

# GNOSTICISM AND SIMONIANISM



C. W. KING

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# Gnosticism And Simonianism

**James Orr**



## **Gnosticism And Simonianism:**

*Simon Magus: The First Gnostic?* Stephen Haar, 2012-10-24 This latest comprehensive work on Simon Magus lends new impetus to the investigation of Early Christianity and questions surrounding the origin and nature of Gnosticism Major contributions of this study include 1 a departure from the traditional exegesis of Acts 8 5 24 the first narrative source of Simon and the later following reports of ancient Christian writers 2 an overview of the literature of Graeco Roman antiquity to determine the contribution of magic and the Magoi in the development of perceptions and descriptions of Simon and 3 the inclusion of social science explanation models and modern estimations of identity in a creative approach to questions surrounding the phenomenon of Simon

**Gnosticism and Simonianism** C. W. King, 2005-12 This scarce antiquarian book is a facsimile reprint of the original Due to its age it may contain imperfections such as marks notations marginalia and flawed pages Because we believe this work is culturally important we have made it available as part of our commitment for protecting preserving and promoting the world s literature in affordable high quality modern editions that are true to the original work

*Simon Magus* George Robert Stow Mead, 2020-09-28 Everybody in Christendom has heard of Simon the magician and how Peter the apostle rebuked him as told in the narrative of the Acts of the Apostles Many also have heard the legend of how at Rome this wicked sorcerer endeavoured to fly by aid of the demons and how Peter caused him to fall headlong and thus miserably perish And so most think that there is an end of the matter and either cast their mite of pity or contempt at the memory of Simon or laugh at the whole matter as the invention of superstition or the imagination of religious fanaticism according as their respective beliefs may be in orthodoxy or materialism This for the general Students of theology and church history on the other hand have had a more difficult task set them in comparing and arranging the materials they have at their disposal as found in the patristic writings and legendary records and various theories have been put forward not the least astonishing being the supposition that Simon was an alias for Paul and that the Simon and Peter in the accounts of the fathers and in the narrative of the legends were simply concrete symbols to represent the two sides of the Pauline and Petrine controversies The first reason why I have ventured on this present enquiry is that Simon Magus is invariably mentioned by the heresiologists as the founder of the first heresy of the commonly accepted Christian era and is believed by them to have been the originator of those systems of religio philosophy and theosophy which are now somewhat inaccurately classed together under the heading of Gnosticism And though this assumption of the patristic heresiologists is entirely incorrect as may be proved from their own works it is nevertheless true that Simonianism is the first system that as far as our present records go came into conflict with what has been regarded as the orthodox stream of Christianity A second reason is that I believe that Simon has been grossly misrepresented and entirely misunderstood by his orthodox opponents whoever they were in the first place and also in the second place by those who have ignorantly and without enquiry copied from them But my chief reason is that the present revival of theosophical enquiry throws a flood of light on Simon s teachings whenever

