye opening account of politics power and the clash of ideas among Christians in the decades before one group came to see its views prevail *Lost Christianities: The Battles for Scripture and the Faiths We Never Knew and Lost Scriptures: Books That Did Not Make It Into the New Testament* BART D. EHRMAN, Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor of Religious Studies Bart D Ehrman, 2004-09-02 This unique set combines two of Bart Ehrman s most popular works on the early Christian church *Lost Scriptures* and *Lost Christianities* and gives readers a vivid picture of the range of beliefs that battled each other in the first centuries of the Christian era **Lost Christianities** Bart D. Ehrman, 2003 *Found Christianities* M. David Litwa, 2022-02-24 M David Litwa tells the stories of the early Christians whose religious identity was either challenged or outright denied In the second century many different groups and sects claimed to be the only Orthodox or authentic version of Christianity and Litwa shows how those groups and figures on the side of developing Christian Orthodoxy often dismissed other versions of Christianity by refusing to call them Christian However the writings and treatises against these groups contain fascinating hints of what they believed and why they called themselves Christian Litwa outlines these different groups and the controversies that surrounded them presenting readers with an overview of the vast tapestry of beliefs that made up second century Christianity By moving beyond notions of gnostic heretical and orthodox Litwa allows these lost Christianities to speak for themselves He also questions the notion of some Christian identities

surviving or perishing arguing that all second century Catholic groups look very different to any form of modern Roman Catholicism Litwa shows that countless discourses ideas and practices are continually recycled and adapted throughout time in the building of Christian identities and indeed that the influence of so called lost Christianities can still be felt today

Lost Scriptures Bart D. Ehrman,2005-09-15 Lost Scriptures offers an anthology of up to date and readable translations of many non canonical writings from the centuries after Christ texts that have for the most part been neglected or lost for nearly two millennia Here is an array of remarkably varied writings from early Christian groups whose visions of Jesus differ dramatically from our contemporary understanding Ehrman has included a general introduction plus brief introductions to each piece Lost Scriptures gives readers a vivid picture of the range of beliefs that battled each other in the first centuries of the Christian era It is an essential resource for anyone interested in the Bible or the early Church Lost Christianities Bart

Ehrman, Lost Christianities Bart D. Ehrman,2023 **The Quest for Early Church Historiography** Jeremiah Mutie,2022-09-09 The Quest for Early Church Historiography explores how early church historiography underwent a significant shift beginning with the thought of Ferdinand Christian Baur 1792 1860 a shift that eventually culminated in the current extreme historiographies of such scholars as Bart D Ehrman 1955 Through the tracing of this historiographical trajectory this work argues that rather than seeing these current historiographies as having suddenly appeared in the scholarly scene a better approach is to see them as the fruit of this long trajectory Of course as the work has sought to demonstrate this trajectory is itself full of turns and twists But the careful reader will hopefully be able to see the intrinsic connections that are demonstrably evident Nexus Yuval Noah Harari,2025-09-16 From the 1 New York Times bestselling author of Sapiens comes the groundbreaking story of how information networks have made and unmade our world For the last 100 000 years we Sapiens have accumulated enormous power But despite all our discoveries inventions and conquests we now find ourselves in an existential crisis The world is on the verge of ecological collapse Misinformation abounds And we are rushing headlong into the age of AI a new information network that threatens to annihilate us For all that we have accomplished why are we so self destructive Nexus looks through the long lens of human history to consider how the flow of information has shaped us and our world Taking us from the Stone Age through the canonization of the Bible early modern witch hunts Stalinism Nazism and the resurgence of populism today Yuval Noah Harari asks us to consider the complex relationship between information and truth bureaucracy and mythology wisdom and power He explores how different societies and political systems throughout history have wielded information to achieve their goals for good and ill And he addresses the urgent choices we face as non human intelligence threatens our very existence Information is not the raw material of truth nor is it a mere weapon Nexus explores the hopeful middle ground between these extremes and in doing so rediscovers our shared humanity The First Christian Communities, 32 - 380 CE Joyce E. Salisbury,2023-11-24 This concise history of how the Christian Church grew between 32 and 380 focuses on the anonymous Christians who formed

diverse congregations as they guided their communities through the age of the Apostles violent martyrdoms and to the establishment of the Roman Church Readers will understand why people converted to Christianity in the first three centuries and learn about the rich diversity of the early church as people interpreted the new religion in different ways This book explores how Christian interactions with the Roman empire led to violent persecutions and martyrdoms and eventually the fourth century establishment of the top down Roman Church Readers also become familiar with Christian texts during this period some became Scripture and some were rejected but all were written to make sense of the Jewish and Christian experience in the Roman Empire These written memories shaped the future of the church It also explores how early Christian lives were shaped by the religious rituals and preaching of their new and changing faith In addition maps illustrations and charts of Christian texts help tell this fascinating story *The First Christian Communities 32 380 CE* is an accessible and valuable resource suitable for students working on Christian history and Roman and Late Antique social political and religious history as well as general readers who are interested in the origins of Christianity *Lost Christianities* Jon Leven, Teaching Company, 2002 Twenty four lectures on the history and varieties of Christian doctrines in the early church

