

The Gods And Religions Of Ancient And Modern Times

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The Gods and Religions of Ancient and Modern Times ...

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The Gods and Religions of Ancient and Modern Times

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The Gods and Religions of Ancient and Modern Times, Volume 1

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The Semitic Gods and the Bible

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The Semitic Gods and the Bible. Being Over Three Hundred Pages from the Gods and Religions of Ancient and Modern Times. Written While Unjustly Impri

Human beings have inhabited the world for millions of years, and the oldest religious art found in caves and on bones dates as far back as 30,000 years. From earliest times, and still today, people share their ideas and form a group with others who have drawn similar conclusions about the meaning of life and the ultimate reality. They might call their group a religion; others might call it a cult. But the name they give to their concept of God does not mean that they worship a different god, only that they hold a different concept of the Source and Power of that which was, is and always will be. Every religion serves as a way of life, an opportunity to practice ones accepted beliefs, and a way to socialize with those who hold similar views. Religions can be dictated, but beliefs cannot. They are private and unique to the individual. It is ones own experience with that which he or she perceives as God that prompts the acceptance of a belief system, quiet endurance when there seems to be no choice, or the withdrawal from religion altogether. Public and personal wars have been fought in the name of righteous indignation in support of different belief systems that came from efforts to answer the questions of life. Many individuals have lived lives of frustration and confusion as a result of the commonly accepted belief system of the culture into which they were born. In this study we look briefly at the historical and geographical conditions related to the emergence of specific religious views, and the situation of the people whose lives are influenced by them. Our intent is not to determine which religion is right or

wrong. Using a comparison point chart, we examine the basic premises of each belief system and how the holding of a premise impacts the lives of those who live it as if it were true.

The Semitic Gods and the Bible. Being Over Three Hundred Pages From The Gods and Religions of Ancient and Modern Times. Written While Unjustly Imprisoned

From one of the world's leading authorities on the subject, an innovative and comprehensive account of religion in the ancient Roman and Mediterranean world In this ambitious and authoritative book, Jörg Rüpke provides a comprehensive and strikingly original narrative history of ancient Roman and Mediterranean religion over more than a millennium—from the late Bronze Age through the Roman imperial period and up to late antiquity. While focused primarily on the city of Rome, Pantheon fully integrates the many religious traditions found in the Mediterranean world, including Judaism and Christianity. This generously illustrated book is also distinguished by its unique emphasis on lived religion, a perspective that stresses how individuals' experiences and practices transform religion into something different from its official form. The result is a radically new picture of Roman religion and of a crucial period in Western religion—one that influenced Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and even the modern idea of religion itself.

SEMITIC GODS & THE BIBLE BEING

How new is atheism? In *Battling the Gods*, Tim Whitmarsh journeys into the ancient Mediterranean to recover the stories of those who first refused the divinities. Long before the Enlightenment sowed the seeds of disbelief in a deeply Christian Europe, atheism was a matter of serious public debate in the Greek world. But history is written by those who prevail, and the Age of Faith mostly suppressed the lively free-thinking voices of antiquity. Tim Whitmarsh brings to life the fascinating ideas of Diagoras of Melos, perhaps the first self-professed atheist; Democritus, the first materialist; and Epicurus and his followers. He shows how the early Christians came to define themselves against atheism, and so suppress the philosophy of disbelief. *Battling the Gods* is the first book on the origins of the secular values at the heart of the modern state. Authoritative and bold, provocative and humane, it reveals how atheism and doubt, far from being modern phenomena, have intrigued the human imagination for thousands of years.

