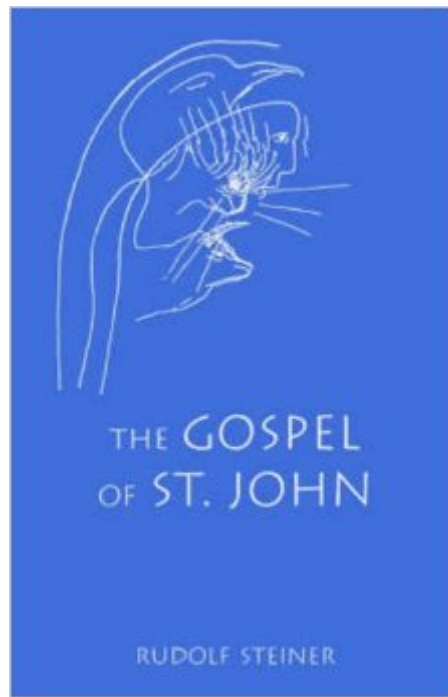


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The Gospel Of St. John



Synopsis

During Pentecost 1908—seven years after he had given the world his book *Christianity As Mystical Fact* and the first intimation of the consequences of his Christ experience—Rudolf Steiner began his great work of renewing humanity's understanding of the Mystery of Golgotha and its meaning for human and earthly evolution. Accordingly, he turned to the deepest, most spiritual of the Gospels—that of the initiate St. John. In this lecture course, readers will find that the incarnation, death, and resurrection of the Divine Word, or Logos, reveals the mission of the Earth: Love. We learn of the mysteries behind Lazarus' resurrection, the "I AM" sayings, and the seven degrees of initiation. We come to understand that the Gospel of St. John is a continuing spiritual presence—to be recalled, meditated, and permeated with one's own life. In doing so, we realized that our purpose—and that of all humankind—is to become the Virgin Sophia, a receptacle for the Holy Spirit. All of Steiner's work, as Marie Steiner writes in her introduction, was "to pave the way to Christ." Indeed, at the conclusion of these lectures, Rudolf Steiner said: It will come to be understood that Christianity is only beginning its influence and will fulfill its real mission only when it is understood in its true, spiritual form.... The more these lectures are understood in this sense, the better they will be understood as they were intended. This volume is essential if one is to truly understand Rudolf Steiner's understanding of esoteric Christianity and its place in the world today and in the future. Contents: The Doctrine of the Logos Esoteric Christianity The Mission of the Earth The Raising of Lazarus The Seven Degrees of Initiation The "I AM" The Mystery of Golgotha Human Evolution in Its Relation to the Christ Principle The Prophetic Documents of the Origin of Christianity The Effect of the Christ Principle Christian Initiation The Nature of the Virgin Sophia and of the Holy Spirit This volume is a translation of *Das Johannes-Evangelium* (GA 103).

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Customer Reviews

In an era when 'evangelical' and 'fundamentalist' adherence to wildly inaccurate materialistic interpretations of the Bible dominates theological discourse, Rudolf Steiner's series of lectures on the Gospels given in the waning years of Pax Europa, before the outbreak of World War I, are ever the more relevant and important. If truth is holy - then the better part of Steiner's work (to which these lectures make an integral contribution) demands to be treated as such. For various reasons, not the least of which is the darkening reign of materialist thought in every area of life (grievously, including religion), Steiner is today abjured by most thinkers with any sort of public audience and read by few. Only in education, through the Waldorf schools, is Steiner's influence directly felt on a somewhat widespread more popular level. Yet, Steiner's thought is too powerful to fade or to die. Despite the concerns of those who feel that Steiner's extensive descriptions of the human spiritual anatomy and history could easily be no more than mere speculation, insufficiently justified by material fact, and thinly argued at best, there is an undeniable consistency to the logic of his claims and the reasons he gives for their acceptance within the context of our experience. Within the limits currently allotted for these reviews, I can only justify my view with the briefest of explanations drawn from the text: "Let us ask: - What then is essential for love? What is essential in order that one person love another? It is this - that he be in possession of his full self-consciousness, that he be wholly independent. No one can love another in the full sense of the word if this love be not a free gift of one person to another. My hand does not love my organism.

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