

At The Roots Of Christian Bioethics

This book, first published in 1992, demonstrates that American sociology has deep religious roots which continue, both directly and indirectly, to influence the discipline today. Early American sociology was closely aligned with the social gospel movement in Protestantism, which hoped to use the new science of sociology to help solve social problems and, ultimately, prepare America for the establishment of Christ's kingdom on earth. Although American sociology became secularized after 1920, it retained its ameliorative outlook, hoping to 'save' mankind through positivistic and technocratic societal planning.

In *With Roots & Wings*, Jay McDaniel brings together insights from the natural sciences, Christian theology, and interreligious dialogue, breaking new ground in the search for a wholistic spirituality for our time. Taking this title from the Jewish proverb--that we must give our children both roots and wings--McDaniel shows how this applies to our spiritual lives as well. *With Roots and Wings* offers an alternative to the contemporary dilemmas of empty consumerism and rigid fundamentalism, consisting of three basic, interrelated approaches to being: to be rooted in the Earth and religious tradition; to be open to the insights of people of other faiths as well as to share our own; and to become centered on God. McDaniel shows where the new universe story of Thomas Berry and Teilhard de Chardin and the Christian story meet and differ, where they complement, and where they support one another. *With Roots & Wings* shows how to experience both green grace that comes from opening one's self to the rhythms of the cosmos, and red grace symbolized in the crucifixion of Christ--both of which are vital to a Christian ecological spirituality and praxis. Most impressive is McDaniel's ability to absorb and reflect important lessons Christians can learn from Native Americans, from Buddhists and Hindus, from Muslims and Jews. The complexity of the issues he addresses and his ability to explain them simply and clearly makes *With Roots and Wings* a must-read for the general reader as well as ecological activists, clergy, and laity alike. Nothing else comes near it in depth, power, and insight.

A major new work on the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest sacred documents of Judaism, which reveals their surprising connections to early Christianity. "A luminous treatment of a fascinating subject. Highly recommended!"—Scott Hahn, author of *The Fourth Cup* From award-winning scholar Jonathan Bergsma comes an intriguing book that reveals new insights on the Essenes, a radical Jewish community predating Christianity, whose existence, beliefs, and practices are often overlooked in the annals of history. Bergsma reveals how this Jewish sect directly influenced the beliefs, sacraments, and practices of early Christianity and offers new information on how Christians lived their lives, worshipped, and eventually went on to influence the Roman Empire and Western civilization. Looking to Hebrew scripture and Jewish tradition, Bergsma helps to further explain how a simple Jewish peasant could go on to inspire a religion and a philosophy that still resonates 2,000 years later. In this enriching and exciting exploration, Bergsma demonstrates how the Dead Sea Scrolls—the world's greatest modern archaeological discovery—can shed light on the Church as a sacred space that offered hope, redemption, and salvation to its members. Ultimately, these mysterious writings are a time machine that can transport us back to the ancient world, deepen our appreciation of Scripture, and strengthen our understanding of the Christian faith. "An accessible introduction . . . This is a handy entry point for readers unfamiliar with Essenes or those interested in the Dead Sea Scrolls."—Publishers Weekly

This volume delineates the link between Judaism and Christianity, between Old and the New Testaments, and calls Christians to reexamine their Hebrew roots so as to effect a more authentic biblical lifestyle.

Why is There a Menorah on the Altar?

Jesus and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Why the Church Still Matters

The Silent Roots

The Triumph of the Last Pharaoh : Religious Encounters in Late Antique Africa

Understanding the Jewish Roots of Christianity

How the Church Was Uprooted, Strayed from the Truth, and How God Is Pointing the Way Home

Feeling worn thin? Come find rest. The Blue Ridge Parkway meanders through miles of rolling

Virginia mountains. It's a route made famous by natural beauty and the simple rhythms of rural

life. And it's in this setting that Hannah Anderson began her exploration of what it means to

pursue a life of peace and humility. Fighting back her own sense of restlessness and anxiety,

she finds herself immersed in the world outside, discovering a classroom full of forsythia, milkweed,

and a failed herb garden. Lessons about soil preparation, sour mulch, and grapevine blights reveal

the truth about our dependence on God, finding rest, and fighting discontentment. Humble Rest

is part theology of incarnation and part stroll through the fields and forest. Anchored in the

teaching of Jesus, Anderson explores how cultivating humility—not scheduling, strict boundaries,

or increased productivity—leads to peace. “Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden,”

Jesus invites us, “and you will find rest for your souls.” So come. Learn humility from the lilies

of the field and from the One who is humility Himself. Remember who you are and Who you are

and rediscover the rest that comes from belonging to Him.

“Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.” Martin Luther King

Jr. Every follower of Jesus needs to be established in the 7 Basics to develop deep roots and

a strong foundation of faith. The short chapters include these basic topics: Get to Know God,

Comfortable in Prayer, Get Excited and Telling Somebody, Get Your Head on Straight, Get to

Know Your Bible and more! The 7 Basics was written to help believers connect-the-dots on

what it means to be a Christian and how to live out the joy-filled adventure of faith!

