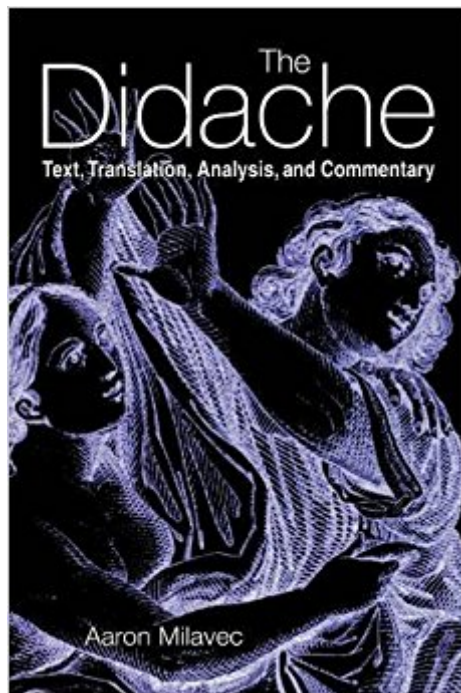




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The Didache: Text, Translation, Analysis, And Commentary



Synopsis

Most Christians believe that everything about Jesus and the early church can be found in their New Testament. In recent years, however, the discovery of the Gospel of Thomas and the reconstruction of the Q-Gospel have led scholars to recognize that some very early materials were left out. Now, due to the pioneering efforts of Dr. Aaron Milavec, the most decisive document of them al, namely, the Didache (Did-ah-Kay"), has come to light. Milavec has decoded the Didache and enabled it to reveal its hidden secrets regarding those years when Christianity was little more than a faction within the restless Judaisms of the mid-first-century. The Didache reveals a tantalizingly detailed description of the prophetic faith and day-to-day routines that shaped the Jesus movement some twenty years after the death of Jesus. The focus of the movement then was not upon proclaiming the exalted titles and deeds of Jesus - aspects that come to the fore in the letters of Paul and in the Gospel narratives. In contrast to these familiar forms of Christianity, the focus of the Didache was upon "the life and the knowledge" of Jesus himself. Thus, the Didache details the step-by-step process whereby non-Jews were empowered by assimilating the prophetic faith and the way of life associated with Jesus of Nazareth. Milavec's clear, concise, and inspiring commentaries are not only of essential importance to scholars, pastors, and students but also very useful for ordinary people who wish to unlock the secrets of the Didache. Milavec's analytic, Greek-English side-by-side, gender-inclusive translation is included as well as a description of how this document, after being fashioned and used 50-70 C.E., was mysteriously lost for over eighteen hundred years before being found in an obscure library in Istanbul. The study questions, bibliography, and flowcharts enable even first-time users to grasp the functional and pastoral genius that characterized the earliest Christian communities."

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Customer Reviews

This little book is a gem; learned, accessible, illuminating and challenging to both scholarly conventions and conventional Christianity. Students of early Christianity are in Milavec's debt, not least for his innovative website, www.Didache.info. . . a useful means of introducing the Didache to beginners. Theoforum Any future bibliography on the Didache will have to include this ambitious, impressive work. Theological Studies This is a book of rare quality and importance that has already been recognized by the most prominent scholars in the field as the fundamental reference work of the study of the Didache. Robert J. Daly, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts This is a book of rare quality and importance that has already been recognized by the most prominent scholars in the field as the fundamental reference work for the study of the Didache . . . Extensive indexes make the book an extraordinarily valuable research work. Fourth R Will undoubtedly challenge many who seek to understand the background and perspectives of the Didache. The Catholic Biblical Review Milavec's work merits wide study and discussion especially because it presents alternative views and profound challenges to what has been the scholarly consensus on the development and interpretation of the text. Worship This volume, however, is significant by itself and provides for a wider audience a very accessible introduction to Milavec's work on this important document. Worship

This is a condensed version, but it was enough to gain my interest to buy the full version (ISBN 0-8091-0537-3), and it is powerful. If you are a serious student of church history (as I am), you need to purchase the full version. Although the Didache is about certain early church communities, it does provide an outstanding glimpse into the early church in a manner that is unparalleled. However, bear in mind the full version (almost 1,000 pages) is written by and for academics, citing the analysis of other academics (I am only a layman). Nevertheless, it has greatly enhanced my appreciation of the ancient world's civilizations and how the early church formed and grew. If you are a fundamentalist, this book is almost certainly beyond your scope as you will be shocked to learn how shallow your knowledge of Christianity is.

The sub-title of this book is its best summary of content: "Text, Translation, Analysis, and

Commentary". Aaron Milavec uses this volume to push some of his novel theories about this remarkable document. He claims it is VERY early (50-80AD) and has its "own internal logic". These are amazing claims that I do not think there is enough evidence to support them. Nevertheless, the volume is still of some value because it takes the Didache as a document in its own right with pre-existing assumptions about authorship. I believe he has missed some important internal clues about the language that alone make it at least 100 years later than he claims. despite this, it is a very useful alternate view that is well researched.

This short book is highly recommended for anyone interested in understanding the development of the early Christian church. I read with fascination about the practices of one early group. At least some of the writings must date back to the very earliest years when there were several distinct "Jesus sects", probably before the writings of Paul were well known. Specifically, I found that the text for the eucharist (Section 9) is truly a thanksgiving, without the Christology of the later church added. (The word "eucharist" comes from the Greek for "thanks".) However, one can find traces of later additions, such as the Trinity added in Section 7. Thus we can see layers as the church developed. Milavec has a good introduction to the material, and then gives a strong argument for why the Didache is organized as it is.

This book is required reading in our Permanent Diaconate training program. I found it to be a very easy read without any of the difficulties of ancient language to get in the way of your reading or understanding. I found myself saying "Yes, of course! I know that!" as I read every line, but the key to understanding the greatness of this text is to remember that it was written before any of the canonical scriptures in today's Bible. It was written down after many years of being passed from small early Christian group to another. It was really a training manual for newcomers to Christian communities. Not only did I enjoy the ancient text--by the way the early Greek from which it is translated appears on the left page with modern English on the right--I found the analysis that follows to be crisp and concise, lending a level of understanding that I probably would have missed had the analysis not close at hand. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to better understand the roots of early Christian teaching that pre-dates the Bible.

Wonderful book every serious student of the Bible and the early Church should consider a must read.

Indispensable reading for the Church! A book written by the early Church Fathers. No, it's not Catholic though they would want to read it, too.

Priceless for every Christian, the first extant Catechism records the Apostolic Teaching that they received from the Twelve Apostles detailing the customs regarding eucharizing on the Sunday, Absolute abolition of abortion, qualifications for being a Bishop and how one is to behave and receive the travelling missionary's. Teaching on Baptism and the term of the catechist. Very helpful in understanding the life of the Earliest Church of Assyria provided in both the Greek and English Translations by Milavec.

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