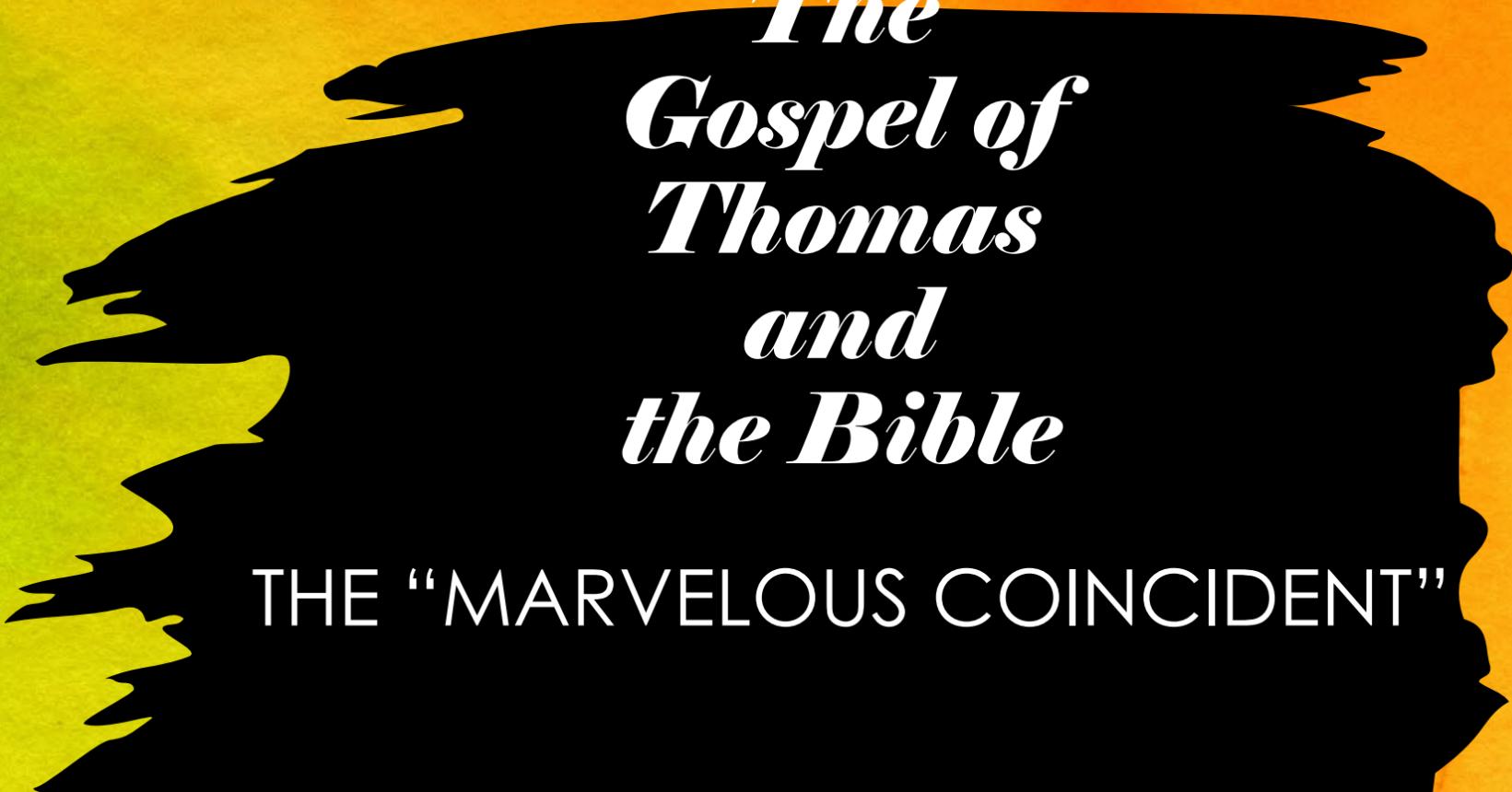


Shirley Paulson, PhD
Principia Summer Session
June 8, 2021



*The
Gospel of
Thomas
and
the Bible*

THE “MARVELOUS COINCIDENT”

Poll Questions

1.How much of the Gospel of Thomas have you read? None? Some? All?

