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Leviticus is often seen as one of the most uninviting books of the Old Testament. Who wants to read about blood sacrifice, infectious diseases, or ancient dietary restrictions? Yet like visiting any foreign country, to truly appreciate its culture one must become familiar with the language, customs, and ways of the people. This book guides the perplexed reader through the foreign signs, symbols, and beliefs of the ancient Israelites. From blood and atonement to the loveable rock badger, we begin to discover the sacred world of Leviticus and its relationship to a holy God who dwells with his people. The rituals and commands God gave to Israel form the deep roots of the biblical tradition that were not meant to be left in the past. Tapping into these roots helps us understand the life and ministry of Christ and how we might pursue holiness today. Each chapter surveys key aspects of Leviticus and then explores how these relate to the New Testament and the life of faith in the twenty-first century. In this accessible and engaging travel log, Scarlata introduces the depth and beauty of Israelite practices prescribed by God that were further revealed in Christ and continue to speak to the life and faith of Christians today.

“Scarlata proves himself a gifted and insightful guide as he carefully unpacks the meaning and significance of Leviticus in its ancient context, in light of the New Testament and Christian faith, and for contemporary realities. . . . In the end, Scarlata’s book achieves what the book of Leviticus itself wants to achieve: a re-sacralization of our world, which is indeed ‘crammed with heaven.’ Take and read!”
—Brent A. Strawn, Duke University

“In this unlikely yet thoroughly engaging book, Scarlata refocuses us on holiness as the heartbeat of community life, in contemporary society no less than in the world of the Bible. Scarlata sees the crucial point that most Christian biblical scholars and readers of the Bible have missed: that the embodied theology of Leviticus is indispensable for making a living connection between the reality of God and our concrete human lives.”
—Ellen F. Davis, Duke Divinity School

“God in everything!’ Mark Scarlata calls for a re-sacralization of the world in this Christian reading of Leviticus. He shows how features of the book that have led it to be neglected by Christians—purity, food laws, sacrifice, and holiness—are central to the religion of ancient Israel. They can also inform a modern Christian attitude to the created world.”
—John Barton, University of Oxford, emeritus

“Leviticus attests to an alternative world that has God’s holiness at its center. Scarlata . . . shows us why attentiveness to an alternative world of holiness is urgent among us. . . . It is clear enough now that our present path of technological exploitation, predatory debt, and individualistic consumerism is not sustainable. If you may be wondering about a very different way to live well, free, and responsibly in the world, you may indeed find Scarlata’s wise discussion particularly helpful and illuminating.”
—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

There are many books about theological exegesis; there are far fewer books of theological exegesis. This volume on the Pentateuch begins a six-volume work of theological exegesis that will span select passages from the whole of the Christian Bible. The aim is to read Scripture according to its theological shape as a witness to the living claim of God upon church and world, made known in Jesus Christ.

The theological frame of the Pentateuch is grounded in the freely given promise of God, which gathers not only the people of God but humanity—and the whole creation—into the one purpose of God’s redemptive love. Indeed, we live by that selfsame promise today and must struggle to understand and act in our world in light of it.

The book and the series are intended for teachers, pastors, students, and readers attentive to the theological and spiritual dimensions of the biblical witness in all its brilliance and mystery.

Paul C. McGlasson

Theological Exegesis of Scripture, Volume I
The Pentateuch

PAUL C. MCGLASSON

978-1-5326-4673-7 | 234 p. | $30

“Fully aware of the troubled times in—and to—which he writes, McGlasson offers readers the opportunity to encounter afresh the living theology of the first five books of the Bible. Elegantly, often lyrically, written and deeply grounded in the history of biblical reception, Theological Exegesis of Scripture is an assured and vital work of biblical theology.”

—Christine Helmer, Northwestern University

“These essays are sterling examples of interpreting selected Pentateuchal texts theologically for the edification of contemporary Christians. Although there are no footnotes, there is abundant evidence of influence from great interpretive traditions inherited from past generations, with the goal to bear current witness to the God of creation and redemption, fully revealed in Jesus Christ.”

