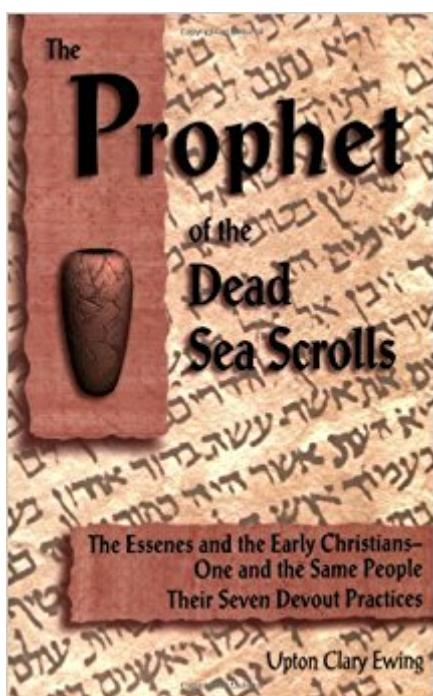


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The Prophet Of The Dead Sea Scrolls: The Essenes And The Early Christians-One And The Same Holy People. Their Seven Devout Practices



Synopsis

Who, in fact, were the ancient Essenes? What secret doctrines did they uphold? Why did they keep their practices hidden? How do these writings relate to Jesus and His teachings? This vital book explores the pre-Christian origins of New Testament writings and the little-known mysteries of the ancient Hebrew sect called the Essenes. It explains their 'Seven Devout Practices'. New evidence is presented concerning the conviction and crucifixion of Jesus, revealing the falseness of traditional accusations against the Jews. The author shows you why and how 'The Sect of the Scrolls', the Nazarenes, the Ebionites, and the Palestine Christians were one and the same people.

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Customer Reviews

Upton Clary Ewing was a theologian of wide vistas of thought and freedom of expression, an award-winning architect, sculptor, painter, prolific inventor, and lecturer on many subjects. Dr. Albert Schweitzer called him, "The Renaissance of Leonardo da Vinci." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It was a good description of the sect of the scrolls. The author suggests that the Essenes were the people who kept the scriptures that Jesus read and fulfilled. There was plenty to think about after reading this work. I recommend it

This book makes perfect sense and I couldn't put it down. The pieces especially fit together given

political Roman emperor Constantine's history as murderer of his wife and son, a blood-thirsty invader and conqueror of nations, who burned +100 biblical books, omitted parts and changed parts of others to create what people know today as the King James Version, essentially telling "Christians" (the earliest of Christ's pupils, the Essenes, never called themselves this) what they would and wouldn't believe about God and God's nature. Yeshua was an animal liberator, scientist, herbal healer and strict vegetarian: a true teacher of peace whose teachings were radically different than the Pharisees and Sadducees way, whose customs of religion included animal sacrifice, treating women and animals as property and a lower hierarchy, and not living at one with nature. Read it! It will change your life forever!!

This book is an eye-opener for anyone who considers him or herself a Christian. It shows how the early Church sprang from the sect Jesus was raised in, the Essenes, who had prepared for generations for His coming. As St. Augustine wrote, "what is now called the Christian religion existed even among the ancients, and was not lacking from the beginning of the human race until Christ came." As a Christian one has to feel a pang of conscience to read how this unique Essene community was morally and spiritually so far ahead of us, even before Christ's mission. Indeed, their way of life would be the perfect prescription for today. Its exemplary humanity, non-violence, sharing of wealth, love of freedom, respect for womankind, kindness to animals, and the modesty of their demands on ecology and society, puts modern thinking in an atavistic shade by comparison. Yet, these idealists were able to maintain a large community for centuries, while surrounded by a world of warfare and slavery. The author's unorthodox findings are carefully buttressed by solid research from the Dead Sea Scrolls, classical authors like Pliny and Philo, and early Church writers. He also cites from chapters of the Bible with an Essene perspective, such as the books of Isaiah and of James, brother of Jesus. As the "Jews of conscience" of their times - like Jeremiah, who had cried out against "the false pen of the scribes" - the Essenes condemned the inhumane parts of the Old Testament. They had kept the true law, passed down by a chain of "Teachers of Righteousness," culminating in the mission of Jesus. The author shows how the first New Testament was an Essene text, which the temptations of power and ambition corrupted in the following generations. Inevitable, perhaps, once the decision had been made to create a mass movement. Blind faith replaced the Essene standard of practical knowledge and deeds. The name Essene is a Greek spelling of Hasidim, the mystics of Judaism. (They were - or are? - also known as the Meek, the Poor, the Worthy, the People of the Way, Gnostics or Knowers, Nazarenes, the Sons of Peace, and by many other names.) "Peace be upon you" was their greeting. The great practical value this book offers

today is a touchstone to rediscover real Christianity, and help distinguish the truth or essence of every religion.

This is the type of book that splits people into two camps almost before they begin reading. I found this a very interesting and documented book and very much inline with my beliefs and other books I have read. A good read to make one think and exercise the gray matter.

Upton Clary Ewing's theory is that the Essene Teacher was an imaginary messiah, a dream that the historical Jesus fulfills. In his mind, the theory saves Christianity from the hypothesis that Jesus was not a historical figure. Ewing developed his ideas at a time when the Dead Sea Scrolls had shown many similarities between Essene and nascent Christianity. It was also the time when scholar Dupont-Sommer announced that Jesus was an astonishing reincarnation of the Teacher (although with many differences). Still others, in the line of J Allegro, considered that the Gospels were the prophetic books of the Teacher disguised as Jesus. Ewing's theory came as an answer to support fundamental Christian beliefs. Can we still credit his view that the Teacher was no more than an imaginary creation? We don't know much about the Teacher, only attested by sectarian texts. There are no contemporary (105-65 BC) texts written by outside observers to attest historicity. Well known first century AD writers refer to him as the Legislator of the Law and founder of the Essene scroll community. The Teacher and Jesus are at least here on par. However, the pages by Philo and Josephus on the Essene and their ways of life are very structured and documented, not just a few notes slipped into unrelated verses as we find about Jesus in Antiquities, Suetonius and Tacitus. Very few people would support today that the Teacher was not a real person.

This book is not written in an 'easy to read' format. Seems to be a thesis. Also, when trying to find more on the author, who is given a glowing review in the book and compared to Leonardo de Vinci, I found nothing. Not even listed in Wikipedia, nor is there a photograph of the author on the book. Questionable: is my review. I believe the writers and publishers of this book are 'progressives' and big time supporters of PETA.

This is the only book on the Essenes in which I have found so much information, written so clearly.

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