A Comparison of World Religions

Gerald Massey was one of the first Egyptologists in modern times to realize that with the final eclipse of the incredibly old Land of Kam (a.k.a ancient Egypt), a light had been extinguished in world civilization. He was a man of protean interests and concerns - at once a poet, socialist, Shakespearean scholar, mythographer and Egyptologist. Part of his genius was the ability to look truth in the face and not flinch. Massey did in the cultural domain what modern paleontologists have done in the anthropological: pinpoint Africa as the crucible of humanity's story. In the first volume of *Ancient Egypt*, Massey was primarily concerned with elaborating how the first humans emerge in Africa created thought. What had been evident to him from the outset was that the myths, rituals and religions of ancient Egypt - or Old Kam - had preserved virtually intact a record of the psychomythic evolution of humanity. In the second volume, Massey examines the celestial phenomenon known as the Precession of the Equinoxes. He believed only by understanding this phenomenon was it possible to fathom Nile Valley history. He provides the reader with extensive detail on the interconnection of the two. The last half of the second volume is devoted to the Kamite sources of Christianity. Massey demonstrated the manner in which New Testament Christianity evolved directly out of the Osirian mysteries. Massey pioneered the effort to connect Old Kamite thought to its origin in Africa's antiquity. His conclusions, which are constantly being verified, showed that Kamite thought was the direct progenitor to the philosophy, metaphysics, religion and science that eventually shaped Western civilization. -- from back cover.

Pantheon

The first book to capture a complete picture of the most important of Greek gods in one reliable volume for almost seventy years, this masterly and comprehensive study brings a new-millennium examination of the fascinating god Zeus. Broad in scope, the book looks at myth, art, cult, philosophy, drama, theology and European painting amongst much more, and allows us to take seriously what it was to worship and respect the greatest of Greek gods, and to live through the aftershock of the Middle Ages and modern times. Showing the evidence along the way, Zeus is student-friendly and includes: a range of illustrations and maps translated passages from ancient authors a chronology and excellent indexing.

Looking at the ancient Greeks their predecessor and their successors – the Romans and beyond – the book is engagingly written and speaks to a modern audience: this is Zeus from our remote ancestors to Wagner, and into the computer age.

World Religions

This groundbreaking, first basic reference work on ancient religious beliefs collects and organizes available information on ten ancient cultures and traditions, including Greece, Rome, and Mesopotamia, and offers an expansive, comparative perspective on each one.

Battling the Gods

THIS book being intended for the general reader as well as for the student of anthropology the authority for each statement is not always given in the text. For the benefit of those who wish to pursue the study further there is a bibliography for each chapter at the end of the book. For a complete bibliography of English records the reader is referred to Wallace Notestein's History of Witchcraft in England (Washington, 1911). In my Witch Cult in Western Europe (Oxford University Press, 1921) the bibliography is chiefly of the British Isles, France, Belgium, and Sweden. Though I am concerned with the existence through the Middle Ages of a primitive religion in Western Europe only, there is no doubt that the cult was spread in early times through Central and Eastern Europe and the Near East. There it survived, underlying, as in the West, the official religion of the country, Christianity in Europe, Islam and sometimes Christianity in the East. The literati of those countries were of the faith there in the ascendant, consequently the Old Religion was seldom recorded, for Paganism belonged there as here to the inarticulate uneducated masses who remained for many centuries untouched by the new religion. I have not attempted to give every known instance of the beliefs and ritual of the "witches"; all I desire to do is to present to the reader a fairly complete view of the cult from contemporary evidence. I have also, as occasion arose, compared the Witch-Cult with other religions of ancient and modern times. My grateful thanks are due to my sister, Mrs. M. E. Slater, and to Mr. G. A. Wainwright for much kind help and many valuable suggestions; and to Mr. F. Rutter, Town-clerk of Shaftesbury, for the information which he so kindly furnished concerning the Prize Besom. In conclusion, there is one request I wish to make of my readers. Since my Witch Cult in Western Europe appeared I have received many letters containing criticisms, some complimentary, some condemnatory, of that book. If other correspondents honour me with similar private criticisms of the present volume, I ask of them that they will sign their communications, even when the opinions they express are adverse. Anonymous letters, of which I received a number, reflect no credit on their writers.

