Dear Reader

Greetings from Sheffield, which, we have recently discovered, has 7.2% of its working population employed in the creative industries, well above the national average of 4%. Sheffield Phoenix Press is in good company.

In this Catalogue we display the 110 books we expect to have published by the end of 2008. Our three main series, Hebrew Bible Monographs, New Testament Monographs and Bible in the Modern World, account for 18, 22, and 19 titles respectively.

We take great pleasure in announcing Volume 6 of the *Dictionary of Classical Hebrew* now available. Among our other series, we would like to draw your attention to four titles in Alan Hauser’s Recent Research series, on the major prophets, religion and violence, Paul and slavery, and the Tel Dan inscription.

For the future, we are planning a new sub-series for the Bible in the Modern World, on Apocalypse and Popular Culture, to be edited by John Wallis.

And Cheryl Exum will edit a new series, The Cultural Companion to the Bible, focussing on individual biblical books or groups of books and including new and published articles. The scope of the series will be the Bible in literature, art, music and film. Four volumes are planned for 2009, on Genesis, Song of Songs, Judges and the Gospels. Submissions on these or other biblical areas will be welcomed by the Editor.

The striking design of this year’s Catalogue features artwork by Gill Gathercole, the Sheffield artist. Her work also appears in the cover designs for our Readings series.

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David J.A. Clines
J. Cheryl Exum
Keith W. Whitelam

*Directors and Publishers*

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Religion has gone public; and the much-discussed political pendulum has been swinging widely in its effort to keep up with the eruptions of faith swelling the broadband. Private faith finds very public outlets through the media’s appetite for voices and choices. Faith-based networks have become media-savvy, urging their members to send barrages of emails, faxes, telephone calls, letters of praise or outrage to politicians.

Alice Bach’s new book reflects her longtime focus on the Bible, religion and culture. Popular religion is expressed within our culture in rock videos, televangelism, political rhetoric, children’s books, films and animations. Every sort of media from print to electronic to broadband is imbued with subtle and blatant religious imagery. The media are new; the message is not. The tightly woven pattern of religion, politics and media has been part of the American fabric since the country was founded. When one examines this cultural cloth, threads of varying colours are revealed, threads whose twists reflect both media coverage of religion and religious views of the media.

Alice Bach holds the Archbishop Hallinan Chair of Catholic Studies and is Associate Professor of Religion at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

November 2004: x + 190 pp.
The Bible in the Modern World, 2
ISBN hb 1-905048-07-6
ISBN pb1-905048-43-2

Hardback £40.00 • €60.00 • $70.00
Paperback £15.00 • €18.50 • $19.50
In the world of scholarship, the Bible is usually viewed as a ancient book, a product of the past, an inheritance, a heritage; it is essentially a book with origins. These lectures adopt an opposite starting point: that the Bible is in the modern world, a physical object strewn about the world of today, an in-print book that real people are reading at this very minute.

So the focus here is not on the origins of the Bible but on its reception, not of what its authors may have intended it to mean, but on what its readers today take it to mean. In conversational style, David Clines enquires after the Bible and the Academy, the Bible and Culture, the Bible and the Public, the Bible and the Church—and offers his own reflections and admonitions.

This is a corrected reprint of the 1997 edition.

David J.A. Clines is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield. Among his other books are Job 1–20 (1989), and Job 21–37 (2006). He is Editor of the Dictionary of Classical Hebrew (1993–).

One of the most important books that ministers should be reading today... [Clines shows] that books on the Bible written by academics need not be dull.

Cyril S. Redd, Editor, The Expository Times

This series of lively lectures explains the place the Bible has in contemporary British life, i.e. in the media, radio, newspapers, and church services. Clines is here at his best: reader-oriented (in the sense of an exegetical option), witty, interesting, entertaining, sound, and, above all, quite convincing.

Bernhard Lang, Internationale Zeitschriftensammlung für Bibelwissenschaft und Grenzgebiete

Classic Reprints
ISBN 1-905048-16-5

Paperback £13.50 • €17.50 • $18.95
Carole R. Fontaine

EYES OF FLESH
The Bible, Gender and Human Rights

Carole Fontaine, well known among biblical scholars for her feminist studies in the biblical wisdom traditions and the ancient Near East, is also a human rights and interfaith activist working on issues of violence against Muslim women in the Middle East and Southern Asia and a board member of many agencies such as the International Network for the Rights of Female Victims of Violence in Pakistan, and the Women’s Forum against Fundamentalism in Iran.

In this collection of her essays, mostly previously unpublished, she brings together these two concerns, distilling from the scriptures of Judaism, Christianity and Islam valuable insights into current questions of human rights.

In our days, Fontaine argues, human rights issues have taken on a new dimension in political discourse about war, peace and terror, where often an appeal is made to religious and scriptural justifications for the violation or preservation of rights. Fontaine urges attention to the priority of the sufferer in adjudicating meaning, and turns to the ‘little texts’ of daily ethics rather than grand theological abstractions in order to place ‘scriptures’ in meaningful conversation with the concrete realities of our world.

Carole Fontaine is John Taylor Professor of Biblical Theology and History, Andover Newton Theological School, Massachusetts.

The Bible in the Modern World, 10
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ISBN paperback 978-1-905048-55-7

Hardback £40.00 • €60.00 • $70.00
Paperback £14.95 • €19.95 • $24.95
The idea of creation and creativity is among the most powerful and pervasive of metaphors bequeathed to the modern world by the scriptures of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Twelve specialists here explore the original sources and contemporary manifestations of the theme in both high and low culture, from the Book of Genesis to James Joyce's Ulysses, Children of Gebalawi by the Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz, and the Polish poetry of Wislawa Szymborska, and to popular films, such as Bruce Almighty and Animatrix, and animation films for children. Even current debates on genetics and ecology and the public exhibition of plastinated human bodies invoke these same themes, and make this volume a topical contribution to cultural studies today.

Caroline Vander Stichele is Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Amsterdam. Alastair G. Hunter is Senior Lecturer in Hebrew and Old Testament Studies, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Glasgow.
In this masterly work, Martin O’Kane shows artists at work as readers of the Bible and not simply as illustrators of biblical scenes. The painter's eye commonly sees nuances and subtleties of plot and characterization in the biblical text that traditional biblical criticism has overlooked.

Focussing in fine detail on some well-known biblical themes—the deception of Isaac, the depiction of Isaiah’s suffering servant, the visit of the Magi and the flight into Egypt, among others—O’Kane argues that modern readers need the artist’s exegetical insight and engagement to fully appreciate the text.

Ranging widely over mediaeval, Renaissance and modern art, the author situates his work within the hermeneutical aesthetics of Hans-Georg Gadamer, Mieke Bal and Paolo Bernini. Some 30 images are reproduced in the text.

Martin O’Kane is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and Director of the Centre for the Bible and the Visual Imagination, University of Wales, Lampeter.

The Bible in the Modern World, 8

Hardback £45.00 • €65.00 • $70.00
Individual scholar’s price £22.50 • €32.50 • $35.00
The Bible and Art

J. Cheryl Exum and Ela Nutu (eds.)

BETWEEN THE TEXT AND THE CANVAS
The Bible and Art in Dialogue

Can a painting or illustration of a biblical scene help readers understand the Bible? Conversely, to what extent can knowledge about a biblical story help viewers appreciate an artist's portrayal of it? Interpreting biblical art is more than a matter of asking whether or not an artist 'got it right' or 'got it wrong'. This lively collection of essays seeks to establish a dialogue between the Bible and art that sees the biblical text and artistic representations of it as equal conversation partners. By looking at texts and canvases from different angles, the nine contributors to the volume reveal how biblical interpretation can shed important light on art, how art can contribute significantly to biblical interpretation and how each has something distinctive to offer to the interpretative task.

Contributions include J. Cheryl Exum on Solomon de Bray's Jael, Deborah and Barak, Hugh S. Pyper on depictions of the relationship between David and Jonathan, Martin O'Kane on the biblical Elijah and his visual afterlives, Christina Bacher on the Song of Songs and the enclosed garden motif in fifteenth-century paintings and engravings of Mary and the infant Jesus, Ela Nutu on differences in the way female and male artists have represented Judith, Christine E. Joynes on visualizations of Salome's dance, Heidi J. Hornik on Michele Tosini's Nativity, Way to Calvary and Crucifixion as visual narratives, Kelly J. Baker on Henry Ossawa Tanner's The Annunciation and Nicodemus, and Christopher Rowland on William Blake and the New Testament.

J. Cheryl Exum is Professor of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield. Ela Nutu is Research Associate in the Department of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield.

Bible in the Modern World, 13

Hardback List Price £35.00 • €52.00 • $70.00
Individual Scholar's Price £17.50 • €26.00 • $35.00
The relationship between theology and film has always been a complicated one. When film was invented at the end of the nineteenth century, it quickly gained its place in popular culture, far from the orthodoxies of the scholarly world and of the Church. For the better part of the twentieth century popular cinema was considered off limits for serious studies of Bible and culture. Recently, however, there has been a growing understanding of how the Bible is being used in popular culture—not as a historical document or as an authoritative canon, but as part of the cultural intertext.

Cinema is a vivid example of the role and impact of the Bible in contemporary society. In this well-theorized collection of essays the issue is treated from several angles. Using the methodology of theology the question of the alleged escapism of popular cinema is explored. Using the methodology of media studies the impact of the media on religious communication is analysed. And using the methodology of religious studies the influence of the cinema in the creation of new religions, religious behaviour and religious institutions is investigated.

In addition, the book offers fruitful analyses of the cinematic use of biblical themes such as Eden, salvation, Mary Magdalene and Jesus—as well as of the cinematic application of ethical themes such as truth-telling, personal growth, suffering, the accomplishment of good and the creating of meaning for human beings.

Geert Hallbäck is Associate Professor in the Department for Biblical Exegesis at the University of Copenhagen. Annika Hvithamar is Assistant Professor in the Department for Philosophy, Religious Studies and Education at the University of Southern Denmark.
The Bible and Culture

Stephen Batalden, Kathleen Cann and John Dean (eds.)

SOWING THE WORD
The Cultural Impact of the British and Foreign Bible Society 1804–2004

This is the work of a group of 30 historians in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society (now part of the United Bible Societies).

A common thread to their papers was the indelible effect the Society’s work has had around the world, not only in bringing the Bible to people of many countries in their own language but also in helping to create many national identities and cultures. In the 19 papers of this volume, focusing on Britain, West Africa, East Asia, Russia, Europe and North America, readers will find a wealth of absorbing detail.

There are the stories of those who translated the Bible into the languages of China and Russia, into the native languages of nineteenth-century Canada, and into many other languages of the world. There are the intriguing tales of those who distributed Bibles, including the many women such as the Bible Women, who found a freedom they otherwise lacked in organizing networks for circulating the Scriptures. Not forgotten either are those colourful characters, like the maverick George Borrow in Spain, who took enormous risks for the Society in selling Bibles in countries where a vernacular Bible was not welcomed by the authorities.

Stephen Batalden is director of the Russian and East European Studies Center at Arizona State University. Kathleen Cann is the former BFBS archivist. John Dean is a former general secretary of the BFBS.

This collection is a welcome contribution to the exceptional story of how the Bible became a universal Book of Books. Yasskov Shavit, Review of Biblical Literature

Sowing the Word makes a significant contribution to the debate about the relationship of Christianity and culture, of missions and empire … This is a well-balanced collection, ranging from geographical, thematic and biographical chapters to personal reminiscences that capture the culture of the Society’s work. Peter Sherlock, Church Times

The Bible in the Modern World, 3
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ISBN paperback 978-1-905048-65-6

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Paperback £39.50 • €27.50 • $29.50
The Bible and Culture

Hugh S. Pyper

AN UNSUITABLE BOOK
The Bible as Scandalous Text

The real ‘scandal’ of the Bible, suggests Hugh Pyper, lies not in any salaciousness it may contain but in its deep impropriety as a venerable book, and the ‘unsuitability’ of its reality to the expectations of its readers.

This collection of essays, published and previously unpublished, will delight readers with its wit and profundity. Among them, ‘The Selfish Text: Memetics and the Bible’ deploys Richard Dawkins’s notion of memes to advance the half-teasing, half-serious thesis that western culture is the Bible’s way of making more Bibles, ‘The Bible in Bloom’ examines the usefulness or otherwise of Bloom’s concept of the ‘anxiety of influence’ in biblical studies, and ‘The Bible as Wolf: Tracking a Carrollian Metaphor in Biblical Studies’, a tribute to Robert Carroll, the author’s mentor, uncovers the polyvalence of the wolf metaphor in biblical and literary traditions and calls for the recovery of the ‘wild’ text.

Other papers are on women and silence (with a nod to Isak Dinesen and to Freud), on the violence in Lamentations as a deflection of anger from God and so a survival strategy for the community, and on modern ‘gospels of Judas’ which symptomize resentment against the canon.

Hugh S. Pyper is Professor of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield.

Pyper uses a discursive style, a thick dose of Scottishness, sly humor, a generous sprinkling of analogies to literature and postmodern theory, and a steady attention to features of the Bible that are uncanny, off-putting, and problematic in order to make the inner depths and surprising subtleties. The theme that unites the essays is that the strength of the Bible—that is, its danceability and ‘inescapability’ (Harold Bloom)—is a result of its ars mentalis ‘unsuitability’.- Gregory Mobley, Catholic Biblical Quarterly

ISBN 978-1-905048-32-8

Hardback £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual scholar’s price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
Violence that is motivated by—and justified by—religious ideas, authorities and texts is everywhere around us. Some say that the origins of religion and human violence are inherently connected, such that the explanation for religious violence lies at the heart of the religious imagination itself. Others that human violence was there long before religion ever came about, being no more than an unfortunate byproduct of human evolution. Reconsidering the question of religion and violence in the biblical heritage is a narrower—but nonetheless essential—endeavour, to which the present volume addresses itself.

After an introductory chapter by the editors on religion, violence and the Bible, Ziony Zevit writes on violence in Israelite culture and in the Bible, Tamar Kamionkowski on violence in prophetic literature, Stephen Geller on the prophetic roots of religious violence, David Wright on homicide, talion and vengeance in the Covenant Code, Lawrence Wills on the death of the hero and the violent death of Jesus, Jennifer Wright Knust on sacrifice and sacred text in Justin, and David Frankfurter on vengeance fantasies in the New Testament. Stephen Marini offers concluding reflections on religion and violence under the rubric of conflict, subversion and sacrifice.
This volume honours the work of David Jobling, the distinguished Professor of Old Testament Language and Literature at St Andrew’s College, Saskatoon, Canada. Jobling has been noted for his adventurous forays into the theory and practice of biblical interpretation, especially of the Hebrew Bible, and for his interdisciplinary bridge-building. The volume is divided into three sections corresponding to three of Jobling’s principal interests, each section being prefaced with an introduction to his work in that area by the editors.

Section 1 is on Post-Structuralism, with contributions by Gary Phillips, George Aichele, Francis Landy, Robert Culley and Matthew Mitchell. In Section 2, on Ideological Criticism, the authors are Roland Boer, David Gunn, Volker Greifenhagen and Tina Pippin. Section 3, on Global Readings, contains papers by Gerald West, Jione Havea, Ed Conrad and Norman Habel.

The Festschrift concludes with personal tributes by Christopher Lind and Norman Gottwald.

Wesley J. Bergen is Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of Religion, Wichita State University. Armin Siedlecki is a Catalog Librarian at Pitts Theology Library, Emory University, Atlanta.

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 13
ISBN 978-1-85048-571-1

Hardback £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
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THE CONCEPT OF FORM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

This study provides a history of the concept of form in the twentieth century CE, focusing on the rise and character of relational theory. To some extent drawing on older traditions, relational theory accepts some aspects of modern particularism but moves beyond it by holding that relations simultaneously separate and connect. Particularity and generality are seen as aspects of relationality, and forms are viewed as complexes of relations. Prominent features of a relational view include: an avoidance of rigid structures through an orientation toward probability; multiperspectivity; possibility, not just particular actuality; continuity between the human and the nonhuman; and a valuational rather than a neutral view of reality.