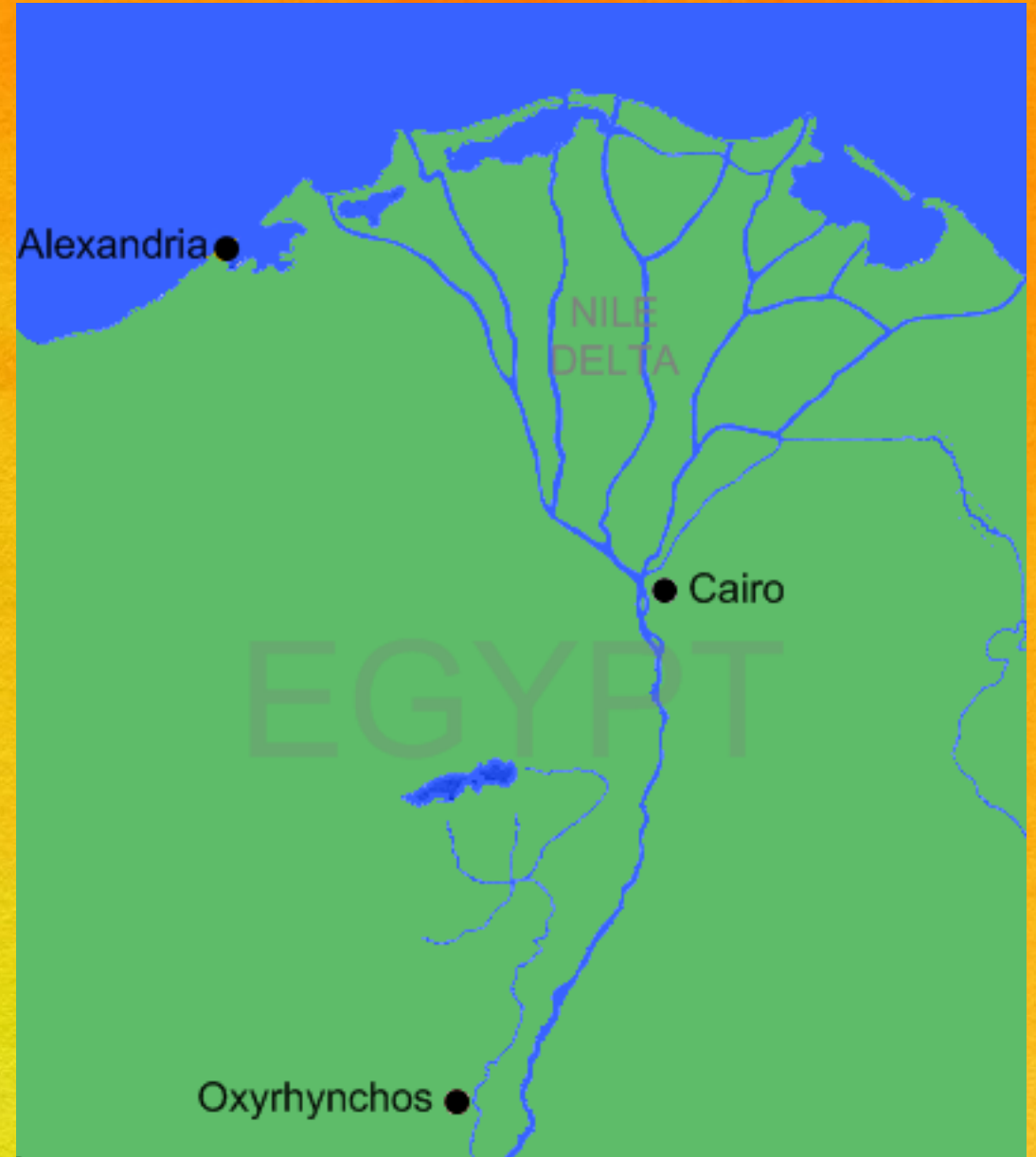
**2.What year do you think the only copy of the full Gospel of Thomas was discovered?
1725? 1890? 1945?**