Ancient Egypt, the Light of the World

"Ancient Gods, Modern Sects" supports and expands the centuries-old idea that pagan religions morphed into modern religions. Other than a new look at the previous information, what makes this idea of interest again is the fact that the idea that the ancients created pagan religions based on observations of natural phenomena seen in the sky of their day has received substantial support since the latter part of the 20th century. Images from natural plasma auroras, meteors, and comets the ancients saw in the ancient skies inspired pagan religions. All of the pagan gods and their actions resulted from natural events. No alien or supernatural causes were needed. The ancients did not create mythology only from their imaginations or because they were on drugs. The ancients were a scientifically illiterate people who described natural activities they saw occurring in the sky, but used unscientific terms and associated the events with the supernatural. The visible gods disappeared when conditions changed. People no longer saw those images, but they retained the religious ritual parts. Perhaps in order to maintain jobs, and to keep control over people, religious leaders claimed the gods still existed but were now ethereal unseen gods that were still watching and still demanding. Images in the laboratory from plasma physics and images from mythology and religion are extremely similar if not identical. After one realizes that the ancients could have seen images in the sky that are not there today, it is an easy step to realize that those images were also the inspiration for religion. As more scientists pursue the difficult path of creating models based on ancient data, the more it becomes obvious that modern religious sects and even the characteristics of modern gods, such as dying and being reborn, angels, the devil, a virgin birth, the star in a crescent, the cross, and the trinity are based on activities the ancients saw in the sky. If you consider ancient art and writings as data about the ancient sky, you immediately realize that modern religion is a subset of mythology. Many religious leaders know that, but do not want to advertise it, and many people reared in a religious society do not want to consider that possibility. Ironically,

some religious people do believe the ancient sky was different. Those people look at the data and claim that the ancient sky was different because they mistakenly believe the claim supports religion or supports creationism. At the same time some scientists claim the ancient sky was not different and mistakenly believe that merely expressing that view will convince people that religion is unfounded. As more scientists adopt the approach that the ancient data are useful, they are demonstrating that the natural events were the foundation for modern religion. Changing viewpoints is not easy to accomplish. The advertised idea is that scientists are very open-minded, and generally they are. Unfortunately, there are outside influences. In governments or universities, if you influence others through funding, awards, or degrees, you ensure those people do not change, or they do not receive the funding, awards, or degrees. Whether certain conclusions are correct often may not be the major influence. The problem is compounded when religion influences the government. The government then influences the scientific community and scientific results have at least the possibility of sometimes becoming very unscientific. This happens even in the United States where there is supposedly separation of church and state. A recent example is a state that wishes to define a whale as a fish instead of a mammal because the Bible calls a whale a fish. Problems such as this are compounded when the government wants to teach Intelligent Design in schools. That is a waste of time and money for everyone. "Ancient Gods, Modern Sects" addresses all of the previous issues, how they are related, and why it matters.

Zeus

Religion is a major subfield of ancient history and classical studies, and Roman religion in particular is usually studied today by experts in two rather distinct halves: the religion of the Roman Republic, covering the fifth through first centuries B.C.; and the religious diversity of the Roman Empire, spanning the first four centuries of our era. In *Time in Roman Religion*, author Gary Forsythe examines both the religious history of the Republic and the religious history of the Empire. These six studies are unified by the important role played by various concepts of time in Roman religious thought and practice. Previous modern studies of early Roman religion in Republican times have discussed how the placement of religious ceremonies in the calendar was determined by their relevance to agricultural or military patterns of early Roman life, but modern scholars have failed to recognize that many aspects of Roman religious thought and behavior in later times were also preconditioned or even substantially influenced by concepts of time basic to earlier Roman religious history. This book is not a comprehensive survey of all major aspects of Roman religious history spanning one thousand years. Rather, it is a collection of six studies that are bound together by a single analytical theme: namely, time. Yet, in the process of delving into these six different topics the study surveys a large portion of Roman religious history in a representative fashion, from earliest times to the end of the ancient world and the triumph of Christianity.

Religions of the Ancient World

First published in 2001. This is a vivid account of what their gods meant to the Romans from archaic times to late antiquity, and an exploration of the rites and rituals connected to them. After an extensive introduction into the nature of classical religion, the book is divided into three main parts: religions of the family and land; religions of the city; and religions of the empire. The book ends with the rise and impact of Christianity. Using archaeological and epigraphic evidence, and drawing extensively on a wide range of relevant literary material, this book is ideally suited for undergraduate courses in the history of Rome and its religions. Its urbane style and lightly worn scholarship will broaden its appeal to the large number of non-academic readers with a serious interest in the classical world.