Socially, relational theory has supported a combination of freedoms. It joins internal freedom, which values both body and mind, with both negative and positive external freedom, including “freedom from” external controls and “freedom for” the fulfillment of possibilities in cooperation with others. Politically, this ideal favors economic solidarity, respectful recognition of different “racial” or ethnic groups, women’s liberation, increased sexual freedom, and ecological consciousness.

Relational theory was not the only notable view of form in the twentieth century, however. More-or-less individualistic particularism was radicalized in nihilist and skeptical philosophies, and powerful versions of group particularism arose in fascism, Stalinism, and continuing imperialism. Caucasian male thinkers varied considerably in the degree to which they supported relational conceptions of form, but, not surprisingly in view of the connection between a relational view of form and interactive freedom, most women and non-Caucasian males advocated relational views. Some of the tension described can be viewed positively from the relational side, however, for according to information theory uncertainty provides an opportunity for communication.
In this important collection of essays by the leading theorist of form, Martin Buss presents in Part I, Steps toward a New Form Criticism, several essays that view forms as complexes of relations that constitute possibilities. This relational approach to form criticism rejects, on the one hand, the idea that reality is at base only particular and, on the other hand, an essentialism that holds that forms are firmly structured and there is a single correct way to classify texts.

In Part II, Interdisciplinary Ideas of Sitz im Leben, he shows how Gunkel’s notion of Sitz im Leben, derived from his knowledge of other fields, made an impact on leading figures in several disciplines. They modified the notion, and their analyses became known to a number of biblical scholars. This cross-pollination introduced a new understanding of the notion of Sitz im Leben into biblical studies, which, in turn, was noted by scholars in other fields.

An appendix to the volume reports relational approaches in several disciplines that provide a stimulus for relational form criticism.
Readers of all persuasions, even secular academics, have a tendency to privilege simple, ‘faith-deepening’ interpretations over complex, unsettling, readings. The more fraught the issue, the more often we find in the history of interpretation that a simple reading has been generated that masks its complexity.

_Longing for Egypt_ explores seven cases of textual complexity masked by simple readings. One chapter uncovers a counter-intuitive longing for Egypt alongside the Exodus account of liberation from persecution. Another shows how what appears to be a critical attitude in the Bible towards other gods may reflect inner-Israelite tensions rather than some principled antipathy toward others. Yet another confronts the praise of God as a perfect king with the use of the language of divine kingship as a vehicle for constructive criticism.

All seven chapters share a focus on the formation of identity. Arguably the Bible’s most sensitive subject, for its authors and for present-day readers, this topic has generated a host of simple readings that conceal immense complexity.
'Orientalism' refers both to the academic study of the Orient and to Western scholarship that clings to stock images of the timeless East and oriental despotism. This landmark collection of essays, the first in its field, is written by seasoned art historians, Assyriologists and biblical specialists; it is organized under four rubrics:

1. Intellectual and Disciplinary Histories identifies waymarks in the rise of Assyriology in America, shifting images of ancient Assyria in their cultural context, Smithsonian Institution exhibits of 'biblical antiquities' at the world’s fairs of 1893 and 1895, the rise of Egyptology in the nineteenth century, Mari scholarship and its impact on biblical studies, and the ancient Near Eastern text anthology as genre (Foster, Frahm, Holloway Reid, Younger).

2. Visual Perspectives suggests itself as a corrective to the academic habit of conjuring a 'texted Orient'. Here are contributions that describe Assyrianizing engravings in the famous Dalziels’ Bible Gallery, the reception of ancient Assyria in nineteenth-century England versus France, and artwork for twentieth-century American histories of Israel (Bölter, Esposito, Long).

3. Of Harems and Heroines explores gender issues in the context of the figure of Semiramis and the idea of the harem in biblical research and Assyriology (Asher-Greve, Solvang).

4. Assyriology and the Bible offers essays that focus on specific figures (Josiah), texts (Genesis 28.10-22, the Uruk Prophecy), or periods (Persian period in biblical historiography) (Grabbe, Handy, Hurowitz, Scurlock).

The volume includes a Bibliography of some 1000 items, an important resource.

Steven Holloway is Index-Analyzer, American Theological Library Association (ATLA), Chicago.
The Bible and the Ancient Near East

Meir Lubetski (ed.)

NEW SEALS AND INSCRIPTIONS, HEBREW, IDUMEAN AND CUNEIFORM

This collection of 15 papers is a significant addition to our textual evidence for the world of the Bible: it presents over 50 inscriptions, tablets and seals from the collections of Shlomo Moussaieff, in Hebrew, Idumean and cuneiform. Most of these texts are being published here for the first time. They are:

David Noel Freedman, THE (ALMOST) PERFECT FAKE AND/OR THE REAL THING
André Lemaire, NEW INSCRIBED HEBREW SEALS AND SEAL IMPRESSIONS
Meir Lubetski, FALCON OF GOLD, HORUS THE FALCON AS A PERSONAL NAME, NYYW/NYYF:
NEW NAMES IN THE BIBLICAL PERIOD; A MAN CALLED MIIR
Peter van der Veen, GEDALIAH BEN ARIQAM IN THE LIGHT OF EPIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE (A RESPONSE TO ROB BECKING)
Berael Porten and Ada Yardeni, WHY THE UNPROVENANCED IDUMEAN OSTRACA SHOULD BE PUBLISHED; THE HOUSE OF BAALRIM IN THE IDUMEAN OSTRACA
Martin Heide, IMPRESSIONS FROM A NEW ALPHABETIC OSTRACON IN THE CONTEXT OF (UNPROVENANCED INSCRIPTIONS: IDIOSYNCRASY OF A GENIUS FORGER OR A MASTER SCRIBE?)
Ada Yardeni, A NOTE ON A QUMRAN SCRIBE
E. Lipinski, SILVER OF ISHTAR OF ARBELA AND OF HADAD
W.G. Lambert, A DOCUMENT FROM A COMMUNITY OF EXILES IN BABYLONIA
Kathleen Abraham, AN INHERITANCE DIVISION AMONG JUDEANS IN BABYLONIA FROM THE EARLY PERSIAN PERIOD (FROM THE MOUSSAIEFF TABLET COLLECTION)
Chaim Cohen, BIBLICAL HEBREW PHILOLOGY IN THE LIGHT OF RESEARCH ON THE NEW YEHS’ASH ROYAL BUILDING INSCRIPTION
Richard Hess, ASPECTS OF ISRAELITE PERSONAL NAMES AND PRE-EXILIC ISRAELITE RELIGION

Meir Lubetski is Professor of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Baruch College, City University of New York.

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 8

Hardback £55.00 • €80.00 • $95.00
Individual scholar’s price £27.50 • €40.00 • $47.50
TO BREAK EVERY YOKE
Essays in Honor of Marvin L. Chaney

Marvin L. Chaney (San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union, 1969 to 2006) enjoys international recognition for his seminal role in defining and developing a social-historical approach to the Hebrew Scriptures.

Among the papers in this Festschrift, Phyllis Bird writes on Israelite women's religious activity outside the household, Robert Coote on the dating of J, William Dever on archaeology and the social world of Isaiah, Patricia Dutcher-Walls on queen mothers and royal politics in late-monarchic Judah, John H. Elliott on the semantics of envy, jealousy, and zeal in the Bible, Frank Frick on sexual imagery in Hosea 1–3, Norman Gottwald on the interplay of religion and ethnicity in biblical Israel, Ron Hendel on the anthropology of food in the priestly Torah, David Hopkins on agricultural labor in ancient Palestine, Richard Horsley on the political roots of early Judean apocalyptic texts, Carol Meyers on Iron II Judean pillar figurines, Richard Rohrbaugh on Zacchaeus as defender of Jesus' honor, Katharine Sakenfeld on postcolonial perspectives on Rahab, Ruth, and Jael, Luise Schottroff on the notions of world rule and serving God in traditions about Jesus, Keith Whitelam on mapping ancient Israel, Antoinette Wise on the God of Jesus in Mark, and Gale Yee on recovering marginalized groups in ancient Israel.

Robert B. Coote is Nathaniel Gray Professor of Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union. Norman K. Gottwald is Adjunct Professor of Old Testament at the Pacific School of Religion and Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at New York Theological Seminary.

Social World of Biblical Antiquity, Second Series, 3  
Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $100.00  
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $50.00
Bernard M. Levinson (ed.)

THEORY AND METHOD IN BIBLICAL AND CUNEIFORM LAW
Revision, Interpolation, and Development

This seminal work, first published by Sheffield Academic Press in the JSOT Supplement Series, remains in demand among scholars of biblical and cuneiform law, as well as among all those interested in the Pentateuchal traditions. The essays in the collection focus on two crucial topics that have been too much neglected in recent debate on the formation of the Pentateuch: (1) biblical law, and the development of Israelite legal institutions, and (2) the significance of ancient Near Eastern law as a model for the composition and editorial history of the Pentateuch.

To correct the imbalance, the contributors to this volume investigate whether the biblical and cuneiform legal corpora underwent a process of literary revision and interpolation. If so, what is the evidence for it, and how did such revision take place? If not, how are the textual phenomena to be explained?

The contributors are: Raymond Westbrook, Bernard M. Levinson, Samuel Greengus, Martin Buss, Sophie Lafont, Victor H. Matthews, William Morrow, Dale Patrick and Eckart Otto.

A remarkable window on current scholarly debate among leading specialists ... essential reading. Carolyn Jo Pressler

An extraordinarily instructive cross-section through current discussion. Norbert Lehlink

An important collection of essays which should be read by all those interested in current issues in biblical and cuneiform law. Hector Avalos, Hebrew Studies

Bernard M. Levinson holds the Berman Family Chair of Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible at the University of Minnesota.

Classic Reprints
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Paperback List Price £15.00 • €18.50 • $19.50
The History of Israel

Robert B. Coote and Keith W. Whitelam

THE EMERGENCE OF EARLY ISRAEL IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

This highly original study takes a panoramic view of history in order to set the emergence of Israel in the broadest possible perspective. It begins with a study of the nature of history-writing and the increasing problems involved in utilizing the biblical text for historical reconstruction. The authors suggest an alternative approach which assigns priority to interpreting archaeological data within a broad interdisciplinary framework. The book provides a broad overview of settlement patterns and social relations throughout Palestinian history from the middle of the third millennium BCE to the present day in order to illustrate how the emergence of Israel in the early Iron Age fits into the march of time.

Archaeological evidence for the appearance of dispersed settlements in the highlands and steppes of Palestine at the beginning of the early Iron Age followed by the rapid centralization of this area suggests that Israel emerged within Palestine in response to the decline in east Mediterranean trade at the end of the Late Bronze Age. The development of an Israelite monarchy is seen as being inextricably linked to the factors involved in Israel's emergence as distinct from much previous research which has presented the monarchy as alien to the origins of Israel.

This volume is a reprint of the 1987 edition with a new preface by Robert B. Coote and Keith W. Whitelam setting the work in the context of recent debates on the history of ancient Israel.

Robert B. Coote is Nathaniel Gray Professor of Hebrew Exegesis and Old Testament at San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union. Keith W. Whitelam is Professor of Biblical Studies in the University of Sheffield.

Social World of Biblical Antiquity, First Series, 5

Paperback List Price £20.00 • €29.50 • $39.50
The History of Israel

David C. Hopkins

THE HIGHLANDS OF CANAAN
Agricultural Life in the Early Iron Age

In this masterly survey of the agricultural way of life and material world of late second millennium Canaan and emergent Israel, Hopkins asks, What obstacles did the Early Iron Age settlers of the Highlands face in their struggle for survival? How did they buffer the immense variability of their environment and take advantage of its natural diversity? How crucial were their particular social structures to their continued survival?

The author’s researches into the dynamics of agricultural systems attested in ethnographic and anthropological sources constantly undergird the development of his picture. His work has proved to be a mandatory resource for all students of early Israel.

Contents: the parameters of agricultural systems (e.g. environment, technology and population); geomorphology; climate and climatic change; natural vegetation and soils; population and settlement patterns; water conservation and control; soil conservation and fertility maintenance; risk spreading and the optimization of labor.

This volume is a reprint of the 1985 edition, with a new preface by Keith W. Whitleam setting the work in the context of recent research on agriculture, daily life and the history of ancient Israel.

David Hopkins is Professor of Archaeology and Biblical Interpretation, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC.

Social World of Biblical Antiquity, First Series, 3

Paperback £25.00 • €37.50 • $49.50
The History of Israel

Hallvard Hagelia

THE DAN DEBATE
The Tel Dan Inscription in Recent Research

The Tel Dan inscription was found in three fragments on Tel Dan in northern Israel in 1993 and 1994. It is one of the most controversial textual archaeological finds since the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls. Most scholars agree that the text, which is written in Old Aramaic, is to be dated to the late ninth century BCE. It refers to a war between the Aramaeans and the northern kingdom of Israel. The text is apparently represented as authored by King Hazael of Damascus, and many scholars have discerned the names of the kings Jehoram and Ahaziah of Israel and Judah in the fragmented text.

There has been an extremely lively, and even heated, debate over both its language and its content, and it is time that a full survey of the debate should be undertaken. In his previous book, The Tel Dan Inscription: A Critical Investigation of Recent Research on its Palaeography and Philology (2006), Hallvard Hagelia has examined those more technical aspects of the debate. In the present corollary volume, The Dan Debate: The Tel Dan Inscription in Recent Research, Hagelia analyses the debate on all the other more general aspects of the inscription. His own view is to support the joining of the fragments as it is done by the editors, Biran and Naveh, and to translate the controversial term bytdwd as ‘House of David’.

The debate on the Tel Dan is interesting and significant in itself, but it can also be viewed as a case study of the wider debate between the so-called ‘minimalists’ and ‘maximalists’ in Hebrew Bible scholarship. In particular Hagelia’s two books offer an notable exchange of views with George Athas’s The Tel Dan Inscription: A Reappraisal and a New Interpretation (2003).

Hallvard Hagelia is Professor of Old Testament Studies at Ansvar School of Theology and Mission in Kristiansand, Norway.

Recent Research in Biblical Studies, 4
ISBN 978-1-84065-547-9

Hardback List Price £45.00 • $67.50 • €90.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £22.50 • €33.75 • $45.00
The History of Israel

David Jamieson-Drake

SCIBES AND SCHOOLS IN MONARCHIC JUDAH
A Socio-Archaeological Approach
Reprint edition

This highly original study locates the question of scribes and scribal schools in monarchic Judah in a socio-archaeological context. It departs from earlier studies by assigning priority to interpreting archaeological data within a broad interdisciplinary framework before trying to assess biblical and epigraphic sources. The book provides an analysis of data on settlement, public works, and luxury items in order to produce an archaeologically based picture of the development of state level administrative systems in Judah.

The study questions the consensus that the Judahite monarchy became a state at some point in the tenth century BCE. The evidence for the increase in population, building, production, centralization and specialization in the eighth century suggests that Judah did not function as a state before the eighth century BCE. This incisive study challenges the assumption of widespread literacy and the traditional picture of the development of the Judahite monarchy.

This volume is a reprint of the 1991 edition with a new preface by Robert B. Coote and Keith W. Whitelam setting the work in the context of recent debates on the history of ancient Israel.

Social World of Biblical Antiquity, First Series, 9
ISBN 978-1-84553-748-6

Paperback £25.00 • €37.50 • $49.50
How does one read the story of Sarah and Hagar, or Jezebel and Rahab today, if one is a woman reader situated in a postcolonial society? This is the question undergirding this work, which considers a selection of biblical texts in which women have significant roles. Employing both a gender and a postcolonial lens, it asks sharp questions both of the interests embedded in the texts themselves and of their impact upon contemporary women readers. Whereas most postcolonial studies have been undertaken from the perspective of the colonized this work reads the texts from the position of a settler descendant, and is an attempt to engage with the disquietening and challenging questions that reading from such a location raises. Letters from early settler women in New Zealand, contemporary fiction, and personal reminiscence become tools for the task, complementing those traditionally employed in critical biblical readings.