—J. Andrew Dearman, Fuller Theological Seminary

PAUL C. MCGLASSON received his MDiv from Yale Divinity School and his PhD from Yale University. He has taught in college and seminary and pastored in the local church. He is the author of a dozen books in theology, including the five-volume Church Doctrine and Choose You This Day. He resides with his wife Peggy in Athens, Georgia.
No other book of the Bible is quite so R-rated. No other book is quite so ugly or grotesque. Judges offers its reader not a roster of angelic saints, but an astonishing tempest of brutality, feces, slaughter, assassinations, conspiracy, genocide, child sacrifice, rage, betrayal, mass graves, gang-rape, corpse mutilation, kidnapping, and civil war. Gift of the Grotesque offers readers a series of seven theological essays focused on one of the most confusing and challenging books in the biblical canon. Stulac’s captivating style combines sensitive exegesis with broadly accessible meditations on culture, art, music, literature, memoir, theology, and spirituality. Better understood as a companion rather than a biblical commentary, this unusual resource will kickstart the theological imagination of anyone who struggles to understand how the book of Judges points forward to the life and work of Jesus Christ. Dare to follow an experienced biblical scholar into the heart of Israel’s theological Dark Age, and you will encounter there the transformative Word of God in ways you do not expect. The prophetic book of Judges, writes Stulac, “wants to gut you like a fish, because on the far side of that unenviable prospect, it wants you alive like you’ve never lived before.”

“This is commentary in a completely new key—arresting, disruptive, and above all, wise. Working exegetically from the heart of Judges, that cauldron of biblical violence, Stulac offers an unabashed testimony of Christian faith. He writes compellingly, and often beautifully, as a biblical scholar who has not forgotten what Scripture is for: to break our hearts and give us life in abundance.”
—Ellen F. Davis, Duke University Divinity School

“Those who fear that biblical interpretation is all too often a staid and predictable exercise, with little to say to the realities of life, should turn aside and linger here. Eyes will be opened, and distracted hearts will be engaged.”
—Walter Moberly, Durham University

“Stulac’s Gift of the Grotesque grabs you as a reader and throws you into a Christological wrestling match with the Old Testament book of Judges, one of the most challenging books of Scripture. Stulac’s seven profound and prophetic meditations on these stories of messiness, violence, death, tragedy, and horror offer a compelling vision of God’s alternative economy of pure gift and promise set against the idolatries of human payment, control, and self-sufficiency.”
—Dennis Olson, Princeton Theological Seminary

The book of Ruth seems simple. It is the tale of a poor Moabite widow who relocates to Bethlehem and finds security there when she marries Boaz, a wealthy Israelite man. Although the plot is simple, the book’s message is elusive. (Re)reading Ruth demonstrates how careful attention to the book’s structure, allusions, wordplay, and location in the canon can reveal the dynamic ways that it engages with other biblical stories and how that engagement shapes its message.

This well-written and easily accessible study of the book of Ruth is a treasure. Tooman highlights the sophisticated narrative structure and poetic features of the book and demonstrates persuasively how reading it intertextually together with the rest of the biblical canon is essential for understanding its message and appreciating its literary artistry.

—Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, Orebro School of Theology, Sweden

Tooman, a sensitive reader of the ancient text, draws our attention to the book of Ruth’s literary characteristics—to questions of structure, repetitions, name etymologies, and especially, surprising allusions to other biblical texts as well as analogies found in other genres, including law, prophecy, and wisdom. The book is a wonderful guide for approaching any biblical narrative. Tooman’s knowledgeable reading demonstrates the need for mastering biblical Hebrew in order to truly appreciate the Hebrew Bible in all its wonders.

—Yair Zakovitch, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, emeritus

“Biblical Hebrew classes often use Ruth as a primary text. Instructors should also assign (Re)reading Ruth, an outstanding guidebook focused on the distinctive poetics of biblical narrative and the characteristic intertextuality of the biblical writings. (Re)reading Ruth meets the highest standards of critical scholarship, while at the same time clearly and judiciously coaching students to cultivate keener exegetical skills and new habits of reading.”

