



The Jesus Mysteries: Was the "Original Jesus" a Pagan God?

By Timothy Freke, Peter Gandy

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"Whether you conclude that this book is the most alarming heresy of the millennium or the mother of all revelations, The Jesus Mysteries deserves to be read."

-- Fort Worth Star -Telegram

What if . . .

- * there were absolutely no evidence for the existence of a historical Jesus?
- * for thousands of years Pagans had also followed a Son of God?
- * this Pagan savior was also born of a virgin on the twenty-fifth of December before three shepherds, turned water into wine at a wedding, died and was resurrected, and offered his body and blood as a Holy Communion?
- * these Pagan myths had been rewritten as the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- * the earliest Gnostic Christians knew that the Jesus story was a myth?
- * Christianity turned out to be a continuation of Paganism by another name?

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Freke (a philosopher and author of books on spirituality) and Gandy (who is studying classical civilization) believe that first century Jewish mystics adapted the potent symbolism of the Osiris-Dionysus myths into a myth of their own, the hero of which was the Jewish dying and resurrecting godman Jesus. Therefore, the story of Jesus is a consciously crafted vehicle for encoded spiritual teachings created by Jewish Gnostics. We are unaware of this, they claim, because the Roman Catholic Church destroyed evidence of the connection between Christianity and the pagan mysteries. They make their case by offering an examination of mystery religions, especially Greek, pointing out the many parallels between them and what they see as the Gospels! message about Jesus. Freke and Gandy are familiar with a significant amount of recent biblical scholarship, though they rely mostly on Elaine Pagels's work on the Gnostics. This book will obviously be controversial, but the authors are quite informed, as demonstrated by their extensive notes and bibliography. A list of related web sites, a Who's Who, and an index add to the book's usefulness. Recommended as an important book in the debate on the historical Jesus."David Bourquin, California State Univ., San Bernardino
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Review

'Rarely have the roots of Christianity been disentangled to such disturbing effect. I shall never be able to read the gospels in the same way again.' ROGER BOULTON, presenter of Radio 4's The Sunday Programme 'A provocative, exciting and challenging book.' The Rt Revd JOHN SHELBY SPONG, Bishop of Newark

From the Inside Flap

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