



The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Mother of Jesus in Three Ancient Texts

By Frederica Mathewes-Green

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Meet Mary through the Earliest Gospel of Her Life. "The Gospel of Mary" is a humbly-told story of her life from conception to the birth of her son, Jesus Christ. This ancient text comes alive for the first time in a fresh version from Frederica Mathewes-Green. First put into written form as early as 150 A.D., "The Gospel of Mary" was at once cherished in the Christian East and rejected by the papacy because it did not depict Joseph as ever-virgin. This annotated version will introduce new readers to an important part of Christian history. "The Annunciation Hymn of Rejoicing," written by the Syrian poet Romanos about 520 A.D., greets Mary with joy and wonder at Christ's conception. This hymn, offered every year in the Eastern Orthodox Church, uses complex patterns of rhythm, internal rhyme, and paradoxical juxtaposition. Mathewes-Green's new version conveys some of the original work's genius, while inviting readers to join generations of Christians in celebrating God's work in Mary. Together in one remarkable volume, "The Lost Gospel of Mary" explores both texts in a way that opens up the life of Mary, and her role in the church, in new and sometimes startling ways.

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Editorial Review

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The Virgin Mary means different things to different cultures--the flower of femininity or the champion of feminism; the paragon of obedience or the advocate of liberation. Which view of her you take depends on what cultural side you're on. In this slim volume, Mathewes-Green tries to uncover the Mary that early Christians knew through a reading of three ancient texts: a narrative of Mary's life that Mathewes-Green calls the *Gospel of Mary*, which was written in 150 and was extremely popular in its day; a brief prayer to Mary, found in Egypt on papyrus dated to 250, though Mathewes-Green thinks it is probably older; and a long hymn written by the Syrian deacon St. Romanos that is considered one of the finest examples of Eastern Christian poetry. By examining these texts, Mathewes-Green offers a new perspective on Mary's life, legacy, and meaning for generations of Christians. Advocates of Marian literature will surely appreciate Mathewes-Green's thoughtful comments. *June Sawyers*

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Review

"Do you want to get to know Mary a bit better? Are you interested in entering a faithful Marian spirituality? Let Frederica Mathewes-Green Facilitat a rich, traditional, authantic meeting of Mary. When it comes to spending time with the mother of our Lord, this book is second only to scripture." -- *Lauren F. Winner*

"Frederica Mathewes-Green is a sparkling writer. In *The Lost Gospel of Mary*, not only is her material fascinating, but so is her perspective as a thoughtful and irenic Orthodox Christian. There is much here to warm the heart as it engages the mind from here to warm the heart as it engages the mind from early in our comon Christian tradition." -- *Brian McLaren, author of A Generous Orthodoxy*

"The Mary that Frederica Mathewes-Green gives us in these winsome texts- a palably real women, at once humble and exalted-transcends the differences that persist even today among the main streams of the Christian Tradition, not least because this Mary points beyond herself to the ultimate source of our hope and our joy" -- *John Wilson*

From the Inside Flap

Taking us right to the core of Christian faith, Mathewes-Green offers a glimpse of the Church one thousand years ago. Looking at three ancient texts, she explores the historic background and theological and cultural questions that the documents raise.

"The Gospel of Mary" is a humbly told story of the Virgin's life from her conception to the birth of Jesus, put into written form as early as A.D. 150. The second text is a brief prayer to Mary found in Egypt on a scrap of papyrus and dated to the following century. It is the oldest known prayer to Mary. The third text, "The Annunciation Hymn of Rejoicing," was written by the Syrian poet Romanos in about A.D. 520 and is considered one of the finest examples of Eastern Christian poetry. This graceful hymn is still sung in Eastern Orthodox churches throughout the world today.

Warmly devout, historically detailed, and rich with spiritual applications for today, *The Lost Gospel of Mary* is the latest gem from Frederica Mathewes-Green. The fruit of her whole-hearted faith and careful study is an intimate glimpse of the extraordinary mother of our Lord.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Debbie Luken:

Here thing why this specific The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Mother of Jesus in Three Ancient Texts are different and reliable to be yours. First of all reading a book is good nevertheless it depends in the content of it which is the content is as yummy as food or not. The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Mother of Jesus in Three Ancient Texts giving you information deeper since different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no e-book that similar with The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Mother of Jesus in Three Ancient Texts. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your personal eyes about the thing that happened in the world which is possibly can be happened around you. You can actually bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your way home by train. In case you are having difficulties in bringing the printed book maybe the form of The Lost Gospel of Mary: The Mother of Jesus in Three Ancient Texts in e-book can be your choice.

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Courtney Osteen:

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