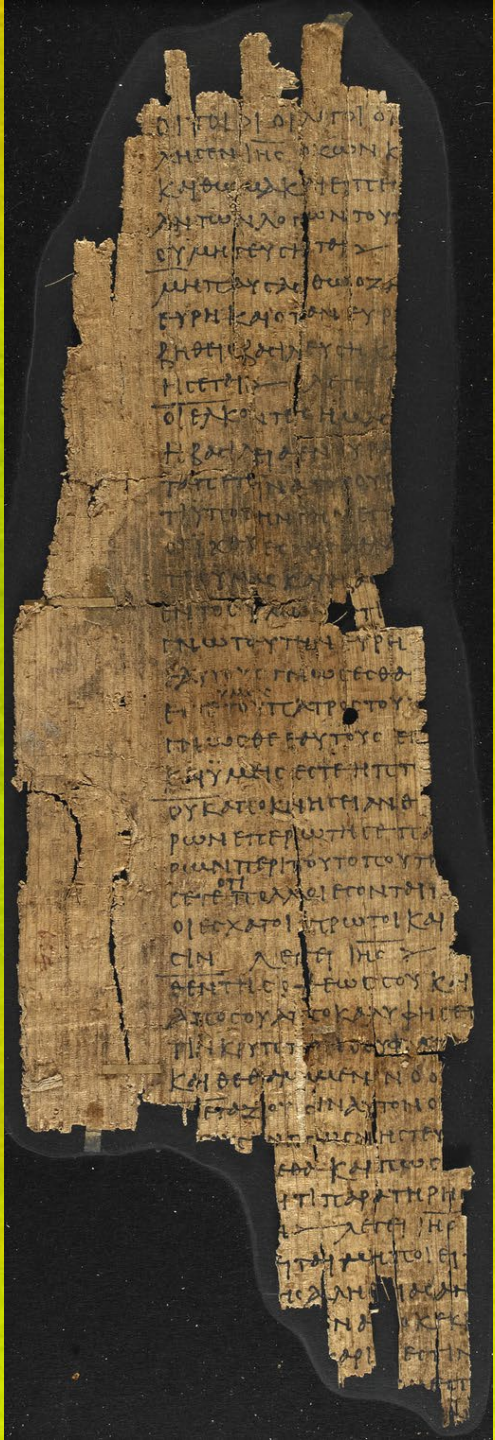
3.Do you know what Mrs. Eddy referred to when she mentioned the “marvelous coincident”? Yes? No?

The story of what happened to the Gospel of Thomas begins within the first hundred years after Jesus had gone.

A Timeline

1. Late in the 19th century:
Europeans explored Egypt
2. In 1897: fragment
of Sayings of Jesus





2. In 1897: fragment of Sayings of Jesus

- 1. Late in the 19th century: Europeans explored Egypt**
- 2. In 1897: fragment of Sayings of Jesus**
- 3. March 4, 1901, Christian Science Sentinel: brief mention of Oxyrhynchus**
- 4. Later in 1901, Christian Science Sentinel: “will be read with interest especially by Christian Scientists”**



July 1903

O, I wish you could see a book just sent to me from a prof. in Great Britain giving the words of Christ that have been found in a recently discovered logia, recent excavation, and words not in the canonical gospels and 200 [300?] years before the Christian era!

These words **correspond precisely with some of my writings in Science and Health**. I only wish the students all would awaken to see the wisdom of what God says through his window.

And to Salome enquiring how long death shall have power the Lord said, So long as ye women bear children. For I came to destroy the works of womankind. And Salome said to him, I have done well then in not bearing children.

But the Lord answered saying, Eat every herb, but that which hath bitterness do not eat.

And when Salome enquired when should be known the things about which He was asked (i.e. when the kingdom of God shall come) the Lord said, When ye shall have trodden down the garment of shame, and **when the two shall be one, and the male with the female neither male nor female.**

1. February 1904: Christian Science Journal

2. August 1904: New Sayings of Jesus

3. August 21, 1904: "pleased her greatly"

Let me repeat and emphasize that you are to make note of the fact and mention it in this Biography of our Leader **that she wrote in S&H long ago** what is found in the chapter on the Apocalypse relating **to the male and female and** that she now has found this **significant corroboration** thereof, but which she **never saw until now**, because it was never published before” (underlining added).

