



May 10, 2022

For Immediate Release

New Book by Shirley Paulson, PhD, Brings an Ancient Document into Modern Christian Consciousness

Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light, by Shirley Paulson, PhD, was published April 18, 2022, by Cascade Books. It is the author's first book.

The ancient text, the *Secret Revelation of John*, lay hidden from the world over 1600 years until its rediscovery in 1945 near the town of Nag Hammadi in Egypt. In her new book, Paulson polishes the encrusted gems contained in the ancient text and gives modern readers a chance to explore the world of Christ communities before canon, clergy, and creed defined the Christian church.

The *Secret Revelation of John* was probably written in Greek, but the copies found in the twentieth century were written in ancient Coptic, a language known to few people today. Even though this second-century writing circulated widely among Jesus followers well before a Christian church evolved, it later disappeared from church-sanctioned canons.

The document contains interesting information about the earliest Jesus followers not found in the canonical texts and sheds new light on Jesus and his teachings that, in some cases, contradict traditional teachings and likely conflicted with the doctrines and theology of the early patriarchal church institutions.

Paulson and many other scholars of early Christianity agree that the *Secret Revelation of John* is a highly important text for those engaged in serious study of Christian history. *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light* is devoted to broad public engagement, providing both commentary and a paraphrase. Even the best English translations of the ancient text are difficult to read. Paulson's book is the first to include a modern paraphrase of the entire ancient text, rendering it more understandable and accessible for contemporary readers.

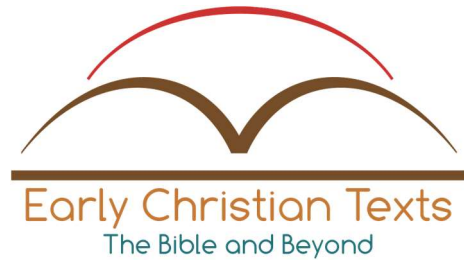
Paulson's book provides cogent explanations of the cultural context in which the second-century book was created, the backstory of the book's strange mythical characters, and the

Early Christian Texts

820 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL 60025

+1.224.661.0884 connect@earlychristiantexts.com

<https://earlychristiantexts.com>



overarching story of Jesus' message of help and healing. Further, she demonstrates the ancient text's enduring value by explaining its relevance in the modern world.

Shirley Paulson, PhD, specializes in both canonical and extracanonical writings, with a particular interest in understanding the motives of their authors, especially the varied views of Jesus and his commitment to healing and helping in the rebellion against Roman oppression. Paulson is the principal producer of the Early Christian Texts website, earlychristiantexts.com, which features the "Bible and Beyond" series of blog posts, articles, online courses, events, discussions, and a monthly podcast.

Paulson's exploration and research into the texts 'beyond the Bible' began with her Master of Theological Studies work at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, which led to her PhD in Religion and Theology from the University of Birmingham (UK). The unique contribution of Shirley's work is her research in extracanonical texts from the perspective of contemporary methodology in Practical Theology.

More information on *Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John: Catching the Light* is available by contacting the author directly via phone (+1.224.661.0884) or email (connect@earlychristiantexts.com).

###

Early Christian Texts
820 Glenview Road, Glenview, IL 60025
+1.224.661.0884 connect@earlychristiantexts.com
<https://earlychristiantexts.com>