

# Chapter 14 The Birth Of Christianity

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The Cambridge Companion to Ancient Rhetoric Erik Gunderson 2009-07-09 Rhetoric thoroughly infused the world and literature of Graeco-Roman antiquity. This Companion provides a comprehensive overview of rhetorical theory and practice in that world, from Homer to early Christianity, accessible to students and non-specialists, whether within classics or from other periods and disciplines. Its basic premise is that rhetoric is less a discrete object to be grasped and mastered than a hotly contested set of practices that include disputes over the very definition of rhetoric itself. Standard treatments of ancient oratory tend to take it too much in its own terms and to isolate it unduly from other social and cultural concerns. This volume provides an overview of the shape and scope of the problems while also identifying core themes and propositions: for example, persuasion, virtue, and public life are virtual constants. But they mix and mingle differently, and the contents designated by each of these terms can also shift.

The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Biblical Interpretation Paul M. Blowers 2019 The Bible was the lifeblood of virtually every aspect of the life of the early churches. This Handbook explores a wide array of themes related to the reception, canonization, interpretation, uses, and legacies of the Bible in early Christianity. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Early Christianity J. Michael Matkin 2008 With around 2 billion followers, Christianity is the most widespread religion in the world. Especially dominant in the western world, today's Christianity has a wide variety of forms, beliefs, and practices. But what kind of world was Jesus of Nazareth born into? How was the initial Christian message received by the different cultures into which it was spread? What was its early background and foundation, and how did it set the stage for what Christianity became? The Complete Idiot's Guide to Early Christianity explores who the early Christians were, how they lived, what they believed-and what their impact was on the church we know today.

Early Christianity and Ancient Astrology Tim Hegeudus 2007 Original Scholarly Monograph

Jesus, Paul, and Early Christianity Rieuwerd Buitenwerf 2008 This collection of essays by leading experts in New Testament scholarship addresses core themes in the study of early Christianity. The topics addressed include text-critical issues relating to the New Testament, the historical situation in which the earliest Christian documents were composed, early Christian rituals, historical questions concerning Jesus and Paul, and the origin and development of important theological ideas in the early Church. This volume is dedicated to Henk Jan de Jonge (Emeritus Professor in the New Testament, Leiden University) in honour of his important contributions to the field of New Testament Studies.

