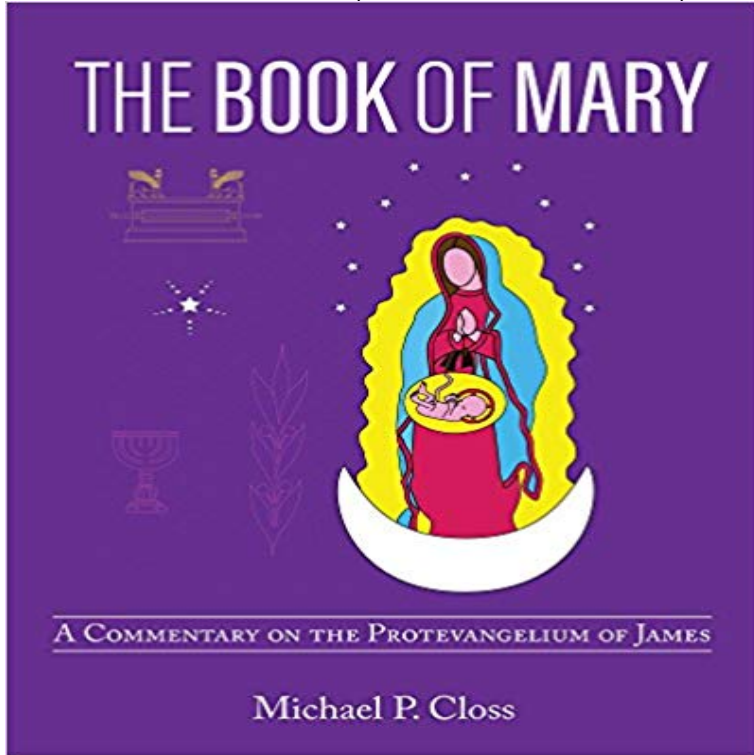


# The Book of Mary: A Commentary on the Protevangelium of James



This commentary provides a new paradigm for understanding the Protevangelium of James, an early Christian manuscript that was marginalized in the West in the late 4th century but continued to be highly valued in the East. The Protevangelium has long been recognized as the single most important manuscript associated with the development of marian dogma in early Christianity. The theology of the manuscript and the interpretation of its contents, however, have been woefully misunderstood for almost two thousand years. The present work reveals that the Protevangelium is a theological presentation of Mary in the same genre as the infancy narratives of Matthew and Luke. The story of Mary in the Protevangelium tells of a Jewish maiden whose unique vocation was to be the mother of the holy one, the Son of the Most High. The christological awareness in Gospel times was sufficient to single out Mary's place in salvation history. However, it was her role as a holy of holies of the divine presence a role that can only be understood within the holiness tradition of the Jewish people that first engendered her veneration among early Christians.

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this book using Google Play Books app on yourOther titles: Proto-Gospel of James, Infancy Gospel of James, Gospel of .. Closs, Michael P. The Book of Mary: A Commentary on the Protevangelium of James.The Protevangelium begins with the birth of Mary. Origen refers to a Book of James for the view that Jesus brothers were Josephs sons by a previous marriage. de Jacques (1961) Smid, Protevangelium Jacobi: A Commentary (1965).The Infancy Narrative of James is also known as the Protevangelium of James. In a cave near Bethlehem Mary gives birth to Jesus, Salome acting as midwife.