This book investigates the problem of esoteric traditions in early Christianity, their origin and

their transformation in Patristic hermeneutics, in the West as well as in the East. It argues

that these traditions eventually formed the basis of nascent Christian mysticism in Late Antiquity.

These esoteric traditions do not reflect the influence of Greek Mystery religions, as has often

been claimed, but rather seem to stem from the Jewish background of Christianity. They were adopted

by various Gnostic teachings, a fact which helps explain their eventual disappearance from

Patristic literature. The eleven chapters study each a different aspect of the problem, including

questions of Gnostic and Manichaean esotericism. This book will be of interest to all students of

religious history in Late Antiquity. Revised and extended paperback edition. Originally published

in 1996. Please click here for details.

At the Roots of Christian Bioethics explores Professor H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr.'s pursuit for

the decisive ground of the meaning of human existence and knowledge of appropriate moral

choice. Engelhardt has been the most influential, cogent, but critical voice within bioethics over

the past several decades. The essays in this volume compass epistemological, methodological and

topical contributions to bioethics, political theory, and Christian theology. Each explores

Engelhardt's diagnosis of the contemporary social and cultural crisis, seeking to make sense of

the decidedly post-Christian and often openly anti-Christian ethics that dominates public morality

and public policy. Each author investigates Engelhardt's personal and tireless enquiry to secure

ultimate moral foundations as well as to recognize the full implications of the results of his

investigations: that Christian bioethics does not originate in human reason but in the command

of

God.

Revealing the Jewish Roots of Christianity

Finding the Roots of Christianity

A Handbook on the Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith

Discovering Our Roots

In Search Of Ancient Roots

God's Message to the Christian Church

The Roots of Christian Zionism

Silent Roots - Orthodox Perspectives on Christian Spirituality

"Why should I invest myself in something that I'm not sure does any good?" This is a question many people today are asking about the church. Data shows young people are leaving the church, especially in urban contexts. Yet as Jon Tyson will show you in this Barna Frame, the church has much to offer cities—and individuals—in the 21st century. Whether you come with an open-mind, skeptical, or already committed to your local church, join Jon Tyson, lead pastor of Trinity Grace Church in New York City, as he makes the case for why church matters.

Some evangelical churches appear to be uninterested in their historical roots, and so can be liturgically and doctrinally unstable. Perceiving this disconnection between their Protestant faith and ancient Christianity, a number of evangelicals have abandoned Protestantism for traditions that seem to be clearly rooted in the early church. Ken Stewart argues that the evangelical tradition's track record of interaction with Christian antiquity is far healthier than is often assumed. He surveys five centuries of Protestant engagement with the ancient church, showing that Christians belonging to the evangelical churches of the Reformation consistently see their faith as connected to early Christianity. Stewart explores areas of positive engagement, including the Lord's Supper and biblical interpretation, as well as areas that raise concerns, such as monasticism. *In Search of Ancient Roots* shows that Christian antiquity is the heritage of all orthodox Christians, and that evangelicals have the resources in their history to claim their place at the ecumenical table. 'A must-read for every person struggling with the question, "What does evangelicalism have to do with history?"' Leonardo De Chirico, Director of Reformanda Initiative

The Church of God in Christ (COGIC), the first major denomination to spring from the fires of the Azusa Street revival, profoundly affected the history of the black church. Its tremendous influence can be traced to the dynamic spiritual life of its founder, Charles Harrison Mason. The son of a slave and a leader in the holiness movement of his day, Mason traveled to Azusa Street in 1907 where he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Returning home, he discovered that visions, spontaneous healing and deliverance followed him. A new power accompanied his preaching, and he experienced freedom from former limitations. Mason's vibrant spiritual life enabled him to lead a fledgling movement from its infancy to a powerful, prophetic community over the next fifty years. Beginning in the rural South in the decades following the Reconstruction Era, the denomination gradually moved into urban areas during the 1900's. No matter where its ministers, however, the COGIC Church holds in tension the dynamics of holiness, spiritual encounter and prophetic Christian social consciousness. Facing the challenges of our generation, the COGIC Church desires to maintain the legacy of its founder as it prepares for another century of work and witness. "Our younger generations need to know the rich legacy bequeathed to them by the pioneers of the Church of God in Christ." Presiding Bishop Chandler D. Owens "Every pastor in our denomination and beyond should have a worn and well read copy of this book." Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. "This valuable book should be in the hands of every member of the Church of God in Christ." Bishop C. L. Anderson "God gave Bishop C. H. Mason an anointing to preach