The God of the Witches

In this classic monograph, Albrektson, in 6 chapters spanning only 110 pages of text, examines the evidence for ancient Hebrew conceptions of divine activity in history against its context in the ancient Near East. The main conclusion is negative--that is, that the distinctiveness of the Old Testament in this regard is a matter of degree not kind. Since its original publication in 1967, the book has been cited over and over as a publication that set forth new directions of understanding and research on the topic of the gods and their involvement in history. The ground-breaking nature of Albrektson's monograph is revealed in comments from a long review by W. G. Lambert, shortly after the essay's publication: "Among the Moabites, Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, and Hittites, the gods were understood to show their will by intervention in history as much as this is ascribed to Yahweh by the Hebrews. A city or country may suffer devastation as a punishment: the event reveals the will of the god responsible. The author is correct to insist that this is not a distinctively Hebrew idea. . . . [This is] a very stimulating book

that shows an author willing to cut across current opinion and to take his stand on original evidence. Old Testament studies have much to gain from works of this kind."--W. G. Lambert, *Orientalia* 39 (1970) 170ff.

Ancient Gods, Modern Sects

This collection offers a fresh look at the nature and development of the Greek gods in the period from Homer until Late Antiquity. The Greek gods are still very much present in modern consciousness. Although Apollo and Dionysos, Artemis and Aphrodite, Zeus and Hermes are household names, it is much less clear what these divinities meant and stood for in ancient Greece. In fact, they have been very much neglected in modern scholarship. Bremmer and Erskine bring together a team of international scholars with the aim of remedying this situation and generating new approaches to the nature and development of the Greek gods in the period from Homer until Late Antiquity. *The Gods of Ancient Greece* looks at individual gods, but also asks to what extent cult, myth and literary genre determine the nature of a divinity and presents a synchronic and diachronic view of the gods as they functioned in Greek culture until the triumph of Christianity.

Time in Roman Religion

Comprised of readings from ancient to modern times, this volume offers a comprehensive introduction to the central questions of the philosophy of religion. Provides a history of the philosophy of religion, from antiquity up to the twentieth century. Each section is preceded by extensive commentary written by the editors, followed by readings that are arranged chronologically. Designed to be accessible to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The Gods of Ancient Rome

Traditional religious history preserves a rarely acknowledged secret that Christianity developed from at least three ancient roots: a Western structural root derived from Mediterranean Greek culture, an Eastern spiritual root from Anatolia and Persia, and a literary Jewish historical root, which masked the other roots and supported the idea that Christians had taken the place of Jews in relationship with God by entering a new covenant with Jesus. Each root contributed something special to the development of Christianity as follows: Supported by pagan iconography and rhetoric, the Western root imprinted Christianity with Greek spirit in a Hellenistic universe. The Eastern root filled the Greek construct with magic, focused humanity on a divine mission, and infused popular reverence for goddesses into Christian beliefs about the Virgin Mary. The literary Jewish root played two contradictory roles: Jewish scripture served as the reliable witness that proved Jesus to be both God and savior; and double-edged moral lessons in the Old Testament explained catastrophic events in the first century A.D. as divine judgment against Jews, supporting beliefs by early pagan converts to Christianity that Romans were good, Jews were bad, and God abandoned Jews for treacherously murdering Jesus. Two thousand years ago, Mediterranean cults included practices and beliefs that modern Christians associate exclusively with Christianity. People worshipped divine mothers who gave birth to dying and resurrecting gods on December 25. Saviors miraculously healed faithful followers and guided them to lead moral lives. Some cults baptized their followers, some passed their sins and inner demons to pigs, and some waited for a complete destruction of evil during the imminent End of Days. Then, as now, people argued whether the end would come by fire or water and whether many or few souls would be saved. Numerous symbols and beliefs associated in modern times with Christianity already existed in pre-Christian Hellenistic cults: Madonna and child images, angels, God the Father, the cross as a symbol of life after death, and the gift of eternal life through the shedding of immortal blood. On temple walls, wise men offered gifts of incense and gold to newborn gods; and merciful mothers granted salvation to the poor in spirit who confessed, repented, and begged forgiveness for their sins. However, Jews generally rejected all these practices, symbols, and beliefs. Some Jews believed in physical resurrection, and some did not. Some believed in eternal life, and some did not. For most Jews, however, a righteous life required the following of God's laws. If a Jew sinned against another man, no automatic forgiveness from God was possible. Forgiveness required acknowledgement of wrongdoing, restitution, and then forgiveness from the wronged party. Applying Jewish ethics to problems at the Jerusalem Temple meant recognizing the corruption within the priesthood, refusing to tolerate the evil rule of Rome, and giving one's life if necessary to precipitate the Kingdom of God. Just as God always had responded to the prayers of suffering Jews in the Bible, he would do so again. Soon he would send a messiah to deliver Jerusalem from the evil power of Rome and to cleanse Judea from the polluting