Judith McKinlay teaches in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Judith McKinlay's beautifully written book provides an accessible introduction to postcolonial studies in the context of Aotearoa New Zealand. She manages to raise disquieting questions about colonialisit habits of mind--both in the biblical texts and in the present--without overwhelming her readers with turgid theoretical language... Sheffield Phoenix Press has provided a cover for the book with a touch of aesthetic genius. Mark Brett, Australian Biblical Review

This book will serve well in at least three arenas: women's studies courses is a given; biblical studies, especially those courses that focus on interpretive strategies, especially Hebrew Bible; and almost any literary criticism course that seeks to look in the intersections of cultural artifacts and adaptations with biblical influences. Valerie Bridgman Davis, Review of Biblical Literature

The Bible in the Modern World, 1
ISBN hardback 978-1-905048-02-7
ISBN paperback 978-1-905048-09-4

Hardback List Price £35.00 • €52.50 • $60.00
Paperback List Price £15.95 • €20.00 • $22.50
Gender differences between men and women are not just a matter of sexual differentiation; the roles that men and women play are also socially and culturally determined, in ancient Israel and post-biblical Judaism as in every other context.

That is the theme of these ten studies. The first part of the volume examines the gender definitions and roles that can be identified in the Hebrew Bible’s legal and ritual texts. The second part uses archaeological and anthropological perspectives to interrogate the biblical text and the society that formed it on issues of gender. The third part explores similar gender issues in a range of material outside the Hebrew Bible, from the Apocrypha through Josephus and Philo down to medieval Jewish marriage contracts (ketubbot).

Among the questions here discussed are: Why are men, but not women, required to bathe in order to achieve ritual purity after incurring certain types of defilement? What understandings of masculinity and femininity underlie the regulations about incest? Was ancient Israel simply a patriarchal society, or were there more complex dynamics of power in which women as well as men were involved? What do post-biblical reinterpretations of the female figures of Wisdom and Folly in Proverbs 1–9 suggest about heterosexual masculinity? And what kind of rights did medieval Middle-Eastern Jewish women have within their marriage relationships?

Deborah W. Rooke is Lecturer in Old Testament Studies, King’s College, London.
This volume seeks to spur a lively discussion on Marxist feminist analysis of biblical texts. Marxism and feminism have many mutual concerns, and the combination of the two has become common in literary criticism, cultural studies, sociology and philosophy. So it is high time for biblical studies to become interested.

This collection is the first of its kind in biblical studies, bringing together a mixture of newer and more mature voices. It falls into three sections: general concerns (Milena Kirova, Tamara Prosic and David Jobling); Hebrew Bible (Gale Yee and Avaren Ipsen); New Testament (Alan Cadwallader, Jorunn Økland, Roland Boer and Jennifer Bird).

Thought-provoking and daring, the collection includes: the history of Marxist feminist analysis, the work of Bertolt Brecht, the voices of prostitute collectives, and the possibilities for biblical criticism of the work of Rosemary Hennessy, Simone de Beauvoir, Juliet Mitchell, Wilhelm Reich and Julia Kristeva. All of which are brought to bear on biblical texts such as Proverbs, 1 Kings, Mark, Paul’s Letters, and 1 Peter.
SEXUAL TRANSGRESSION IN THE HEBREW BIBLE

The sex laws of the Hebrew Bible are well known, if not notorious. From them many have concluded that in ancient Israel adultery was a capital crime, that there was no conception of rape, that brides had to be virgins, and that women had no autonomy whatsoever. But was that the reality? Not if we broaden our horizon beyond the laws, argues Lipka, who focuses here on sexual transgression, that is, the trespass against sexual boundaries.

Transgressive sex is complicated. But some conclusions are possible. (1) Though adultery was universally disapproved of, there was a wide variety of opinions on who was considered guilty, who was considered the offended party, who was punished, what the punishment was, and who should execute it. (2) There was indeed a conception of rape, with an understanding of its devastating emotional and psychological consequences for the victim. (3) Though virginity in brides was the norm, it was unrealistic for all men in ancient Israel to expect their wives to be virgins. (4) Women did not enjoy legal autonomy over their sexuality, yet they were not completely powerless; they had some degree of personal sexual autonomy, and some took the liberty of doing with their bodies as they pleased.

Hilary Lipka is Research Scholar at the UCLA Center for the Study of Women, Los Angeles.

April 2006. xii + 285 pp.
Hebrew Bible Monographs, 7

Hardback List Price £60.00 • €80.00 • $95.00
Individual Scholar's Price £30.00 • €40.00 • $47.50
The Bible and Gender

Peter S. Hawkins and Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg (eds.)

WOMEN ON THE MARGIN
Lesser-Known Characters from the Hebrew Bible

Biblical women who are given only a few lines in the Bible, who are named only as the wife or sister or child of a man, can nonetheless play pivotal roles and cast long shadows. This volume brings together scholars, writers, and art historians, who probe text and trace reception history in exegesis, midrash, literature, and the visual arts as they breathe life again into these biblical characters.

Contents

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Martien Halvorson-Taylor, The Strange Case of the Disappearing Woman: Biblical Resonances in Kafka’s Fräulein Bazar

Erin Runions, Mrs Job and the Problem of God: A Feminist, Existentialist, Materialist Reading

Peter S. Hawkins is Professor of Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School. His recent Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale will be published as The Preacher’s Divine Comedy. Lesleigh Cushing Stahlberg is Assistant Professor of Religion and Jewish Studies at Colgate University, and the author of Sustaining Fictions: Thinking about the Literary Afterlife of the Bible (2008). Hawkins and Cushing Stahlberg have also recently published Scrolls of Love: Ruth and the Song of Songs (2006).


Bible in the Modern World, 18

Hardback List Price £40.00 • €60.00 • $80.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £20.00 • €30.00 • $40.00
Exodus

Vanessa Rebecca Sasson

THE BIRTH OF MOSES AND THE BUDDHA
A Paradigm for the Comparative Study of Religions

Responding to a recent upsurge of Jewish interest in Buddhism, Sasson undertakes the first serious academic effort to uncover the common ground between the founders of the two religions, Moses and the Buddha.

Because this is a study of traditions rather than a historical investigation, Sasson is able to synthesize various kinds of materials, from biblical and non-biblical, and from early Pali and Sanskrit Buddhist sources. As well as some rather consequential differences, Sasson notes the striking similarities between the life-patterns of the two leaders. Both were raised as princes and both eventually left their lavish upbringings only to discover something higher. Their mothers play prominent roles in the narratives of their births, while their fathers are often excluded from view. They were both born surrounded by light and embodying miraculous qualities.

The programme of this study goes further than to compare and contrast the two figures. Sasson argues that the comparative model she adopts can highlight doctrines and priorities of a religion that may otherwise remain hidden. In that way, the birth of Moses and the Buddha may serve as a paradigm for the comparative study of religions.

Vanessa Rebecca Sasson is Professor of Religious Studies, Marionopolis College, Montreal, and Lecturer in Religious Studies, McGill University.

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 9
ISBN 978-1-85504-838-0

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
The goal of this closely reasoned study is to explain why, in Priestly texts of the Hebrew Bible, the verb kipper, traditionally translated 'atonement', means the way of dealing both with sin and with impurity—which might seem very different things.

Sklar's first key conclusion is that when the context is sin, certain sins also pollute; so 'atonement' may include some element of purification. His second conclusion is that, when the context is impurity, and kipper means not 'atone' but 'effect purgation', impurity also endangers; so kipper can include some element of ransoming. In fact, sin and impurity, while distinct categories in themselves, have this in common: each of them requires both ransoming and purification. It is for this reason that kipper can be used in both settings.

This benchmark study concludes with a careful examination of the famous sentence of Leviticus 17.11 that 'blood makes atonement' (kipper) and explains how, in the Priestly ideology, blood sacrifice was able to accomplish both ransom and purification.

Jay Sklar

**Leviticus**

**SIN, IMPURITY, SACRIFICE, ATONEMENT**
**The Priestly Conceptions**

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**Jay Sklar** is Associate Professor of Old Testament and the Director of the ThM Program at Covenant Theological Seminary, St Louis.

Sklar's presentation ... is clear, precise, and concise, serving as an effective vehicle for unfolding his tight reasoning concerning a complex topic... Although Sklar's study is focused on a narrow question (Why does kipper occur in contexts of sin and impurity?), the answer he provides has far-reaching implications for the conceptual cohesion of the Israelite expiatory system and its theological meaning by demonstrating that the legal and purity spheres come together in one word. Henceforth, any serious study of Israelite cult or atonement must take Sklar's work into account. Roy Gane, Review of Biblical Literature • [A] benchmark study full of detailed exegetical observations ... will be important for all exegetical studies that want to shed light on the concepts of ancient Israelite priestly theology. Reinhard Achenbach, Review of Biblical Literature • The book's organization facilitates the clarity of its presentation and argumentation and makes it a valuable resource in any study on sin, forgiveness, and atonement. Mignon R. Jacobs, Religious Studies Review

November 2005. xii + 212 pp.
Hebrew Bible Monographs, 2
ISBN 978-1-905048-12-0

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar's Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
In this new contribution to the Readings series of commentaries, Roger Ryan offers a challenge to the fashionable disdain for the heroes of the Book of Judges. As against the current consensus majoring on the supposed flaws in the characters of the judges, and denigrating them as participants in Israel’s moral and religious decline, he paints a positive portrait of each of the book’s judge-deliverers.

The key element in all the stories of the judges is that each of them wins independence for oppressed Israelites against great odds—an element that should predispose readers to a favourable evaluation of the heroes. Ehud slaughters an enemy king when the only weapon he has is a homemade dagger. Barak resolutely charges downhill against enemy chariots reinforced with iron. Jael slaughters an enemy commander by improvising with a hammer and a tent peg. Gideon defeats hordes of nomadic invaders with a small token army. The lone hero Samson slaughters the Philistine foe in great numbers.

The Book of Judges presents in this reading a dark story-world in which its characters take heroic risks as they resolve conflicts by violent means. Their stories are jubilantly told and readers are expected to be neither squeamish nor censorious.

Roger Ryan is Vicar of St Mary’s, Summerstown, in southwest London.

October 2007, x + 226 pp.
Readings: A New Biblical Commentary

Hardback £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
A story of a judge who sacrifices his virgin daughter is of course an issue both in ethics and in gender studies. Such is the biblical narrative of Jephthah.

Sjöberg undertakes a comparative analysis of six different versions of the Jephthah narrative: the biblical tale in the book of Judges, the Jewish telling in Pseudo-Philo’s Liber antiquitatum biblicarum (first century CE), Josephus’s report in his Jewish Antiquities (also first century CE), Handel’s oratorio Jeptha (1751), the British author E.L. Grant Watson’s novel A Mighty Man of Valour (1939), set in Australia, and the short story by the Israeli novelist Amos Oz, ‘Upon This Evil Earth’ (1981).

Five main interpretative strategies are uncovered in this remarkable analysis: condemnation, identification, glorification, alienation and censure. Each strategy affects in different ways the reader’s assessment of power relations within the story and the reader’s own willingness to change.

In a final move, Sjöberg embarks on a critical discussion of the programmes of Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza and Daniel Patte for an ethics of biblical interpretation. Sjöberg advocates an interpretative pluralism, arguing that biblical studies should stand in the service of the general public.

Mikael Sjöberg teaches gender studies at Uppsala University and biblical studies at Ersta Sköndal University College, Sweden.

November 2006. xi + 251 pp.
The Bible in the Modern World, 4
ISBN 978-1-955048-14-4

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
The Bible and Western culture is a burgeoning area of interest in recent scholarship, but comparatively little has been written on the Bible and music. Leneman's is a groundbreaking work, making some pioneering forays across an important interdisciplinary divide.

The Performed Bible is an in-depth study of the librettos and music of 12 operas and oratorios on the story of Ruth from the last two centuries, establishing the potential of music, as a kind of midrash, for transforming a Bible text, its narrative and its characterization. The book includes detailed analyses of musical segments, the author being a cantor and professional musician in whose Jewish tradition biblical texts are chanted, not read.

This fresh and insightful work will no doubt prove attractive to biblical scholars, to musicians and to music lovers generally.

Helen Leneman is an independent scholar, singer and pianist living in Rome.

The Bible in the Modern World, 11
ISBN 978-1-85504-856-4

Hardback List Price £40.00 • €60.00 • $70.00
Individual Scholar's Price £20.00 • €30.00 • $35.00
This substantial commentary presents 1 Samuel as a sophisticated work of literature, where the reader is challenged with a narrative that is fraught with interpretative possibilities. In his distinctive literary reading Bodner lays special emphasis on the intriguing array of characters that populate the narrative, and on the plot, in its design and its configurations.

Thus, a host of intriguing episodes and personalities are passed in review: from the symbolically charged closed womb of Hannah to the backwards fall and the broken neck of Eli, to the strange tour of the Ark of God through the menacing Philistine pentapolis, wreaking havoc. Then there is the complex portrayal of Samuel the prophet, the emergence of the fugitive David as a leader, and the eventual decline, madness, and necromancy of King Saul.

Only through a literary study of its many ironies and ambiguities, Bodner amply shows, can the richness of this classic royal drama be fully appreciated.

Keith Bodner is Professor of Religious Studies, Atlantic Baptist University, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 19
ISBN 978-1-906055-10-3

Hardback List Price £45.00 • €70.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £22.50 • €35.00 • $42.50
Samuel

Anthony Heacock

JONATHAN LOVED DAVID
Manly Love in the Bible and the Hermeneutics of Sex

The relationship between the Hebrew heroes David and Jonathan has caught the attention of popular and scholarly writers alike. Yet there is little agreement about the nature of this relationship that speaks of a love between two men that ‘surpasses the love of a man for a woman’ (2 Sam. 1:26). Weighing the arguments of scholars including Nissinen and Ackerman, Heacock produces a meta-critical analysis of the many interpretations of the relationship between David and Jonathan, identifying three dominant readings: the traditional political-theological interpretation, the homoerotic interpretation, and the homosocial interpretation.

After outlining the three interpretive approaches, Heacock considers the evidence cited to support each, namely, themes in the David and Jonathan narrative and related biblical texts, ancient political treaties, laws pertaining to homogenital behaviour in the ancient Mediterranean world, and the heroic tales of the Gilgamesh Epic and Homer’s Iliad. By applying recent epistemological shifts in knowledge as developed in the interdisciplinary fields of sexuality studies, queer studies and ancient studies, Heacock emphasizes the inescapability of the modern reader’s cultural context when reading the narrative, particularly the influence of modern discourses of sexuality.

Rather than suggest an alternative historical reading, Heacock turns the debate on its head by abandoning claims to historical veracity and embracing the input of the contemporary queer reader. Using queer theory and reader-response criticism, he offers a reading of the relationship between David and Jonathan through the lens of contemporary gay male friendships. This queer reading not only celebrates manly love in its numerous forms, but also adds a self-critical voice to the discussion that exposes the heteronormative assumptions underlying the questions often asked of the narrative.

Anthony Heacock is Associate Librarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago.

Bible in the Modern World, 20

Hardback List Price £40.00 • €60.00 • $80.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £20.00 • €30.00 • $40.00
From his earliest anointing in 1 Samuel 16 until his deathbed discourse in 1 Kings 2, David is surrounded by a remarkable cast of supporting characters.

David's older brother Eliab speaks only once to his younger sibling, but this conversation has significant implications for the larger narrative. The encounter with Ahimelech the priest in 1 Samuel 21-22 in many ways symbolizes the 'crossing fates' of David and Saul in the sanctuary at Nob. Abner is the rival general who wants to make a deal, but his actions are difficult to gauge: does he have his own set of royal ambitions? Joab is pre-eminently a man of action and a key commander of David's troops, but this military figure surprisingly turns out to be as well an innovative reader and royal exegete.

Nathan the prophet has a tendency to surface at pivotal moments in the story, as a decisive influence on the spiritual and political affairs of the king. Finally, Solomon is the younger son who accedes to the coveted throne, and curiously shares traits with his ancestor Jacob.

Keith Bodner is Professor of Religious Studies, Atlantic Baptist University, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.

The essays in this book as a whole are provocative, insightful, and well presented. They will repay careful reading as well as classroom use. The volume is a pleasure to read and recommend. Steven L. McKenzie

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 5
ISBN 978-1-905048-23-6

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
This fresh approach to the story of Michal, daughter of Saul and wife of David, juxtaposes three quite different interpretative methods: narratological, historical, and history of traditions.