powerfully, to heal the sick, and to sing out in spontaneous worship. May we covet the same anointing that transformed thousands in his day." Bishop J. Neaul Haynes "We are the descendants of a mighty move of God that began at Azusa Street. This book will help us to pass on an equally dynamic spiritual life to our successors, taking the Church of God in Christ into the next century." Bishop P. A. Brooks "Church leaders would do well to emulate the dynamic spiritual life of our founder; Bishop C. H. Mason." Bishop O. T. Jones, Jr. "Bishop Clemmons reminds us that our denomination was forged in the fires of a pentecostal revival that continues to impact our society today." Bishop Gilbert E. Patterson "Our roots establish our legacy and provide the springboard for the future. This documentation is a must for this generation and the generations to come." Mother Emma F. Crouch, Supervisor, Women's Department, Church of God in Christ, President, International Women's Convention "This is must reading for every seminary student preparing to minister in the Church of God in Christ. This will be extremely valuable to students of church history regardless of denomination." Dr. H. Vinson Synan, Ph.D., Dean of the School of Divinity, Regent University "Finally, a documentary written by a black historian/theologian and a lifelong member of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Clemmons' perspective is insightful, informative, and refreshing." Dr. William C. Turner, Ph.D., Professor of Theology, Duke Divinity School, Duke University "Allow Bishop C. H. Mason's vision to grip you, to challenge you, and to change you." Raymond C. Pierce, J.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights

Roots of Haiti's Vodou-Christian Faith: African and Catholic Origins

Meister Eckhart's Path to the God Within

African and Catholic Origins

The Secret Roots of Christianity

Text and Commentary

Biblical, Theological, and Historical Essays on the Relationship Between Christianity and Judaism

In Search of Ancient Roots

In recent years, Christians everywhere are rediscovering the Jewish roots of their faith. Every year at Easter time, many believers now celebrate Passover meals (known as Seders) seeking to understand exactly what happened at Jesus' final Passover, the night before he was crucified. Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist shines fresh light on the Last Supper by looking at it through Jewish eyes. Using his in-depth knowledge of the Bible and ancient Judaism, Dr. Brant Pitre answers questions such as: What was the Passover like at the time of Jesus? What were the Jewish hopes for the Messiah? What was Jesus' purpose in instituting the Eucharist during the feast of Passover? And, most important of all, what did Jesus mean when he said, "This is my body... This is my blood"? To answer these questions, Pitre explores ancient Jewish beliefs about the Passover of the Messiah, the miraculous Manna from heaven, and the mysterious Bread of the Presence. As he shows, these three keys—the Passover, the Manna, and the Bread of the Presence—have the power to unlock the original meaning of the Eucharistic words of Jesus. Along the way, Pitre also explains how Jesus united the Last Supper to his death on

Good Friday and his Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Inspiring and informative, Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist is a groundbreaking work that is sure to illuminate one of the greatest mysteries of the Christian faith: the mystery of Jesus' presence in "the breaking of the bread." From the Hardcover edition.

This rich and challenging book explores the roots or ancestry of the Churches of Christ and others who stand as heirs to the Stone-Campbell movement of the early nineteenth century. It asks, Where did we come from? How did we get this way? Why do we read the Bible the way we do? What has been the heart of our movement? And it asks further, What can we learn from those who have viewed restoration of apostolic Christianity in ways quite different from our own? The authors begin their story in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries - the age of Renaissance and Reformation. They isolate the stream of restorationist thought that arose in that age and then follow that stream through the Puritans, the early Baptists in America, the frenzy of pure beginnings in the early decades of American nationhood, and down to the Stone-Campbell movement. By linking together a series of brilliantly chosen texts from the early centuries of the Church, the author lays bare the roots of the deeply mystical spirituality that has flourished among Christians throughout the ages. This book will appeal to anyone who is interested in the field of spirituality. It is a masterly contribution to Christian scholarship, and this second edition includes an extraordinarily useful Index.

ABOUT THE BOOK: God appeared to Moses as a burning bush. He appeared to the Jews as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. But His most important appearance was as a human being, Jesus the Christ. It is important to know that Jesus is none other than God Himself, the One of whom the prophets of old wrote, and the One who appeared to them in various forms and ways. It was while He was in the form of a man (Jesus) that God went to the cross and thus provided for our salvation. In God's Message to the Christian Church, Reverend W. Lewis Autrey shares a clear message concerning who God is, how He speaks to His people, how He redeems man from the grip of sin and death, and His promise to come back and take us to heaven to be with Him. This is God's eternal message. ** ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Reverend W. Lewis Autrey lives in South Florida and is a husband, father, U.S. military veteran, and preacher/speaker. Robert S. Autrey, son of Reverend W. Lewis Autrey, graduated from Alabama State University with a BS degree in social work. He was called to preach in 2006 and has been active in the study of God's Word ever since.**

The Religious Roots of Free Societies

The Temple Roots of Christian Liturgy

Sacred Roots (Frames Series), eBook

At the Roots of Christian Bioethics

A Spiritual and Historical Journey

Texts from the Patristic Era with Commentary

Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith

This is a comprehensive handbook that serves as an introduction to the Jewish roots of the Christian Faith. It includes Old Testament background, Second Temple Judaism,