—Stephen B. Chapman, Duke University

WILLIAM A. TOOMAN is Senior Lecturer in Hebrew Bible at St Mary’s College, University of St Andrews.
David
A Man after God’s Own Heart

BENJAMIN J. M. JOHNSON

978-1-5326-3147-4 | 198 p. | $27

D avid is one of the most complex and fascinating characters in all of literature. His story exists at a crucial point in the biblical narrative where God turns toward committing to monarchy in Israel. He is the slayer of Goliath, the hero of Israel, and God’s chosen king. Yet, he is also a manipulator, adulterer, and murderer. This book provides a broad audience of students, lay readers, and scholars with a close reading of David’s story, presenting scholarly study of this fascinating and crucial character in an accessible and engaging manner. By carefully presenting David’s story, this book addresses how it is possible to consider a flawed and imperfect character like David as a man after God’s own heart.

"Ben Johnson is fully abreast of scholarship on David, yet wears his learning lightly. In this sophisticated, nuanced, and probing study, he lucidly and accessibly engages both general readers and students. We are given a deeper and richer understanding of David than we had previously."
—Walter Moberly, Durham University

"For the past decade, Dr. Johnson has been on the frontlines of research into the endlessly fascinating character of King David and his remarkable supporting cast, and this new book promises to be a most helpful and up-to-date guide for students and scholars alike with its engaging reading of this incomparable story containing a wealth of insights—and even some surprising pop culture references!"
—Keith Bodner, Crandall University

"Who is David? It is a question posed by both the biblical text and modern readers. With insight and wit, Benjamin Johnson helps us to see how David is presented in the books of Samuel. The David who emerges is neither saint nor villain, but rather a complex figure of potential strength and weakness. Johnson’s careful reading helps us understand both who David is and why he remains a crucial figure for readers today."
—David G. Firth, Trinity College Bristol

"The best concise introduction to the biblical figure of David now available. Johnson is a judicious, wise, literarily sensitive interpreter. He situates his treatment expertly within contemporary scholarship and provides insightful questions for further reflection at the end of each chapter, perfect for teaching. Johnson maintains that David is hardly a saint in the Bible’s depiction and nonetheless God’s chosen—helpfully troubling the moralism of our cultural moment."
—Stephen B. Chapman, Duke University

BENJAMIN J. M. JOHNSON is Associate Professor of Biblical Studies at LeTourneau University.
The book of Isaiah is one of the most significant works of the Old Testament, especially for Christian readers. Its oracles have shaped the cultural imaginations of countless generations, inspiring preachers, artists, musicians, and politicians. This biblical book offers prophetic reflections on and responses to the actions of monarchs and nations during a series of political changes and crises in Israel. With a focus on seeking to understand the text in its ancient context, this commentary is particularly written for those who seek guidance in preparing materials for Christian worship and study.

MICHAEL E. W. THOMPSON is a Methodist minister who before retirement lectured in Old Testament in the UK. He is author of Where Is the God of Justice? The Old Testament and Suffering (2011); Greatly to Be Praised: The Old Testament and Worship (2016); and The Old Testament and Christian Spirituality (2019).
How does one make sense of a bizarre prophet like Ezekiel with his shocking symbolic actions and out-of-this-world visionary experiences? Not without patient exegesis and considerable humility. But the effort is worth it because this choice servant of Yahweh has an enduring message that leaves an imprint on the teaching of the great Servant of the Lord, Jesus of Nazareth.

This book, intended for the general reader, is not a commentary proper but a portal into the wild and wonderful world of this priest-prophet, the third voice of a prophetic trio, the so-called “major prophets” (Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel). The author demonstrates an underlying theological unity that links Ezekiel with not only his fellow prophets, especially his contemporary Jeremiah, but also the entire canon of Scripture.