In his first chapter, Bodi offers a subtle political reading of the Michal story, bringing to the fore the power-struggle between Saul and David that forms its main intrigue.

The second chapter compares the daughters of Saul and the daughters of Zimri-Lim. This eighteenth-century BCE tribal king of Mari offered his two daughters Kirum and Shimatum to the same vassal in order to be able to spy on him. Saul seems to have done something similar with his daughters Merab and Michal, both offered to David.

The third chapter explores a rich variety of rabbinic interpretations of key moments in the Michal story.

Both the narratological investigation and the rabbinic interpretations point to David’s guilt during his dance in front of the ark. A careful reading of the biblical texts dealing with the figure of David in his relationship with his first wife Michal reaches the same conclusion: He is not exactly the man he pretends to be.

Daniel Bodi is Associate Professor, Paris School of Oriental Studies (Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales [INALCO]).

The attraction of this monograph—rich in historical, critical and rhetorical, critical methodology and comparative, comparative approaches—is the sustained reflection on the moral issues associated with Israelite monarchy. Readers will benefit, too, from the subtle advocacy advanced by the author in righting the feminist voice in Israelite religion. Zev Garber, Catholic Biblical Quarterly

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 3
ISBN hbk 978-1-905048-17-5
ISBN pb 978-1-905048-74-8

Hardback £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Paperback £15.95 • €20.00 • $22.50
DECOLONIZING JOSIAH
Toward a Postcolonial Reading of the Deuteronomistic History

In the prevailing view, the Deuteronomistic History is the first and archetypical Western history, describing the creation of an Israelite state in Palestine as the origin of civilization in the region, a hegemonic culture rendering the other inhabitants of the country homeless in their own land. That view of Davidic domination over greater Palestine, fashioned under Josiah, has been given a modern nationalist reading by contemporary scholars, a reading consistent with the vast array of covert cultural confirmations of Euro-American imperial power.

How is it possible, Kim asks, given the all-encompassing sway of the colonialist reading of the Bible, to understand Josiah in other than colonialist terms? His answer: the historical imagination, making unfettered use of the tools of the critical historian, must be informed by the experience of those who have lived as the other, as the colonized, as not at home in their own land—which means, for Kim, the experience of being Asian American.

The intellectual use of this experience creates his distinctive postcolonial perspective.

Uriah Kim is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Connecticut.

April 2005. xii + 265 pp.
The Bible in the Modern World, 5
ISBN hbk 978-1-905048-13-7
ISBN pb 978-1-905048-72-4

Hardback £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Paperback £18.95 • €20.00 • $22.50
Chronicles

John Jarick

1 CHRONICLES
Second edition

Jarick reads Chronicles as fantasy literature that creates an imaginary world with the didactic purpose of inculcating a particular view of everyday life, bombarding the reader with a kaleidoscopic progression of heroes and villains and presenting a frontierland of danger and opportunity.

A focus on the literary world of Chronicles provides a fresh reading of the book, in which the patterns of the presentation (including a musical language) can more readily be seen and appreciated, even as the dark underbelly of the writing (including a disturbing ideology) is also exposed and repudiated.

This is a reprint of the original 2002 edition.

John Jarick is Old Testament Tutor at St Stephen's House, Oxford.

Jarick's book is striking for its insistence on reading 'Chronicles first', enabling this often neglected book to speak for itself, independent of the traditionally louder voices of Samuel and Kings. Jarick creates space for the reader to listen carefully to the skilled writers he calls the 'Annalists' ('Analysts') as they tell the community's story from their 'mythical past' to the new beginning facing them... An attractive commentary for those wishing to move beyond traditional treatments and interested in the potential of literary approaches to bring new life and meaning to a text.

Sharon Moughtin

Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
ISBN hb 978-1-85504-88-5
ISBN pb 978-1-85504-89-2

Hardback £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
Across the pages of 2 Chronicles a colourful cast of characters passes in breathless parade before the reader. The tales of the kings of Judah are told in sequence, from Rehoboam ‘the Enlarger’ (who on the contrary shrinks the kingdom) to Zedekiah ‘the Righteous’ (who equally contrariwise profanes the divine name).

These motley monarchs are preceded by the unparalleled King Solomon of All Israel and succeeded by the imperial King Cyrus of Persia, and all the while the tellers of the tales weave an insistent ideological thread through the fabric of their stories.

John Jarick’s reading of Chronicles brings out the fascination and discomfort of handling an ancient scroll that presents itself as the authoritative account of how things were and how they ought to be.

Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
ISBN hb 978-1-84504-896-0
ISBN pb 978-1-84504-977-7

Hardback £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
Until the late 1960s the scholarly consensus was that Chronicles–Ezra–Nehemiah was a single, unified literary work. Then arguments began to be mounted for treating Chronicles as a distinct composition, and the majority of scholars were swayed by these arguments, though others retained the older consensus view. In recent years, some scholars have begun to suggest that Ezra and Nehemiah are distinct literary entities.

This new debate is the occasion for the present volume. Here scholars from around the globe (Canada, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, Korea, Netherlands, United Kingdom, United States) showcase current scholarly explanations for the final shape of this literary complex known as Ezra–Nehemiah. Fifteen scholars present their approach to the unity or disunity of this literature employing research methodologies that range from the diachronic to the synchronic.

Critical responses to this emerging research are provided by four senior reviewers (Joseph Blenkinsopp, Tamara Eskenazi, Sara Japhet and Hugh Williamson) whose work laid the foundation in earlier decades for much of the discussion today. The result is a rich conversation which provides an enlightening resource for the study of these biblical books in particular as well as for reflection on the impact of one’s interpretive framework on the study of ancient literature in general.

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 17
ISBN 978-1-906055-40-0

Handback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $95.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $47.50
ESTHER

A Classified Bibliography

This comprehensive bibliography to scholarly works on the biblical book of Esther contains over 1500 references. It includes titles of books, collected works, Festschriften, theses, journal articles, essays in collections, encyclopedia and dictionary articles, and online material. It is a classified bibliography, arranged in three categories—commentaries, biblical chapters and verses, and subject headings in alphabetical order.

The scope of the bibliography is international, and its focus is on research from the last hundred years. Scholars, students, clergy, and librarians—among them literary scholars, psychologists, sociologists, historians, linguists, art historians, political scientists, feminists, and Christian and Jewish scholars—will find this unique volume an indispensable resource and stimulus to further research.

Edith Lubetski is Head Librarian, Hedi Steinberg Library, Yeshiva University, New York. Meir Lubetski is Professor of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature, Baruch College, City University of New York.

Bible Bibliographies

Hardback £40.00 • €60.00 • $70.00
Individual scholar’s price £20.00 • €30.00 • $35.00
Job

John Gray

THE BOOK OF JOB

John Gray, who was Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages in the University of Aberdeen, left at his death in 2000 a complete manuscript of a commentary on the Book of Job. Rich in textual and philological observations, the manuscript has been carefully prepared for the press; it will soon become a standard work for scholars and students of the biblical book, and a fitting tribute to the sound judgment and innovative scholarship of its author. John Gray was noted especially for his books: The Legacy of Canaan (1957; 2nd edn, 1964), The Biblical Doctrine of the Reign of God (1979), and his commentaries, 1 and 2 Kings (1963; 2nd edn, 1970) and Joshua, Judges and Ruth (1967).

Gray’s commentary on Job, which is prefaced by a lengthy general introduction, is the first volume in a new series of commentaries on the text of the Hebrew Bible. All the volumes will concentrate on the text criticism and philology of the Hebrew text, a feature notably lacking or merely perfunctory in many current biblical commentary series.

John Gray was Professor of Hebrew and Semitic Languages in the University of Aberdeen.

The Text of the Hebrew Bible, 1

Hardback £70.00 • €105.00 • $125.00
Individual scholar’s price £35.00 • £52.50 • $59.50
This commentary on the book of Job is a non-technical commentary but full of Whybray's most mature reflections on the book.

The Introduction deals with the nature and purpose of the book, its specific and distinctive theology, its themes and its various parts and their mutual relationship. Thereafter, Norman Whybray, who is renowned for his insightful commentaries, usually comments on small sections of the text, and verse-by-verse in some especially difficult passages.

As a whole, his commentary is illustrative of the fact that the book of Job is more concerned with the nature of God than with the problem of suffering.

This is a reprint of the original edition in 1998.
Psalms

Roger Tomes

‘I HAVE WRITTEN TO THE KING, MY LORD
Secular Analogies for the Psalms

The psalms in the Hebrew Bible have often been compared with the religious texts of Mesopotamia, Egypt and Canaan. Roger Tomes shows, in this incisive monograph, how the letters of the ancient Near East, from Mari, Amarna, Ugarit, Nimrud and Nineveh, are an equally rewarding analogue.

In them we find suppliants, caught in crisis situations, appealing to their rulers; they use the same arguments to persuade them to act as the psalmists in their appeals to God: protestations of innocence, confession of faults, promises of loyalty, descriptions of plight, appeal to the other’s own interests, direct reproaches and quotation of the reproaches of enemies, and expressions of dependence.

These are parallels that have much to teach us about the social position of the psalmists and their relationship to the cult.

Roger Tomes is Honorary Research Fellow, Department of Religions and Theology, University of Manchester, and formerly Lecturer, Northern College, Manchester.

Tomes offers us a distinctive collection of several intriguing parallels from ancient Near Eastern letters (looking at some which are addressed to the gods as well as those addressed to the king), and many of these throw light upon the religious world of the psalmists … We are given many illustrations, full of scholarly and incisive analysis and judicious assessments … This book performs an invaluable service for our understanding of the wider cultural worlds of the psalmists. Susan Cillingham, Journal of Theological Studies

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 1
ISBN hb 978-1-905048-09-0
ISBN pb 978-1-905048-71-7

Hardback £35.00 • €48.00 • $55.00
Paperback £12.95 • £15.00 • $17.50
The Hebrew Bible contains many examples of protest or complaint against God, in the Psalms of individual lament, and in the prophetic challenges to God, and in the Book of Job.

And yet, after the exile, the complaint tradition was largely suppressed or marginalized. In this imaginative book, Morrow asks the unheard of question, Why? A shift in the religious imagination of early Judaism had taken place, he argues, spearheaded by the psychology of trauma and by international politics. A magnification of divine transcendence downgraded the intercessory role of the prophet, controlled the raw pain of exile (Lamentations, Second Isaiah), and led to intransigent refusal of the logic of lament (the friends and Yahweh in Job). The theology of complaint was eventually overshadowed by the piety of penitence and praise (the Dead Sea Scrolls).

Modern readers of the Hebrew Bible are not obliged to assent to the loss of lament, nevertheless. There may still be life in the ancient prayer pattern of arguing with God, which assumes that worshippers have rights with God as well as duties, that the Creator has obligations to the creation as well as prerogatives.

This stylish intellectual history will be welcomed for its scope, its panache and its theological engagement.

William S. Morrow

PROTEST AGAINST GOD
The Eclipse of a Biblical Tradition

The Hebrew Bible contains many examples of protest or complaint against God, in the Psalms of individual lament, and in the prophetic challenges to God, and in the Book of Job.

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This stylish intellectual history will be welcomed for its scope, its panache and its theological engagement.

William S. Morrow is Associate Professor of Hebrew and Hebrew Scriptures, Queen’s Theological College, Kingston, Ontario, Canada.

Awarded the 2007 R.B.Y. Scott Book Award for an outstanding book in the areas of Hebrew Bible and/or the Ancient Near East written by a member of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies.

The book is enormously provocative. ... Morrow’s admirable knowledge of secondary literature and his profound probing into the development of Israel’s religious history make the volume worthy reading indeed. James L. Crenshaw, Review of Biblical Literature

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 4
ISBN hb 978-1-905048-20-5
ISBN pb 978-1-906055-34-9

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
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The Book of Proverbs: A Classified Bibliography

The Book of Proverbs: A Classified Bibliography is an analysed collection of references to scholarly literature on the biblical book of Proverbs within an interdisciplinary framework. It culls scholarship on the book of Proverbs, ranging from studies of historical interest to the latest research.

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Ted Hildebrandt is Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts. Fred Putnam was formerly Professor of Old Testament, Biblical Theological Seminary, Hatfield, Pennsylvania.
Qoheleth

Graham Ogden

QOHELETH
Second revised edition

Qoheleth's driving question, according to Ogden, is posed in the opening lines of his book. It is the question, What lasting advantage (yithron) results from the multitude of activities in which humans find themselves engaged? In a word, the answer is, None; but the supplementary question remains, How shall we then live?

Qoheleth is no pessimist. Even though he believes that nothing survives from the activities of life, he encourages his readers to live life to the full, to 'eat, drink and enjoy what God provides'. Wisdom is one of those enjoyable benefits of life, but even it has its limitations: it can never produce an understanding of the totality.

What of the classic term hebel (traditionally translated 'vanity') in Qoheleth's thought? It is much better understood, argues Ogden, as 'enigma' or 'mystery', and the mystery it points to is the mystery of the yithron: how is joy the proper goal of human life when we know it must inevitably come to an end without leaving any surplus?

Graham Ogden is a Translation Consultant for the United Bible Societies. He lives near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

An attractively pithy commentary. Cyril S. Rodd, Editor, Expository Times

Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
ISBN hbk 978-1-906055-08-0
ISBN pbk 978-1-906055-09-7

Hardback List Price £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback List Price £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
Rabbi Akiba is famously reported to have said, 'Heaven forbid that any one in Israel ever disputed that the Song of Songs is holy, for the whole world is not worth the day on which the Song of Songs was given to Israel, for all the writings are holy, but the Song of Songs is the Holy of Holies'. This book is an extended elaboration of Rabbi Akiba's statement. It argues that the Song is a Hellenistic composition, drawing on the resources of ancient Near Eastern erotic poetry and characterized by a complex though fragile unity.

Through the metaphors, the lovers progressively see themselves reflected in each other, as well as in the world about them and the poetry of love. The poem celebrates the land of Israel in spring, an ideal humanity, and a perfected language. It culminates in the contestation of love and death, and the assertion that only love survives the exigencies of time.

The pervasive ambiguity of the Song, in which one never quite knows what happens, is related to the ambivalence of beauty, which is closely related to ugliness. Hence the surrealist imagery of the Song verges upon the grotesque and stretches the resources of our imagination. Through a detailed comparison with the Garden of Eden story, Landy argues that the Song is a vision of paradise seen from the outside, through the ironic poetic gaze, in a world potentially hostile or indifferent.

Paradoxes of Paradise, first published in 1983, has been thoroughly revised and updated by the author for this edition.

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ISBN 978-1-906055-41-7

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RECENT RESEARCH ON THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Given the many new methods and approaches for interpreting biblical literature that have appeared in the past several decades, it is hardly surprising that our understanding of the prophets Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel has expanded and diversified at a rapid pace. Historical-critical understandings and perspectives have been challenged and often dramatically altered. New approaches, such as social-scientific criticism, rhetorical criticism, feminist criticism, reader response criticism, literary analysis, anthropological analysis, structuralist criticism, ideological criticism, and deconstructionist criticism have both challenged old approaches and shed new light on the texts being studied.

In this volume, Alan Hauser presents eleven articles, each with an extensive bibliography, that survey the variety and depth of recent and contemporary scholarship on these three prophets. Five of them are new to this volume. All are written by experts in each area of scholarship, including Marvin Sweeney, Paul Kim, Roy Melugin, Robert P. Carroll, Peter Diamond, Kathryn Pflüger Darr and Risa Levert Kohn. Hauser introduces the volume with a comprehensive summary and overview of the articles.

Alan Hauser is Professor of Biblical Studies at Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina.

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Hardback List Price £60.00 • €90.00 • $95.00
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Ronald E. Clements

JERUSALEM AND THE NATIONS
Studies in the Book of Isaiah

This volume contains the fruit of three decades of Ronald Clements’s researches on prophecy in the Old Testament. In sixteen papers, seven of them not previously published, he broaches several leading questions about the origins of written prophecy in the Old Testament. A major focus is on the impact of the events of 701 BCE on the formation of the Isaiah book as a whole and the rise of Jerusalem as a centre of religious hope.