...some matter relating to the recently published "New Sayings of Jesus",

... also reference to the subject of 'the male and female', as reported in Science and Health years ago, see page 577, chapter on the Apocalypse,

... beginning "The Lamb's wife presents etc", and the marvelous coincident noticed in a pamphlet just sent her by one of her students, ...

The Lamb's wife presents the unity of male and female as no longer two wedded individuals, but two individual natures in one;

and this compounded spiritual individuality reflects God as Father-Mother, not as a corporeal being.

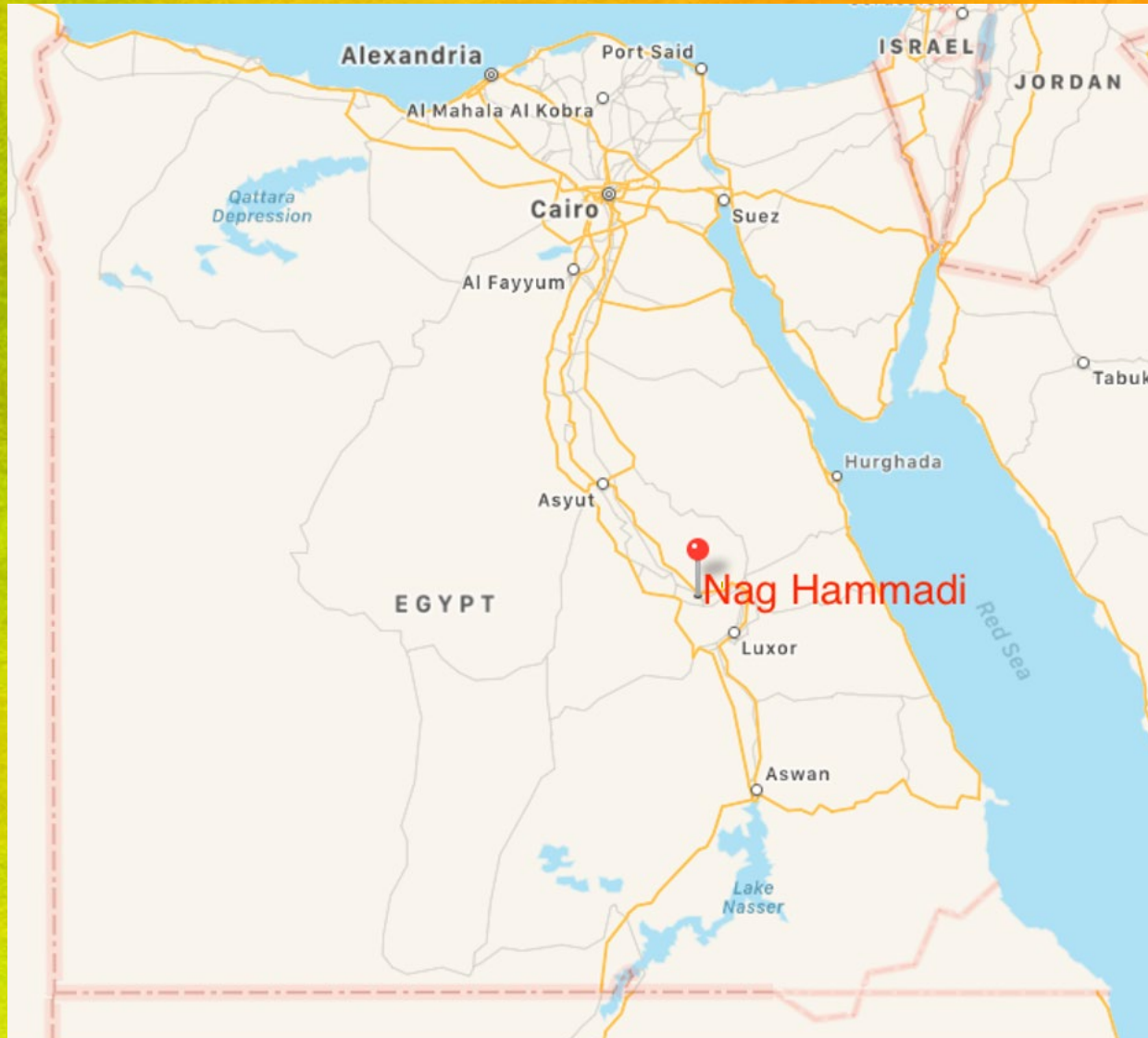
In this divinely united spiritual consciousness there is no impediment to the perfectibility of God's creation and eternal bliss.