The author wants readers to grasp the essential burden of Ezekiel’s book, namely, to hope in the God of all comfort and hope because he will raise his people from their graves! And not only will the holy God restore his people to holiness and righteousness, he will dwell with them forever. That hope is the mainstay for God’s people yesterday, today, and forever.

“The book of Ezekiel is stubborn in its resistance to interpretation. Helyer nonetheless offers a winsome, accessible introduction to the book. He takes seriously the playful, elusive imagery of the book but insists that what is imaginative in the words of the prophet must be linked to the historical context of Ezekiel’s time. . . . This book will be a welcome entry point into Scripture that refuses easy access but holds rich resources for faith.”

—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

“This expertly written book does more than tell the complex story of the prophet Ezekiel. Rather, its focus is on a broader, grander theme, comparatively illustrating how the Ezekiel story connects to other Old Testament prophets as well as to New Testament narratives, including Revelation. Its sweep is majestic if not breathtaking, pointing ultimately to the cosmic center, Jesus the Christ, as King of kings and Lord of lords. An inspiring and very helpful read.”

—Eugene B. Habecker, president emeritus, Taylor University

LARRY R. HELYER is professor emeritus of biblical studies at Taylor University. He is the author of numerous books on the Bible.
This book provides a concise guide to the group of biblical books commonly called “The Book of the Twelve Prophets” or simply “The Twelve” (also know as “the Minor Prophets”). In the past twenty years, scholars have explored how reading this set of books as a unified “Book of the Twelve” creates new avenues for understanding and depth. This Cascade Companion introduces the key questions, themes, and topics related to the Twelve in an accessible way. Starting with a discussion of why scholars call these books “The Twelve,” the book explores the major themes that orient the Twelve. The book addresses recent topics impacting the Twelve, including the relationship between wisdom literature and the Twelve, the rise of linguistic and literary approaches, and the impact of editorial theories in the study of the Twelve. As such, this book allows readers to learn what gives the Twelve its unique shape and flavor.

BETH M. STOVELL is Professor of Old Testament and Chair of General Theological Studies at Ambrose Seminary of Ambrose University in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Besides Beth’s co-authored book The Book of the Twelve with David J. Fuller in the Cascade Companions series, her books include Mapping Metaphorical Discourse in the Fourth Gospel (Brill), Making Sense of Motherhood (Wipf and Stock), Biblical Hermeneutics (IVP) with Stanley E. Porter, and Theodicy and Hope in the Book of the Twelve (Bloomsbury T&T Clark) with George Athas, Daniel Timmer, and Colin Toffelmire. Beth is currently writing a book on interpreting biblical metaphor and writing commentaries on the Minor Prophets, Ezekiel, Hosea, and John's Gospel.

DAVID J. FULLER is assistant professor of Old Testament at Torch Trinity Graduate University in Seoul, South Korea.
Judah faced radical and rapid societal change as it was absorbed by the Assyrian Empire in the eighth century BCE. But while Judean prophets displayed outrage for the injustices these changes caused, their texts are often devoid of socio-economic context. Identities of perpetrators, victims, and even the nature of their actions are often absent. This book sheds light on those contexts by employing a recurring pattern found around the world and across time as subsistence communities are absorbed into complex economic systems. In addition to outlining this pattern’s presence in Judah’s archaeological record, Coomber turns the lens in the other direction to gain new insights from a recent example of this pattern’s unfolding: Tunisia’s absorption into international capitalism. The result is an interpretive tool that asks new questions of ancient prophetic texts, while also revealing threads through which the prophets find voice in addressing a radically different circumstance with similar consequences pertaining to land use, the weaponization of debt, and exploitation of labor.

On the one hand, Coomber demonstrates the value of using a modern context to understand the prophetic texts. On the other hand, his reading provides insights into the relevance of prophetic texts in addressing modern injustice.