Further studies deal with the role of the Isaiah book in current biblical interpretation and the failure of twentieth-century interpreters to explain its unity. Other subjects concern ideas of divine providence, theodicy, and the links between ancient scribal methods of book formation and canonical authority. Special attention is given to the attempts to retain traditional Christian approaches to a book, the interpretation of which has been greatly transformed by modern critical study.

Ronald E. Clements was formerly Samuel Davidson Professor of Old Testament Studies at King’s College, London.

Hebrew Bible Monographs, 14
ISBN 978-1-905048-81-6

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $90.00
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Peter D. Miscall

ISAIAH
Second edition

Peter Miscall's commentary on Isaiah was among the first volumes in the series Readings published by JSOT Press in 1993. Sheffield Phoenix Press is now relaunching the series, under the editorship of John Jarick, with a second edition of Miscall's work (including a new preface), reprints or second editions of four others, and entirely new volumes on Haggai by Tim Meadowcroft, 2 Chronicles by John Jarick, 1 Samuel by Keith Bodner, and Romans by Stanley Porter.

The aim of the series remains to present compact literary readings of the biblical books, unencumbered by the paraphernalia of traditional criticism and alert to the impact of literary studies on biblical interpretation. Each contributor to the series approaches their text from their own personal literary position.

In this fine and characteristic study, Miscall concentrates especially on the play of images in the prophetic book, their interweaving and constant intertextuality.


Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
ISBN hb 978-1-85048-44-1
ISBN pb 978-1-85048-45-8

Hardback List Price £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback List Price £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
In this remarkable commentary, first published in 1986, Carroll offered the first systematic study of the book that turned its back on the prevailing trend to use the book to reconstruct the historical Jeremiah. Carroll propounded rather the view that the book was the compilation of many small units, much edited and reworked, which were rarely connected originally with a prophet Jeremiah.

Carroll’s work has all the expected features of a major biblical commentary: thorough investigation of the original text, in this case also of the sharply divergent Septuagint translation, deep acquaintance with the scholarly literature on the book, unceasing close reading of the work in its final shape and in its detail.

But it adds a distinctively Carrollian dimension: its unrelenting analysis of the often conflicting ideological and theological forces that created every aspect of the book, demanding of its readers that they approach it as an unremittingly intellectual literary work.

Unaccountably, this commentary, published originally in the Old Testament Library series of Westminster Press in the USA and SCM Press in the UK, has gone out of print. Sheffield Phoenix Press offers this reprinted edition both because of its continuing significance and as a personal tribute to its author, whose untimely death occurred in 2000.

Robert Carroll was Professor of Hebrew Bible and Semitic Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Glasgow.

Erudite, extremely readable, and highly engaging ... a magnificent achievement. Henry T.C. Sun, Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research • Will remain a valuable resource through its careful analysis and its dialogue with other contemporary perspectives on the book and the prophet. Donn F. Morgan, Catholic Biblical Quarterly • Resolutely pressing fundamental questions whose engagement will draw one deeply into the book ... A landmark. J. Gerald Janzen, Journal of Biblical Literature

This exciting new study of the prophet Jeremiah attributes to him a pivotal significance in the historical period of Josiah's reign. He was, so Leuchter argues, one of the central agents of Josiah's propaganda machine and was intimately involved with the king's political agenda. Jeremiah, himself originally a member of the scribal school that composed the Deuteronomistic literature, encouraged the Shilonites of Anathoth to become active in Josiah's programme in the North following the waning of Assyrian power. Dismayed by the Shilonites' rejection of him and Josiah, and by the king's death at Megiddo, Jeremiah came to a radically new understanding of the divine purpose, encapsulated in the famous Temple sermon of Jeremiah 7.

In his thoroughgoing historical reconstruction, Leuchter outlines a very specific sequence of events that took their rise from the Shilonite rejection of Deuteronomic policy, and on that basis carefully demarcates the texts that would have been included in Jeremiah's first scroll (the Urrolle). Leuchter's monograph will make an important contribution to the study of the history and the literature of the late seventh century BCE.
Are the stories of Daniel at the court of the Persian king simply cheerful tales of a clever and successful courtier, as many assume? Valeta doubts it, insisting that the playful and fantastic storyline must have a more serious meaning.

The key to these narratives lies in their genre. These tales of lions and ovens and the like are examples of Menippean satire, argues Valeta, an ancient genre foregrounded in modern literary study by Bakhtin, who saw in the characteristic interplay of voices in the Menippean satire a prime instance of his ‘dialogism’. Especially typical of the Menippean satire is an indecorous mixing of styles and elements, which may be the explanation why the Daniel narratives are both comic and serious, Hebrew and Aramaic, episodic and unified.

Viewed as satire, the Daniel narratives emerge in their true colours as resistance literature to the regime of Antiochus IV—and so form a perfect accompaniment to the visions of Daniel 7–12.

David Valeta is Lecturer in Religious Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado.
This reading of Hosea explores the book from a feminist, psychoanalytical and poetic perspective. What is God doing with a prostitute? How does the theme of prostitution relate to the abjection of the woman as the other, and the fantasy of sexual ecstasy, precisely because she escapes patriarchal order? Where is the prophet situated in the dialectic of rage and desire that both seduces and condemns Israel?

The prophet's voice is both masculine and feminine, and poetically embodies the sensuality of wayward Israel. The ambiguity of voice is also that of the prophet's role, which is both to nurture Israel, as on its Exodus from Egypt, and to be the trap that destroys it. The problematic of voice and prophetic function is evident in the vivid dissection of Israel's social institutions, whose disintegration is inversely related to the centrality of the discussion in the structure of the book, and in the violent swings from despair to impossible hope.

The focus on immediate and uncontrollable entropy, manifest in extended tangled metaphors, that occupies the centre of the book, is framed in the outer chapters by intertextual references to Israel's primordial vision, and the romantic distanciation of the Song of Songs, in which the erotic and poetic contradictions of the book find their perhaps ironic resolution.

Francis Landy is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Alberta, Edmonton.
In this provocative new proposal, Chalmers presents the prophet Hosea as engaged in a polemic against the Canaanite deity El. Especially in chs. 11–13 Hosea is exposing the Northern Kingdom’s fatal error of mistaking El for Yahweh. Here Hosea is asking, “Who is the god of Jacob?”, “Who is the god of the exodus?” His answer is not El—as in many Israelite traditions—but Yahweh.

This recognition leads Chalmers to reconstruct the ‘back story’ of the god El, from the sanctuary narrative in Genesis 28, the Balaam oracles in Numbers 22–24, and the account of Jeroboam’s cult in 1 Kings 12. Against the standard view that there is no polemic against El in the Hebrew Bible, Chalmers argues that the recurring polemic against the sanctuary at Bethel may have less to do with ‘golden calves’ or anti-northern rhetoric than with a much older debate about the identity of the god worshipped at Bethel.

The second half of this book goes beyond the sanctuary at Bethel to the existence of a deity named Bethel. Just as the cults of Yahweh and El were closely related in Hosea’s eighth-century Israel, in fifth-century Elephantine Yahweh and Bethel seem to be almost interchangeable. Since the religious beliefs on display in Elephantine show some striking similarities to that of Hosea’s Northern Kingdom, the earlier Yahweh–El dynamic and the later Yahweh–Bethel dynamic may effectively interpret one another.

In its wanton celebration of violence, the book of Nahum poses ethical challenges to the modern reader. O’Brien offers the first full-scale engagement with this dimension of the book, exploring the ways in which the artfulness of its poetry serves the book’s violent ideology, highlighting how its rhetoric attempts to render the Other fit for annihilation.

She then reads from feminist, intertextual and deconstructionist angles and uncovers the destabilizing function of the book’s aesthetics.

Finally, she demonstrates how mining Nahum’s ambiguities and tensions can contribute to an ethical response to its violence.

This is a reprint of the 2002 edition.

Julia O’Brien is Professor of Old Testament, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
ISBN pb 978-1-84504-93-9

Hardback £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
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This new commentary is organized around a distinctive discourse analysis of the small prophetic book of Haggai, and an appreciation of its tightly crafted narrative. Identifying six discrete oracles from the prophet Haggai, Meadowcroft structures his analysis of the narrative around those six oracles.

Thematically, the centre of Haggai’s prophecy is the role of the temple within the life of the people of God. The desolation of the temple is bound up with the desolation of the land and the desolation of the people on the land. Rebuilding the temple will be the means to break the cycle of desolation. But things are more complex than that. Rebuilding the temple must happen within the fraught imperial context; and rebuilding the temple will foreground a tension between institutional life and the life of the Spirit.

Contextualizing Haggai in today’s world, Meadowcroft offers an extensive prolegomenon on reading Haggai as scripture. In it he hears a challenge to the Church in the West and a call to rediscover humanity’s priestly role in the temple of an environment under threat of desolation.

Tim Meadowcroft is Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the Bible College of New Zealand and Tyndale-Carey Graduate School in Auckland, New Zealand.
Hebrew Bible and New Testament

Margaret Barker

THE OLDER TESTAMENT
The Survival of Themes from the Ancient Royal Cult in Sectarian Judaism and Early Christianity

The Older Testament is a radically new approach to many problems of both the OT and NT. It takes as a basis the theology of the book of Enoch, lost to western Christendom for many centuries, but here recognized as providing the most consistent set of clues to the nature of Israel’s pre-exilic religion. Reformers and editors of the Second Temple period sought to remove from the biblical texts all traces of the older ways, which survive only in the apparently bizarre themes and imagery of certain Pseudepigrapha.

Margaret Barker traces some of the ways in which the Deuteronomic standpoint came to dominate future readings of the Hebrew Bible as well as scholarly conceptions of Israel’s religious development. Her reconstruction of the pre-Deuteronomic religion throws a startling light on much of the imagery of the NT and shows how closely the earlier Christian expectations were based upon the ancient royal cult in Jerusalem.

This book represents an important and original contribution to our understanding of Judaism and early Christianity.

'The scope of this book is vast...nothing less than a total theory of the history of Israelite religion and of the formation of the Old Testament, and once one has assimilated it, almost nothing will look the same again.' John Barton, New Blackfriars.

'One of those rare achievements that are capable of pushing biblical studies out of a well worn rut.'
John Ashton, The Month

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Margaret Barker

THE LOST PROPHET
The Book of Enoch and its Influence on Christianity

Reading the Book of Enoch unleashes a new understanding of early Christianity and one that is uncannily relevant to the late twentieth century. Though neglected and almost forgotten by the Church for fifteen hundred years, the Book of Enoch was one of the most important writings of the pre-Christian period and was kept and used by the early Church. It represents supremely the mystical element in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, with strange and powerful symbolism, and heavenly visions of the Last Judgement. Its treatment of the problem of evil, of humankind’s relationship with the creation, of the role of the expected Messiah and of other key themes in Judaism and Christianity challenges many traditional assumptions and throws dramatic new light on our understanding of Jesus and his message. The Lost Prophet is an exciting and thought provoking book which should be read by everyone interested in the foundations of Christianity.

Margaret Barker, a former President of the Society for Old Testament Study, is a prolific author specializing in reconstructing the background of NT thought in the Hebrew Bible and early Judaism.

Bernhard Lang, International Review of Biblical Studies.

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In this book, first published in 1991, the prolific and innovative British biblical scholar Margaret Barker sets out to explore the origins and the afterlife of traditions about the Temple in Judaism.

Using evidence from the deutero-canonical and pseudepigraphic texts, Qumran and rabbinic material, as well as early Christian texts and liturgies, she advances a host of radical and suggestive theories, including the following:

1. Apocalyptic writing was the temple tradition.
2. Temple buildings were aligned to establish a solar calendar, thus explaining the astronomical texts incorporated in 1 Enoch.
3. The temple symbolism of priest and sanctuary antedated the Eden stories of Genesis.
4. The temple buildings depicted heaven and earth separated by a veil of created matter.
5. The throne visions, the basis of the later Merkavah mysticism, originated as high priestly sanctuary experiences, first attested in Isaiah but originating in the royal cult when king figures passed beyond the temple veil from earth into heaven, from immortality to the resurrected state, and then returned.

Margaret Barker, a former President of the Society for Old Testament Study, specializes in reconstructing the background of NT thought in the Hebrew Bible and early Judaism. Also published by Sheffield Phoenix Press are her books The Older Testament: The Survival of Themes from the Ancient Royal Cult in Sectarian Judaism and early Christianity and The Lost Prophet: The Book of Enoch and its Influence on Christianity.

Her remarkable book ... is essential reading for anyone concerned with the continuity between the mythical foundations of the Old Testament and the Christian tradition, which plays a vital role in early Christian theology and spirituality. John Healy, The Expository Times

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Paperback List Price £20.00 • €30.00 • $39.50
Many are saying that the prevailing paradigm of New Testament origins is going nowhere. In its place, Brodie’s stunning book invites us to suspend all ‘knowledge’ we already have about the history of the New Testament’s development, and to be willing to entertain the following thesis.


This is a totalizing theory, an explanation of everything, and its critics will be numerous. But even they will be hugely intrigued, and have to admit that Brodie’s myriads of challenging observations about literary affinities demand an answer.

Thomas L. Brodie

THE BIRTHING OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
The Intertextual Development of the New Testament Writings

A work of stunning research...a book that any serious researcher of the literary origins of the New Testament will need to take into account. Seamus O’Connell, The Furrow.


An original work that will make a lasting impact on the study of Christian origins. David Noel Freedman, University of San Diego.
The nineteen contributions to this Festschrift include: Charles Cousar on the Christ-hymn in Philippians, Gordon Fee on the locative en in Galatians, Benjamin Fiore on kinship address in Philemon, Robert Foster on the visions of grace in Ephesians, Serge Frolov on the “Rebellious Tenants” story as political allegory, Victor Furnish on the theology of faith, love, and hope in 1 Thessalonians, Roy Heller on widows in Deuteronomy, Robert Jewett on wrath and violence in Romans and 1 Thessalonians, Elizabeth Johnson on first-century asceticism, Ila Boree Kraft on the fictive interlocutor in 1 Corinthians 14, Steven Kraftchick on death in Philippians, Alan Mitchell on friendship in 1 Cor. 6:8, Richard Nelson on Achan in Judges, Jerome Neyrey on characters in the Fourth Gospel, David Rensberger on the Holy Spirit in Pauline churches, Calvin Roetzel on violent metaphorical language in 2 Corinthians, E.P. Sanders on the providence of God in Josephus and Paul, Joseph Tyson on conflicting views of leadership in Acts, and Larry Yarbrough on concern for the poor of Jerusalem.

Calvin J. Roetzel is Sunset Chair in New Testament and Christian Studies at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Robert L. Foster is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Religion at Southern Methodist University.

New Testament Monographs, 22

Hardback List Price £55.00 • €82.50 • $110.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £27.50 • €41.25 • $55.00
JAMES RENDEL HARRIS
New Testament Autographs and Other Essays

James Rendel Harris (1852–1941) was one of the most prolific and influential New Testament scholars of his time. He opened new paths in textual criticism, brought to light hitherto lost early Christian writings and gathered major collections of Syriac manuscripts and Greek papyri.

After a sketch of Rendel Harris’s life and works, the book collects published essays and unpublished lectures and letters written by Rendel Harris over 50 years, providing an essential picture of his scholarship. The papers include a lively and first-hand account of the controversies over the Hort–Westcott Greek New Testament; the finding of the only known Diatessaronic reading in a Greek New Testament; the account of Rendel Harris’s initial “discovery” of testimonia collections; one of the first proposals of a wisdom hymn lying behind John’s prologue; and, finally, an entertaining guide for the manuscript hunter.

The personal correspondence at the end of the volume throws light on the driving forces of Rendel Harris’s scholarship. The goal of his studies was to draw attention to new or little-explored topics and to provoke his colleagues to carry out fresh research on what they had overlooked. This collection aims at the same goal.

Alessandro Falcetta has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII in Bologna.