Persecution and Profession Geo Morrish 2015-03-25 Contents. Part 1. Persecution. Chapter 1. Persecution: Why Christians were persecuted. Why called "Atheists." — Rome full of temples and altars. — Christianity aggressive. — The burning of Rome, charged on the Christians. — Persecution by Nero. — Testimony of Tacitus. — The Twelve Apostles Chapter 2. Insurrection of the Jews: Often revolted under the Romans. — The Jews at Caesarea. — Florus attacks Jerusalem. — Treachery of the Jews. — Massacre of the Jews at Caesarea. — Cestius attacks Jerusalem. — Great victory of the Jews over the Romans. — Prophecies relating to the destruction of Jerusalem. — Fearful sights and great signs. — The cry of Jesus, son of Ananus. — Josephus. — Ruler — Prophet — With the Romans. — Destruction of Jerusalem. — The Jews divided into factions. — The siege led by Titus. — Determined resistance of the Jews. — Mode of attack by the Romans. — Severe famine in the city. — A woman eats her child. — The city taken. — Titus desires to save the temple. — It is burnt. — The city destroyed. — Great slaughter and numerous prisoners. — Prophecy fulfilled. Chapter 3. Further Persecutions. — The Romans attribute all calamities to the Christians. — Letter of Pliny to the Emperor Trajan. — Trajan's reply. — Ignatius. — Justin Martyr. — Polycarp. — Blandina. — Perpetua. Chapter 4. The Apostolic Fathers: Clement. — Polycarp. — Barnabas. — Ignatius. — Hermas. — None to be trusted as scripture. Chapter 5. Attacks on Christianity. — Celsus. — Porphyry. — The Oracle of Delphi. — Hierocles. — The Apologies. — Justin Martyr. — Minucius Felix. — Athenagoras. — Tertullian Chapter 6. The Catacombs. — How formed. — The testimony of the tablets. — A visitor's description. Chapter 7. Miracles and Signs. — Their existence in the early church. — Exorcists. Chapter 8. Offices in the Early Church. — Elders, Presbyters, and Bishops. — Undue exaltation of the bishops. Chapter 9. Customs in the Church. — Reception into the Church. — Catechumens. — Fidelis. — Audientes — Baptism. — Forms of Worship. — Meetings on Sunday. — The Lord's Supper. — Taken weekly. — Singing. — Collection for the poor. — Bread and wine sent to the sick. — Water mixed with the wine. — Abuses creeping in. — Love Feasts. — Superstitions in the Church. — The sign of the cross. — Clergy and laity. — The Lord's Supper and Absolution. — Letter of Dionysius. — Celibacy of the Clergy. — Hippolytus and Callistus. Chapter 10. Early Heresies. — What is heresy? — Gnosticism. — Arianism. — The Novatians. — The Lapsi. Chapter 11. Cyprian and the Assumptions of Rome. — How were the "lapsi" to be treated? — Rome struggles for supremacy. Chapter 12. The Later Persecutions. — Persecution of Decius. — The Seven Sleepers of Ephesus. — Origen. — Valerian and Diocletian. — Galerius. — The oracles consulted. — The ten persecutions. — The address to the church at Smyrna. Part 2. Profession. Chapter 1. Conversion of Constantine. — His vision. — Was he really a Christian? Chapter 2. The Council of Nice. — The Nicene creed. — The Arians condemned. Easter — How calculated — How kept Chapter 3. Athanasius and His Times. — The Arians in power. — Athanasius persecuted. — Death of Constantine. — Athanasius banished. Chapter 4. Ambrose: made a bishop suddenly. — Valens emperor in the East. — Eighty ministers burnt in a ship. — The Second General Council. — Ambrose rashly opposes Valentinian II. — Revolt at Thessalonica. — Massacre of the inhabitants. — Penance demanded of the emperor. Chapter 5. Chrysostom and His Times. — He finds being an advocate and a Christian inconsistent. — Chrysostom an ascetic. — His trick on his friend Basil. — His narrow escape. — He cannot crucify the flesh. — Made a presbyter and preaches. — The revolt at Antioch. — Made bishop of Constantinople by Eutropius. — Not liked by the clergy. — Popular with the bishops. — He aids Eudoxia in carrying relics to her new chapel. — Protects Eutropius when condemned to death. — He ventures to the Gothic camp. — The Tall Brethren. — Plots against Chrysostom. — He is deposed and banished. — The fright by an earthquake restores him. — Eudoxia's image condemned by Chrysostom. — Again he is deposed and banished. — His great usefulness in his long banishment. — Removed to a more severe climate. — His death. Chapter 6. The Donatist Schism. — Their doctrine of separation from evil, good. — Their practice bad. — The Circumcelliones. — Augustine. — His works. Chapter 7. Pelagianism. — Pelagius condemned. — His doctrine. — Semi-Pelagianism Chapter 8. Monasticism. — St. Anthony. — Simon Stylites. — The Essenes. — Egyptians. — What led to Monasticism. — The Scriptures preserved and copied by Monks. Chapter 9. Christianity in Britain. — The Druids. — Their human sacrifices. — Christianity in England early. — Was Claudia a British Christian? — St. Patrick and Ireland. — Scotland. Chapter 10. Councils in the Church. — The General Councils: The first at Nice. — The second at Constantinople. — The third at Ephesus. — Eutyches condemned. — The Robbers' Meeting. — The fourth at Chalcedon. — The Nicene creed confirmed. — What Scripture for Councils. — What authority over Christians. Chapter 11. The Western Church. — Leo the Great, bishop of Rome. — Saves the city of Rome. — Defends the faith. — Manichaeism. — The Priscillianists. — Leo anxious for universal supremacy. — His conflict with Hilary of Arles. — His death. Chapter 12. Close of the Fifth Century. — Conflicts with the Arians. — The Monophysites. — The Henoticon. — The bishops of Rome and Constantinople excommunicate each other. — The professing church rent into parties. — The address to the church at Pergamos Chapter 13. The Bible for the Church — Translated into many languages. Chapter 14. Conclusion. — Review of the whole period.

The Cambridge Companion to the Age of Nero Shadi Bartsch 2017-10-31 A lively and accessible guide to the rich literary, philosophical and artistic achievements of the notorious age of Nero.

