

# **The Lopsided Spread Of Christianity Toward An Understanding Of The Diffusion Of Religions**

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## The Lopsided Spread Of Christianity Toward An Understanding Of The Diffusion Of Religions

**Following the Human One** Robert L. Montgomery 2017-10-03 Jesus Christ is the most famous person in human history. His favorite name for himself was “the Son of Man” or the “the Human One.” Rarely did his followers call him that, but it must have had great significance for him. This book describes why this name was so important and what it means for us now. Along with this favorite name, this book shows how Jesus Christ fulfills human longing, but at the same time is resisted by his own followers to this day. Nevertheless, his call to follow him has sounded down the centuries and been heeded by millions. The book leads to an exploration of the Way that is found in Jesus Christ, who called himself “the Human One.”

**Comparing Religions** Thomas Athanasius Idinopulos 2018-08-14 Given the fact that today's university students are far more culturally sophisticated than ever before, "Comparing Religions: Possibilities and Perils" brings together a distinguished group of

professors of religion with years of teaching experience to address the central question of how comparison of religions should be pursued in today's classroom. Covering topics such as recent theoretical approaches to comparison, case studies of comparing religions in the classroom, and the impact of postcolonialism and postmodernism on the modernist assumptions of comparativism, the volume seeks to problematize and interrogate the field, especially as it relates to emerging models of pedagogy at the university level. "Comparing Religions" will be of especial interest to those who teach in religious studies departments, or who teach courses on religion in departments of anthropology, sociology, and history.

**The Spread of Religions** Robert L. Montgomery 2007 Since the nineteenth century, scholars have recognized that three religions have spread more widely through propagation and conversion than other religions. These three religions in historical order are Buddhism,

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Christianity, and Islam. In spite of this recognition and numerous studies of these and other religions, there has been almost no attempt to explain why these three religions should have spread so widely. This book breaks new ground in setting forth the reasons why these religions have spread. It also predicts the future course in the spread of religions based on the nature of these religions and changing world conditions. [www.sompsite.com](http://www.sompsite.com)

**The Evolution of Early Christianity** Shirley Jackson Case 2014-09-19 From the PREFACE. THIS book does not aim to furnish a detailed account of the territorial, doctrinal, ecclesiastical, and literary developments of early Christianity. It seeks rather to analyze and interpret the environmental forces which stimulated, nourished, or directed the growth of the new religion. Consequently interest centers mainly in the lives of actual persons whose activities were related to a specific setting within which they worked out their various

problems. This study, accordingly, deals primarily with the origins of the Christian movement and only secondarily with the writings which the movement produced, sporadically and sometimes quite incidentally, in the process of expansion. Later generations have become so accustomed to think of the New Testament as the source of their religion that they with difficulty appreciate the situation of the early Christians during that spontaneous and formative period when the champions of the new faith were performing their work without the aid of any distinctively Christian Scriptures. When the New Testament books were ultimately assembled they preserved records of Christian activity and thinking from different localities and various periods, and so these writings constitute an important source of information for the study of Christian origins; but they render this service truly only when they are interpreted as the product of the movement of whose history they are a valuable though fragmentary record.

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Hence the student of Christian origins must first orient himself in the life of the times, if he would understand the genesis of the new religion as well as the literature it produced. The possibility of obtaining this orientation has greatly increased in recent years. Much help may now be derived from the historical study of religions as a whole, which supplies certain broad principles capable of general application. These results emphasize the necessity of taking account of psychological processes in the rise and development of all religions, and they make clear the importance, of social and cultural forces for the determination of religious phenomena. But more immediate help comes from observing the actual historical situation in which the early Christians lived....

*Social Change* Steven Vago 2003 A timely and comprehensive social analysis of one of the most important social concerns of our time, this fifth edition of *Social Change* greatly increases the contemporary multicultural and international

components, yet retains its pedagogically sound features and proven organizational framework. It provides a readable and up-to-date analysis of the major theoretical perspectives, sources, processes, patterns, and consequences of social change. The author also incorporates empirical works from anthropology, social psychology, economics, political science, and history.