the life of Jesus, the New Testament, and the early Jewish followers of Jesus. It is no longer a novelty to say that Jesus was a Jew. In fact, the term "Jewish roots" has become something of a buzzword in books, articles, and especially on the internet. But what does the Jewishness of Jesus actually mean, and why is it important? This collection of articles aims to address those questions and serve as a comprehensive yet concise primer on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. It consists of thirteen chapters, most of which are divided into four or five articles. It is in the "handbook" format, meaning that each article is brief but informative. The thirteen chapters are grouped into four major sections: (1) The Soil, (2) The Roots, (3) The Trunk, and (4) The Branches. Craig A. Evans, PhD, DHabil, is the Hohn Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins at Houston Baptist University in Texas. He is a frequent contributor to scholarly journals and the author or editor of over seventy books. Editor resides in Houston, TX. David Mishkin, PhD, serves on the faculty of Israel College of the Bible in Netanya, Israel. He is the author of The Wisdom of Alfred Edersheim and Jewish Scholarship on the Resurrection of Jesus. Editor resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Egyptian roots of Christianity, both historically and spiritually. This book reveals the Ancient Egyptian roots of Christianity, both historically and spiritually. This Expanded Version of the book consists of three parts to coincide with the terms of trinity. The first part demonstrates that the major biblical ancestors of the biblical Jesus are all Ancient Egyptian prominent characters. The second part demonstrates that the accounts of the "historical Jesus" are based entirely on the life and death of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Twt/Tut-Ankh-Amen. The third part demonstrates that the "Jesus of Faith" and the Christian tenets are all Egyptian in origin—such as the essence of the teachings/message, the creation of the universe and man (according to the Book of Genesis), as well as the religious holidays. The very thing that is now called the Christian religion was already in existence in Ancient Egypt, long before the adoption of the New Testament. The British Egyptologist, Sir E. A. Wallis Budge, wrote in his book, The Gods of the Egyptians [1969], The new religion (Christianity) which was preached there by St. Mark and his immediate followers, in all essentials so closely resembled that which was the outcome of the worship of Osiris, Isis, and Horus. The similarities, noted by Budge and everyone who has compared the Egyptian Osiris/Isis/Horus allegory to the Gospel story, are striking. Both accounts are practically the same, e.g. the supernatural conception, the divine birth, the struggles against the enemy in the wilderness, and the resurrection from the dead to eternal life. The main difference between the "two versions", is that the Gospel tale is considered historical and the Osiris/Isis/Horus cycle is an allegory. The spiritual message of the Ancient Egyptian Osiris/Isis/Horus allegory and the Christian revelation is exactly the same. The British scholar A.N. Wilson pointed out in his book, Jesus: The Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith are two separate beings, with very different stories. It is difficult enough to reconstruct the first, and in the attempt we are likely to do irreparable harm to the second. This book will demonstrate that the "Jesus of History", the "Jesus of Faith", and the tenets of Christianity are all Ancient Egyptian. This will be done

without causing any “irreparable harm” as per A.N. Wilson’s concern, for two main reasons: Firstly, the truth must be told. Secondly, explaining Christian tenets via their original Ancient Egyptian contexts will enhance the idealism of Christianity. This Expanded Version of the book consists of three parts to coincide with the terms of trinity—the Three that are Two that are One. The first part demonstrates that the major biblical ancestors of the biblical Jesus are all Ancient Egyptian prominent individuals. The second part demonstrates that the accounts of the “historical Jesus” are based entirely on the life and death of the Egyptian Pharaoh, Twt/Tut- Ankh-Amen. The third part demonstrates that the “Jesus of Faith” and the Christian tenets are all Egyptian in origin—such as the essence of the teachings/message, the creation of the universe and man (according to the Book of Genesis), as well as the religious holidays. There is an undeniable irony and a profound, deep, undeniable truth in Hosea’s prophetic saying, Out of Egypt have I called my Son. A deep irony indeed. Let us open our minds and review the available evidence. For the truth is a composite of different and complementary pieces of a puzzle. Let us put the pieces in the right location, time and order.

A desire and demand to know more about the Jewish legacy of Christian identity is growing among laity. A similar desire to foster interfaith understanding and dialogue is growing among leaders of local churches. Why Is There a Menorah on the Altar? seeks to meet these demands by providing information and insight about Judaism’s legacy as it is revealed in Christian rites, rituals, and traditions. Drawing upon scripture and historical sources, this book explains how Judaism has influenced the structure of liturgical worship; the design and décor of church sanctuaries; and how Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation find their roots in Judaism. This book invites readers to develop a deeper understanding of Judaism, one that will enrich their Christianity and appreciation for their enduring Jewish heritage. Includes: questions for reflection; activities for individuals or groups; and easy-to-follow timelines. This book investigates the problem of esoteric traditions in early Christianity, their origin and their transformation in Patristic hermeneutics, in the West as well as in the East. It argues that these traditions eventually formed the basis of nascent Christian mysticism in Late Antiquity. This publication is a revised edition of the original hardback publication, please click here for details.