CSB Baker Illustrated Study Bible 2019-03-12 This fully illustrated, information-packed study Bible provides fascinating insights into the Scriptures and the world in which they were written. Featuring the clear and accurate CSB translation, this illustrated study Bible also calls attention to the personal aspects of the biblical message, making biblical theology accessible and applicable to everyone who seeks to get the most out of their study of God's Word. Special features include - more than 1 million words of study notes by leading evangelical scholars - full-color illustrations, charts, maps, time lines, and photos - detailed book introductions that provide an overview of each book's context, organization, and themes - comprehensive section introductions - definitions of biblical words and insightful articles on key topics - cross-references, an extensive concordance, and notes that unlock connections between passages - easy-to-read single column Bible text - words of Christ in red With this clear, innovative, and comprehensive illustrated study Bible, readers will gain new depths of understanding, learn to effectively interpret the Bible, and discover how to apply it to their lives.

Apostolical Records of Early Christianity John Allen Giles 1886

Studies in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity Pieter W. van der Horst 2014-03-13 The 24 papers in this volume cover a wide range of topics, all of them concerning the religious world of Judaism and Christianity in the Hellenistic, Roman, and early Byzantine era.

Studies on the Text of the New Testament and Early Christianity Daniel Gurtner 2015-11-23 A collection of essays in honour of Prof. Michael Holmes. The volume is arranged in two parts focusing on textual criticism and the Apostolic Fathers respectively.

Christians - The Worst Thing That Ever Happened to Christianity William Spier 2018-05-10 This book addresses what in this author's opinion is the most offensive

aspect of Christianity both to other Christians and to the world looking in - namely judgmental Christians. And the meddlesome, annoying Christians who do this act as if Romans 14 has been struck from the Bible like someone's just line-item vetoed that chapter out of the Bible. If they had read it or would read it, they'd keep their mouths shut and mind their own business. However, it is quite often true that the worst and most obstinate such Christians, are really not Christians at all. Jesus himself says these "Christians" will find themselves quite surprised on Judgement Day. So my hope for this book is you, the reader, will not just recognize this is true, but be able to distinguish who such people are in your own life, and recognize they do not represent Jesus or what Christianity should look and feel like at the hands of real Christians who evidently love Jesus by virtue of what they do and say. The phony or fake, SPC (self-proclaimed Christians) who I refer to as "Christians" in the title and throughout the book, do damage to the cause of Christ by alienating both people in the church and without. And so, my final hope in writing this book is to those who have been hurt, and those who will be hurt by those claiming to be a Christians, is you will think back to the pages herein and realize how this person who hurt you may not be a Christian at all, and you'll refuse to let that be your reason for not personally asking Jesus to pour out His love on you. Contents Overview: False prophets; Fake Christians - a.k.a. "Christians" or SPCs - Self-proclaimed Christians; Phony Christians; Adiaphora; Judgmental Christians; The Book of Romans chapter 14; The Book of Matthew; Judgement Day; Christian Character Case Studies William Spier was born and raised in Berkeley, CA and at the age of sixteen, through an invitation by his dad's barber, started attending church in El Cerrito, CA where he soon discovered no one goes to Heaven just because they do more good things than bad, so he asked Jesus into his heart. Learning that our sins have to be completely taken away, which Jesus has already done, and all we have to do is accept, he did. Twenty years later in the middle of a burgeoning career as an engineering designer, William felt led to get into the ministry full time and so he went back to school, starting seminary outside of Philadelphia, PA, where in 2006 he earned a Masters of Divinity degree. His plan was to start a church ministry or become a missionary or evangelist, but no matter how he tried getting into a formal ministry, those doors just kept closing while the industry kept opening. So finally he followed what he felt was the Lord calling him to take his ministry to the industry, and he has quietly but effectively reached many coworkers and professional acquaintances for the Lord for over ten years now.

Buddha and Early Buddhism Arthur Lillie 1881

A New History of Early Christianity Charles Freeman 2009-01-01 "Tracing the astonishing transformation that the early Christian church underwent - from sporadic niches of Christian communities surviving in the wake of a horrific crucifixion to sanctioned alliance with the state - Charles Freeman shows how freedom of thought was curtailed by the development of the concept of faith. The imposition of 'correct belief' and an institutional framework that enforced orthodoxy were both consolidating and stifling. Uncovering the church's relationships with Judaism, Gnosticism, Greek philosophy and Greco-Roman society, Freeman offers dramatic new accounts of Paul, the resurrection, and the church fathers and emperors."--BOOK JACKET.