—Rainer Kessler, University of Marburg

With a thorough and nuanced application of cultural evolutionary theory, Coomber has produced an excellent economic analysis of eighth-century Judah in its context of Neo-Assyrian imperialism, while also arguing that twentieth-century Tunisia’s shift from a mixed subsistence economy to a market driven economy exhibited similar patterns of the peasant exploitation by elites that Isaiah and Micah condemned.

—Gale A. Yee, Episcopal Divinity School

“Matthew Coomber presents a stunning work, which is both thoroughly researched, and theoretically informed. He successfully connects the message of the biblical prophets to modern economic crises. Coomber shows us that these prophets still have something to say to us all.”

—Roger S. Nam, Candler School of Theology, Emory University
For the past several decades, Erhard Gerstenberger has been a leader in the study of the Psalms. These essays bring together some of the key contributions that both reflect on the history of interpretation and the path forward for research. Both the student and the experienced researcher will be enriched by the depth and clarity of perspective that Gerstenberger brings. Two of the essays appear here in English for the first time.

Contents
1. The Lyrical Literature
2. Psalms
3. The Psalm Genres
4. Theologies in the Psalms
5. Modes of Communication with the Divine in the Hebrew Psalter
6. The Psalms and Ritual Praxis
7. Non-Temple Psalms: The Cultic Setting Revisited
8. The Psalter as Book and as Collection

“Erhard Gerstenberger has been a decisive figure in Psalms study in the past generation. This book provides a summary of scholarly research on the Psalms in his generation. Beyond that, this book gives full expression to Gerstenberger’s singular contribution to Psalms study, namely, the articulation of a four-fold taxonomy of Psalm settings: family, village, monarchy, and the post-exile community. Through this valuable summation of his work, Gerstenberger continues to be our generative teacher.”
—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

“This invaluable collection of essays is the fruit of Erhard Gerstenberger’s long and distinguished career. Gerstenberger is a formidable scholar and perhaps the most ferocious advocate for a pure form-critical approach to the Psalms. His towering intellect illuminates the Psalms in their historic, ritual, and cultic settings.”
—Rolf A. Jacobson, Luther Seminary

Ecclesiastes

THE BIBLE IN GOD’S WORLD COMMENTARY SERIES

JOHN GOLDINGAY

978-1-7252-7316-0 | 338 p. | $57

Ecclesiastes is the most surprising book in the Scriptures. It challenges its readers to reconsider what they think life is about and how far it is possible to understand God’s involvement in the world. This commentary seeks to help people enter the world of Ecclesiastes and see how it can increase their understanding of God and of themselves.

“Ecclesiastes is a book that addresses the meaning, purpose, and significance of life and thus has great import for people today. How wonderful it is that Goldingay, one of the most gifted biblical interpreters of our age, has provided such an insightful commentary on this fascinating yet difficult book. My own understanding of Ecclesiastes has grown by reading his work, and I enthusiastically recommend that all who want to grapple with the theology and significance of Ecclesiastes get and read this immensely helpful commentary.”

—Tremper Longman III, Distinguished Scholar and Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies, Westmont College

“Ecclesiastes is a book that addresses the meaning, purpose, and significance of life and thus has great import for people today. How wonderful it is that Goldingay, one of the most gifted biblical interpreters of our age, has provided such an insightful commentary on this fascinating yet difficult book. My own understanding of Ecclesiastes has grown by reading his work, and I enthusiastically recommend that all who want to grapple with the theology and significance of Ecclesiastes get and read this immensely helpful commentary.”

—Knut M. Heim, Professor of Old Testament, Denver Seminary

“Considering John Goldingay was the person under whose study I first translated Ecclesiastes, it is with great confidence that I endorse this volume. His quirky yet incisive observations always enliven the text afresh, especially one such as this, which has plagued and perplexed saints and scholars of old. How fitting are the words of Qoheleth: “Not only was the teacher wise, but he also imparted knowledge to the people...and what he wrote was upright and true” (12:9–10).”