This is a valuable collection, bringing to life an important figure of a previous generation’s scholarship and shining too here, if one were inclined to ignore the scholarship of past generations as passé, one would do so at one’s peril. Christopher Tuckett, Review of Biblical Literature September 2006.

xvi + 256 pp.
New Testament Monographs, 7

Hardback List Price £60.00 • €90.00 • $95.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £30.00 • €45.00 • $47.50
Text and Community
Essays in Honor of Bruce M. Metzger
2 volumes

Bruce Manning Metzger, New Testament professor emeritus at Princeton Theological Seminary, died in February 2007 at the age of 93. This volume in his honour was already in preparation, and has become of necessity a memorial volume rather than the Festschrift that was intended.

Metzger has been called the greatest American New Testament critic and biblical translator of the twentieth century. Among his multifaceted writings most commonly cited are his classic studies The Text of the New Testament, its Transmission, Corruption and Restoration (1964) and The Early Versions of the New Testament, their Origin, Transmission, and Limitations (1977). He was also Chair of the Committee of Translators for the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (published 1990).

The first of these two wide-ranging and often innovative volumes created in his honour, subtitled Interpretation of the Text for the Community, falls into two parts: The Nature of the Bible: Manuscripts, Texts, and Translation (e.g. an ancient papyrus biblical fragment, biblical exegesis in the third world), and Understanding the Bible: Hermeneutics (e.g. Biblical Interpretation in Paul in its Cultural Context).

The second volume, on Implementation of the Text in the Community, has as its two parts, The Church and the Bible: Pulpit and Parish (e.g. Pastoral Care and the Bible) and The Academy, Science, Culture, Society, and the Bible (e.g. Psychological Method and the Historical Jesus, Jungian and Freudian Perspectives on Gender in the Gospel of John).

J. Harold Ellens is Research Scholar, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
New Testament and Social Sciences

IN OTHER WORDS
Essays on Social Science Methods and the New Testament in Honor of Jerome H. Neyrey

Jerome H. Neyrey, Professor of New Testament at the University of Notre Dame since 1992, is widely recognized for his groundbreaking contributions to social-scientific criticism of the Gospels and the Epistles.


Anselm C. Hagedorn is Wissenschaftlicher Assistent in Old Testament at Humboldt-Universität, Berlin. Zeba A. Crook is Assistant Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Carleton University, Ottawa. Eric Stewart is Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame.

August 2007. xii + 263 pp.
Social World of Biblical Antiquity, Second Series, 1

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $95.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $47.50
The Bible and the Postcolonial

R.S. Sugirtharajah

TROUBLESOME TEXTS
The Bible in Colonial and Contemporary Culture

The nine substantial essays in this volume deal with three wide-ranging though interconnected issues: the perceived status and standing of the Bible today; aspects of the current state of biblical studies, especially the uneasy tension between the increasingly esoteric agenda of mainstream scholarship and the hermeneutical concerns of those occupied with marginal readings; the significance of postcolonial scholarship and pointers for its future at a time when empire has once again become a reality and a global subject of debate.

Among the essays here are an examination of Victorian reconstructions of the life of Jesus and of the Buddha, and how these discourses were moulded and motivated by orientalism, colonialism, race and issues of British national identity; the complexities of the use of the Bible in Sri Lanka, war-torn and beset with communal strife, when the Bible itself is rife with vengeance and punishment; the political and hermeneutical ramifications of the Asian tsunami, and the use of natural disasters for decolonization and recolonization; imperial intentions and a postcolonial sub-text evident in the Johannine letters; the fortunes of the English Bible as its promoters struggle to uphold its credibility in a market-driven culture; suicide-bombing and asylum-seeking. All of these are issues of global significance and concern, but they are hardly ever addressed by biblical scholars.

The essays contain both theoretical discussion and practical questions as to the usefulness of the Bible at a time when its contested role has been complicated by its tainted association with oppressive causes.

R.S. Sugirtharajah is Professor of Biblical Hermeneutics in the University of Birmingham.

Bible in the Modern World, 17

Hardback List Price £35.00 • € 47.50 • $70.00
Individual Scholar's Price £17.50 • €23.75 • $35.00
The Bible and the Postcolonial

Mark G. Brett

DECOLONIZING GOD
The Bible in the Tides of Empire

For centuries, the Bible has been used by colonial powers to undergird their imperial designs—an ironic situation when so much of the Bible was conceived by way of resistance to empires. In this thoughtful book, Mark Brett draws upon his experience of the colonial heritage in Australia to identify a remarkable range of areas where God needs to be decolonized—freed from the bonds of the colonial.

Writing in a context where landmark legal cases have ruled that Indigenous (Aboriginal) rights have been ‘washed away by the tide of history’, Brett re-examines land rights in the biblical traditions, Deuteronomy’s genocidal imagination, and other key topics in both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament where the effects of colonialism can be traced. Drawing out the implications for theology and ethics, this book provides a comprehensive new proposal for addressing the legacies of colonialism.

Mark Brett is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Whitley College, University of Melbourne, and Policy Officer at Native Title Services Victoria.

Bible in the Modern World, 16
ISBN 978-1-906055-37-0

Hardback List Price £30.00 • €45.00 • $60.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £15.00 • €22.50 • $30.00
EMPIRE AND APOCALPSE

Postcolonialism and the New Testament

Stephen D. Moore offers us the most complete introduction yet to the emergent field of postcolonial biblical criticism. It includes an indispensable in-depth introduction to postcolonial theory and criticism together with a detailed survey of postcolonial biblical criticism. Next come three substantial exegetical chapters on the Gospels of Mark and John and the Book of Revelation, which together demonstrate how postcolonial studies provide fresh conceptual resources and critical strategies for rethinking early Christianity’s complex relations to the Roman Empire. Each of these three texts, to different degrees, Moore argues, mimic and replicate fundamental facets of Roman imperial ideology even while resisting and eroding it.

The book concludes with an amply annotated bibliography whose main section provides a comprehensive listing of work done to date in postcolonial biblical criticism.

Stephen D. Moore is Professor of New Testament and Chair of the Graduate Division of Religion, Drew University, Madison, New Jersey.

The Bible in the Modern World, 12
ISBN hb 978.1-05048.854
ISBN pb 978.1-05048.861

Hardback £32.50 • £55.00 • $75.00
Paperback £18.50 • £22.50 • $25.00
These eleven lucid, fresh, and thought-provoking essays from a master-craftsman among New Testament scholars reflect his conviction that these three topics—hermeneutics, Christology, and discipleship—must always be considered together.

In the first set of essays, Longenecker sets out his distinctive take on the nature of an evangelical hermeneutics.

In the second set, he focuses on what he calls the 'foundational conviction of New Testament Christology', the obedience / faithfulness / sonship of Christ, and brings back into discussion often forgotten dimensions of Christology. Here he explores a range of christological materials and motifs within the early Christian communities, with special studies on the concept of the virgin birth and on the curious case of the Melchizedek Christology in Hebrews.

The third set, both practical and exegetical, are, as he says, 'where the rubber meets the road', on the implications of the 'Son of Man' imagery for discipleship and on the theme of discipleship in Luke–Acts.

Richard N. Longenecker is Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
This work of impeccable New Testament scholarship was a sensation when it was first published in 1987. Jane Schaberg argued that Matthew and Luke were aware that Jesus had been conceived illegitimately, probably as a result of a rape of Mary, and had left in their Gospels some hints of that knowledge, even though their main purpose was to explore the theological significance of Jesus' birth.

By having the Messiah born out of the exploitation of a woman of the poor, God demonstrates the vindication of the oppressed in a truly miraculous manner. Exegetical precision, theological passion, and an exquisite prose style are combined in this landmark book, whose importance is yet to be fully recognized.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the book and its author were vilified, even though scholarly reviewers found much to praise in it, and it still features on many classroom reading lists. For this Anniversary Edition, we have added Schaberg's own disturbing account of the reception of the book, and two extensive responses—one respectfully dissenting, one fully supportive—from other New Testament scholars.

Jane Schaberg is Professor of Religious Studies and Women's Studies at University of Detroit Mercy.

The Illegitimacy of Jesus is an important study, inviting us not only to read the Gospel stories from an unaccustomed perspective, but also to reexamine our own assumptions and prejudices... [In my opinion, the case has been skillfully made, through tight exegetical argument, for an alternative interpretation of the text.

Carolyn Cheek, Cross Currents

A provocative, disturbing, exciting book. Schaberg has done a marvellous, sensitive scholarly job on a most sensitive subject... This study deserves a place in every library concerned with biblical interpretations as well as a honored place in modern feminist reinterpretation. It is a book that is hard to put down.

Lamar Cope, Religious Studies Review

A painstakingly researched and very carefully argued book. Its thesis challenges those in the exegetical community who hold on to well-worn orthodoxies. More importantly, Schaberg's work provides a feminist perspective on the historical woman, Mary, who like any woman had to face sexual violence. I highly recommend the book.

Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza

November 2006. x + 318 pp.

Classic Reprints

Hardback £45.00 • €67.50 • $85.00
Paperback £18.50 • €20.00 • $25.00
Jesus

Joseph H. Hellerman

JESUS AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Reconfiguring Ethnic Identity

How did the Jesus movement—a messianic sectarian version of Palestinian Judaism—transcend its Judaean origins and ultimately establish itself in the Roman East as the multi-ethnic socio-religious experiment we know as early Christianity?

In this major work, Hellerman, drawing upon his background as a social historian, proposes that a clue to the success of the Christian movement lay in Jesus’ own conception of the people of God, and in how he reconfigured its identity from that of ethnus to that of family.

Pointing first to Jesus’ critique of sabbath-keeping, the Jerusalem temple, and Jewish dietary laws—practices central to the preservation of Judaean social identity—he argues that Jesus’ intention was to destabilize the idea of God’s people as a localized ethnus. In its place he conceived the social identity of the people of God as a surrogate family or kinship group, a social entity based not on common ancestry but on a shared commitment to his kingdom programme.

Jesus of Nazareth thus functioned as a kind of ethnic entrepreneur, breaking down the boundaries of ethnic Judaism and providing an ideological foundation and symbolic framework for the wider expansion of the Jesus movement.

Joseph H. Hellerman is Professor of New Testament Language and Literature, Biola University, La Mirada, California.

Joseph Hellerman’s Jesus and the People of God takes a whole new approach to understanding the social dynamic at work in Jesus’ public teaching and ministry. His suggestion that Jesus was attempting to redefine the people of God in terms of commitment to his understanding of God’s rule, rather than ancestry or ethnicity, represents an important breakthrough in Jesus research. This substantial work deserves a careful hearing.

Craig A. Evans

October 2007. xii + 381 pp.
New Testament Monographs, 21

Hardback List Price £55.00 • €80.00 • $100.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £27.50 • €40.00 • $50.00
Margaret Davies takes up the insights of reader-response criticism to explore how the conventions and strategies of the Gospel of Matthew draw the reader into the world that the text creates. There is a recognition also of the text’s significance as authoritative scripture for modern Christians, and the bias that this gives to any interpretative strategy.

This is a reprint of the 1993 edition.

‘The style of the book is straightforward, explanatory and highly effective; anyone reading it will profit from it ... [T]his book is a feast ... It should be used widely,’ John C. Fenton, Journal of Theological Studies

Margaret Davies was formerly Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield.

Readings: A New Biblical Commentary

Hardback £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
It is the messianic vision of Zechariah that has appealed to Matthew, with its elements of the restoration of the humble Davidic king, the smiting of the divinely appointed shepherd, the creation of a renewed remnant, and the worship of Yahweh by all nations.

Among the questions Ham undertakes to resolve in this precise and clearly presented monograph are: how much Matthew’s reading of Zechariah owes to his Jewish predecessors, how much he is in harmony with other early Christian readers of the prophet, and to what extent his image of Jesus has been shaped by Zechariah’s eschatological hopes.

Clay Alan Ham is Academic Dean and Professor of New Testament and Preaching, and Chair of the Bible Department, Dallas Christian College, Dallas, Texas.

Bradford. A. Evans, Biblical Interpretation • [Ham] has given us a more thorough study on the question on the relation of Matthew to Zechariah than has been done historically. Consequently, his gathering of data and citation notes give the reader valuable resources for developing an understanding of the influence of Zechariah 9–14 in Matthew and make a worthy contribution to this study.

Clay Alan Ham is Academic Dean and Professor of New Testament and Preaching, and Chair of the Bible Department, Dallas Christian College, Dallas, Texas.

New Testament Monographs, 4
ISBN bb 978-1-905048-01-4
ISBN pb 978-1-905048-70-0

Hardback £60.00 • €90.00 • $95.00
Paperback £35.95 • €52.00 • $22.50
In this commentary, Broadhead explores the Gospel of Mark for literary designs which might guide modern readers. He gives special attention to structure, strategy, significance and the appropriation of meaning, and his analysis shows the Gospel as a sequential account which employs a strategy of reciprocity among its episodes. Clear signs are created within this Gospel, the meaning of which is negotiated by the first readers in the aftermath of the Temple's fall. Modern readers are encouraged to connect these signs to their own world and to initiate a new performance of this Gospel.

Edwin K. Broadhead is Assistant Professor of General Studies, Director of the Campus Christian Center and Campus Minister at Berea College, Berea, Kentucky.

Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
ISBN hb 978-1-905048-94-6
ISBN pb 978-1-905048-95-3

Hardback £35.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Paperback £15.00 • €22.50 • $25.00
Luke

Peter J. Scaer

THE LUKAN PASSION AND THE PRAISEWORTHY DEATH

In the ancient world, crucifixion epitomized all that was shameful, servile and lowly. Jesus’ death on a cross would have been a stumbling block for many. Luke recognized this prevailing attitude toward crucifixion, and sought to show that Jesus’ death was noble and praiseworthy, even according to the Roman world’s own standards.

Scaer argues that Luke drew upon the Noble Death tradition, especially as found in Graeco-Roman rhetoric, in depicting Jesus as a man of courage and virtue. Luke also made use of Jewish-Hellenistic martyrological traditions to present Jesus’ death as worthy not only of honour, but even of emulation. Most provocatively, Scaer contends that the third evangelist drew specific motifs from the Socrates story in order to show that the founder of the new Christian movement was a noble and just man, deserving of the utmost respect.

In using these Graeco-Roman sources as he fashioned his narrative of Jesus’ death, Luke reveals himself as a masterful author in the classical tradition, intent on portraying Christianity as a world class religion.

Peter Scaer is Assistant Professor of Exegetical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The book is thoroughly clear in structure, and the argument is easy to follow. Beyond any doubt, the book is extremely informative on literary views in antiquity of what is praiseworthy. Robert L. Brawley, Review of Biblical Literature

November 2005. x * 166 pp.
New Testament Monographs, 10
ISBN 978-1-905048-24-3

Hardback £40.00 • €50.00 • $60.00
Individual scholar’s price £20.00 • €25.00 • $30.00
John

Ela Nutu

INCARNATE WORD, INSCRIBED FLESH
John’s Prologue and the Postmodern

The pre-existent, transcendent Logos, the principal character in the prologue of John’s Gospel, is a prime example of a unified and centred concept, such as denounced as illusory by deconstruction. In this groundbreaking study, Nutu offers an unremittingly postmodern scrutiny of the Logos as the incarnate word that becomes visible as it is inscribed in human flesh.

A second strand of this book is Nutu’s tracing the fragmented afterlives of John’s Prologue and their different effects on the formation of subjects (with a particular focus on homo religiosus and feminine I’s) through postmodern film. At the dawn of a new millennium, films continue to play an important role in the cultural development of society; even moving away from the self-confessed biblical films, new productions like The Pillow Book, The Fifth Element and The Matrix (all engaged here) mediate elements of biblical narrative, theology, allegory, ethics and identity.

This is a study that skillfully interweaves a number of contemporary theoretical currents such as deconstruction, psychoanalytical criticism, gender and cultural studies and initiates a new approach to interpretation, namely postcommunist, influenced by the writer’s own experience of growing up in Romania.

Ela Nutu is Research Associate, Department of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield.

August 2007. xii + 199 pp.
The Bible in the Modern World, 6
ISBN 978-1-905048-25-0

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
All the Gospels recognize Jesus as a prophet, but it is above all in the Gospel of John that this dimension of his work is stressed. Cho explores the many elements in the Gospel that add up to what can rightly be called a prophetic christology. He shows that many of Jesus’ words and some of his deeds are prophetic in character, and that Jesus is not just a prophet like the Old Testament prophets before him but the prophet like Moses expected for the times of the End.