practices of pagan cults. Drawing from both visible and secret roots, Christians freed themselves from paying for salvation from mystery cults while preserving the ability to worship a virgin-born hero with all the trappings of a pagan solar deity. This book explores the roots of Christianity in seven parts. The first three parts provide an overview of religious beliefs, practices, and iconography in the ancient Greek world that influenced Western culture and religion. The fourth, fifth, and sixth parts describe how the West developed under Roman influence. Then the seventh part focuses on the life of Jesus and the emergence of Christian cults in the first century A.D.

History and the Gods

NEW YORK TIMES Best-Selling Author From the author that brought you 6 New York Times best-selling books including *The Harbinger*, *The Book of Mysteries*, *The Oracle* and *The Harbinger II* Is it possible that behind what is taking place in America and the world lies a mystery that goes back to the gods of the ancient world...and that they now have returned? *The Return of the Gods* is the most explosive book Jonathan Cahn has ever written. It is so explosive and so revealing that no description here could do it justice. Jonathan Cahn is known for revealing the stunning mysteries, many from ancient times, that lie behind and are playing out in the events of our times. But with *The Return of the Gods*, Cahn takes this to an entirely new level and dimension. *The Return of the Gods*, Cahn takes the reader on a journey from an ancient parable, the ancient inscriptions in Sumer, Assyria, and Babylonia that become the puzzle pieces behind what is taking place in our world to this day, specifically in America. Is it possible that what we in the modern world take as nothing more than ancient mythology could actually possess a reality beyond our fathoming? Who is the Possessor? The Enchanter? The Destroyer? And the Sorceress? Could a sign that has appeared all over America and the world be linked to the gods of Mesopotamia? And if so, what does it actually mean? Could the gods have returned to New York City and an ancient mythology played out on the streets in real time? Is it possible that the gods lie behind everything from what appears on our computer monitors, our televisions and movie screens; to the lessons given in our classrooms; to the breakdown of the family; to wokism; to the occult; to our addictions; to the Supreme Court; to cancel culture; to children's cartoons; to every force and factor that has transformed the parameters of gender; to that which appears in our stores, on our T-shirts, and on our coffee mugs—to that which is, at this very moment, transforming America and much of the world? Is it possible that behind all these things are ancient mysteries that go back to the Middle East and ancient Mesopotamia? This and so much more, most of which we can't even reveal in this description, will be uncovered. *The Return of the Gods* is not only one of the most explosive books you'll ever read but also one of the most profound. It will reveal the most stunning secrets and truths behind what is happening before your eyes in America and the nations. You will see things, even in your world, in a whole new light. With such chapters as "The House of Spirits," "The Avatar," "The Masters," "The Deep Magic," and "The Day of the Goddess," *The Return of the Gods* will take readers on a fascinating, unforgettable, and mind-blowing journey that will leave them stunned and with the ability to see the world as they never have before. Be prepared to be blown away as you open up Jonathan Cahn's most explosive book ever, *The Return of the Gods*!

