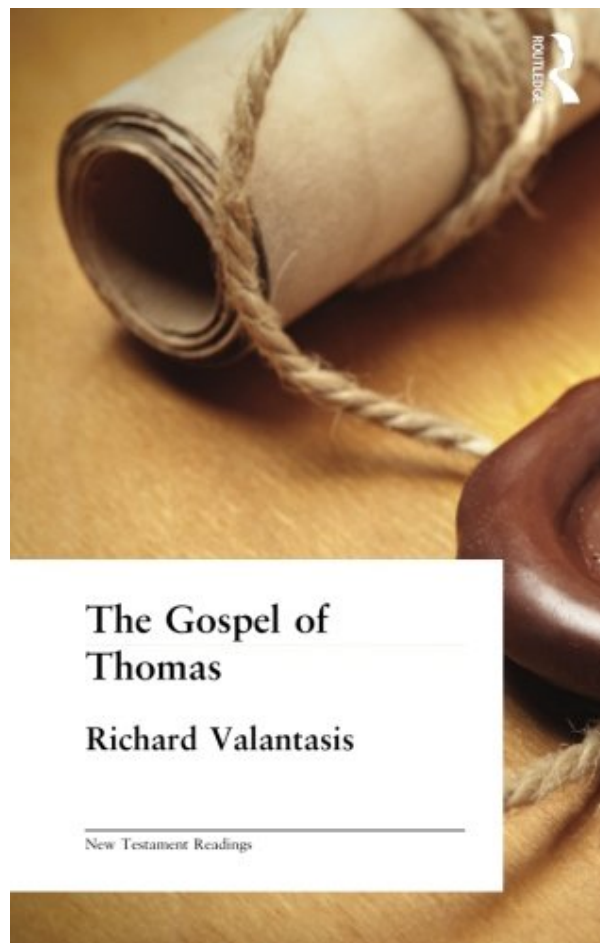
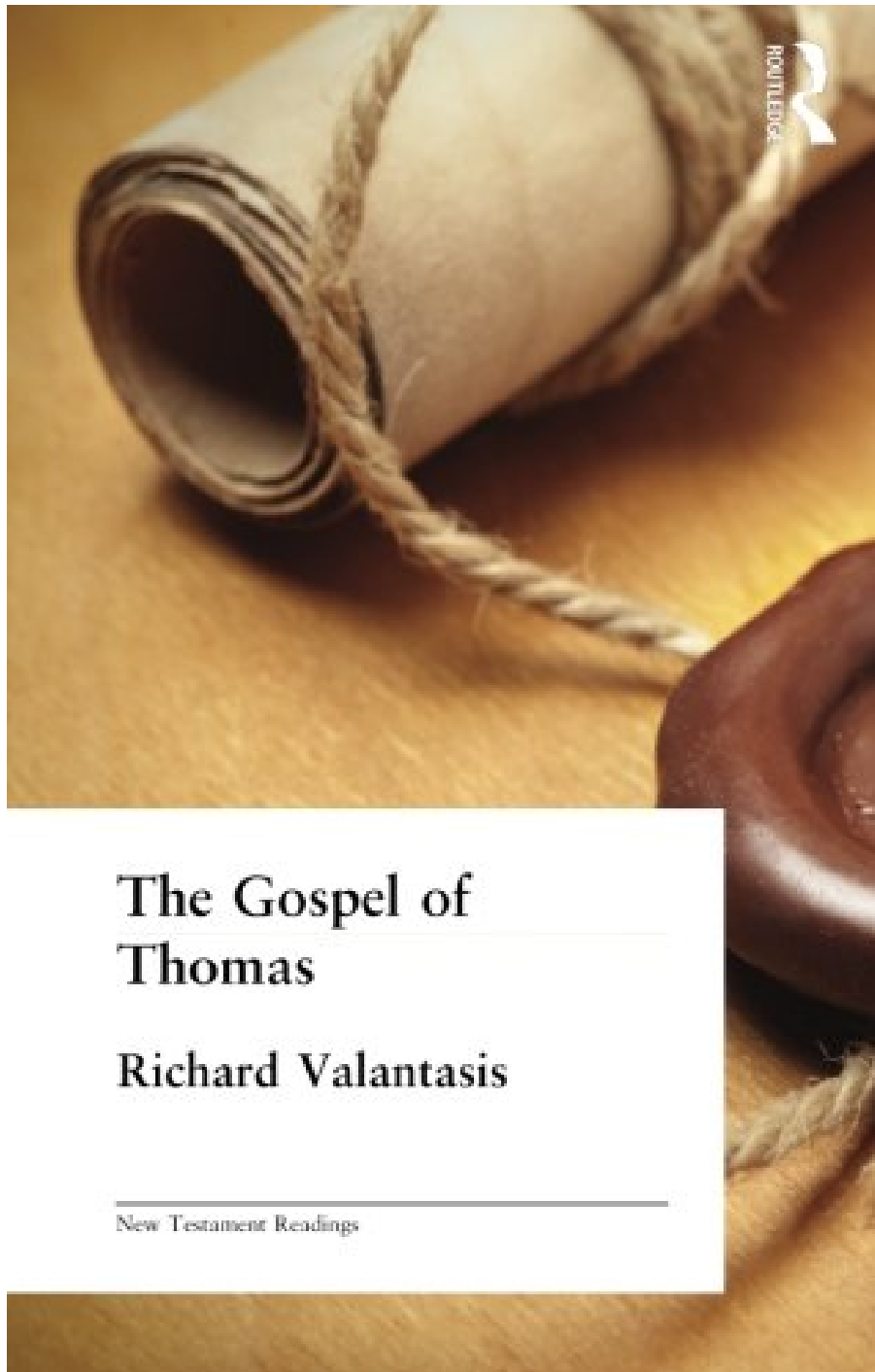


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About the Author

Richard Valantasis is Associate Professor of Early Christian Literature at St. Louis University. His recent publications include *Constructions of Power in Asceticism* (Journal of the American Academy of Religion). Ordained as an Episcopal priest, he has served parishes and a woman's monastery. He conducts adult education and other retreats for the laity.

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This volume offers the first full commentary on the Gospel of Thomas, a work which has previously been accessible only to theologians and scholars. Valantasis provides fresh translations of the Coptic and Greek text, with an illuminating commentary, examining the text line by line. He includes a general introduction outlining the debates of previous scholars and situating the Gospel in its historical and theological contexts. The Gospel of Thomas provides an insight into a previously inaccessible text and presents Thomas' gospel as an integral part of the canon of Biblical writings, which can inform us further about the literature of the Judeo-Christian tradition and early Christianity.

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I thought that I would write a true review of this book for readers interested The Gospel of Thomas from a more academic or scholarly perspective. Never does Dr. Valantasis suggest adding the book to the current canon. Rather, he conducts a very thorough and thought provoking exegesis of the text. In addition, he

provides an excellent historical basis. Now, the book is subject to criticism from other schools of thought, but I don't think Dr. Valantasis would deny this. He provides an excellent historical de-mythologization of the text. For the curious reader, or the serious scholar, this is an excellent addition to the literature on the Gospel of Thomas.

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