we can get anything approaching a first hand statement of them and shows that it was identical in its fundamentals with the Esoteric Philosophy of all the great religions of the world In this enquiry I shall have to be slightly wearisome to some of my readers for instead of giving a selection or even a paraphrase of the notices on Simon which we have from authenticated patristic sources I shall furnish verbatim translations and present a digest only of the unauthenticated legends The growth of the Simonian legend must unfold itself before the reader in its native form as it comes from the pens of those who have constructed it Repetitions will therefore be unavoidable in the marshalling of authorities but they will be shown to be not without interest in the subsequent treatment of the subject and at any rate we shall at least be on the sure ground of having before us all that has been said on the matter by the Church fathers Having cited these authorities I shall attempt to submit them to a critical examination and so eliminate all accretions hearsay and controversial opinions and thus sift out what reliable residue is possible Finally my task will be to show that Simon taught a system of Theosophy which instead of deserving our condemnation should rather excite our admiration and that instead of being a common impostor and impious perverter of public morality his method was in many respects of the same nature as the methods of the theosophical movement of to day and deserves the study and consideration of all students of Theosophy     First Century Gnosticism Gerard van Groningen,1967     *Pre-Christian Gnosticism* Edwin M. Yamauchi,2003-10-14 One of the most important issues facing New Testament scholarship today is the issue of Gnosticism So wrote the author in 1973 in the first edition With the publication since then of the entire Nag Hammadi library this observation has become even more incisive Was there a pre Christian Gnosticism Did Gnosticism directly or indirectly influence nascent Christianity Many modern scholars argue that Gnosticism preceded the emergence of New Testament Christianity and constituted the raw material from which the apostles formed their message about Jesus The author here analyzes the evidence used to support this thesis He notes a series of methodological fallacies in the use of this evidence and concludes that clearly Gnostic materials are late and pre Christian materials are not clearly Gnostic A new chapter in this paperback edition brings the discussion up to date     **Sethian Gnosticism and the Platonic Tradition** John Douglas Turner,2001     John the Baptist and the Last Gnostics Andrew Philip Smith,2016-08-16 This fascinating study of the Mandeans of Iraq considered the last of the Gnostics traces their history back to John the Baptist and the days of early Christianity Among the casualties of western intervention in Iraq and ISIS are the Mandeans of Southern Iraq These peace loving people are now fleeing to the west They are the last Gnostics the only surviving remnant of the ancient sects who taught the direct knowledge of God created their own gospels and myths and were persecuted as heretical by the church in the second and third centuries The Mandeans place weekly river baptisms at the center of their religious life and the primary exemplar of their religion is none other than John the Baptist So what is the real history of this mysterious and long lived sect Can the Mandaean peoples really be traced back to the first century And who was John the Baptist This book follows the history of the Mandeans from their present plight back through their earliest

encounters with the West their place in Islamic countries their possible influence on the Templars back to their origins as a first century baptismal sect connected to John the Baptist and beyond

**Gnosticism and the New Testament** Pheme Perkins, 1993 The gnostic writings found at Nag Hammadi have stimulated much controversy about the relationship between early Christians and the diverse religious movement of the first three centuries Perkins fills the New Testament student's need for a guide to recent developments in scholarship with a helpful survey that addresses the origins of Gnosticism its relationship to Judaism Redeemer myths and New Testament hymns and other relevant topics

The Essence of the Gnostics Bernard Simon, 2005-03-01 For what is it that the All lacked if not the knowledge of the Father Gnostic text from the Gospel of Truth Long before there was a system of belief called Gnosticism there were those who reached for a special intimate knowledge of God and His mysterious ways The possession of such knowledge they believed would bring salvation from suffering All religious traditions acknowledged that the world is imperfect Where they differ is in the explanations they offer for this imperfection and in what they suggest might be done about it While many religionists hold that humans are to be blamed for these imperfections the Gnostics believed that the world is flawed because it was created in a flawed manner thereby implicating the creator Such a perspective was regarded as blasphemous by fellow Christians at the dawn of the new religion and led to the sect's persecution Equally concerning were the Gnostics' liberal views regarding sex the role of women and toleration of other faiths In The Essence of the Gnostics Bernard Simon offers a fascinating insight into this ancient and yet in many ways surprisingly contemporary faith and explores the reasons for its current renaissance

Simon Magus in Patristic, Medieval and Early Modern Traditions Alberto Ferreiro, 2021-11-29 The volume discusses the post New Testament Simon Magus from the era of the Church Fathers beginning with Justin Martyr to the early modern era represented in a seventeenth century Baroque relief in the Cathedral of Oviedo Spain Sources consulted are artistic theological texts historical chronicles sermons hagiographies vernacular literatures biblical commentaries and heresiologies Topics explored are Traditions and Historiography Types of Simon Magus in Anti Gnostic sources a comparison of the Acts of Peter and the Passions of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul Jerome and Vincent of Lérins on Simon Magus the Nicolaitian heresy the Fall of Simon Magus in the Church Fathers Simon Magus Dogs and Simon Peter Simon Magus in Irish and English medieval legends Simon Magus Nicolas of Antioch and Muhammad Vincent Ferrer and the canonical and apocryphal Simon Magus Simon Magus in the Cathedral of León Spain Simon Magus in the Cathedral of Oviedo Spain and a full bibliographical inventory 99 entries of Simon Magus in artistic expression The book is illustrated with about 28 artistic reproductions The volume contains author and subject indexes and a full bibliography of works consulted