Revival of the Gnostic Heresy J. Morris, 2008-11-24 In this rigorous and provocative study Joe E Morris argues that the basic tenets and practices of Fundamentalism are those of ancient Christian Gnosticism Drawing on extensive research and careful analysis Morris aligns the two religious phenomena point by point tenet by tenet Along the way he provides insights into the key hermeneutic of Fundamentalism inerrancy of Scripture highlighting the multiple problems with the positions of literal and inerrant interpretation their impracticality and unfeasibility and their contradiction with their own conservative doctrine namely the Incarnation of Jesus Christ This groundbreaking book dramatically recasts our understanding of the history of Christianity and gives important context to modern day religious debates **The Story of Q.** N. M. Freeman, 2011 Two thousand years ago a boy named Mateo entered an underground cave known as the Sanctuary to learn of stories older than the memory of man **Demythologizing Jesus of Nazareth: Was Jesus a Historical Or Mythical Person?** , *The Intolerance of Tolerance* D. A. Carson, 2012-01-31 Carson traces the subtle but enormous shift in the way we have come to understand tolerance over recent years from defending the rights of those who hold different beliefs to affirming all beliefs as equally valid and correct He looks back at the history of this shift and discusses its implications for culture today especially its bearing on democracy discussions about good and evil and Christian truth claims from publisher description *The Gnostics* David Brakke, 2012-09-03 Who were the Gnostics And how did the Gnostic movement influence the development of Christianity in antiquity Is it true that the Church rejected Gnosticism This book offers an illuminating discussion of recent scholarly debates over the concept of Gnosticism and the nature of early Christian diversity Acknowledging that the category Gnosticism is flawed and must be reformed David Brakke argues for a more careful approach to gathering evidence for the ancient Christian movement known as the Gnostic school of thought He shows

how Gnostic myth and ritual addressed basic human concerns about alienation and meaning offered a message of salvation in Jesus and provided a way for people to regain knowledge of God the ultimate source of their being Rather than depicting the Gnostics as heretics or as the losers in the fight to define Christianity Brakke argues that the Gnostics participated in an ongoing reinvention of Christianity in which other Christians not only rejected their ideas but also adapted and transformed them This book will challenge scholars to think in new ways but it also provides an accessible introduction to the Gnostics and their fellow early Christians

Forbidden Texts on the Western Frontier Tony Burke, 2016-01-28 North American study of the Christian Apocrypha is known principally for its interest in using noncanonical texts to reconstruct the life and teachings of Jesus and for its support of Walter Bauer's theory on the development of early Christianity The papers in this volume presented in September 2013 at York University in Toronto challenge that simplistic assessment by demonstrating that U.S. and Canadian scholarship on the Christian Apocrypha is rich and diverse The topics covered in the papers include new developments in the study of canon formation the interplay of Christian Apocrypha and texts from the Nag Hammadi library digital humanities resources for reconstructing apocryphal texts and the value of studying late antique apocrypha Among the highlights of the collection are papers from a panel by three celebrated New Testament scholars reassessing the significance of the Christian Apocrypha for the study of the historical Jesus *Forbidden Texts on the Western Frontier* demonstrates the depth and breadth of Christian Apocrypha studies in North America and offers a glimpse at the achievements that lie ahead in the field

Criminalization in Acts of the Apostles Jeremy L. Williams, 2023-10-26 Acts of the Apostles presents Roman officials and militarized police criminalizing prosecuting and incarcerating a movement of Jesus followers This book brings Acts into conversation with ancient and modern understandings of crime by tending to laws and by exploring how different writers portray the criminalized

The Savage Text Adrian Thatcher, 2009-01-30 Misuse of the Bible has made hatred holy In this provocative book Adrian Thatcher argues that debates on sexuality currently raging through the churches are the latest outbreak in a long line of savage interpretations of the Bible Fascinating reading for anyone concerned about the future of Christianity A provocative book claiming that debates on sexuality currently raging through the churches are the latest outbreak in a long line of savage interpretations of the Bible Argues that the Bible has been abused to convert the good news which it brings to the world into one which has been used to discriminate against many groups including children women Jews people of color slaves heretics and homosexuals Asks how Christians have been able to conduct in public and on a global scale an argument that has exposed so much prejudice fear and hatred Offers an alternative faithful and peaceable reading of the Bible drawing on numerous examples throughout Breaks new ground in debates about sexual ethics and biblical interpretation

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