World History-Student James P. Stobaugh 2012-03-01 Respected Christian educator, Dr. James Stobaugh, offers an entire year of high school world history curriculum in an easy to teach and comprehensive volume. *World History: Observations & Assessments from Creation to Today* employs clear objectives and challenging assignments for the twelfth grade student. This study will help students develop a Christian worldview while forming his or her own understanding of world history trends, philosophies, and events. The following components are covered for the student: Critical thinking Examinations of historical theories, terms, and concepts History makers who changed the course of history Overviews and insights into world views. This 288-page student resource should be used in conjunction with the *World History: Observations & Assessments from Creation to Today for the Teacher*. American History and British History are included in this comprehensive high school history curriculum for 10th, 11th, and 12th grades offered by Dr. James Stobaugh and Master Books.

The Acts of the Apostles P.D. James 1999-01-01 Acts is the sequel to Luke's gospel and tells the story of Jesus's followers during the 30 years after his death. It describes how the 12 apostles, formerly Jesus's disciples, spread the message of Christianity throughout the Mediterranean against a background of persecution. With an introduction by P.D. James

Handbook of Early Christianity Anthony J. Blasi 2002 Visit our website for sample chapters!

Writing the History of Early Christianity Markus Vinzent 2019-03-31 Brings a new approach to the interpretation of the sources used to study the Early Christian era - reading history backwards. This book will interest teachers and students of New Testament studies from around the world of any denomination, and readers of early Christianity and Patristics.

Parables of Enoch: A Paradigm Shift Darrell Bock 2013-01-10 Internationally renowned contributors assess the significance of the Parables of Enoch in the study of Christian Origins, the New Testament and the Second Temple Period.

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to The Romans Ruth Rendell 1999-01-01 Paul was the most influential figure in the early Christian church. In this epistle, written to the founders of the church in Rome, he sets out some of his ideas on the importance of faith in overcoming mankind's innate sinfulness and in obtaining redemption. With an introduction by Ruth Rendell

Christianity in the Second Century James Carleton Paget 2017-05-15 Christianity in the Second Century seeks to show how academic study on this critical period of Christian development has undergone change over the last thirty years. It focuses on contributions from early Christian and ancient Jewish studies, and ancient history, all of which have contributed to a changing scholarly landscape.

Voyages in World History, Volume I Valerie Hansen 2022-06-06 Discover how history is composed of the captivating stories of interesting people with Hansen/Curtis' VOYAGES IN WORLD HISTORY, 4E. Every chapter in this updated edition centers on the story of a different historic traveler while reinforcing a central theme -- the constant movement of people, goods and ideas throughout the world. The fascinating voyages of merchants, poets, rulers, explorers, soldiers, missionaries or scholars provide the framework for each chapter. New discussion questions and features prompt you to carefully consider and debate what you are reading. New inserts and special features demonstrate how information connects across chapters, societies and time periods. You learn about people, places and events that are crucial to understanding the global context of world history. This edition is available as a complete volume or split into VOLUME 1: TO 1600 and VOLUME 2: SINCE 1500. Important Notice: Media content referenced within the product description or the product text may not be available in the ebook version.

The Early Church at Work and Worship - Volume 3 Everett Ferguson 2017-10-19 This is the third volume of Ferguson's collected essays, and includes some of his most memorable work, especially on "laying on of hands."

Conceptions of "Gospel" and Legitimacy in Early Christianity James A. Kelhoffer 2014-05-14 Whether he is asking about the role of New Testament exegesis among other academic disciplines, the suppression of anger in Pauline writings, or at what point came to designate a written Gospel, James A. Kelhoffer's patient and careful exegesis provides an intriguing lens through which to view early Christianity. Many struggles of early Christ believers, he finds, reflect intra-ecclesial struggles to establish the legitimacy of a view or a religious leader vis-a-vis competing ideologies or leaders. Those already familiar with Kelhoffer's *Miracle and Mission* (2000), *The Diet of John the Baptist* (2005) and *Persecution, Persuasion and Power* (2010) will find in this volume refreshing insights suggested but not developed in his other books.