Our Father Abraham

Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist

The Ancestry of Churches of Christ

The Roots of Christian Festivals

The Roots of Christian Anti-Semitism

With Roots and Wings

Orthodox Perspectives on Christian Spirituality

Margaret Barker has been researching and writing about the Jerusalem temple for over twenty years. Many of her studies have remained unpublished. Here for the first time her work on the roots of Christian liturgy has been brought together. Whereas most scholarship has concentrated upon the synagogue, Margaret Barker's work on the Jerusalem temple contributes significantly

to our understanding of the meaning and importance of many elements of Christian liturgy which have hitherto remained obscure. This book opens up a new field of research. The many subjects addressed include the roots of the Eucharist in various temple rituals and offerings other than Passover, the meaning of the holy of holies and the Christian sanctuary, the cosmology of temple and church, the significance of the Veil of the Temple for understanding priesthood and Incarnation, the Holy Wisdom and the Mother of God, angels and priesthood, the concept of unity, the high priestly tradition in the early church and evidence that Christianity was a conscious continuation of the temple. All scholars and students whose interest encompasses the origins of Christian (and Orthodox) liturgy, the Old Testament, early Christianity, Jewish Christian relations, Platonism and the origins of Islam will find this book a hugely rewarding source of information and new ideas.

Traditional religious history preserves a rarely acknowledged secret that Christianity developed from at least three ancient roots: a Western structural root derived from Mediterranean Greek culture, an Eastern spiritual root from Anatolia and Persia, and a literary Jewish historical root, which masked the other roots and supported the idea that Christians had taken the place of Jews in relationship with God by entering a new covenant with Jesus. Each root contributed something special to the development of Christianity as follows: Supported by pagan iconography and rhetoric, the Western root imprinted Christianity with Greek spirit in a Hellenistic universe. The Eastern root filled the Greek construct with magic, focused humanity on a divine mission, and infused popular reverence for goddesses into Christian beliefs about the Virgin Mary. The literary Jewish root played two contradictory roles: Jewish scripture served as the reliable witness that proved Jesus to be both God and savior; and double-edged moral lessons in the Old Testament explained catastrophic events in the first century A.D. as divine judgment against Jews, supporting beliefs by early pagan converts to Christianity that Romans were good, Jews were bad, and God abandoned Jews for treacherously murdering Jesus. Two thousand years ago, Mediterranean cults included practices and beliefs that modern Christians associate exclusively with Christianity. People worshipped divine mothers who gave birth to dying and resurrecting gods on December 25. Saviors miraculously healed faithful followers and guided them to lead moral lives. Some cults baptized their followers, some passed their sins and inner demons to pigs, and some waited for a complete destruction of evil during the imminent End of Days. Then, as now, people argued whether the end would come by fire or water and whether many or few souls would be saved. Numerous symbols and beliefs associated in modern times with Christianity already existed in pre-Christian Hellenistic cults: Madonna and child images, angels, God the Father, the cross as a symbol of life after death, and the gift of eternal life through the shedding of immortal blood. On temple walls, wise men offered gifts of incense and gold to newborn gods; and merciful mothers granted salvation to the poor in spirit who confessed, repented, and begged forgiveness for their sins. However, Jews generally rejected all these practices, symbols, and beliefs. Some Jews believed in physical resurrection, and some did not. Some believed in eternal life, and some did not. For most Jews, however, a righteous life required the following of God's laws. If a Jew sinned against another man, no automatic forgiveness from God was possible. Forgiveness required acknowledgement of wrongdoing, restitution, and then forgiveness from the wronged party. Applying Jewish ethics to problems at the Jerusalem Temple meant recognizing the corruption within the priesthood, refusing to tolerate the evil rule of Rome, and giving one's life if necessary to precipitate the Kingdom of God. Just as God always had responded to the prayers of suffering Jews in the Bible, he would do so again. Soon he would send a messiah to deliver Jerusalem from the evil

power of Rome and to cleanse Judea from the polluting practices of pagan cults. Drawing from both visible and secret roots, Christians freed themselves from paying for salvation from mystery cults while preserving the ability to worship a virgin-born hero with all the trappings of a pagan solar deity. This book explores the roots of Christianity in seven parts. The first three parts provide an overview of religious beliefs, practices, and iconography in the ancient Greek world that influenced Western culture and religion. The fourth, fifth, and sixth parts describe how the West developed under Roman influence. Then the seventh part focuses on the life of Jesus and the emergence of Christian cults in the first century A.D.

Finding the Roots of Christianity is for people who are curious about the historical Jesus, his followers, and the movement they began. Who were they, and how was their message understood by those who heard them? Where did the New Testament of the Bible come from? In a personal, thoughtful style, Luke Painter brings into focus the life and times of the Jewish prophet Jesus of Nazareth, bridging the gap between personal study of the Bible and academic scholarship. Sources outside the Bible, including the ancient historian Josephus and recently discovered "lost scriptures" such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, reveal the diversity of early Christian beliefs. Roman religious beliefs influenced how the Christian message was understood during the transition from Jewish sects to the official religion of the Roman Empire. Clear and concise, and based on careful historical research, this book guides the reader through what is known about the earliest origins of Christianity as well as recent discoveries and debates. The author's personal journey of faith and passionate interest in the people behind the New Testament enliven the facts of history, illuminating their meaning for their own time as well as today.

Revised version of the author's dissertation--Claremont Graduate University, 2008.

More Desired than Our Own Salvation

Ancient Egyptian Roots of Christianity, Expanded 2nd Edition

7 Basics

Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians

Christianity in an Age of Ecology and Dialogue

Pagan Christianity?