### **Pagan and Christian Creeds: Their Origin and Meaning** Edward Carpenter 2019-11-20

This groundbreaking work delves into the depths of religious history, uncovering the very origins of Christian beliefs. The author embarks on a journey to unravel the mysteries of the past, revealing a surprising evolutionary sequence that stretches back centuries before the birth of Christianity. With a systematic and logical approach, the author uncovers common themes between Christianity and ancient Pagan religions, tracing the roots of many Christian religious concepts to paganistic practices.

### The Spread of Christianity in the Modern World

## The Lopsided Spread Of Christianity Toward An Understanding Of The Diffusion Of Religions

Edward Caldwell Moore 1910

**Christianity and Religious Plurality** Wilbert R. Shenk 2016-10-11 Over the past two centuries the Christian faith has spread to all continents. Although more global than ever, Christians are religious minorities in most societies. Religious freedom is hardly universal. In the past fifty years, millions of people have been uprooted from their traditional homelands in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Some have emigrated to Western Europe and North America. The West has become the scene of cultural, linguistic, and religious variety on a scale unimagined in 1900. Today, the full range of faiths and religious practices from all continents are present in Europe and North America. Christians are challenged to come to terms with this changed situation. These developments have intensified religious plurality. Christians all over the world are being urged to understand and engage with this new situation. This volume highlights this new reality

and specifies some sources for engagement, not least among them the Judeo-Christian scriptures--fundamental to all "Christianities"--that emerged out of religious plural contexts. On the basis of their faith in the Triune God disclosed in this text, all followers of Jesus Christ must interact with these opportunities in today's radically context-sensitive world.

"Europäische" Religionsgeschichte Helmut Zander 2015-12-18 Die Religionsgeschichte im Okzident besitzt - wie jede religiöse Tradition - ein spezifisches Profil, so die These dieses Buches: In der Spätantike entstand ein neues Konzept religiöser Zugehörigkeit, das Europa fundamental und bis heute prägt: Menschen konnten einer „Religion“ nicht mehr nur durch Geburt, sondern auch aufgrund einer Entscheidung angehören. Das klingt banal, revolutionierte aber das Religionssystem. Dies dokumentieren Erfindungen des frühen Christentums: ein Ritus zum Eintritt („Taufe“), religiöse Unterweisung („Katechese“),

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Ausbreitung jenseits ethnischer Grenzen („Universalismus“) durch „Mission“ und „Konversion“. Diese Elemente führten zu einem neuen, demjenigen Verständnis von „Religion“, welches heute den umgangssprachlichen und religionswissenschaftlichen Religionsbegriff prägt. Der Eigensinn dieser Entwicklung im Okzident wird durch komparative Perspektiven sichtbar, etwa in der Frage, in welchem Sinn man im Buddhismus von einer „Mission“ sprechen kann oder in welchem Ausmaß das Verständnis von „wahrer“ und „falscher“ Religion im Islam auf dessen Verknüpfung mit der Christentumsgeschichte zurückgeht. Dem zentralen Kapitel über „Entscheidung“ folgen vier Kapitel zu kulturellen Konsequenzen einer auf Entscheidung gegründeten Zugehörigkeit. Zwei gegenwartsbezogene Konsequenzen im Bereich von Religionspolitik und Kultur werden exemplarisch genannt: Das Problem religiöser Pluralität, die damit verbundene Verfolgung aus religiösen Gründen und die dann entstandene

Religionsfreiheit sind nicht ohne die Forderung nach einer Entscheidung in Religionsangelegenheiten zu verstehen. Und: Das neue Religionskonzept prägt aufgrund der europäischen Expansion heute das Verständnis von Religion in einer globalisierten Kultur.

Bibliographic Index 2002

Religion and the State Scott A. Merriman 2009-07-14 This timely and authoritative resource combines both topical and country-by-country coverage to help readers understand the coexistence of church and state in nations around the world today. At a time when faith-based groups have become more politically active in the United States, and with religious conflicts at the epicenter of many of the world's most dangerous hotspots, Religion and the State: An International Analysis of Roles and Relationships could not be more welcomed or timely. Country by country, faith by faith, it unravels the historic underpinnings and long-range effects of the relationship between

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religious principles and the operations of government in its many guises worldwide. The work combines topical essays on significant developments in the confluence of religion and law throughout the world with short descriptions of each countries' current treatment of religion. Readers can investigate specific nations, compare situations across nations, and explore key issues in the pervasive, often controversial relationship between religion and government.