Christianity in the Roman Empire Robert E. Winn 2018-10-09 Christianity in the Roman Empire is a topical and biographical introduction to Christianity before Constantine. While its focus is the historical development of the proto-orthodox community, Robert Winn aims to bridge the gap between contemporary Christians and those who lived in the Roman Empire. To do this, his chapters discuss particular topics such as prayer, biblical interpretation, worship, and persecution, as well as prominent and controversial individuals such as Ignatius of Antioch, Justin Martyr, Melito of Sardis, and Tertullian. Part One addresses the world of the apostolic fathers, Part Two addresses hostility to Christianity and the response of Christians to this antagonism, and Part Three addresses doctrinal and communal issues of the third century. The book will pique readers interest and provide them with a deeper appreciation for the religious identity of early Christians in the Roman Empire: what they believed and how they lived. Part One: Christianity in the Year 100 1. Christians, Jews, and Romans in the First Century 2. New Way of Life: Didache and the Epistle of Barnabas 3. Clement of Rome and the Church of Corinth 4. Ignatius of Antioch and True Christianity 5. Worship and Church Order in the Year 100 Part Two: Christianity in a Hostile World (100-250) 6. Celsus, a Critic of Christianity 7. Justin Martyr, a Defender of Christianity 8. The Persecution of Christians 9. The Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity 10. Cyprian of Carthage and the Unity of the Church Part Three: Faith and Practice in the Third Century 11. Reading the Bible with Early Christians 12. Irenaeus of Lyons and True Christianity 13. Tertullian of Carthage and True Christianity 14. Prayer and the Spiritual Life of Early Christians 15. Eusebius of Caesarea: After Two Hundred Years

The Tommentary Robert Price 2013-02-01 Previous commentaries on the Gospel of Thomas have tended mainly to make this intriguing text less understandable to the general reader, not less. Choking on their authors' methodology, these commentaries are more about them than the text. Robert M. Price brings striking clarity to a fascinating text, bridging the dusty centuries. Price draws on the learning of his predecessors while providing many new interpretations. Does Thomas use the canonical gospels? Or was it written earlier? Why was it excluded from the canon? Is it Gnostic? Watch out! Thomas may become your favorite gospel!

Institutes of the Christian Religion John Calvin 2019-01-31 *Institutes of the Christian Religion* is John Calvin's original work of systematic theology. Regarded as one of the most influential works of Protestant theology, it was published in Latin in 1536 (at the same time as Henry VIII of England's Dissolution of the Monasteries) and in his native French language in 1541, with the definitive editions appearing in 1559 (Latin) and in 1560 (French). The book was written as an introductory textbook on the Protestant creed for those with some previous knowledge of theology and covered a broad range of theological topics from the doctrines of church and sacraments to justification by faith alone and Christian liberty. It vigorously attacked the teachings of those Calvin considered unorthodox, particularly Roman Catholicism, to which Calvin says he had been "strongly devoted" before his conversion to Protestantism. The *Institutes* is a highly regarded secondary reference for the system of doctrine adopted by the Reformed churches, usually called Calvinism.

Deep History, Secular Theory Luther Martin 2014-05-21 Over the course of his career, Luther H. Martin has primarily produced articles rather than monographs. This approach to publication has given him the opportunity to experiment with different methodological approaches to an academic study of religion, with updates to and

different interpretations of his field of historical specialization, namely Hellenistic religions, the subject of his only monograph (1987). The contents of this collected volume represent Martin's shift from comparative studies, to socio-political studies, to scientific studies of religion, and especially to the cognitive science of religion. He currently considers the latter to be the most viable approach for a scientific study of religion within the academic context of a modern research university. The twenty-five contributions collected in this volume are selected from over one hundred essays, articles, and book chapters published over a long and industrious career and are representative of Martin's work over the past two decades.

**An Introduction to the New Testament and the Origins of Christianity** Delbert Burkett 2002-07-11 This book, first published in 2002, offers an authoritative and accessible introduction to the New Testament and early Christian literature for all students of the Bible and anyone interested in the origins of Christianity. It is designed primarily for undergraduate courses in the New Testament, biblical studies and early Christianity. Delbert Burkett focuses on the New Testament, but also looks at a wealth of non-biblical writing to examine the history, religion and literature of Christianity in the years from 30 CE to 150 CE. An appendix containing translations of primary texts allows instant access to the writings outside the canon. With this textbook and the Bible, the student should therefore have all the necessary basic texts. The book is organised systematically with questions for in-class discussion and written assignment, step-by-step reading guides on individual works, special box features, charts, maps and numerous illustrations designed to facilitate student use.