1. 1904: Mrs. Eddy's enthusiastic response
2. 1910: Mrs. Eddy's passing
3. 1945: entire Gospel of Thomas discovered



The Nag Hammadi Codices

Nag Hammadi, Egypt



- 1. 1904: Mrs. Eddy's enthusiastic response**
- 2. 1910: Mrs. Eddy's passing**
- 3. 1945: entire Gospel of Thomas discovered**
- 4. 1959: connection—three fragments
actually part of the Gospel of Thomas!**



Since 1959

1. It consists of sayings of Jesus.
2. It does not have any historical stories, no birth, death, or resurrection accounts of Jesus, and no stories of healing.
3. Some surprisingly like the Bible; some different (new to us)

Jesus saw some little children nursing. He said to his disciples, “These nursing children can be compared to those who enter the kingdom.” They said to him, “Then we’ll enter the kingdom as little children?”

Jesus said to them, “When you make the two into one, and make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and so make the male and the female a single one so that the male won’t be male nor the female female;

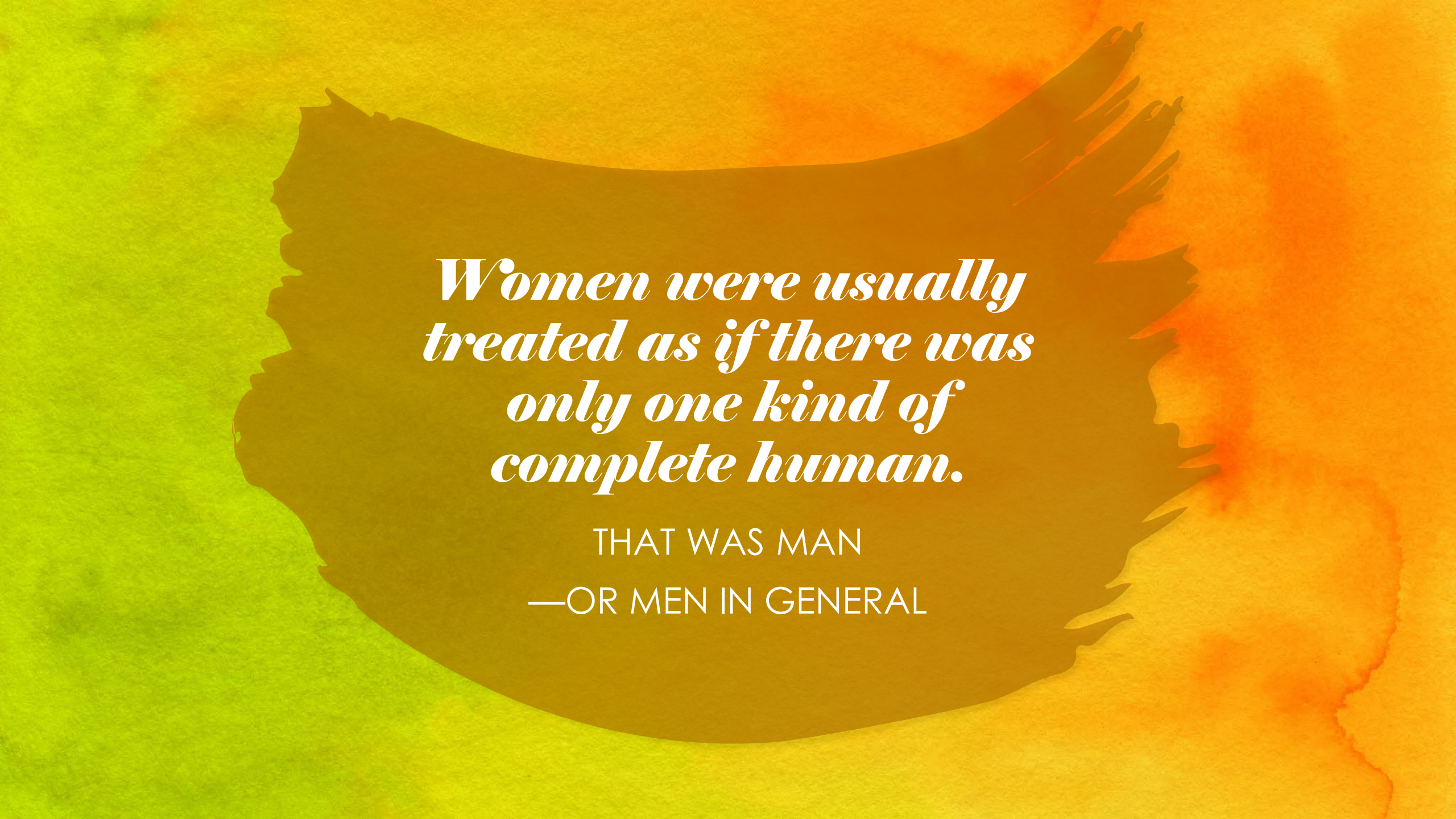
when you make eyes in the place of an eye, a hand in the place of a hand, a foot in the place of a foot, and an image in the place of an image; then you’ll enter [the kingdom].”