### **The Spread of Christianity in the Modern**

**World** Edward Caldwell Moore 2016-05-18 This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work was reproduced from the original artifact, and remains as true to the original work as possible. Therefore, you will see the original copyright references, library stamps (as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world), and other notations in the work. This work is in the public

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American Book Publishing Record 2002

**Diffused Religion** Roberto Cipriani 2017-10-26 This book explores the concept of diffused religion as it is found in contemporary society, resulting from a vast process of religious socialisation that continues to pervade our cultural reality. It provides a critical engagement with a framework of non-institutional religion

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that is based on values largely shared in society by being diffused through primary and secondary socialisation. Cipriani also contends that these very values which give form to diffused religion can also be seen in themselves as their own kind of religion. As a result, they go beyond secularisation and favour the religious continuum extending around the world of diffused religions. This work will be of great interest to scholars in the Sociology of Religion and to anyone wanting to learn more about the social aspects of religion.

*Christianity Among the Religions* E. L. Allen 2020-12-17 Originally published in 1961, *Christianity Among the Religions* examines whether it is possible to learn from other religions without compromising on personal religious loyalties. The book traces from the thirteenth century the gradual awakening of the West to the spiritual qualities of other religions and the various efforts made to place them in relation to Christianity. It explores the reports

sent home by Jesuit missionaries in China, the advance in knowledge in nineteenth-century Europe, and the gradual decline in Western "provincialism". In doing so, the book puts forwards suggestions for the relation between Christianity and other religions and calls for open conversations between representatives of different faiths with the aim of increased unity of spirit. *Christianity Among the Religions* will appeal to all those with an interest in the history of Christianity and religious studies more generally.

**Cities of God** Rodney Stark 2009-03-17 How did the preaching of a peasant carpenter from Galilee spark a movement that would grow to include over two billion followers? Who listened to this "good news," and who ignored it? Where did Christianity spread, and how? Based on quantitative data and the latest scholarship, preeminent scholar and journalist Rodney Stark presents new and startling information about the rise of the early church, overturning many



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prevailing views of how Christianity grew through time to become the largest religion in the world. Drawing on both archaeological and historical evidence, Stark is able to provide hard statistical evidence on the religious life of the Roman Empire to discover the following facts that set conventional history on its head:

Contrary to fictions such as *The Da Vinci Code* and the claims of some prominent scholars, Gnosticism was not a more sophisticated, more authentic form of Christianity, but really an unsuccessful effort to paganize Christianity. Paul was called the apostle to the Gentiles, but mostly he converted Jews. Paganism was not rapidly stamped out by state repression following the vision and conversion of the Roman Emperor Constantine in 312 AD, but gradually disappeared as people abandoned the temples in response to the superior appeal of Christianity. The "oriental" faiths—such as those devoted to Isis, the Egyptian goddess of love and magic, and to Cybele, the fertility goddess of Asia

Minor—actually prepared the way for the rapid spread of Christianity across the Roman Empire. Contrary to generations of historians, the Roman mystery cult of Mithraism posed no challenge to Christianity to become the new faith of the empire— it allowed no female members and attracted only soldiers. By analyzing concrete data, Stark is able to challenge the conventional wisdom about early Christianity offering the clearest picture ever of how this religion grew from its humble beginnings into the faith of more than one-third of the earth's population.

Crossing and Dwelling Thomas A. TWEED  
2009-06-30 A deeply researched and vividly written study, this book depicts religion in place and in movement, dwelling and crossing. Drawing on insights from the natural and social sciences, Tweed's work is grounded in the gritty particulars of distinctive religious practices, even as it moves toward ideas about cross-cultural patterns. It offers a responsible way to think broadly about religion, a topic that is

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crucial for understanding the contemporary world.