—Brittany Melton, Assistant Professor of Biblical & Theological Studies, Palm Beach Atlantic University

“Like the ‘Congregationalist’ about whom he writes, Goldingay seeks to teach and communicate fresh insights for his audience, but also reveals himself as a profound thinker and seeker of truth(s) as he carefully translates and expounds this ancient text. He has written an exciting new commentary for the modern age, brimming with enthusiasm and appreciation for this most elusive of biblical books.”

—Katharine Dell, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

JOHN GOLDINGAY is Senior Professor of Old Testament and David Allan Hubbard Professor Emeritus of Old Testament at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Now living in Oxford, he continues to write commentaries and books on the theology and message of the Old Testament.
In these several pieces I have worked to trace out possible interfaces between specific scripture references and matters at the forefront of our common social life. It is my hunch that, almost without fail, such an interface creates a very different angle of vision for any element of our common social life, because it situates such a topic in the context of the biblical narrative that is occupied by the holy agency of God. Such an alternative angle of vision helps to defamiliarize us from our usual discernment according to the master narrative of democratic capitalism that is most widely shared across the spectrum of conservatives and progressives. Because our common angle of vision shared by progressives and conservatives has a very low ceiling of human ultimacy, we (all of us!) easily come to think that our particular reading of social reality is absolute and beyond question, even if dominated by a tacit ideology. It is my bet that an interface with biblical testimony can and will deabsolutize our excessive certitude and permit us to look again at the social “facts” that are in front of us. I do not think and do not suggest that such interfaces with scripture are inevitable; they are rather suggestive, impressionistic, and fleeting, the kind of linkage that is available in the matrix of faith that is not fixed on certitude.

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN is William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament Emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. He has published widely on the Old Testament, including, from Cascade Books: David and His Theologian, A Pathway of Interpretation, Embracing the Transformation, The Practice of Homefulness, Truth-Telling as Subversive Obedience, and Virus as a Summons to Faith.

A Wilderness Zone

WALTER BRUEGGEMANN

978-1-6667-0123-4 | 154 p. | $23

“With prophet-like compassion and fresh turns of phrase, Brueggemann offers a no-holds-barred assessment of urgent US crises in light of biblical truths . . . . Brueggemann’s venerated voice in our midst affirms protest and calls the faithful to trust and hope in God making the impossible possible, to cocreate an alternative, just world of generous care for all.”

—Nancy C. Lee, Elmhurst University

“Time and again, Brueggemann shows us that, wisely read, the Bible is too powerful to leave to those who abuse it, especially at this moment of vulnerability, dislocation, anger, and fear. In A Wilderness Zone, Brueggemann leads us through Exodus (with excursions into the Psalms, Prophets, and other scriptures) in ways that illuminate not only the biblical text but also our path through these times. Brueggemann is one of our greatest sages, and this book is a treasure.”

—Brian D. McLaren, author of Faith after Doubt

“There is no better biblical theologian who can ‘connect the dots’ so well between ancient biblical texts and the North American church and culture than Walter Brueggemann. For such a time as this, a time of multiple pandemics, Brueggemann lifts up the wilderness accounts of the Bible . . . for renewed consideration. This viral moment, Brueggemann proves, is cause for self-critical review that is honest and courageous, and an opportunity for hope that is equally courageous and subversive.”

—William P. Brown, Columbia Theological Seminary

“A Wilderness Zone is Walter Brueggemann’s powerful read of our current ‘moment.’ The Israelites escaped Pharoah by fleeing into the wilderness, where they encountered vulnerability, dislocation, and fear/anger. COVID-19 and its concomitant economic setbacks and the current crisis in criminal justice name the analogous contemporary realities. Brueggemann portrays wilderness then and now, and along the way reveals informative interpretive sources. This meditation is a brilliant commentary on our ‘moment’ and its search for hope.”

—W. H. Bellinger Jr., Baylor University, emeritus

“Simply put, we have no one like Walter Brueggemann. . . . Here, he outpaces all others once again, amazes us once more, as he ranges easily across the full span of Christian Scripture with not-infrequent, equally dexterous engagements with economic and political theory, race relations, philosophy, liberation, migration, and much, much more. And so, again, I repeat: we have none like Walter. Take and read!”

