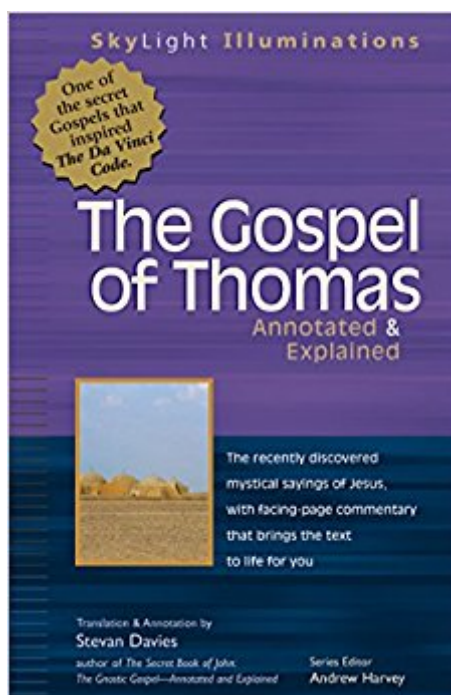


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# The Gospel Of Thomas: Annotated & Explained (SkyLight Illuminations)



## Synopsis

The recently discovered mystical sayings of Jesus, with facing-page commentary that brings the text to life for you."The Gospel of Thomas really is, I believe, the clearest guide we have to the vision of the world's supreme mystical revolutionary, the teacher known as Jesus. To those who learn to unpack its sometimes cryptic sayings, the Gospel of Thomas offers a naked and dazzlingly subversive representation of Jesus—defining and most radical discovery: that the living Kingdom of God burns in us and surrounds us at all moments."—from the Foreword by Andrew Harvey

This ancient text can become a companion for your own spiritual journey. In 1945, twelve ancient books were found inside a sealed jar at the base of an Egyptian cliff. One of those texts was the Gospel of Thomas, one of the most important religious archaeological discoveries of the twentieth century. While illuminating the origins of Christianity, it raises the question whether the New Testament's version of Jesus' teachings is entirely accurate and complete. Written at the same time as the canonical Gospels, the Gospel of Thomas portrays Jesus as a wisdom-loving sage. The aphoristic sayings emphasize the value of the present, teaching that the Kingdom of God is here and now, rather than a future promise or future threat. It presents a new way of looking at the challenging and intriguing figure of Jesus, and reminds us that the Divine can be found right here on earth. Now you can experience the Gospel of Thomas with understanding even if you have no previous knowledge of early Christian history or thought. This SkyLight Illuminations edition offers insightful yet unobtrusive commentary that explains references and philosophical terms, shares the inspiring interpretations of famous spiritual teachers, and gives you deeper understanding of Thomas' innovative message: that self-knowledge and contemplation of the nature of this world are the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Professor Davies has taken the Gospel of Thomas to the next level of intelligibility and accessibility. The commentary stretches the mind, while the comprehensible and accessible translation make Jesus' (and Thomas's) voice clear. A masterful resource for both spiritual and intellectual seekers!"  
Richard Valantasis, Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins, Iliff School of Theology

"The Gospel of Thomas really is, I believe, the clearest guide we have to the vision of the world's supreme mystical revolutionary, the teacher known as Jesus. To those who learn to unpack its sometimes cryptic sayings, the Gospel of Thomas offers a naked and dazzlingly subversive representation of Jesus' defining and most radical discovery: that the living Kingdom of God burns in us and surrounds us at all moments." --from the Foreword by Andrew Harvey

Reading and reflecting on the Gospel of Thomas has brought me to a more real and earthy Jesus, pared of the layers of Christology heaped on him over the years. The sayings are pithy and thought provoking, and sometimes unintelligible for me across so many generations. This is what one would expect. There are also many similarities with the canonical gospels. For many weeks I have been reading a saying each day and allowing it to sit with me. The commentary is not as detailed as I would have liked, but is often helpful in giving some background. However, I bought the book more for the translation. The discovery of this Gospel has been, and continues to be, a gift to those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the human Jesus and also of the early church. Together with some of the other "apocryphal" gospels, I am able to get more of a picture of the diversity of the early churches and how much was lost when only one version of Christianity was allowed.

Davies provides a new fresh translation and just enough commentary to help the reader do their own pondering of the mystery sayings found in the Gospel of Thomas. The translation is certainly more readable than the SV (Scholars Version) which is more interested in the historical Jesus than it is in the Gospel of Thomas itself. Davies allows Thomas' Gospel to speak on its own terms, and in

doing so liberates for us another voice that witnesses to a part of the early church community. I found Davies' explanation of the two creations very helpful in understanding some of the logia in Thomas' Gospel. Sometimes, though, I found myself wishing for more commentary than is provided. For example, I hoped for more references to better understand the Greek and Coptic texts. Overall, though, this is a wonderful book for devotional meditation, for better understanding of, and a greater appreciation for this ancient gospel.

I like this book. This is one of two books on The Gospel of Thomas I bought. This book is a pleasure to read. The quotations are on one page and the interpretations are on the facing page. The interpretations are written in a style that I can understand, which gives me a realistic look into the sayings of Jesus.

This is very interesting. I am enjoying reading it and finding what Thomas has in his book compared to what is in the Bible. It should have been included.

This is the second book review I have done. Each relate to the profound text that is "The Gospel of Thomas." Stevan Davies is a Master at explaining "The Gospel of Thomas." He has spent over 20 years in study of the Master! I have much respect for other texts that are said to revere "The Gospel of Thomas." However, none are in comparison to the work Stevan Davies has done! I admit that I love all the commentary books on the gospel and each are special in their own way! Marvin Meyer is great on historical research and others on a universal application of Jesus' teachings and how they apply to other religions! But Stevan Davie truly brings his gospel to life! He is a true believer just like me! All we have to do is recognize what is already before us. This is the hope that just might save the world! As a "Thomas Christian" I would make this required reading for all who seek a true spirituality. This text is more than just a Bible for "Thomas Christians" it is the very sacred source of eternal Life! The Gospel of Thomas that is translated and annotated by Stevan Davies in the Shambhala Library is the same text but different editions of the same book.

The Gospel of Thomas is really an outstanding book, much better than I expected. The annotations and explanations of the mystical sayings of Jesus are very thought-provoking, giving a clear understanding of Thomas's message that the Kingdom of God is within you and not within the ornate churches. The Kingdom of Heaven is here and now and not a future threat. Professor Davies did an awesome job with his research.

The Gospel of Thomas is an important discovery, a treasure from the ancient desert. Stevan Davies makes a good translation, although I am not an expert in this category. Sometimes his commentary is excellent and insightful, opening new doors of possibility for the reader of Thomas.

Interesting

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