*RE-IMAGINING CHURCH* Gerald Rose 2014  
Many church leaders are confused. Patterns of ministry which worked so well in the past are no longer effective. Churches which grew rapidly have ceased to grow. The culture of the Western world has changed. At its heart is a change in the nature of authority: from tradition and reason to the authority of personal experience. This book explores the changes in culture and church life. Rev Dr Philip Hughes, the senior research officer of the Christian Research Association outlines the problem the churches are facing. Rev Gary Bouma, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Monash University, and an Anglican Priest, charts the origins of the problem. The large part of the book is the work of Rev Dr Gerald Rose, a senior minister in the Churches of Christ in Victoria, Australia. Through careful observation and detailed interviews of ministers, he describes a range of

ministry responses to the changing culture. He explores, not one solution, but many: the ministry of intentional mission, of the charismatic movement, of ministry based in relationships, and of ministry rooted in classical spirituality. This is a book which should be read by church leaders, ministers and pastors of all denominations. It provides great insight into the nature of contemporary culture and outlines positive pathways for ministry in the Western context.

**The Lopsided Spread of Christianity** Robert L. Montgomery 2001-10-30  
Comparing the spread of Christianity to the East to its more successful spread to the West, Montgomery illustrates the uneven diffusion of one of the world's most influential and successful religions. Through his sociological analysis, the author examines the causes for Christianity's success to the West and its relative failings in major societies to the east of Jerusalem, including India, Persia, and China. Applying five variables,

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including Christianity's missionary orientation, geography, intersocietal relations, sociocultural structures, and individual perceptions, Montgomery provides a theory of the diffusion of religion in general, and of Christianity in particular. Beginning by laying out the variables he will apply to the study, Montgomery carefully explains his approach, introducing the reader to this unique field of study. He then moves on to examine Christianity's earliest spread to areas east of Jerusalem. An examination of the rise of Islam in the East precedes a comparative analysis of the success of Christianity in its spread to the West to its relative failure to spread to the East. He concludes with a discussion of religious pluralism.

Groundbreaking in its attempt to establish a better understanding of religious diffusion, this work will be indispensable to those interested in the study of sociology of religions, religious studies, missionary studies, and Christianity.

**Advanced Missiology** Kenneth Nehrbass

2021-04-02 Advanced Missiology draws the connections between the theory and practice of missions. Using the metaphor of a river, the book shows how theories "upstream" such as theology, education, anthropology, community development, and history have exerted an influence on missiology (and missiology, in turn, has gone back upstream to influence those disciplines). What causes these disciplines to converge in missiology is the goal of making disciples across cultures. Whereas missiologists are not always explicit about how their abstract theories actually relate to the task of making disciples across cultures, each chapter in Advanced Missiology shows how numerous theories, sub-fields, models, and strategies of missiology ultimately facilitate the Great Commission. The book argues that by using interdisciplinarity for this fundamental purpose, missiological studies will be more credible and useful. With contributions from: Rebecca Burnett Leanne Dzubinski Julie Martinez

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### The Oxford Handbook of Religious Conversion

Marc David Baer 2014 This handbook offers a comprehensive exploration of the dynamics of religious conversion, which for centuries has profoundly shaped societies, cultures, and individuals throughout the world.

*The Christian Attitude to Other Religions* E. C. Dewick 2011-06-09 First published in 1953, these Hulsean Lectures review the policy and methods of Christian missions to non-Christians.

Early Christianity and Greek Paideia Werner Jaeger 1985 This small book, the last work of a world-renowned scholar, has established itself as a classic. It provides a superb overview of the vast historical process by which Christianity was Hellenized and Hellenic civilization became Christianized. Werner Jaeger shows that without the large postclassical expansion of Greek culture the rise of a Christian world religion would have been impossible. He explains why the Hellenization of Christianity was necessary in apostolic and postapostolic times; points out

similarities between Greek philosophy and Christian belief; discuss such key figures as Clement, Origen, and Gregory of Nyssa; and touches on the controversies that led to the ultimate complex synthesis of Greek and Christian thought.