The Roots of Egyptian Christianity

Texts from the Patristic Era with Commentary displaying the roots of the deeply mystical spirituality that has flourished among Christians throughout the ages. By linking together a series of brilliantly chosen texts from the early centuries of the Church, the author lays bare the roots of the deeply mystical spirituality that has flourished among Christians throughout the ages. This book will appeal to anyone who is interested in the field of spirituality. It is a masterly contribution to Christian scholarship, and this second edition includes an extraordinarily useful Index.

A Handbook on the Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith is a comprehensive handbook that serves as an introduction to the Jewish roots of the Christian Faith. It includes Old Testament background, Second Temple Judaism, the life of Jesus, the New Testament, and the early Jewish followers of Jesus. It is intended as a resource for college and/or higher education. It is no longer a novelty to say that Jesus was a Jew. In fact, the term Jewish roots has become something of a buzzword in books, articles, and especially on the internet. But what does the Jewishness of Jesus

actually mean, and why is it important? This collection of articles aims to address those questions and serve as a comprehensive yet concise primer on the Jewish roots of the Christian faith. It consists of thirteen chapters, most of which are divided into four or five articles. It is in a handbook format, meaning that each article is brief but informative. The thirteen chapters are grouped into four major sections: (1) The Soil, (2) The Roots, (3) The Trunk, and (4) The Branches. Craig A. Evans, PhD, DHabil, is the John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins at Houston Baptist University in Texas. He is a frequent contributor to scholarly journals and the author or editor of over seventy books. Evans resides in Houston, TX. David Mishkin, PhD, serves on the faculty of Israel College of the Bible in Netanya, Israel. He is the author of *The Wisdom of Alfred Edersheim* and *Jewish Scholarship on the Resurrection of Jesus*. Mishkin resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

A Comprehensive Study Written About Jewish Roots and Christian Believers Rapidly growing worldwide, the Hebrew Roots Movement promises to help believers (especially non-Jewish believers) discover the Hebrew (Jewish) roots of their faith. However, while promising to bring followers to their Jewish roots, they instead bring them into Old Testament law-keeping and rabbinic tradition. This denies the truth of the gospel and its life-giving power to set captives free. The fifth book written by Bible teacher Neil Silverberg, *Shadows and Substance*, carefully examines this movement in both its theological and practical aspects covering such topics as: - Did Emperor Constantine make changes to the Hebrew roots of the faith? - What did the Jerusalem Conference establish regarding believers and the Law? - Does God expect believers to keep the Sabbath and the Hebrew feasts? - What is the difference between reconciliation to Old Testament Hebraic roots of the faith and those of rabbinic Judaism? The end result is not only a helpful guide to understanding the Hebrew Roots Movement but also a powerful unfolding of the gospel of grace to keep believers free from any form of legalism. This book was written for three audiences: those already deeply involved in the Movement, those interested in learning about the Jewish roots of their faith, and leaders who are charged with the responsibility of protecting God's people from error. Some books on mysticism offer New Age syncretism. Others propose simplistic methods of producing spiritual experiences. Still others deconstruct religious experience. *The Roots of Christian Mysticism* by Oliver Clement, however, avoids these pitfalls. Clement presents the mysticism of the early fathers themselves, from whose writings he offers exceptionally rich selections that are not readily available. In so doing, he introduces the reader to Christian mysticism through the words of those who were "drunk with God," but whose religious experience was firmly rooted in Christ. Most importantly, given the modern propensity for bogus

spirituality, Clement shows the indissoluble unity between mysticism and doctrine. The Fathers speak doctrine in voices radiant with the dark vision of God and their doctrine is both the fruit of prayer and the form of spirituality. From this perspective, the Church's teachings about God, Christ, Church, Sacrament and Christian vocation become the objects of contemplation and the personal quest for God finds its way within, not apart from the Church, ecclesia. Christian mysticism, therefore, always occurs within the womb of the Church, particularly within the locus of the liturgy and thus, is prevented at the outset from becoming merely a freewheeling and self-authenticating form of emotional exuberance. Mysticism, thus firmly rooted, is considered the normal spiritual life of all Christians. All the faithful are called to realize fully the grace of their baptism, that is, to fulfill their humanity by being divinized through grace. These words might be disconcerting or raise the specter of "enthusiasm," but some proper understanding of this calling, however embryonic, is indispensable to spiritual growth, to the life of the Church and to the transformation of culture. Why, for example, when so many Americans claim to be Christian does their faith have so little impact on our culture? Or why are the Church's moral teachings found to be so excessively burdensome? Perhaps Christians have seldom been directed toward a spirituality that would open them to a fuller vision of their true destiny in Christ. A recent classroom experience illustrates the point. A young Christian father of two vigorously proposed many practical reasons for using contraception. His understanding of fatherhood operated on a purely naturalistic level; his concern to provide for his children likewise revolved around material goods. But once he glimpsed the ultimate destiny in Christ to which he and his children were called, he saw his fatherhood as a participation in a sacred mission and trust. Only then did the Church's teaching and the sacrifices it entails make sense enough to follow. Such illumination is an essential component in the birth of mystical life from which, for the fathers, the moral life flows. To use Clement's terms, "only when the beauty-goodness of the truth captures the spirit-heart is the person able to engage in Christian praxis and to make the sacrifices necessary not merely to be good but to be transformed into Christ." This transformation entails strenuous spiritual combat with a fallen human nature that the Fathers understand with exquisite perception. But even here the patristic thrust is basically positive, an attraction to the beauty and goodness of God that calls forth virtue, rather than an emphasis on the direct destruction of sin. Clement aptly describes asceticism as "an awakening from the sleep-walking of daily life. It enables the Word to clear the silt away in the depth of the soul, freeing the spring of living waters.... It is the Word who acts but we have to co-operate with him, not so much by exertion of will-power as by loving attentiveness." Although spiritual

