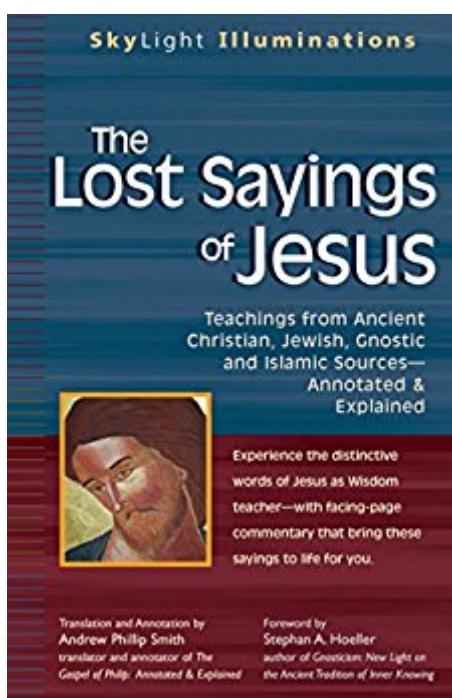


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The Lost Sayings Of Jesus: Teachings From Ancient Christian, Jewish, Gnostic And Islamic Sources (SkyLight Illuminations)



Synopsis

Jesus' words of wisdom can become a companion on your own spiritual journey. The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are not the only record we have of the words spoken by Jesus. Designed to challenge, enlighten and inspire, they are also quoted in a wide variety of other ancient sources—including the Qur'an, writings by early Christian church fathers, and fragments of lost gospels only recently discovered. Some of these sayings are familiar; many are surprising; all expand our conventional understanding of the scope and essence of Jesus' original teachings. More than a "Christian" compilation, this collection of more than three hundred sayings reveals a Jesus whose words encapsulate spiritual truths that resonate across religious boundaries. From the encouraging "I am hope for the hopeless" to the wise and practical "Love those who hate you and you will not have an enemy," to the candid "Give no opportunity to the evil one," these pointed sayings not only reveal how Jesus was understood and portrayed across a wide variety of cultures long ago—they will also penetrate to your heart, challenge your assumptions, and energize your own spiritual quest. Now you can experience the wisdom and power of Jesus' sayings even if you have no previous knowledge of these little-known texts.

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Customer Reviews

This is a very handy volume, having gathered a lot of Jesus quotes together in one place. Smith attempts to do for non-canonical sources what the Jesus Seminar attempted to do for the canonical gospels and Thomas in "The Five Gospels." Their books will sit beside each other in my reference library. That said, both texts fall short in one area that I feel is critical; we are given only the English translations, and not the original language. Robinson is a fine theologian, but he IS a theologian; thus, his translations are going to be biased in favor of his own perspectives. When I see a word like "tribulation" ("You must enter the Kingdom of Heaven through much tribulation"), I want to know what word was used originally so I can see what other meanings it might have. Typically, the Hebrew, Aramaic and Arabic words are much more expanded than the Greek, Coptic or Latin, and the English translations are often more narrow than even the latter. As to the reviewer who discredits the book because it includes quotes from Islam, I would argue (despite claims to the contrary) s/he knows little about Islam and even less about exacting scholarship. To claim to be a complete compendium while ignoring a body of historical sources would be idiotic. If we prefer idiocy to scholarship, fine; but we should realize that "the problem," if any exists, lies with ourself.

This is a very interesting book about sayings of Jesus that were saved in sources that are non-canonical (that is to say not preserved in the Christian scriptures.) Many of these sources are Heretical, Gnostic sources, or from religions that were opposed to the Orthodox Christian view, those included here are Jewish and Muslim sayings of Jesus. These sayings are interesting, and in many cases not much different from the ones preserved in the Bible. Some seem entirely out of place in the mouth of Jesus. This book is thought provoking and I definitely recommend it as a book worthy of reading.

A decent work, with fair documentation of quote sources. The author does a good job of trying to avoid his own bias in the commentary. Some connection with canonical scripture is made, but many are missed or not included. I annotated my own copy. For someone versed in Jesus in the gospels, this is an interesting read and what is revision of other beliefs or spurious is fairly easy to sort.

However, it could be confusing and treacherous to someone who hasn't read enough to establish the authentic voice of Jesus in the Gospels for them self.

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The Lost Sayings Of Jesus: Teachings From Ancient Christian, Jewish, Gnostic, And Islamic Sources--annotated And Explained is expertly translated and annotated by Andrew Phillip Smith is a compendium of the timeless wisdom of Jesus of Nazareth drawn from sources that include not only the New Testament, but writings from many of the non-canonical ancient writers of the Apocrypha, early church fathers, the Qur'an, the Talmud, and other fragments of the Gnostic gospels recently discovered, restored and translated. The Lost Sayings Of Jesus offers readers an impressively organized body of annotated quotes and excerpts arranged in of five basic sections with the "sayings" on the right page and the commentaries on the left page: Christian Sayings, Jewish Sayings, Gnostic Sayings, Islamic Sayings, and two additional sections "Further Traditions, Fictions, And Forgeries", and "Suggestions for Further Reading". A core addition to personal, seminary, academic, and community library reference collections, The Lost Sayings Of Jesus is very highly recommended reading for all students of the Abrahamic religions offering as complete and engaging collection as is currently possible on the many teachings ascribed to Jesus of Nazareth, whom some called a prophet and others the Christ.

Well researched and footnoted compilation of all the sayings of Jesus. Why not read the words that are attributed directly from Jesus and not from others interpretations? Readers are not only given the saying but an excellent description and source of the saying as well. No stone is left unturned and leaves the reader with God given inspiration and wisdom directly from Jesus himself. Highly recommended to those who want to reflect on the Word of God.

I believe that the author's knowledge of Islam is greatly lacking, for his citing of Islam as a source for

the sayings of Jesus supports my criticism of him. The religion of Islam and its scripture contain nothing of any historical value. I know what I'm talking about, because I have dissected it to pieces and found nothing, even from the Quran, except crude plagiarism and tedious and ridiculous repetitions of historical accounts taken from the Bible and retold in twisted and distorted versions with full of errors. I know I have stepped on some toes, but the truth must be told. *The Lost Sayings of Jesus: Teachings from Ancient Christian, Jewish, Gnostic And Islamic Sources--Annotated & Explained* (SkyLight Illuminations)

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