**The Rise of Christianity** Rodney Stark 1997-05-09 This "fresh, blunt, and highly persuasive account of how the West was won—for Jesus" (Newsweek) is now available in paperback. Stark's provocative report challenges conventional wisdom and finds that Christianity's astounding dominance of the Western world arose from its offer of a better, more secure way of life. "Compelling reading" (Library Journal) that is sure to "generate spirited argument" (Publishers Weekly), this account of Christianity's remarkable growth within the Roman Empire is the subject of much fanfare. "Anyone who has puzzled over Christianity's rise to dominance...must read it." says Yale University's Wayne A. Meeks, for The

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Rise of Christianity makes a compelling case for startling conclusions. Combining his expertise in social science with historical evidence, and his insight into contemporary religion's appeal, Stark finds that early Christianity attracted the privileged rather than the poor, that most early converts were women or marginalized Jews—and ultimately "that Christianity was a success because it proved those who joined it with a more appealing, more assuring, happier, and perhaps longer life" (Andrew M. Greeley, University of Chicago).

*Books In Print 2004-2005* Bowker Editorial Staff 2004

*Encyclopedia of Religion* Lindsay Jones 2005

**A History of Modern Tourism** Eric Zuelow 2015-10-26 Tourism is one of the largest industries in the world, yet leisure travel is more than just economically important. It plays a vital role in defining who we are by helping to place us in space and time. In so doing, it has aesthetic, medical, political, cultural, and social

implications. However, it hasn't always been so. Tourism as we know it is a surprisingly modern thing, both a product of modernity and a force helping to shape it. *A History of Modern Tourism* is the first book to track the origins and evolution of this pursuit from earliest times to the present. From a new understanding of aesthetics to scientific change, from the invention of steam power to the creation of aircraft, from an elite form of education to family car trips to see national 'shrines,' this book offers a sweeping and engaging overview of a fascinating story not yet widely known.

**Ex Auditu - Volume 25** Klyne Snodgrass 2010-06-01 CONTENTS: Introduction Stephen J. Chester Conversion Studies, Pastoral Counseling, and Cultural Studies: Engaging and Embracing a New Paradigm Lewis R. Rambo Response to Rambo Phillis Isabella Sheppard Observations on "Conversion" and the Old Testament J. Andrew Dearman Response to Dearman Rajkumar Boaz Johnson The

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Conversion of Simon Peter Markus Bockmuehl  
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Warren Smith Response to Smith George  
Kalantzis I Thank Christ Jesus our Lord: 1  
Timothy 1:12-17 Eric James Greaux Sr.  
**From State Church to Pluralism** Franklin  
Littell 2017-07-05 For most of our history,  
American religious life has been dominated by a  
view of church history in which we appear as  
mere deposits of European religious culture. In

fact, however, the freedom of Americans to  
choose without penalty to join any religious body  
or none at all is new in human history. This book  
is an effort to understand and interpret how we  
arrived at our present situation and, in doing so,  
to clarify many cultural, social and political  
issues.

**A History of Christian Conversion** David W.  
Kling 2020-05-05 Conversion has played a  
central role in the history of Christianity. In this  
first in-depth and wide-ranging narrative history,  
David Kling examines the dynamic of turning to  
the Christian faith by individuals, families, and  
people groups. Global in reach, the narrative  
progresses from early Christian beginnings in  
the Roman world to Christianity's expansion into  
Europe, the Americas, China, India, and Africa.  
Conversion is often associated with a particular  
strand of modern Christianity (evangelical) and a  
particular type of experience (sudden,  
overwhelming). However, when examined over  
two millennia, it emerges as a phenomenon far

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more complex than any one-dimensional profile would suggest. No single, unitary paradigm defines conversion and no easily explicable process accounts for why people convert to Christianity. Rather, a multiplicity of factors-historical, personal, social, geographical, theological, psychological, and cultural-shape the converting process. A History of Christian Conversion not only narrates the conversions of select individuals and peoples, it also engages current theories and models to explain conversion, and examines recurring themes in the conversion process: divine presence, gender and the body, agency and motivation, testimony and memory, group- and self-identity, "authentic" and "nominal" conversion, and modes of communication. Accessible to scholars, students, and those with a general interest in conversion, Kling's book is the most satisfying and comprehensive account of conversion in Christian history to date; this major work will become a standard must-read in conversion

studies.