growth naturally encompasses the activities of prayer, fasting and so forth. Clement never discusses this apart from Christ and Trinity. Salvation is not achieved through Pelagian self-development but in Christ and through his Church. The Fathers' theological center prevents their mysticism from collapsing into self-centered or naturalistic forms. The beauty that attracts is never separated from her sisters truth and goodness. The Roots of Christian Mysticism needs to be read by Christians seeking spiritual depth and by anyone wanting to taste doctrine as a living word. It is an excellent introduction to patristic thought and offers not only extensive selections of their writings but an appendix of about seventy pages of biographical material. Only one criticism of the book is offered: references to modern writers need to be noted so the reader can pursue them. Otherwise, this book is a gem. Jerrilyn Szelle Crisis April, 1996

The Roots of Christian Mysticism

Out of Egypt

The Roots of Nubian Christianity Uncovered

Humble Roots

Hidden Wisdom

Unlocking the Secrets of the Last Supper

The intellectual and political elite of the West is nowadays taking for granted that religion, in particular Christianity, is a cultural vestige, a primitive form of knowledge, a consolation for the poor minded, an obstacle to coexistence. In all influential environments, the widespread watchword is " We are all secular " or " We are all post-religious. " As a consequence, we are told that states must be independent of religious creed, politics must take a neutral stance regarding religious values, and societies must hold together without any reference to religious bonds. Liberalism, which in some form or another is the prevailing view in the West, is considered to be " free-standing, " and the Western, liberal, open society is taken to be " self-sufficient. " Not only is anti-Christian secularism wrong, it is also risky. It's wrong because the very ideas on which liberal societies are based and in terms of which they can be justified—the concept of the dignity of the human person, the moral priority of the individual, the view that man is a " crooked timber " inclined to prevarication, the limited confidence in the power of the state to render him virtuous—are typical Christian or, more precisely, Judeo-Christian ideas. Take them away and the open society will collapse. Anti-Christian secularism is risky because it jeopardizes the identity of the West, leaves it with no self-conscience, and deprives people of their sense of belonging. The Founding Fathers of America, as well as major intellectual European figures such as Locke, Kant, and Tocqueville, knew how much our civilization depends on Christianity. Today, American and European culture is shaking the pillars of that civilization. Written from a secular and liberal, but not anti-Christian, point of view, this book explains why the Christian culture is still the best antidote to the crisis and decline of the West. Pera proposes that we should call ourselves Christians if we want to maintain our liberal freedoms, to embark on such

projects as the political unification of Europe as well as the special relationship between Europe and America, and to avoid the relativistic trend that affects our public ethics. “ The challenges of our particular historical moment ” , as Pope Benedict XVI calls them in the Preface to the book, can be faced only if we stress the historical and conceptual link between Christianity and free society.

Have you ever wondered why we Christians do what we do for church every Sunday morning? Why do we “ dress up ” for church? Why does the pastor preach a sermon each week? Why do we have pews, steeples, and choirs? This ground-breaking book, now in affordable softcover, makes an unsettling proposal: most of what Christians do in present-day churches is rooted, not in the New Testament, but in pagan culture and rituals developed long after the death of the apostles. Coauthors Frank Viola and George Barna support their thesis with compelling historical evidence and extensive footnotes that document the origins of modern Christian church practices. In the process, the authors uncover the problems that emerge when the church functions more like a business organization than the living organism it was created to be. As you reconsider Christ's revolutionary plan for his church—to be the head of a fully functioning body in which all believers play an active role—you'll be challenged to decide whether you can ever do church the same way again.

