

## The Nag Hammadi Gnostic Gospels

More than a century after Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were written, some unknown authors began writing counterfeit gospels—trying to pass them off as Scripture written by the other apostles. These false gospels are known as *pseudepigrapha*, which means "false writings." Just because ancient manuscripts are discovered doesn't make them true.

The Nag Hammadi Gnostic texts are false gospels that were discovered in 1945 in lower Egypt, about 650 miles from Jerusalem. Two of the most popular Gnostic texts are the *Gospel of Thomas* and the *Gospel of Phillip*. These were written 100-200 years after the four gospels. The fact that there is only one complete copy of the *Gospel of Thomas* speaks for itself—it wasn't copied and distributed like the true Gospels.

Some people wonder why the *Gospel of Thomas* and the *Gospel of Phillip* are not included in the Bible. When you read them, you can clearly see they don't pass the tests required to be included in the New Testament. These forgeries are confusing and make little sense, and are clearly not inspired by the Holy Spirit. The *Gospel of Thomas* and the *Gospel of Phillip* were not authored by the apostles Thomas or Phillip, but by a couple of people who lived a century later.

*The Gospel of Thomas* is only 114 verses long, which is about 2 chapters when compared to the true Gospels. The Gospel of Matthew is 28 chapters, Mark is 16 chapters, Luke is 24 chapters, and John is 21 chapters long. Furthermore, the *Gospel of Thomas* is just a list of sayings that aren't tied together as the true Gospels are written.

### The Gospel of Thomas

The ridiculous verses highlighted below demonstrate why these false writings aren't included in the Bible. It's almost as if the author was writing this as a joke to poke fun at the true Gospels.

3 "When you know yourselves, then you will be known, and you will understand that you are children of the living Father. But if **you do not know yourselves, then you live in poverty, and you are the poverty.**"

4 Jesus said, "The **person old in days won't hesitate to ask a little child seven days old about the place of life, and that person will live. For many of the first will be last, and will become a single one.**"

5 Jesus said, "**Know what is in front of your face**, and what is hidden from you will be disclosed to you. For there is nothing hidden that will not be revealed. [**And there is nothing buried that will not be raised.**"]

7 Jesus said, "**Lucky is the lion that the human will eat, so that the lion becomes human.** And foul is the human that the lion will eat, and the **lion still will become human.**"

8 And he said, "The person is **like a wise fisherman** who cast his net into the sea and drew it up from the sea **full of little fish**. Among them the wise fisherman discovered a fine large fish. He threw all the little fish back into the sea, and **easily chose the large fish. Anyone here with two good ears had better listen!**"

9 Jesus said, Look, the sower went out, took a handful (of seeds), and scattered (them). Some fell on the road, and the birds came and gathered them. Others fell on rock, and they didn't take root in the soil and didn't produce heads of grain. Others **fell on thorns, and they choked the seeds and worms ate them.** And others fell on good soil, and it produced a good crop: it yielded sixty per measure and one hundred twenty per measure.

10 Jesus said, "I have cast fire upon the world, and look, **I'm guarding it until it blazes.**"

11 Jesus said, "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?**"

12 The disciples said to Jesus, "We know that you are going to leave us. Who will be our leader?" Jesus said to them, "No matter where you are **you are to go to James the Just, for whose sake heaven and earth came into being.**"

13 ...Thomas said to them, "If I tell you one of the sayings he spoke to me, you will pick up rocks and stone me, and **fire will come from the rocks and devour you.**"

19 Jesus said, "**Congratulations to the one who came into being before coming into being.** If you become my disciples and pay attention to my sayings, **these stones will serve you.**

21 Mary said to Jesus, "What are your disciples like?" He said, "**They are like little children living in a field that is not theirs.** When the owners of the field come, they will say, 'Give us back our field.' **They take off their clothes in front of them in order to give it back to them,** and they return their field to them."

22 Jesus said to them, "**When you make the two into one, and when you make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and when you make male and female into a single one, so that the male will not be male nor the female be female, when you make eyes in place of an eye, a hand in place of a hand, a foot in place of a foot, an image in place of an image,** then you will enter [the kingdom]."

33 Jesus said, "What you will hear in your ear, **in the other ear proclaim from your rooftops.**

53 His disciples said to him, "is circumcision useful or not?" He said to them, "**If it were useful, their father would produce children already circumcised from their mother.** Rather, the true circumcision in spirit has become profitable in every respect."

77 Jesus said, "I am the light that is over all things. I am all: from me all came forth, and to me all attained. **Split a piece of wood; I am there. Lift up the stone, and you will find me there.**"

83 Jesus said, "**Images are visible to people, but the light within them is hidden in the image of the Father's light. He will be disclosed, but his image is hidden by his light.**"

84 Jesus said, "**When you see your likeness, you are happy. But when you see your images that came into being before you and that neither die nor become visible,** how much you will have to bear!"

86 Jesus said, "[Foxes have] their dens and birds have their nests, **but human beings have no place to lay down and rest.**"

98 Jesus said, "The **Father's kingdom is like a person who wanted to kill someone powerful. While still at home he drew his sword and thrust it into the wall to find out whether his hand would go in. Then he killed the powerful one.**"

102 Jesus said, "Damn the Pharisees! They are **like a dog sleeping in the cattle manger: the dog neither eats nor [lets] the cattle eat.**"

*Scholars Version translation of the Gospel of Thomas taken from The Complete Gospels: Annotated Scholars Version. Copyright 1992, 1994 by Polebridge Press.*

**See "Gospel of Phillip" below**

## The Gospel of Philip

Here are some quotes from The Gospel of Philip.

**“Blessed is he who is before he came into being.** For he who is, has been and shall be.”

“Those who say they will die first and then rise are in error. If they do not first **receive the resurrection while they live** when they die they will receive nothing.” (See 1 Cor. 15:44,46)

**“Jesus came to crucify the world.”**

“It is not possible for anyone to see anything of the things that actually exist unless he becomes like them... You saw the Spirit, **you became spirit.** You saw Christ, you became Christ. You saw the Father, **you shall become Father.** So in this place you see everything and do not see yourself, but in that place you do see yourself - and what you see you shall become.”

**“Adam came into being from two virgins,** from the Spirit and from the virgin earth. Christ therefore, was born from a virgin to rectify the Fall which occurred in the beginning.”

“The Lord did everything in a mystery, a baptism and a chrism and a eucharist and a redemption **and a bridal chamber.**”

“Those who receive the name of the father, the son, and holy spirit...[are] **no longer a Christian, but [are] Christ.**”

“My God, My God, why, lord, have you forsaken me?’ [Jesus] spoke these words on the cross, **for he had left that place.**”

“We are born again through the holy spirit, and we are conceived through Christ in baptism with two elements. We are anointed through the spirit, and **when we are conceived, we were united.**”

**“As Jesus perfected the water of baptism, he poured out death.”**