**The Evolution of Early Christianity** Shirley Jackson Case 1920

The British National Bibliography Arthur James Wells 2003

**The Princeton Seminary Bulletin** Princeton Theological Seminary 2003 Vols. for 1907/1908-1936/1937: no. 1, Commencement issue, no. 2, Necrology report, no. 3, News, no. 4, Catalogue; v. for 1937/1938-1938/1939: no. 1, 3, News, no. 2, Bulletin of courses, no. 4, Catalogue; v. for 1939/1940-1944/1945: no. 1, 4, News, no. 2, Bulletin of courses, no. 3, Catalogue; v. for 1945/1946: no. 1, Bulletin of courses, no. 2, 4, News, no. 3, Catalogue; v. for 1946/1947-1952/1953: no. 1, 3, 4, News, no. 2, Catalogue.

*The Heresy of Orthodoxy (Foreword by I. Howard Marshall)* Andreas J. Köstenberger 2010-06-09 Beginning with Walter Bauer in 1934, the denial of clear orthodoxy in early Christianity has shaped and largely defined

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modern New Testament criticism, recently given new life through the work of spokesmen like Bart Ehrman. Spreading from academia into mainstream media, the suggestion that diversity of doctrine in the early church led to many competing orthodoxies is indicative of today's postmodern relativism. Authors Köstenberger and Kruger engage Ehrman and others in this polemic against a dogged adherence to popular ideals of diversity. Köstenberger and Kruger's accessible and careful scholarship not only counters the "Bauer Thesis" using its own terms, but also engages overlooked evidence from the New Testament. Their conclusions are drawn from analysis of the evidence of unity in the New Testament, the formation and closing of the canon, and the methodology and integrity of the recording and distribution of religious texts within the early church.

**Transatlantic Religion** 2021-09-27

Transatlantic Religion offers a historical reinterpretation of nineteenth-century American

Christianity, one that emphasizes European connections. Its authors represent a diverse group of international scholars offering new insights based on a range of analytical approaches to previously unexamined archival sources.

**The Closing of the Western Mind** Charles Freeman 2007-12-18 A radical and powerful reappraisal of the impact of Constantine's adoption of Christianity on the later Roman world, and on the subsequent development both of Christianity and of Western civilization. When the Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity in 368 AD, he changed the course of European history in ways that continue to have repercussions to the present day. Adopting those aspects of the religion that suited his purposes, he turned Rome on a course from the relatively open, tolerant and pluralistic civilization of the Hellenistic world, towards a culture that was based on the rule of fixed authority, whether that of the Bible, or the writings of Ptolemy in



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astronomy and of Galen and Hippocrates in medicine. Only a thousand years later, with the advent of the Renaissance and the emergence of modern science, did Europe begin to free itself from the effects of Constantine's decision, yet the effects of his establishment of Christianity as a state religion remain with us, in many respects, today. Brilliantly wide-ranging and ambitious, this is a major work of history.

*The Anthropology of Religious Conversion*

Andrew Buckser 2003 Table of contents

**Choice** 2002

*Saint Thomas the Apostle: New Testament, Apocrypha, and Historical Traditions* Johnson

Thomaskutty 2018-02-22 Are the Thomas references in the Gospel of John, the Thomas compositions, and the early Thomas traditions in northwestern and southern India purely legendary as biblical scholars have assumed or do they preserve unexamined historical traditions intermittently as the Thomas Christians in India have believed? Didymus

Judas Thomas is one of the most misunderstood characters from the beginning of the New Testament history and interpretation. In this study, Thomaskutty addresses the following questions: whether Thomas was merely a 'doubting Thomas' or a 'genuine Thomas'? Can we understand Thomas comprehensively by bringing the New Testament, apocrypha, and historical traditions together? How was Thomas connected to eastern Christianity and how does the Thomas literature support/not support this connectivity? Can we understand the Thomas traditions related to Judea, Syria, and India with the help of canonical, extra canonical, and traditio-historical documents? Thomaskutty investigates the development of the Thomas literature right from the beginning, examining and questioning the approaches and methodologies that have been employed in interpreting these documents, and analyzes the Thomas literature closely in order to understand the character, his mission involvements, and the

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possible implications this may have for understanding early Christianity in the east.

**Pagan & Christian Creeds** Edward Carpenter  
2014-06-01 An important thinker in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century period, English writer and philosopher Edward Carpenter was blessed with a seemingly insatiable intellectual curiosity. In this wide-ranging analysis of early religions and folk beliefs, Carpenter offers a deft and often poetic take on ancient rituals and deities.

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