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New Testament Apocrypha, Vol. 1: Gospels And Related Writings



Synopsis

The authoritative edition in two volumes of the apocryphal writings of the New Testament. This first volume covers the non-canonical gospels, including the Infancy Gospels and the gospels of the Gnostics.

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Customer Reviews

This Revised Edition of the "New Testament Apocrypha, Volume 1: Gospels and Related Writings", published in English in 1991, is a translation by R. McL. Wilson of the 6th German edition edited by Wilhelm Scheemelcher. The introductory materials for each text and section were simply translated from the German, but the texts themselves were translated, then checked against the original Greek, Coptic, or Latin and revised if necessary, in order to avoid the pitfalls of twice-removed translations. There are about 70 texts covered in this first volume, depending upon how you count. These are non-canonical Christian or semi-Christian texts that were excluded from the canon (or did not yet exist) by the end of the 2nd century, by which time it is likely certain texts had been established as normative, though the canon was not definitively fixed until the 4th century. The texts range in date of origin from the early 2nd to 7th centuries, with most from the 2nd-4th centuries. The 65-page General Introduction addresses both volumes of the "New Testament Apocrypha". It discusses the history of the terms "canon" and "apocrypha" as they were applied to Christian texts, the evidence and conflicting theories of when and how the Christian canon was formed, the influences of heterodox sects on the orthodox canon, and provides translations of ancient and

medieval canon catalogs. It also discusses the relation of the apocrypha to the canon, its role, and the history of apocryphal research. It should be noted that this introduction and those for the texts sometimes do not reflect the latest scholarship, as they were written nearly 20 years ago. Most of the texts are incomplete or fragmentary.

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