—Brent A. Strawn, Duke University
Who needs the Old Testament? It might be a literary classic, but what relevance does it have today? How much of it can we believe anyway?

Katharine Dell invites you to rediscover the appeal of the Old Testament for the twenty-first century. In doing so she deftly refutes hard-line attacks by writers such as Richard Dawkins; she firmly critiques the atheistic agenda of those scholars who seek to undermine the Old Testament’s historical grounding; and she helpfully reassures those within the church who express doubts about its usefulness as a resource for Christian life and thought. Written by a world expert, this book will help many, both inside and outside the church, to gain a more informed appreciation of the different kinds of literature contained in the Old Testament, and a more nuanced understanding of the developing vision of God to which they witness.

“Dell confronts the ‘New Atheists’ head-on, demonstrating how their reading of the Old Testament ignores its cultural context and misrepresents its account of God, the world, and humankind. With equal rigour, she examines the conflicted intersection between Church and Academy, where scholarly skepticism seeds a growing clerical reluctance to preach and teach the Old Testament . . . With the skill of a scholar and the passion of one committed to the work of the church in the modern world, Dell demonstrates why and how the Old Testament offers a rich and realistic account of life in all its messiness. As she puts it, the Old Testament can be our friend, even if a challenging one at the end of the day.”

—Samuel E. Balentine, Professor of Old Testament, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, Virginia

A new movement in American Christianity calls itself “Matthew 25 Christians.” It follows a long train of new religious movements founded in a rediscovered biblical text that migrates to a new context and sets the church on a new course. Good news to the poor is Matthew’s story, grounded in the entire biblical witness. In Jesus’s famous last judgment story all the world is questioned whether they saw Christ, the king enthroned by way of the cross, in the least of these—the poor, the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the imprisoned. Are the “corporal works of mercy” Jesus requires to become new marks of the church in our times? Is Matthew 25 the new John 3:16, a new sign to be held up to the world at football games?

Following this new social gospel comes another question. Will the American church succeed in “taking this public” as a new errand into the wilderness? Could the nonconforming resistance movement that is Christianity find a new voice in the public square, collaborate with the academy and politicians, and turn Matthew’s call for social justice into a new deal for social democracy? A “Bonhoeffer moment” in perilous times for the poor calls for no less.

DONALD HEINZ is Professor of Religious Studies emeritus at California State University, Chico, and a Lutheran minister. His teaching and research are in biblical studies, Christian ethics, and the sociology of religion as contested public space. His last book was After Trump: Achieving a New Social Gospel (Cascade, 2020).
The short story that we now know as the Gospel according to Mark was written in Greek twenty centuries ago in the context of an agrarian society that had been developing its own characteristics in the circum-Mediterranean region. Mark’s account presupposes the values, institutions, and relationships of the culture in which Jesus and his first followers lived. Modern readers of the Gospels, however, especially those born and raised in the North Atlantic postindustrial societies, have other values and institutions, and relate to each other according to other cultural codes. This temporal and cultural distance between the ancient texts and their present-day readers makes necessary an exegetical effort whose purpose is to recover, as far as possible, the reading scenarios presupposed by these texts. In order to reconstruct these scenarios, exegesis has turned in recent years to the social sciences, whose models permit us to imagine and describe the situations presupposed by these ancient texts. This book aims to show how the use of these scenarios elaborated with the help of the social sciences can contribute to a more considered and respectful reading of Mark’s story.

