

Basic New Testament Overview

Scriptures

Luke 12:2-3: There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.

Mark 14:51-52: A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Main Points of Understanding

1. Authorship wasn't such a big thing when the New Testament was written.
2. Because authorship was not such a big deal, it wasn't a big deal to write something and claim someone else wrote it.
3. Most of the writers of the New Testament didn't sit down to write scripture.
4. The Gospels often don't agree on timeline, numbers, or the meaning of things except where they copy each other or quote Jesus.
5. Gnosticism
 1. secret knowledge, private revelation
 2. dualistic, light and dark, good and evil, in and out, naked and clothed, hidden and revealed, male and female
 3. If you read gnosticism, you know its gnosticism, but only if you know gnosticism.
 4. A little gnosticism adds mystery to the NT. Too much, and things get weird. Gnostic texts were deliberately left out of the New Testament.
 5. Gnosticism is basically unintelligible without a set of gnostic tools.
 6. If you're interested in gnosticism, The Gospel of Thomas is a good place to start, but beware that reading it is more of an academic exercise than a spiritual one.

Gnostic Text Example

"This heaven will pass away, and the one above it will pass away. The dead are not alive, and the living will not die. During the days when you ate what is dead, you made it come alive. When you are in the light, what will you do? On the day when you were one, you became two. But when you become two, what will you do?" The Gospel of Thomas