

The Gospel According to Saint Matthew and Textual Criticism

I. Gospels as Historical Source

A. Skeptical Approach

1. Hermann Reimarus (1694–1768), *Von dem Zwecke Jesu und seiner Jünger*, 1778
2. David Friedrich Strauss (1808–1874), *Das Leben Jesu*, 1835
3. Albert Schweitzer (1875–1965), *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*, 1906

B. Synoptic Problem

1. Q = *Quelle* (oral tradition of Jesus' sayings)
2. Stemmata for relationship of Synoptic Gospels (Mark, Matthew, and Luke)

C. Relationship of Other Early Texts to New Testament Texts

1. Nag Hammadi
 - a. Gnostic Gospels
 - b. Hypostasis of the Archons
2. Secret Gospel of Mark
 4. Morton Smith, *Jesus the Magician*, 1978
 - b. Clement of Alexandria
 - c. Carpocratians
3. Dead Sea Scrolls

II. Textual Criticism of the New Testament

A. General Principles

1. a shorter reading is preferred to a longer reading
2. a more difficult reading is preferred to a smoother reading
3. the original may have contained mistakes
4. common readings in copies from diverse geographical areas are more likely to have been in the original than a reading common in copies from only one area
5. a stemma (genealogical relationship of the copies of a text) can be constructed on the basis of simple variants and then use to help determine the primacy of more complex variants

B. Specific Problems

III. Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922–1975)

Recommended Reading:

- Lloyd Baugh, *Imaging the Divine: Jesus and Christ-Figures in Film*, Kansas City, MO: Sheed and Ward, 1997
- Robert Eisenman, *James the Just in the Habakkuk Peshar*, Leiden, 1986.
- Robert Eisenman, *Maccabees, Zadokites, Christians and Qumran*, Leiden, 1983.
- William R. Farmer, *The Synoptic Problem: A Critical Analysis*, New York, 1964.
- Helmut Koester, *Ancient Christian Gospels: Their History and Development*, Philadelphia: Trinity Press, 1990.
- Burton Mack, *The Lost Gospel: The Book of Q and Christian Origins*, New York: HarperCollins, 1993.
- Bruce M. Metzger, *The Text of the New Testament: Its Transmission, Corruption and Restoration*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1964.
- *Nag Hammadi Library, The*, ed. James M. Robinson, New York: HarperCollins, 1988.
- Morton Smith, *Clement of Alexandria and a Secret Gospel According to Mark*, Cambridge MA: Harvard University Press, , 1973.
- Morton Smith, *The Secret Gospel: The Discovery and Interpretation of the Secret Gospel According to Mark*, Clearlake CA: Dawn Horse Press, 1982.