Gods of Ancient Greece

The truth about god shall set your life free. "History of Gods", the first book in the series "Is There a God?" discusses the origin of god. Chapters include, Chapter 1: Is There a God? Chapter 2: A History of Gods and Goddesses Chapter 3: The Sun as God Chapter 4: Egyptian Deities Chapter 5: Greek Deities Chapter 6: Roman Deities Chapter 7: Jewish Deities Chapter 8: Hindu Deities Chapter 9: Chinese Deities Chapter 10: Middle Eastern Deities Chapter 11: South American Deities Chapter 12: Norse (Viking) Deities Chapter 13: Celtic Deities Chapter 14: United States of America Chapter 15: Characteristics of Religion Chapter 16: Human-conceived Gods do Not Exist Chapter 17: Terminologies and Notations

Readings in Philosophy of Religion

This volume examines major theories of interpretation of the Greek gods in German and British classical scholarship during the nineteenth and early twentieth century and their significance and influence.

The Secret Roots of Christianity

This work places Herodotus' religious beliefs at the centre of his conception of history, but by seeing instances of scepticism and of belief in relation to one another redresses the recent emphasis on the centrality of ritual.

The Return of the Gods

The truth behind ancient myths and the return of the celestial conditions for a Golden Age of peace and abundance • Reveals the events preserved in myth that launched humanity into 12,000 years of struggle, selfishness, and false beliefs • Explores how we can initiate a new Golden Age through ancient Egyptian teachings on the creative power of our imaginations • Explains how our world system of economics, which benefits a few at the expense of the many, arose as a reaction to global catastrophe in prehistory Since the beginning of recorded history humanity has been in a continuous struggle over land and resources. It continues today despite the abundance we have created through scientific innovation and technology. Why such a struggle for resources exists has never been explained. Neither has the human drive to own, accumulate, and hoard. Edward Malkowski reveals that the answer lies in recognizing the reality behind humanity's earliest myths. He shows that the opportunity is at hand to transcend these inherited selfish traits and return to a Golden Age of peace and abundance. Malkowski explores the hidden meaning behind stories such as the Epic of Gilgamesh, Plato's Atlantis, and myths of a new sky and a new sun, of great floods and the death of the gods, and of the preceding Golden Age. He connects these myths to a real extinction event that occurred 12,000 years ago. He explains how the survivors--our ancestors--were catapulted from utopia into a world of scarcity, scarring the collective mind of humanity and initiating the struggle for resources in an attempt to regain our lost paradise. He shows how our world system of economics, focused on ownership and based on the false belief of separateness--benefitting a few at the expense of the many--arose as a reaction to this catastrophe. Drawing on the pre-catastrophe teachings preserved by the ancient Egyptians, Malkowski reveals that we are returning to a celestial configuration parallel to that of the past Golden Age. Through our collective DNA memory and the creative power of our imaginations, we can end our 12,000-year quest to regain paradise lost and launch a new Golden Age of unity, abundance, and equality for all humanity.

History of Gods

Offers an introduction to the basic beliefs, practices, and major deities of Greek and Roman religions A volume in the Blackwell Ancient Religions, Greek and Roman Religions offers an authoritative overview of the region's ancient religious practices. The author—a noted expert in the field—explores the presence of divinity in all aspects of ancient life and highlights the origins of myth, religious authority, institutions, beliefs, rituals, sacred texts, and ethics. Comprehensive in scope, the text focuses on myriad aspects that constitute Greco-Roman culture such as economic class, honor and shame, and slavery as well as the religious role of each member of the family. The integration of ethnic and community identity with divine elements are highlighted in descriptions of religious festivals. Greek and Roman Religions presents the evolution of ideas concerning death and the afterlife and the relation of death to concepts of ultimate justice. The author also offers insight into the elements of ancient religions that remain important in our contemporary quest for meaning. This vital text: Offers a comprehensive review of ancient Greek and Roman religions and their institutions, beliefs, rituals, and more Examines how the Roman culture and religions borrowed from the Greek traditions Explores the ancient civilizations of the Mediterranean Basin Contains suggestions at the end of each chapter for further reading that include both traditional studies and more recent examinations of topical issues Written for students of ancient religions and religious studies, this important resource provides an overview of the ancient culture and history of the general region as well as the basic background of Greek and Roman civilizations.