Life and times of the 14th century German spiritual leader Meister Eckhart, whose theory of a personal path to the divine inspired thinkers from Jean Paul Sartre to Thomas Merton, and most recently, Eckhart Tolle Meister Eckhart was a medieval Christian mystic whose wisdom powerfully appeals to seekers seven centuries after his death. In the modern era, Eckhart's writings have struck a chord with thinkers as diverse as Heidegger, Merton, Sartre, John Paul II, and the current Dalai Lama. He is the inspiration for the bestselling New Age author Eckhart Tolle's pen name, and his fourteenth-century quotes have become an online sensation. Today a variety of Christians, as well as many Zen Buddhists, Sufi Muslims, Jewish Cabbalists, and various spiritual seekers, all claim Eckhart as their own. Meister Eckhart preached a personal, internal path to God at a time when the Church could not have been more hierarchical and ritualistic. Then and now, Eckhart ' s revolutionary method of direct access to ultimate reality offers a profoundly subjective approach that is at once intuitive and pragmatic, philosophical yet non-rational, and, above all, universally accessible. This “ dangerous mystic ' s ” teachings challenge the very nature of religion, yet the man himself never directly challenged the Church. Eckhart was one of the most learned theologians of his day, but he was also a man of the world who had worked as an administrator for his religious order and taught for years at the University of Paris. His personal path from conventional friar to professor to lay preacher culminated in a spiritual philosophy that combined the teachings of an array of pagan and Christian writers, as well as Muslim and Jewish philosophers. His revolutionary decision to take his approach to the common people garnered him many enthusiastic followers as well as powerful enemies. After Eckhart ' s death and papal censure, many religious women and clerical supporters, known

as the Friends of God, kept his legacy alive through the centuries, albeit underground until the master ' s dramatic rediscovery by modern Protestants and Catholics. Dangerous Mystic grounds Meister Eckhart in a world that is simultaneously familiar and alien. In the midst of this medieval society, a few decades before the Black Death, Eckhart boldly preached to captivated crowds a timeless method, a " wayless way, " of directly experiencing the divine. Millions of American Christians see U.S. support for the State of Israel as a God-ordained responsibility. Robert O. Smith provides an in-depth look at the English Protestant tradition of Judeo-centric prophecy interpretation at the heart of this popular affinity.

Shadows and Substance: The Truth About Jewish Roots and Christian Believers

The Religious Roots of American Sociology

The Jewish Roots of Christianity

Exploring the Roots of Our Church Practices

Esoteric Traditions And The Roots Of Christian Mysticism

Esoteric Traditions and the Roots of Christian Mysticism. Second, Revised and Enlarged paperback edition

The Christian Past And The Evangelical Identity Crisis

This book traces the development of Haiti's combined Vodou-Christian religion from 1500 to the present and explains how this combination of distinct faiths coalesces in a coherent belief system. •

Provides a history of Haiti's unique religious tradition that explains how Spanish and French colonizers established Catholicism in Haiti and identifies how the connections between Vodou and African indigenous religions formed over the past five centuries • Proposes seven "principles of accommodation" that enable Vodou-Catholicism to be regarded as a cohesive, rational system by the vast majority of Haitians • Presents information culled from hundreds of references from the professional literature as well as interviews with two university professors who are both authorities on Haitian Vodou-Christianity and practitioners of the faith

The Roots of Christian MysticismText and Commentary

Christianity is Jewish? The rediscovery of the Jewish roots of Christianity raises lots of questions: Why were these roots forgotten for so long? And how do they affect us today? Do Gentile Christians need to obey the Jewish Law? What about Messianic Jews? Does God have a plan for Gentile Christians? And what about modern Israel? To answer these questions, we need to dive back into history to find out what happened: how Christianity was separated from so many of its Jewish roots, why Christians persecuted the Jewish people, and how this changed the Church and the way it understood its basic doctrines. Then we'll be ready to understand how God is changing hearts, leading so many to repent of these actions in the past, and how he is restoring Christianity's Jewish roots again. In this seminar, now in book form, you will learn a different kind of Church history, starting with God's plan for Jews and Gentiles in the body of Messiah, then learning how the Church turned away from and rejected that plan, and finally how God is now reconnecting the Church to its Jewish roots. This is itself a fulfillment of prophecy. And there is much more yet to come. The restoration of Christianity to its Jewish roots has only just begun!

David Self outlines not the theology, but the social, folkloric and historic roots, customs and development of the major Christian festivals, as well as some religious traditional observances, showing how the sacred and secular have often fed upon one another.

Jewish Roots of Christian Worship

How Humility Grounds and Nourishes Your Soul

Critical Essays on the Thought of H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr

Great High Priest

Decoding Religious History with Symbols on Ancient Coins

Dangerous Mystic

Back to the Roots of the Christian Faith

How Jewish is Christianity? The question of how Jesus' followers relate to Judaism has been a matter of debate since Jesus first sparred with the Pharisees. The controversy has not abated, taking many forms over the centuries. In the decades following the Holocaust, scholars and theologians reconsidered the Jewish origins and character of Christianity, finding points of continuity. Understanding the Jewish Roots of Christianity advances this discussion by freshly reassessing the issues. Did Jesus intend to form a new religion? Did Paul abrogate the Jewish law? Does the New Testament condemn Judaism? How and when did Christianity split from Judaism? How should Jewish believers in Jesus relate to a largely gentile church? What meaning do the Jewish origins of Christianity have for theology and practice today? In this volume, a variety of leading scholars and theologians explore the relationship of Judaism and Christianity through biblical, historical, theological, and ecclesiological angles. This cutting-edge scholarship will enrich readers' understanding of this centuries-old debate. Bishop C.H. Mason and the Roots of the Church of God in Christ