Identifying Jesus as a prophet, Cho goes on to argue, is important within the narrative of the Gospel of John: it is a way-station on a journey of discovery towards a more profound appreciation of Jesus’ identity. Recognizing Jesus as prophet is for John an initial step in coming to faith, and, in the overall christology of the Gospel of John a significant element in attaining a balance between high and low christology.

The construction of Jesus as prophet, though well evidenced in the Gospel, has received remarkably little attention in recent scholarly study, and Cho’s work is a much-needed full-scale study of the theme.

Sukmin Cho is Assistant Professor in New Testament Studies, Ezra Bible Institute for Graduate Studies, Seoul, Korea.

New Testament Monographs, 15
ISBN 978-1-85504-842-7

Hardback List Price £60.00 • €85.00 • $95.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £30.00 • €42.50 • $47.50
This volume, the fruit of the sessions on the Book of Acts at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, in San Antonio, Texas, in November 2004, contains these papers:

Stanley E. Porter, "The Genre of Acts and the Ethics of Discourse"
Robert L. Brasley, "Social Identity and the Aim of Accomplished Life in Acts 2"
F. Scott Spencer, "Wise Up, Young Man: The Moral Vision of Saul and Other "Nenniskoi" in Acts"
Thomas E. Phillips, "Paul as a Role Model in Acts: The "We"-Passages in Acts 16 and Beyond"
Richard P. Thompson, "What Do You Think You Are Doing, Paul?: Synagogues, Accusations, and Ethics in Paul’s Ministry in Acts 16-21"
C. Kavin Rowe, "Authority and Community: Lukan Dominium in Acts"
Robert C. Tannehill, "Do the Ethics of Acts Include the Ethical Teaching in Luke?"
Pamela Hedrick, "The Good Samaritan, Cornelius, and the Just Use of Force"

Thomas E. Phillips is Professor of New Testament and Early Christian Studies at Point Loma Nazarene University, California.

The collection is highly recommended to scholars in the fields of Acts and ethics. Gert J. Steyn, Review of Biblical Literature

The collection can be recommended as stimulating reading for those interested in current reflections on Acts and ethics in a wider sense. Helke Omerzu, Catholic Biblical Quarterly

New Testament Monographs, 9

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £25.00 • €37.50 • $42.50
Richard N. Longenecker

STUDIES IN PAUL, EXEGETICAL AND THEOLOGICAL

Masterly, balanced, concise, jargon-free essays on topics central to the theology of Paul, remaining closely in touch with the biblical text itself while always alert to the range of scholarly opinion and debate. These eleven articles from a recognized leader among New Testament scholars are an attractive entry-point for students into key aspects of Paul’s thought, and are, equally, well worth revisiting by experienced scholars. Two essays concern Paul’s personal life, one on the impact of his conversion on his understanding of Jesus and one on his experience of prayer. On Galatians, Longenecker explores the idea of the ‘pedagogue’, and on Romans the questions of its addressees and its purpose. Other themes are Paul’s vision of community formation, his concept of mutuality, and the variability of his responses to opponents. In the last three essays, the focus is on Paul’s theology of the resurrection—its basis, its background in Jewish thinking, and whether his thought on the subject underwent development.

Richard N. Longenecker is Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Wycliffe College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

[The papers in this volume reveal Longenecker to be a meticulous scholar, fully conversant with text-critical and historical-critical methods, yet keenly interested in how Paul’s life and letters can guide Christian readers. Tony Chartrand-Burke, Studies in Religion / Sciences religieuses]

New Testament Monographs, 2
ISBN hb 978-1-85048-04-5
ISBN pb 978-1-85048-06-7-0

Hardback £65.00 • €120.00 • $135.00
Paperback £15.95 • €20.00 • $22.50
The phrase ‘works of the law’ occurs only at Qumran and in Paul, but it has a different connotation in each corpus.

At Qumran, the ‘works of the law’ are deeds of obedience to God’s law, and are ultimately inspired by God. They function as a means of atonement, whether for the individual who performs them or for the sins of others.

For Paul, on the other hand, the ‘works of the law’ are quintessentially the works of Abraham. Though they are indeed good deeds, Abraham himself was a sinful man, and so his deeds could not make atonement for himself or for others.

The phrase ‘works of the law’ thus takes on a negative coloration in Paul, as a deceptively false means of salvation. Against Qumran, Paul's position is that justification must be effected ‘apart from works of the law’, and thus by Jesus Christ. Abraham is no ‘second Adam’, as some were thinking, and his good deeds, epitomized in his sacrifice of Isaac, had no atoning value.

This closely reasoned study makes an important contribution to the study of New Testament theology; it undertakes to settle some long-standing debates about Paul’s soteriology by proposing an alternative both to traditional interpretation of Paul and to the ‘New Perspective on Paul’.
How can one escape God's wrath and gain eternal life? On this crucial theological question, Paul differs from other members of the second-Temple Jewish community. Their soteriology is synergistic: for them, though eschatological salvation is due to God's merciful removal of human guilt, obedience to the Law is also indispensable. The divine and the human cooperate.

Paul however believes that under such a scheme anything less than perfect obedience to the Law is futile. In consequence, if there is to be salvation for sinful humans, it must be a salvation independent of all human effort and achievement, and thus solely through faith. Contrary to the recent consensus, Paul's concern was not primarily the inclusion of gentiles into the church.

This non-synergistic soteriology of Paul's may seem undermined by some of his own statements, that believers must submit to eschatological judgment and that the person without good works will be disqualified from eschatological salvation. But this conclusion is incorrect. For what he holds is that the good works indispensable for salvation are necessarily performed by the believer as manifestations of the indwelling Spirit present in those who have faith in Christ.

Barry D. Smith is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at Atlantic Baptist University, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada.
THE INTERTEXTUALITY OF THE EPISTLES
Explorations of Theory and Practice

The international conference held in Limerick, Ireland, in May 2005 produced far more than the usual collection of loosely related papers. Rather, this volume from the 17 contributors demarcates and organizes a whole field, serving as an indispensable introduction to intertextuality in general, and as an original examination of the topic in relation to the New Testament epistles.

Part I. Aspects of Theory, Practice and Related Research
Gillmayr-Bucher, Moyise, Phillips, Koskenniemi, Paulien.

Part II. From the OT to the Epistles
Brodie, Kormann, Porter.

Part III. From Epistle to Epistle
Mertz, Rees, Gilchrist, Outi Leppä, Clark.

Part IV. From Epistle to Narrative (Gospel/Acts)
MacDonald, Elbert, Heikki Leppä, Sommer, Brodie, MacDonald, Porter

An idea clearly emerging after reading this valuable volume is the importance of the intertextual perspective. Intertextuality reveals to what deep degree our understanding of texts is determined by later texts, precisely through the device of intertextual links . . . [T]he intertextual perspective invites scholars to reflect upon the incalculable amount of eisegesis involved in any examination of literary products, which creates a network of foreknowledge and preconceptions marking our exegesis. Korinna Zamfir, Review of Biblical Literature

New Testament Monographs, 16

Hardback List Price £55.00 • €82.50 • $95.00
Individual Scholar's Price £27.50 • €41.25 • $47.50
This new addition to the Readings series of commentaries, expounding the letter paragraph by paragraph, is distinctive among commentaries on Romans in foregrounding a literary approach. To comprehend the letter, Porter shows, we must always be aware of the letter-writing and rhetorical conventions its author was deploying.

The commentary is organized around the five-part epistolary structure that Paul developed for this fundamental letter, a structure that gives shape to its logically unfolding theological argument. Recognizing this structure is vital for interpreting the traditional sections of the body of the letter, as well as for understanding the placement of the problematic chapters 9–11 within Paul’s thought.

One of the primary means of development Paul uses within the letter is the diatribe style as a rhetorical device for shaping and presenting his argument. Through the insistent questions and responses of the diatribe, Paul opens up the major theological issues of the letter—human depravity, sin and works, justification and righteousness, reconciliation, life in the Spirit, and the role of Israel.

Stanley E. Porter is President and Dean at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario.
Pastorals

LEADERSHIP SUCCESSION IN THE WORLD OF THE PAULINE CIRCLE

Since New Testament times, the discussion of leadership succession in the church has always been polemical. But what the New Testament, especially in the Pastoral Epistles, means in speaking of succession deserves a more sober investigation in the light of the literary tradition about succession in the ancient Mediterranean world. How is succession actually depicted in Graeco-Roman texts and in Jewish and early Christian texts of that world?

This book undertakes, for the first time, a thoroughgoing analysis of the evidence, deftly laying out the data from a wide range of Greek and Roman writers. The question then becomes how the early readers of the New Testament, conditioned by prior knowledge of such epistolary and other literary conventions, would have interpreted Paul’s relationship with his delegates like Timothy and Titus, and how they would have conceived the ministry portrayed in the Pastorals as passing from a leader to a successor.

Stepp’s study has important implications both for our understanding of the ancient Mediterranean world and for our conceptions of ordination and ministry in the New Testament.

Perry L. Stepp

Pastorals

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Perry L. Stepp is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies, Kentucky Christian University, Grayson, Kentucky.

I recommend this book for those doing research in the Pastoral Epistles as well as those teaching courses in ministry, leadership development, and spiritual development. This book could easily be adapted for classroom use in graduate schools and seminaries. Ron Clark, Review of Biblical Literature

New Testament Monographs, 5
ISBN hb 978-1-905048-10-6
ISBN pb 978-1-905048-73-1

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $85.00
Paperback List Price £15.95 • €20.00 • $22.50
In this challenging book, Craig Smith propounds the novel thesis that the famous lines in 2 Timothy 4 where ‘Paul’ announces that the time of his departure has come have been misunderstood. This is no farewell speech, Smith avers, and Paul is not intending to pass on the baton to his younger colleague, Timothy.

Deploying epistolary analysis and rhetorical criticism, Smith shows that these verses (4.1-8) do not have the literary structure or the vocabulary of a testament or a farewell; rather, they are a ‘charge’, an authoritative command, comprised of five specific formal elements. This charge form is found also in the exorcism command and in some magical texts, Christian and non-Christian.

From this perspective, Paul’s being poured out as a libation is his experience of preaching to the Gentiles at his first trial, his ‘departure’ is the imminent release from prison that he is expecting, the fight he has fought and the race he has finished are his trial that he has withstood. Far from appointing Timothy as his successor, he is contemplating a continued companionship and collegiality as they continue their ministry together.

Craig Smith is Professor of Biblical Studies and Chair of the Department of Religion and Philosophy, Sterling College, Sterling, Kansas.
This latest volume in the Readings series offers a helpful guide to the shortest, and arguably the most personal, as well as enigmatic, of Paul’s letters. It surveys the range of interpretations put forward over the years, and identifies the strengths and weaknesses in the traditional reading of Philemon as addressing the estrangement that has arisen between Paul’s friend Philemon and his runaway slave Onesimus.

Recent alternatives to this reading are assessed, with particular attention to the light they shed on Paul’s own attitude to slavery and his understanding of reconciliation. Historically, the Letter to Philemon has been the focus of much debate between abolitionists and pro-slavery advocates, and the use made of the Letter in the 18th and 19th centuries is here uniquely chronicled. In addition, the story of Onesimus and Philemon, as traditionally conceived, had a great appeal to writers of historical fiction, and a number of examples of that genre are summarized. The book also highlights the way in which Philemon has featured in filmic treatments of Paul’s life, including a new and fascinating film in Arabic entitled The Runaway (2006).

The volume offers an excellent introduction, not only to the main historical and critical issues raised by Philemon, but also to the rich legacy that the Letter has created for subsequent generations of readers who remain fascinated by the subtlety of its depiction of human relationships.

Larry J. Kreitzer is Tutor of New Testament and Tutor for Graduates, Regent’s Park College, Oxford.
This commentary on the Letter to the Hebrews envisages the recipients of the letter as a community that has embraced the Christian message but is beginning to question its adequacy to meet their spiritual needs. They have given up the richness of Jewish ritual and cultic tradition for a way of life that lacks the venerable symbols and institutions they had previously valued.

Gordon highlights the arguments and rhetorical strategies the author uses to counter this feeling of 'cultic deficit' as he draws attention to what they actually possess in consequence of their Christian commitment.

*Hebrews* has particular contemporary relevance because, in warning the community against 'going back', the author implies that Christianity has superseded their ancestral Jewish faith. That may seem a slight on the religion 'superseded', but Gordon points out that Judaism itself, as well as Christianity, represents a significant break with the religion of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. Jewish-Christian dialogue would profit from being conducted in that light.

This is a reprint of the 2000 edition.

Robert P. Gordon is Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge.
This reading of Revelation explains the text as John’s response to the problem of social accommodation in the churches of Asia Minor. Knight works from the hypothesis, now increasingly argued in scholarly circles, that there was no persecution of the Christians by Domitian at the end of the first century CE, and explains the references to martyrdom in the Apocalypse as mainly symbolic.

Knight argues that John is creating awareness of a crisis in the text in order to call his readers to a stricter pattern of behaviour than Paul had allowed when writing to the Corinthians. Knight proceeds through the Apocalypse chapter by chapter and concludes with a section on the main theological ideas of Revelation.

This is a reprint of the 1999 edition.


Readings: A New Biblical Commentary
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ISBN pb 978-1-906055-07-3

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Revelation

William John Lyons and Jorunn Økland (eds.)

THE WAY THE WORLD ENDS!
The Apocalypse of John in Culture and Ideology

The richly varied collection of 13 essays in this volume showcase the afterlife of the Book of Revelation. It is a biblical book that has left its mark in many fields of intellectual endeavour: literature, film, music, philosophy, political theology, and religious ideology. It is perhaps paradoxical that this book, which promises God’s punishment upon anyone expanding on its contents, has nevertheless accumulated to itself over two millennia vast amounts of commentary, exposition, and appropriation.

Offered at the close of the ‘Blair/Bush years’, this volume also exposes and highlights the often deeply ironic resonances generated while studying the reception history of Revelation during a period when the book has both significant public currency and a potentially terrifying global impact.

Contents. Decoding, Reception History, Poetry: Three Hermeneutical Approaches to the Apocalypse (Jonathan Roberts); Self-Authorization in Christina Rossetti’s The Face of the Deep (Jo Carruthers); Revelation, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (Alison Jack); Revelation and Film (Melanie J. Wright); The Apocalypse according to Johnny Cash (William John Lyons); The Johannine Apocalypse and the Risk of Knowledge (James E. Harding); Revelation, Violence, and War (Heikki Räisänen); The Reception of Revelation, c. 1250-1700 (nike Holdenried); A Seventeenth-Century Particular Baptist on Revelation 20:1-7 (Simon Woodman); The Book of Revelation, the Branch Davidians and Apocalyptic Self-Destruction? (Kenneth Newport); Ecological Readings of the Apocalypse of John in Contemporary America (Michael S. Northcott); Feminist Reception of the Book of Revelation (Hanna Stenström); Revelation as Form and Content in the Works of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels (Jorunn Økland).

William John Lyons is Senior Lecturer in Biblical Interpretation, Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of Bristol.

Jorunn Økland is Professor of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies, Centre for Gender Studies, University of Oslo, and Senior Lecturer in Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield.


Bible in the Modern World, 18

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Hospitality in the ancient Mediterranean world was not a matter of entertaining one's neighbours to dinner. And among the early Christians it was not the same as table-fellowship either, though most modern works confuse that with hospitality. Hospitality was essentially the provision of food and protection for travellers; it could include also a bath, supplies for the traveller's onward journey, and an escort along the road toward to the traveller's next destination.

Unlike other writers, Arterbury combs through a broad spectrum of Greek, Roman and Jewish texts as well as early Christian texts outside the New Testament for literary depictions of the custom of hospitality. As well, he brings into the picture the Greek novels, which provide us with vivid insights into ancient Mediterranean life. His book presents the most complete analysis of the terms used for hospitality. And he shows how important the practice of hospitality is in understanding the narrative of the conversion of the Gentile Cornelius in Acts 10–11: Luke is suggesting that the traditional custom of hospitality be used as a means of bridging the cultural divide between Jews and Gentiles.

