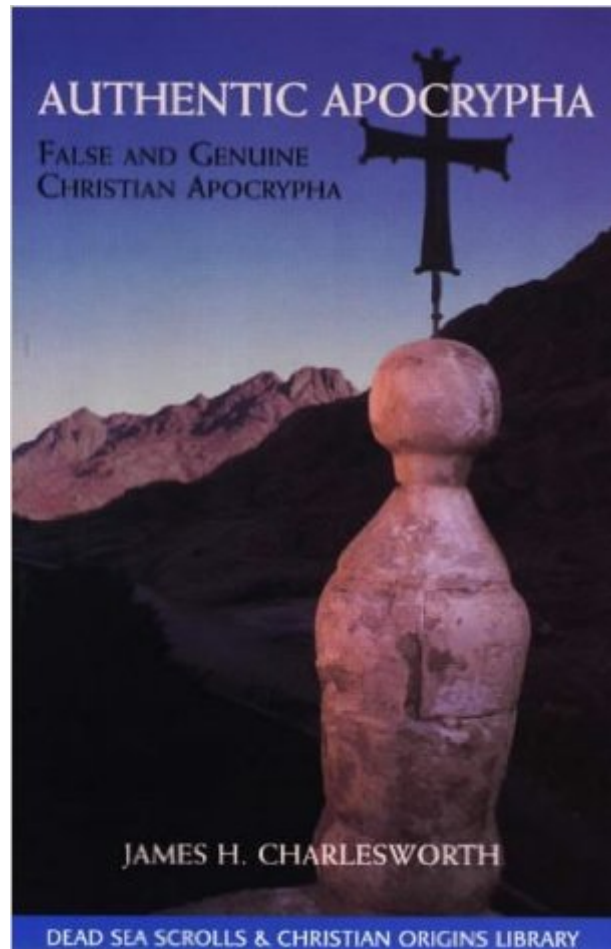


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Authentic Apocrypha (Dead Sea Scrolls & Christian Origins Library)



Synopsis

If you could ask third-century Christians what they knew about Jesus, they would tell a story full of details that you've probably never heard. They might begin by describing how Joachim and Anna took their daughter, Mary, to live at the Temple from the age of three until she was twelve. They would tell how Jesus was crucified between Titus and Dumachus and would mention that Titus entered paradise before Jesus because he had protected Mary, Joseph, and Jesus years earlier. They would certainly quote some sayings of Jesus that you won't find in the Bible, and they might even describe how Jesus was raised by God. These stories and many others are just a small part of ancient writings which many early Christians regarded as Scripture, but which are not part of our modern Bibles. Such writings are called New Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha. They are fascinating to read and can provide important insights into the development of Christianity and even the nature of the gospels in the New Testament. Yet few people are familiar with them, and even scholars rarely consult or refer to them. In this book, Dr. Charlesworth introduces you to the New Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha, tells you where you can find good translations of all of them, and discusses some sensational fakes. There's even a translation of the Gospel of Peter inside these pages. You'll find this book both entertaining and informative. Enjoy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I'm not really sure if this book is worth [X], but it does provide a good introduction to early Christian works known to scholars as "New Testament Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha" (hereafter NTAP). The book will only take about one hour to read, as it contains quite a few pictures and the print is large while the pages are small. Dr. Charlesworth surveys the scholarly work done on NTAP both old and new and recommends what books one should check out if one wishes to study this subject. He talks about the importance of NTAP for understanding the New Testament and earliest Christianity, as well as how these works have been used throughout the ages. He also grants that some of the NTAP probably contain things that are historically accurate. The book reads something like a short introductory lecture to the topic; in fact, the bulk of this book is actually composed of some lectures he gave. Again, I think [X] is a bit much but in the end, I think this book may also be the best place to start. The work on NTAP has been growing over the past few years, and this book serves as a good beginner's guide to the subject.

This book deals in a challenging and novel way with several non-pentateuchal biblical books. Charlesworth lends academic credence to what is often described as speculation, rumour and myth. This is a great book but I deducted one star because of the lack of illustration and one star because the index is pitiful. Otherwise a great read.

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