Jesus saw some little children nursing. “These nursing children can become compared to those who enter the kingdom.”

- 1. R. McL. Wilson: only childlike can enter the kingdom**
- 2. Robert M. Grant and David Noel Freedman: all earthly differences must be obliterated, including—especially—those of sex.**

When you make the two into one, and make the inner like the outer and the outer like the inner, and the upper like the lower, and so **make the male and the female a single one so that the male won't be male nor the female female.**

1. **J.D.Crossan: derides the idea of looking into the *future* for apocalyptic salvation.**
2. **Grant and Freedman: go back to the original state of creation through spiritual union.**
3. **R. McL. Wilson: Paul said there is no longer male *and* female.**



*Women were usually
treated as if there was
only one kind of
complete human.*

THAT WAS MAN
—OR MEN IN GENERAL




Saying 114

**Simon Peter said to them:
“Let Mary leave us, for
women do not deserve
life.”**

**Jesus said: “Look! I will lead
her so that I might make
her male, which will make
her into a living spirit
resembling you males.**

**For any woman that makes
herself male will enter into
the realm of heaven.”**

- 1. Eddy: 'gender' is a social construct, not a physical identity. The social meaning of 'gender' in antiquity was based on superiority/inferiority.**
- 2. Jesus equates entering the realm (or 'kingdom') with those who are 'living spirits.'**
- 3. The Jews (Jesus's followers) took the book of Genesis seriously.**
- 4. With this text in Genesis in mind, we find a more consistent relationship with Saying 22.**
- 5. For Jesus, this wasn't a gender problem; it was a spiritual one.**



Peter said, "Let this weak mortal leave us. Such people, like Mary, don't deserve the life of God, since mortals don't even know their spiritual origins."

Saying
114

And Jesus might have said: "Look, Peter, don't leave Mary like this. Don't you know that I am able to care for her and lead her to a fuller appreciation of her origins?"

When she sees herself as the full image and likeness of God - both male *and* female, she will realize her full life that resembles the fullness of the lives of all of you disciples.

It's not your personal maleness that makes you eligible for the realm of God, but your spiritual understanding of your maleness and femaleness together.

Whoever can discern his or her own true likeness of God - as both male and female - is able to see why they deserve life and to live in the realm of all goodness.

SAYING #1

*Whoever discovers the
explanation of these
sayings will never die.*



Read the Gospel of Thomas!

