

Wilfried Eisele

Welcher Thomas?

Studien zur Text- und Überlieferungsgeschichte des Thomasevangeliums

[Which Thomas? Studies of the History of the Text and the Tradition of the Gospel of Thomas.]

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The Gospel of Thomas does not tell the story of Jesus' life; it presents itself as a loose compilation of words from his mouth. In it, the individual statements are isolated texts without the context necessary to study the interpretation of individual sayings. Nevertheless, in order to be able to deal with the text, there has been an increase in the development of approaches to a composition and redaction history of the Gospel of Thomas recently. However, those doing so neglected the fact that we have two versions of a whole range of the sayings in the Gospel of Thomas, and that these differ considerably. Wilfried Eisele studies these sayings, taking the Coptic text from Nag Hammadi and the Greek fragments from Oxyrhynchus seriously as independent text forms. The result is a number of interesting insights into the structures of the history of the text and the tradition of the Gospel of Thomas.

Wilfried Eisele Geboren 1971; Studium der Kath. Theologie und der Philosophie in Tübingen, Jerusalem und Paris; 2002 Dr. theol.; 2010 Habilitation (Neues Testament); 2010 Lehrstuhlvertretung für Neues Testament in Mainz; 2010–11 Professor für Neutestamentliche Wissenschaften in Chur; seit 2011 Professor für Zeit- und Religionsgeschichte des Neuen Testaments in Münster.



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