**Astrology and Cosmology in the World's Religions** Nicholas Campion 2012-06-11 Presents overviews of the astrologies of the world's religions, discussing how various cultures have used celestial observations and beliefs about the heavens to engage with the divine and understand their lives on Earth.

**Anti-Judaism in Early Christianity: Paul and the Gospels** Peter Richardson 1986-04-30 The period since the close of World War II has been agonizingly introspective—not least because of the pain of reassessing Christianity's attitude to Judaism. The early Christian materials have often been examined to assess their role in the long-standing negative attitude of Christians to Jews. The motivation for the early church's sometimes harsh attitude was partly theological—it needed to define itself over against its parent—and partly sociological—it needed to make clear the line that divided the fledgling group of Christian believers from the group with which it was most likely to be confused. This collection of studies emphasizes the context and history of early Christianity in reconsidering many of the classic passages that have contributed to the development of anti-Judaism in Christianity. The volume opens with an essay that clearly delineates the state of the question of anti-Judaism in early Christianity. Then follow discussions of specific passages in the writings of Paul as well as the Gospels.

**The Jesus Phenomenon** Greg Rigby 2016-03-31 The Jesus Phenomenon examines the likely possibilities for the existence of the person who became known as Jesus Christ. The book looks at his most likely ancestry, the link with David and why that might have been important, the bloodline that led to his conception, the implications after his death, and the possibility that there are direct descendants. The author examines the evidence and investigates the various possibilities for a credible and realistic basis of the Jesus Christ story and the claim that Jesus was the "Son of God." This insightful book proposes a radical new hypothesis that fits all the facts as we know them and eliminates many of the conventions at the heart of Christian teaching.

**When Sex Was Religion** Larry Falls 2010 Evidence of the connection between sex and religion can be found in fertility cults in all nations of the past. When Sex Was Religion takes a comprehensive look at how sexual practices were originally considered a religion before the introduction of Christianity. Dr. Larry Falls, a registered clinical sexologist specializing in sexual abuse trauma and emotional health, spent five years traveling throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe learning about different religions, cultural history, and sexual behavior while working on his doctoral thesis. In his fascinating exploration into the beginning of human reason and the birth of religious thought includes the importance of reproduction, virgins and temple prostitutes, the original meaning of the cross, Devil worship, witches' Sabbath, and the curse of the evil eye. Dr. Falls also proves that the Kama Sutra, an ancient Hindu religious narrative about pleasure, love, and sexuality was really a Bible designed for the purpose of teaching others to gain favor from the gods by engaging in sexual intercourse. Dr. Falls' examination into sex worship demonstrates that phallic reverence was not only a religion, but also a cause for dominance and sexual exploitation that, to this day, remains part of our social structure.

**Christianity Reformed From its Roots** Jairo Mejia 2008-03-24 Offering positive alternatives to open-minded believers and unbelievers alike, Christianity Reformed from Its Roots challenges the traditional beliefs of the Roman Catholic Church on God, Jesus, and the Bible. Using the text of the New Testament, theologian and philosopher Jairo Mejia challenges us to rediscover the real Jesus, a humble Peasant of Nazareth glorified by his resurrection. Mejia argues compellingly that a true concept of God is more vital today than ever before and can be understood by both agnostics and atheists—thus asserting that there is no contradiction between science and religion, but a smooth and fulfilling meshing of the two.

