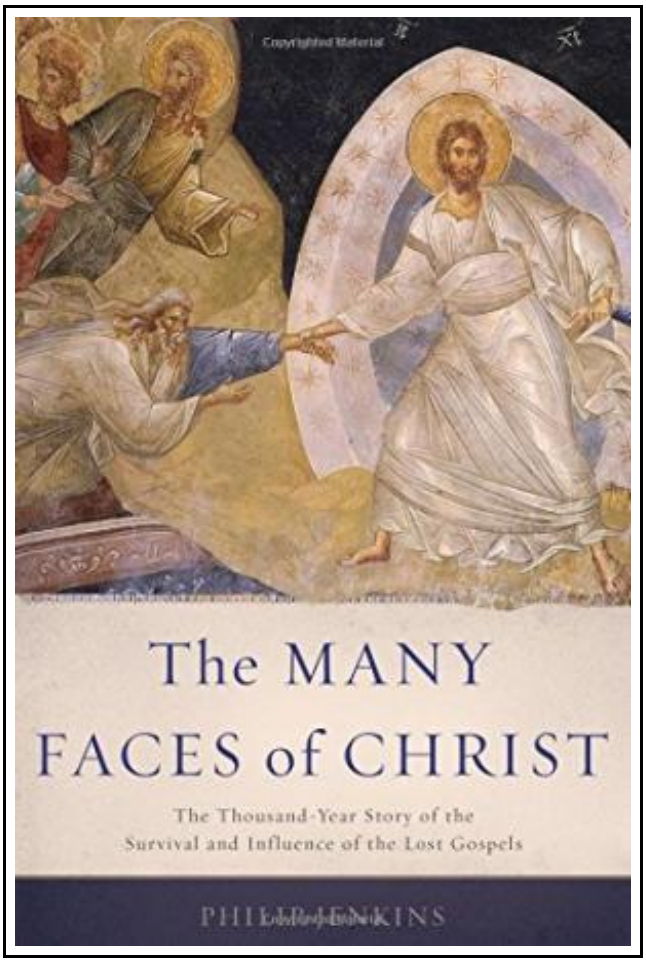
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THE MANY FACES OF CHRIST: THE THOUSAND-YEAR STORY OF THE SURVIVAL AND INFLUENCE

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Basic/BOMC. 1 Cloth(s), 2015. hard. Book Condition: New. In the standard account of early Christianity, a multitude of sects were founded in the first centuries after Jesus's death, each with their own gospelsmany possessing daring and even bizarre ideaswhich were suppressed in the 4th or 5th centuries as the Church canonized the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Religious historian Philip Jenkins here reveals that in fact, dozens of alternative gospels not only survived but in many cases remained influential texts within the Church, while new gospels continued to be written and accepted. For a thousand years, these stories about the life and death of Jesus were approved for liturgical reading, read by ordinary laypeople for instruction and pleasure, and cited as authoritative by scholars and theologians. It was only with the Reformation and Counter-Reformation, Jenkins explains, that the Lost Gospels were effectively driven from churches. Even so, many survived, and some continue to shape Christian practice and belief in our own day. "Be prepared to be shocked and/or delighted. Jenkins uncovers a far more colorful mosaic of Christian belief through the centuries than . we've been led to believe. 'Apocryphal' writings thought lost or repressed in the West wereand still arealive and cherished elsewhere, and have fed back into Western consciousness with a vibrancy that may surprise you."Lesley Hazleton"More than a well-argued rebuttal against prevailing academic viewpoints, the author also presents a worthwhile companion reference for lay students of Christian history. A worthy broadside aimed at revisionist Christian historians that provides a sorely needed counterpoint to the prevailing and largely unquestioned conventional wisdom regarding early Christian history."Kirkus Reviews 326.

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