This revealing and engaging example of what Arterbury describes as ‘historical audience-oriented criticism’ will be appreciated by scholars and students interested in the reality of life in New Testament times.

Andrew Arterbury is Assistant Professor of Christian Scriptures, Truett Seminary, Baylor University, Waco, Texas.


Given the travelling that features in so many New Testament narratives, an awareness of hospitality behavior is quite necessary for a modern reader's understanding of these high-impact stories. Bruce J. Malina, Biblical Theology Bulletin.

New Testament Monographs, 8

Hardback List Price £55.00 • €80.00 • $90.00
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New Testament scholarship and Paul have had a complicated relationship over the question of slavery. For many decades there has been a struggle to reconcile the abolitionist cause with a biblical text that seemingly supports the institution of slavery. Then the more recent discovery of inscriptions and documents referring to slaves in antiquity has added new dimensions to the debate. Furthermore, new interpretative approaches to the New Testament, including social-scientific criticism, rhetorical criticism and postcolonial criticism, have challenged earlier interpretations of Paul’s statements about slavery. The issue has even more recently taken on a new shape as descendants of former North American slaves have engaged with the way Paul has been interpreted and used to justify the enslavement of their ancestors.

In this volume, John Byron provides a survey of 200 years of scholarly interpretation of Paul and slavery with a focus on the last 35 years. After a general overview of the history of research, Byron focuses in turn on four specific areas: African-American responses to Paul, Paul’s slavery metaphors, the elliptical phrase in 1 Corinthians 7:21, and the letter to Philemon. An epilogue highlights four areas in which scholarship is continuing to change its understanding of ancient slavery and, in consequence, its interpretation of Paul. New Testament students and scholars will find the volume an valuable specialist resource that collects and analyses the most important developments on Paul and slavery.

John Byron is Associate Professor of New Testament, Ashland Theological Seminary, Ashland, Ohio. His previous book was Slavery Metaphors in Early Judaism and Pauline Christianity (2003).

Recent Research in Biblical Studies, 3
ISBN 978-1-906055-44-8

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IDENTITY AND INTERACTION IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN
Jews, Christians and Others. Essays in Honour of Stephen G. Wilson

Stephen G. Wilson was Professor of Religion at Carleton University, Ottawa, and Director of the College of Humanities until his retirement in 2007. His contributions to the study of the religious identities of Jews, Christians and Gentiles in the first three centuries of the Common Era are widely acknowledged; his interests have been no less in the contrasting and sometimes conflicting religious identities within each of these three groups.


The sixteen contributors to this Festschrift include Kim Stratton on curse rhetoric, Adele Reinhartz on Caiaphas, Willi Braun on meals and social formation, Philip Harland on meals and social labelling, Richard Ascough on missionizing associations, John Barclay on Judaean identity in Josephus, John Kloppenborg on the recipients of the Letter of James, Laurence Broadhurst on ancient music, Larry Hurtado on manuscripts and identity, Edith Humphrey on naming in the Apocalypse, Michele Murray on the Apostolic Constitutions, Roger Beck on the Late Antique ‘Horoscope of Islam’, Graydon Snyder on the Ethiopian Jews, Alan Segal on Daniel Boyarin, Robert Morgan on theology vs religious studies, and William Arnal on scholarly identities in the study of Christian Origins.

Zeba A. Crook is Assistant Professor of Religion in the Department of Religion and Classics at Carleton University, Ottawa. Philip A. Harland is Assistant Professor, Division of Humanities and Graduate Ancient History at York University, Toronto.

New Testament Monographs, 18

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THE EXPOSURE OF INFANTS AMONG JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN ANTiquity

Erkki Koskenniemi

This practice, so distasteful to the modern conscience, and shocking when we encounter it in reading about the ancient world, was nevertheless a normal feature of life in classical antiquity. There can be little doubt that both Jews and Christians, like their neighbours, practiced the exposure of infants, whether for economic reasons, or because the child was of the wrong gender, or because of its illegitimacy. Otherwise, one can hardly explain the rich variety of arguments against the custom in rabbinic and patristic literature.

In this novel and penetrating study, Koskenniemi reviews the evidence for the practice from Graeco-Roman, Jewish and Christian sources, and then, in the major part of the book, examines the rejection of the custom by Jewish authors like Philo and Josephus and by Christian writers such as Clement, Justin, Tertullian, Origen, Chrysostom and Augustine, many of whom adopted the arguments of their Jewish counterparts.

Erkki Koskenniemi is Adjunct Professor at the Universities of Helsinki, Joensuu and Åbo Akademi in Finland.

Social Word of Biblical Antiquity, Second Series, 1

Hardback List Price £45.00 • €67.50 • $90.00
Individual Scholar’s Price £22.50 • €33.75 • $45.00
In the Graeco-Roman world, as in our own, people spoke of the divine, of 'religion', 'cult', 'piety' and 'superstition'. But they did not share our sense of a disjunction between 'the religious' and 'the secular', or between theology and other fields of discourse.

In these fascinating excursions through the world of early Christian and contemporary non-Christian authors, Downing shows how reflective talk about the divine could readily flow into talk about any and every area of current human concern. This was so in an eclectic Stoic such as Dio Chrysostom, but also in a Platonist such as Plutarch. It was true too of the Jewish-Christian Paul, most richly in Romans. And it characterizes Christian theological reflection in the early Fathers.

Such philosophical theological reflections were expected to have 'cash value' and be enacted in real life. So, for example, Downing compares the lifestyles set forward by Jesus and Paul and other early Christians with those urged by other writers in their world. He shows how Paul’s discussions of divine Torah echo critical Graeco-Roman debates over law and tradition and how early Christian talk about exorcism resonates with suggestions from Dio. Among the other themes treated here are the 'nature' of women and their part in public discourse; the logic of ancient and modern historiography; aesthetics in the biblical tradition; and the quest for the historical Galilee of Jesus’ day.

Five of the thirteen chapters in this volume are published here for the first time.

F. Gerald Downing is Honorary Research Fellow, Centre for Biblical Studies, University of Manchester.

Social World of Biblical Antiquity, 2
ISBN 978-1-84606-055-7

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $95.00
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The burgeoning field of corpus linguistics studies aspects of a language that are susceptible to computer processing. In this groundbreaking work, O’Donnell takes the unusual step of applying the techniques of corpus linguistics to Hellenistic Greek and especially the Greek of the NT, and in three areas shows, with a multitude of worked examples, how it could sharpen our appreciation of the language.

First, in New Testament textual criticism decisions for a preferred reading would be better founded if all analogous data in all the manuscript traditions were available. And in source criticism, where statistical methods have already been applied, more advanced statistical and graphical techniques, including dotplot, can now be exploited.

The second application of corpus linguistics is to lexicography, where, for example, collocational analysis of a corpus of texts leads to sharper definition of synonyms; the case of the pair αὔγτειν and αναστείλειν (‘raise’), considered in detail, proves the point.

Thirdly, corpus-based techniques can be applied to discourse analysis. Here O’Donnell finetunes—by means of a subtle discourse annotation model—answers that may be given to questions about the situation and purpose of the letters of Jude and of Paul to Philemon.

Matthew Brook O’Donnell is Adjunct Professor at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario.

What O’Donnell is describing is able to effectively serve New Testament scholarship with an exciting and practical method that complements traditional exegesis and hermeneutics of unannotated New Testament texts.

Paul Elbert, Review of Biblical Literature

New Testament Monographs, 6

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The Linguist as Pedagogue

This volume of important essays from recent SBL meetings covers two related and vital topics—linguistic pedagogy and linguistic analysis. The essays on pedagogy discuss current trends and perspectives on how to approach the teaching of a dead language in the vibrancy of the electronic age. Experienced teacher-scholars give insights into how they draw upon linguistic theory and marshal technology to help reinforce pedagogical technique.

A second set of essays is concerned with the linguistic issue of ‘prominence’, asking, How are texts able to show that certain portions are more important than others? The essays, both theoretical and practical, grapple with the linguistic equivalent of underlining, to show how prominence helps authors make their point. The book of Hebrews, where identifying major themes and ideas have proved problematic, is offered as an extended example.

The volume is rounded off with a collection of papers applying the insights of modern linguistics, and particularly sociolinguistics and discourse analysis, to reading the NT in new and provocative ways that transcend traditional exegesis.

Stanley E. Porter is President and Dean at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario. Matthew Brook O’Donnell is Adjunct Professor at McMaster Divinity College, Hamilton, Ontario.

New Testament Monographs, 11
ISBN 978-1-905048-28-1

Hardback List Price £50.00 • €75.00 • $95.00
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On the Exegetical Benefit of Grammatical Precision

Many New Testament scholars still operate under the mistaken notion that all of the problems of New Testament Greek grammar were worked out in the nineteenth century. This false assumption arises from an ignorance of developments in the field of modern linguistics.

In focusing on one significant aspect of grammar, the semantic and/or syntactic value of the articular infinitive, Burk undertakes to move beyond the standard New Testament grammar books. His question is: What does the article contribute to the total linguistic meaning of the infinitive in the Greek of the New Testament?

Burk argues that the article with the infinitive is different from the article with other kinds of words. With other kinds of words the article encodes ideas such as definiteness, substantivization, and anaphora. The article with the infinitive, however, does not denote ideas such as these. With the infinitive the article is a function marker that signifies a grammatical-structural relation that may not otherwise be apparent. Discussing many examples from the New Testament, Burk shows his thesis has benefits not only for our understanding of Hellenistic Greek grammar, but also for our exegesis of the New Testament.

Denny Burk is Assistant Professor of New Testament, Criswell College, Dallas, Texas.

Greek grammar is still a discipline in need of advancement, and Burk has illustrated an important area where Greek grammarians have not been in agreement. This lack of agreement is apparent when one peruses the standard grammars as well as many technical New Testament commentaries. [Burk’s work] is a viable and defensible articulation of the syntactical significance of the article when it accompanies the infinitive in the New Testament. Barry C. Joslin, The Southern Baptist Journal of Theology

New Testament Monographs, 14
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Biblical Languages: Hebrew

David J.A. Clines (ed.)

THE DICTIONARY OF CLASSICAL HEBREW

Scholars are gradually realizing that they cannot now do without this innovative dictionary, a benchmark for the study of Hebrew in the twenty-first century.

It is the first dictionary of the classical Hebrew language to cover not only the biblical texts but also Ben Sira, the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Hebrew inscriptions. It is the first dictionary to analyse the exact sense of every occurrence of every word, to follow every Hebrew word or phrase with an English equivalent, to print a frequency table of occurrences of each word, and to provide an English–Hebrew index.

Not least among its features is an extraordinarily rich bibliography surveying special lexicographical studies over the last century, and adding more than 50% attested and proposed words to the stock of the Hebrew lexicon.

Volume 6 has now appeared (November 2007). Volumes 7 and 8 are already in draft, and are awaiting only the preparation of the bibliographies.

David J.A. Clines is Emeritus Professor, Department of Biblical Studies, University of Sheffield.

The praise of BDB in 1892 may be repeated for this new dictionary. It is indeed ‘a landmark and a glory for the generation which produced [it]’. C.S. Rodd, Editor, Expository Times • Sheffield is to be congratulated on a remarkable achievement. Volume 1 proves beyond doubt that The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew is going to combine the strengths of the Gesenius–BDB tradition—thoroughness, comprehensiveness, meticulous ‘old-fashioned’ textual scholarship—with impeccable 20th-century linguistic theory. J.F.A. Sawyer, Society for Old Testament Study Booklist • A basic tool for all students and teachers in the biblical field. C. Minette de Tillecourt, Editor, Rivista Bíblica Brasileira • [T]his innovating dictionary raises some stimulating questions. Its main new features are the inclusiveness of its source material and its ordering of the data inspired by the new linguistic methods. The work that has been done is secure and systematic. J. Lust, Ephemerides Tholosiae Lovanienses • If there is anything sensational about the contemporary study of ancient Hebrew, then one must say: It is in book form, and the book is called the Sheffield Dictionary of Classical Hebrew ... Absolutely indispensable! Bernhard Lang, Editor, Zeitschrift für die Bibelwissenschaft und Grenzgebiete
... Since we are surprised at how often we are still being asked how our Dictionary differs from all other dictionaries, it may be a good idea to review here the main points of distinctiveness as they appear to us.

1. The scope of DCH, including as it does all texts in Classical Hebrew, is broader than that of any other dictionary. This is the first dictionary of Classical Hebrew as a language, and it may be that its existence will bring to an end the era of dictionaries devoted solely to Biblical Hebrew.

2. This dictionary is the first fresh attempt to analyse the senses of Hebrew words since the lexicon of Ludwig Koehler in 1953. Most Hebrew dictionaries for centuries have been essentially revisions of earlier dictionaries. We have tried, while not ignoring the analyses of our predecessors, to take an independent view of the evidence of usage. One notable difference of our dictionary from others is its avoidance of positing a basic or core meaning of words, from which other senses are supposed to have developed; rather, we generally arrange the senses of a word in order of their frequency of attestation.

3. The exhaustive treatment of the evidence is unique to DCH. Every occurrence of every word (with the exception of fewer than 20 of the very most common words) is registered in the Dictionary, each occurrence being assigned to a particular sense (or to more than one sense, if the meaning is uncertain). Users can then be sure that they will find our view, at least, of the best meaning for a given word in a given context in the sources.

4. The syntagmatic analysis of every word, showing all the contexts in which it is used, is another unique feature of DCH. Some other dictionaries have offered selective lists of nouns that form the objects of particular verbs for example, but no other dictionary has systematically presented the user with complete lists of all the subjects and objects of each verb, all the verbs used with every noun, and all the nouns linked with other nouns in a "construct" relation. This full presentation of the evidence is an essential ingredient in forming a balanced and comprehensive view of the range of meanings of any given word.

5. Other features of this Dictionary have been anticipated by some previous dictionaries, but no former dictionary contains such a range of ancillary material, principally (a) a word frequency index, letter by letter, with occurrence statistics for every word in each of the four main corpora of Hebrew texts; (b) a list of non-biblical sources (for the Qumran literature and the Inscriptions), updated from Volume to Volume; (c) the most extensive Bibliography of scholarly studies on Hebrew words yet compiled; (d) a Hebrew–English index to each volume. It is our impression that most users of dictionaries, whether of Hebrew or of other languages, turn to a dictionary only in case of need—to find the meaning of a word they do not already know, for example. That is certainly an appropriate use of a dictionary, but this Dictionary does not exist primarily to answer questions about the meanings of rare words. Rather, it invites readers to expand their knowledge of the language by reading, browsing, skimming it, savouring the ranges and complexities of even the most familiar words. Excellent exegesis and close reading, it may be suggested, look up the dictionary for every word they encounter in their texts, not just the difficult ones, but also, and even especially, the easy and common ones. For each user, DCH has been created.

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Hardback £150.00 • €225.00 • $320.00
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The Lexicographical Writings of D. Winton Thomas

David Winton Thomas (1901–1970) was Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge (1938–1968) and one of the most distinguished British lexicographers of the Hebrew language. His special contribution was the identification of words in Biblical Hebrew that had lain undetected since ancient times, sometimes because they were homonyms of other, better-known words. He called his project 'The Recovery of the Ancient Hebrew Language', the title of his inaugural lecture at Cambridge in 1939, as well as of the present book.

In this volume John Day has gathered together all Winton Thomas’s lexicographical articles (nearly 400 pages altogether) in a convenient format; hitherto these have been scattered around many different journals and books. In addition, he has prefaced them with a very substantial introduction, in which he offers the first thorough and systematic evaluation of Winton Thomas’s work.

Day concludes that there are definitely occasions where Thomas has made a positive and enduring contribution to Hebrew lexicography, and it is important that modern scholars do not overlook these conclusions. On the other hand, it becomes clear that Thomas was sometimes too prone to appeal to cognate Semitic languages (especially Arabic) in the search for new meanings of Hebrew words when this was unnecessary. In seeking to make a thorough appraisal of Thomas’s proposals this volume offers a valuable contribution to the study of Biblical Hebrew lexicography.

John Day is Professor of Old Testament Studies in the University of Oxford, and Fellow and Tutor of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

ISBN 978-1-906055-31-8

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