Many books available

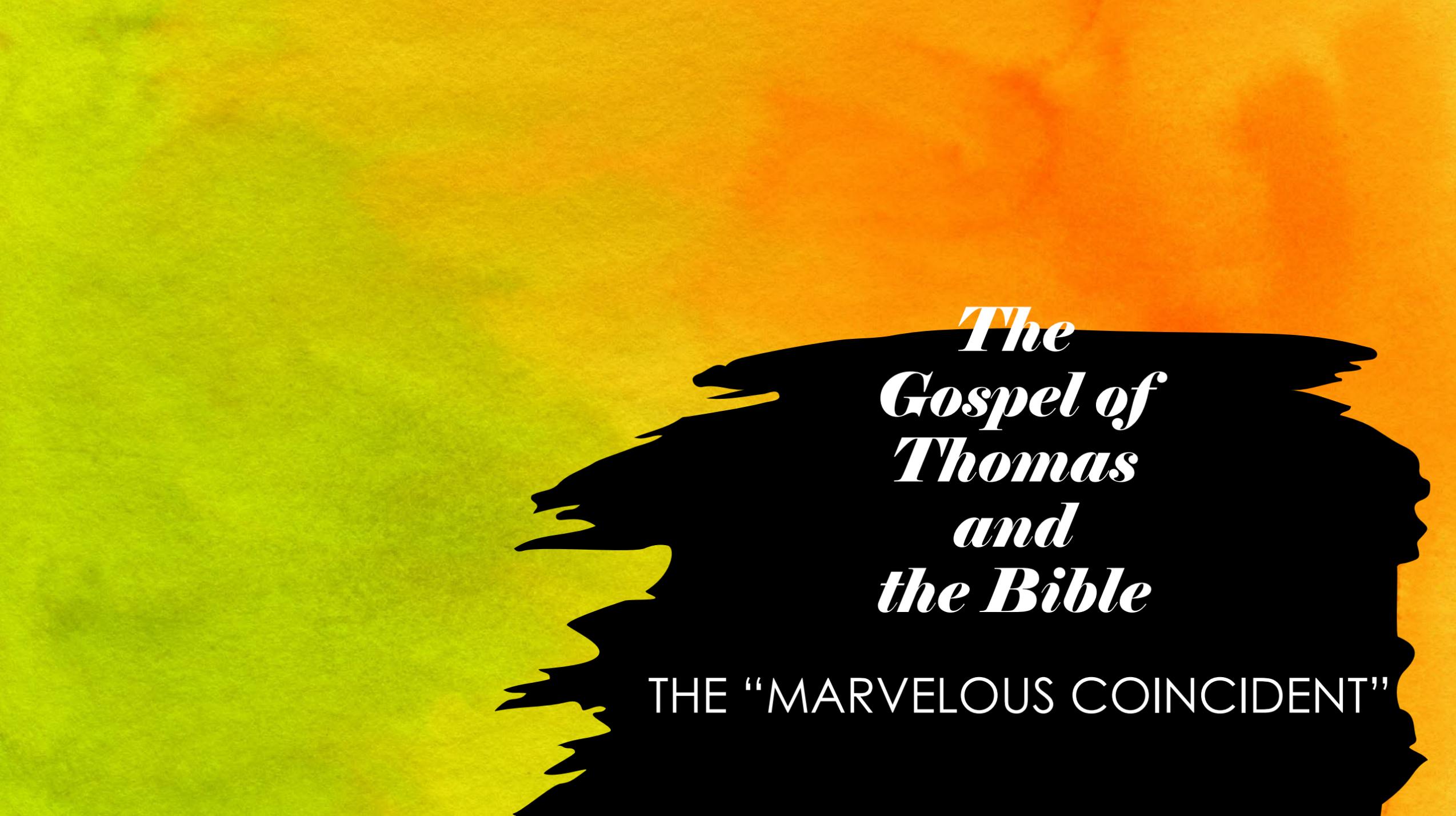
Many free online translations:

- Gospels.net/thomas
- [EarlyChristian**WRITINGS**.com/text/thomas-scholars.html](http://EarlyChristianWRITINGS.com/text/thomas-scholars.html)

Gospel of Thomas Goes Public – online course

- [EarlyChristian**TEXTS**.com/courses](http://EarlyChristianTEXTS.com/courses) – any time
- Udemy.com/gospel-of-thomas-goes-public
Coupon: PRINONLY—\$9.99 until June 11

SAYING #2
*Seekers should not
abandon their search
before they make an
unsettling discovery
completely amazing
them. They will then
become rulers over
everything.*



*The
Gospel of
Thomas
and
the Bible*

THE “MARVELOUS COINCIDENT”