**The Samaritans** Alan David Crown, 1989

**A Dictionary of Gnosticism** Andrew Phillip Smith, 2014-03-17 A Dictionary of Gnosticism is a scholarly yet accessible guide that covers the people mythology movements scripture and technical terms related to this pre Christian Western religion It contains nearly 1700 entries from Achiaram an angel in the Secret Book of John to Zostrianos a third century

Gnostic text and is a reliable reference for the Nag Hammadi library and other Gnostic texts An introduction explains who the Gnostics were and provides a whirlwind tour through the history of this captivating movement

**The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia** James Orr,1915     *The Early Christian World* Philip Francis Esler,2004 The Early Christian World presents an exhaustive erudite and illustrated treatment of how the small movement which formed around Jesus in Galilee became the pre eminent religion of the ancient world

**The Immovable Race** Williams,2020-10-26 Preliminary Material Michael Allen Williams Preface Michael Allen Williams Abbreviations Michael Allen Williams Introduction Michael Allen Williams The Term Asaleutos and its Significance Michael Allen Williams Immovability in The Three Steles of Seth Michael Allen Williams Immovability in Zostrianos Michael Allen Williams Immovability in The Apocryphon of John Michael Allen Williams Immovability in The Gospel of the Egyptians Michael Allen Williams Immovability in The Sophia of Jesus Christ Michael Allen Williams The Inclusiveness of the Immovable Race Michael Allen Williams The Immovable Race and the Question of Sectarian Sitz im Leben Michael Allen Williams Bibliography Michael Allen Williams Indices Michael Allen Williams

**Simon of Samaria and the Simonians** M. David Litwa,2024-03-07 Who were the Simonians Beginning in the mid second century CE heresiologists depicted them as licentious followers of the first gnostic a supposedly Samaritan self deifier called Simon who was thought to practice magic and became known as the father of all heresies Litwa examines the Simonians in their own literature and in the literature used to refute and describe them He begins with Simonian primary sources namely The Declaration of Great Power embedded in the anonymous Refutation of All Heresies and The Concept of Our Great Power Nag Hammadi codex VI 4 Litwa argues that both are early second century products of Simonian authors writing in Alexandria or Egypt Litwa then moves on to examine the heresiological sources related to the Simonians Justin the book of Acts Irenaeus the author of the Refutation of All Heresies Pseudo Tertullian Epiphanius and Filaster He shows how closely connected Justin s report is to the portrait of Simon in Acts and offers an extensive exegesis and analysis of Simonian theology and practice based on the reports of Irenaeus and the Refutator Finally Litwa examines Simonianism in novelistic sources namely the Acts of Peter and the Pseudo Clementines By the time these sources were written Simon had become the father of all heresies Accordingly virtually any heresy could be attributed to Simon As a result despite their alluring portraits of Simon these sources are mostly unusable for the historical study of the Simonian Christian movement Litwa concludes with a historical profile of the Simonian movement in the second and third centuries The book features appendices which contain Litwa s own translations of primary Simonian texts

**Gnosticism** Stephan A. Hoeller,2002-07-01 Gnosticism developed alongside Judeo Christianity over two thousand years ago but with an important difference It emphasizes not faith but direct perception of God Gnosticism being derived from the Greek word gnosis meaning knowledge Given the controversial premise that one can know God directly the history of Gnosticism is an unfolding drama of passion political intrigue martyrdom and mystery Dr Hoeller traces this fascinating story throughout time and shows how Gnosticism has

inspired such great thinkers as Voltaire Blake Yeats Hesse Melville and Jung      *Gnostic Truth and Christian Heresy* A. H. B. Logan,1996-01-01      *The Many Deaths of Peter and Paul* David L. Eastman,2019 This study examines major narrative elements of the martyrdom accounts of Peter and Paul and explores the variety concerning whether the apostles died separately or together why they died when they died where they died and what happened to their bodies after their deaths  
Progress George William Foote,1887

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