

# Religious/Historical Writings Study: Revelation of the Magi

## Revelation of the Magi, Brent Landeau

- ROM Introduction to pg. 28
  - o Read John 10:16
  - o Hear from the intro to Book of Mormon
  - o LOOK AT Sethian gnostic Christian theology: Secret Book of John to pr. 145
    - Language is similar to the gospel of John > mystical
    - Cain & Able never mentioned
- Finish reading ROM Intro
- TEXT INFO
  - o Dating: ~3<sup>rd</sup> century BCE
  - o Influenced by gospel of John and other early “Christian” texts
  - o Known in Europe, Syriac text, translated in 9<sup>th</sup> century by monks, rediscovered and purchased by Vatican in 19<sup>th</sup> century and stored in archives
- READING THE TEXT
  - o Similarities
    - “Light”
    - Omnipresence
    - God for “all” people
    - Eve is the pivot point towards sin: patriarchal/anti-feminist tendencies
    - Adam’s “sin” is the reason for expulsion from Eden and humanity’s mortality
    - Humanity only gets to know a fraction of the Divine reality
      - ROM points to the mystery that is beyond our comprehension, of things we cannot understand from a human point of view \*
    - Language doesn’t presume Adam as beginning of all humanity (Language of expected anarchy between kingdoms in the future that Seth and family should be wary of, Genesis has Seth moving out into the world that is established)
      - This accords with the “human” record, hominid ancestry and given pockets of “peoples” globally following the explosive “modern” human genesis ~283K BCE – 153K BCE
  - o Differences
    - Star of the Magi invisible to other than the Magi
      - The prophecy of Adam to Seth (the Sethian legacy) leads the first followers to find “Jesus” even though Hebrew scrolls also foretold the promise.
    - Number of Magi
    - “Star child” = Jesus
    - Not remembering/reckoning sins of “children” former generations (counter to OT declarations we now see as scribal write-ins/justifications)
    - Jesus knows everything God does (yet NT gospel understanding is Jesus denies knowing everything)
    - Apocalyptic vision out of the Star child’s mouth
    - References to trances; perhaps hallucinogens in the food’s/etc. providing visions

\*Beings not confirming to human rational, due to wondrous acts/knowledge/technology/etc., become “gods”. The tale in ROM raises this idea with language like “singularity within many personifications” to describe “Jesus”/Star child.