**History and Literature of Early Christianity** Helmut Koester 2019-09-23

**The Oxford Handbook of the Apocrypha** Gerbern S. Oegema 2021 The Oxford Handbook of the Apocrypha addresses the Old Testament Apocrypha, known to be important early Jewish texts that have become deuterocanonical for some Christian churches, non-canonical for other churches, and that are of lasting cultural significance. In addition to the place given to the classical literary, historical, and tradition-historical introductory questions, essays focus on the major social and theological themes of each individual book. With contributions from leading scholars from around the world, the Handbook acts as an authoritative reference work on the current state of Apocrypha research, and at the same time carves out future directions of study. This Handbook offers an overview of the various Apocrypha and relevant topics related to them by presenting updated research on each individual apocryphal text in historical context, from the late Persian and early Hellenistic periods to the early Roman era. The essays provided here examine the place of the Apocrypha in the context of Early Judaism, the relationship between the Apocrypha and texts that came to be canonized, the relationship between the Apocrypha and the Septuagint, Qumran, the Pseudepigrapha, and the New Testament, as well as their reception history in the Western world. Several chapters address overarching themes, such as genre and historicity, Jewish practices and beliefs, theology and ethics, gender and the role of women, and sexual ethics.

**Holy Fable Volume IV** Robert M. Price 2020-04-21 In this fourth volume of Robert M. Price's celebrated Holy Fable series, he turns his critical lens away from the Bible and toward a broader range of scriptural works that were written, or rediscovered, in modern times. Employing the same sympathetic but eagle-eyed treatment that defined past volumes, he offers in-depth analysis of the Joseph Smith–penned Book of Mormon; the long-sealed Gospel according to Thomas; the New Age Jesus of the Aquarian Gospel; the H. P. Lovecraft–invented Necronomicon; and the Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar. With his trademark scholarship and wit, he demonstrates how and why this eclectic mix of contemporary scriptural work provides genuine spiritual inspiration to a colorful variety of religious groups and seekers today.

**How to Read Literature Like a Professor** Revised Thomas C. Foster 2014-02-25 A thoroughly revised and updated edition of Thomas C. Foster's classic guide—a lively and entertaining introduction to literature and literary basics, including symbols, themes, and contexts—that shows you how to make your everyday reading experience more rewarding and enjoyable. While many books can be enjoyed for their basic stories, there are often deeper literary meanings interwoven in these texts. How to Read Literature Like a Professor helps us to discover those hidden truths by looking at literature with the eyes—and the literary codes—of the ultimate professional reader: the college professor. What does it mean when a literary hero travels along a dusty road? When he hands a drink to his companion? When he's drenched in a sudden rain shower? Ranging from major themes to literary models, narrative devices, and form, Thomas C. Foster provides us with a broad overview of literature—a world where a road leads to a quest, a shared meal may signify a communion, and rain, whether cleansing or destructive, is never just a shower—and shows us how to make our reading experience more enriching, satisfying, and fun. This revised edition includes new chapters, a new preface, and a new epilogue, and incorporates updated teaching points that Foster has developed over the past decade.

**Attitudes to Gentiles in Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity** David C. Sim 2014-01-16 This volume describes the attitudes towards Gentiles in both ancient Judaism and the early Christian tradition. The Jewish relationship with and views about the Gentiles played an important part in Jewish self-definition, especially in the Diaspora where Jews formed the minority among larger Gentile populations. Jewish attitudes towards the Gentiles can be found in the writings of prominent Jewish authors (Josephus and Philo), sectarian movements and texts (the Qumran community, apocalyptic literature, Jesus) and in Jewish institutions such as the Jerusalem Temple and the synagogue. In the Christian tradition, which began as a Jewish movement but developed quickly into a predominantly Gentile tradition, the role and status of Gentile believers in Jesus was always of crucial significance. Did Gentile believers need to convert to Judaism as an essential component of their affiliation with Jesus, or had the appearance of the messiah rendered such distinctions invalid? This volume assesses the wide variety of viewpoints in terms of attitudes towards Gentiles and the status and expectations of Gentiles in the Christian church.

**Tolerance, Intolerance, and Recognition in Early Christianity and Early Judaism** Outi Lethipuu 2021-06-16 This collection of essays investigates signs of toleration, recognition, respect and other positive forms of interaction between and within religious groups of late antiquity. At the same time, it acknowledges that examples of tolerance are significantly fewer in ancient sources than examples of intolerance and are often limited to insiders, while outsiders often met with contempt, or even outright violence. The essays take both perspectives seriously by analysing the complexity pertaining to these encounters. Religious concerns, ethnicity, gender and other social factors central to identity formation were often intertwined and they yielded different ways of drawing the limits of tolerance and intolerance. This book enhances our understanding of the formative centuries of Jewish and Christian religious traditions. It also brings the results of historical inquiry into dialogue with present-day questions of religious tolerance.