The Greek Gods in Modern Scholarship

Ancient Greek Religion provides an introduction to the fundamental beliefs, practices, and major deities of Greek religion. Focuses on Athens in the classical period Includes detailed discussion of Greek gods and heroes, myth and cult, and vivid descriptions of Greek religion as it was practiced Ancient texts are presented in boxes to promote thought and discussion, and abundant illustrations help readers visualize the rich and varied religious life of ancient Greece Revised edition includes additional boxed texts and bibliography, an 8-page color plate section, a new discussion of the nature of Greek "piety," and a new chapter on Greek Religion and Greek Culture

Divinity and History

Winner of the 2008 Christianity Today Award of Merit in Theology/Ethics *The History of God* In *Discovering God*, award-winning sociologist Rodney Stark presents a monumental history of the origins of the great religions from the Stone Age to the Modern Age and wrestles with the central questions of religion and belief.

Return of the Golden Age

Follow the Footsteps of History and Discover the Path to the Gods For the Love of the Gods tells the epic story of theurgy, from its roots in ancient Egypt to its modern day practice. The lives and passions of the early Pagan philosophers come alive in these pages, immersing you in the bustling cities and diverse cultures that spawned theurgy as we know it today. Theurgy is best understood when it is deeply experienced. The stories presented here re-create the experience of these ancient practices and show how they were passed down through generations of teachers and students of differing ethnicities, genders, and ages. It's commonly believed that ancient Pagan theurgy traditions were erased from the earth and replaced by monotheistic religions—but this is a myth. The way to the gods was never lost. For the Love of the Gods shares step-by-step instructions for theurgic rituals, so that you can create relationships with the gods and love them as the ancients did. Discover how to offer devotionals, create living statues, invoke into yourself and others, and achieve personal communion so that you, too, may dwell in the happy presence of the divine.

Greek and Roman Religions

To open a newspaper or turn on the television it would appear that science and religion are polar opposites - mutually exclusive bedfellows competing for hearts and minds. There is little indication of the rich interaction between religion and science throughout history, much of which continues today. From ancient to modern times, mathematicians have played a key role in this interaction. This is a book on the relationship between mathematics and religious beliefs. It aims to show that, throughout scientific history, mathematics has been used to make sense of the 'big' questions of life, and that religious beliefs sometimes drove mathematicians to mathematics to help them make sense of the world. Containing contributions from a wide array of scholars in the fields of philosophy, history of science and history of mathematics, this book shows that the intersection between mathematics and theism is rich in both culture and character. Chapters cover a fascinating range of topics including the Sect of the Pythagoreans, Newton's views on the apocalypse, Charles Dodgson's Anglican faith and Gödel's proof of the existence of God.

The Ancient Gods

In this extensive and original account of the evolution of belief, Karen Armstrong examines Western society's unerring fidelity to the idea of One God and the many conflicting convictions it engenders.

Ancient Greek Religion

The main thrust of the contributions in this volume run counter to the notion of a universally applicable theory of sacrifice, and rather aimed at investigating transformations in sacrificial practices from cross-cultural and transhistorical perspectives. Exploring a broad spectrum of texts, case studies and social practices from Greco-Roman antiquity as well as the Ancient Near East and Egypt to the modern Middle East, the Indian subcontinent and Indonesia diverging cultural perceptions and definitions of the topic "sacrifice" are examined and thereby new insights into the processes of modification and transformation of sacrificial rituals are gained.

Discovering God

Some ancient civilizations held fast to the belief that their god or gods were stronger than all other heavenly powers. For a nation conquered by another power, the question of why their God allowed their defeat had to be faced. Goldstein looks at how different ancient civilizations reconciled their beliefs with the realities of history.

For the Love of the Gods

Nowhere is the influence of sex more plainly manifested than in the formulation of religious conceptions and creeds. The object of this book is not only to furnish a brief outline of religious growth, but to show the effect which each of the two forces, male and female, has had on the development of our

present God idea. Discussions include topics such as: sun worship, fire and phallic worship, sacrifices, and many more. A trustworthy history of the growth of religions must correspond to the processes involved in the mental, moral, and social development of the individual and the nation. By means of data brought forward in these later times relative to the growth of the God-idea, it is observed that an independent chain of evidence has been produced in support of the facts recently set forth bearing upon the development of the two diverging lines of sexual demarcation. In other words, it has been found that sex is the fundamental fact not only in the operations of Nature but in the construction of a god.

Mathematicians and their Gods

A History of God