“Social-scientific interpretation made us aware of the cultural embeddedness of language, persons, and events. . . . Context, Santiago Guijarro illustrates in this collection of studies, is a social context, and the social sciences provide the tools for unlocking that context. A variety of aspects of Mark’s Gospel are illuminated in this book by means of social-scientific tools. This is a truly contextual interpretation of Mark’s gospel.”
—Pieter F. Crassert, University of South Africa

“One of the great pleasures of reading Santiago Guijarro’s work is its consistent transparency. . . . The result is to find oneself once more believing in the possibility of an honest conversation about the biblical text. In his hands, a ‘social-scientific reading’ becomes not the sterile application of a foregone conclusion but the occasion for meeting for the first time the embodied and socially embedded human beings both depicted in and responsible for the First Gospel.”
—Leif E. Vaage, Emmanuel College of Victoria University, University of Toronto, emeritus

“Guijarro’s explorations of the Gospel of Mark and its world provide an insightful and trustworthy guide to the cultural and social nuances of Mark’s surprising, complex, and uniquely consoling narrative for contemporary readers.”
—Séamus O’Connell, Pontifical University, Saint Patrick’s College, Maynooth (Ireland)

“Guijarro’s contextual social-scientific studies on Mark offer a coherent quest for the meaning of Mark in its original setting. Amazing how these new insights on major themes like Jesus’ baptism, the exorcisms and healings, the conflict stories, the anointing in Bethany, the temple, and the passion narrative not only throw the reader into the past but open new perspectives on the meaning of Mark’s story today.”
—Geert Van Oyen, Catholic University of Louvain

SANTIAGO GUIJARRO is Professor of New Testament Studies at the Pontifical University of Salamanca (Spain).
Adul males did not simply stand up and speak. They needed authorization to exercise public voice. Why should anyone listen to them? In his first four chapters, Luke achieves this for Jesus, a process we access in two ways. In part 1, we examine how Luke establishes this by employing social-science models, which inform our understanding beyond what typical commentaries can achieve. We begin this by considering Luke 1–4 in terms of the social-science communications model, which exposes how God, as Sender-of-Senders, repeatedly sends Messages about Jesus, which cumulatively establish him with a public role and status, and so with public voice. Jesus' ethos can be described by considering him in terms of typical group-oriented personality and by means of rituals of status elevation and confirmation, which dramatize his worthiness to have public voice. Part 2 consists of rhetorical materials that inform us on how typical beginnings began. Ancient rhetoric also taught formal ways to construct a proper ethos, both for authors and those about whom they spoke. Finally, Luke himself needs a proper ethos to warrant our acceptance of him as a reliable narrator, which he achieves in his prologue. Jesus deserves public voice.

Jerome H. Neyrey

Jerome H. Neyrey, SJ

By What Authority?

Luke Gives Jesus Public Voice

Matrix: The Bible in Mediterranean Context

Jerome H. Neyrey, SJ

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Adult males did not simply stand up and speak. They needed authorization to exercise public voice. Why should anyone listen to them? In his first four chapters, Luke achieves this for Jesus, a process we access in two ways. In part 1, we examine how Luke establishes this by employing social-science models, which inform our understanding beyond what typical commentaries can achieve. We begin this by considering Luke 1–4 in terms of the social-science communications model, which exposes how God, as Sender-of-Senders, repeatedly sends Messages about Jesus, which cumulatively establish him with a public role and status, and so with public voice. Jesus' ethos can be described by considering him in terms of typical group-oriented personality and by means of rituals of status elevation and confirmation, which dramatize his worthiness to have public voice. Part 2 consists of rhetorical materials that inform us on how typical beginnings began. Ancient rhetoric also taught formal ways to construct a proper ethos, both for authors and those about whom they spoke. Finally, Luke himself needs a proper ethos to warrant our acceptance of him as a reliable narrator, which he achieves in his prologue. Jesus deserves public voice.

In his new book on the Gospel of Luke, Jerome Neyrey integrates his expertise in both social scientific and rhetorical analysis. Neyrey offers a close reading of Luke 1–4, arguing that even before Jesus began teaching in the synagogue in chapter 4, Luke had ‘groomed’ the audience to be receptive to Jesus as a public speaker. This engaging book is clear evidence for the value of attention to culture and rhetoric when approaching ancient Mediterranean texts.

—Alicia J. Batten, Conrad Grebel University College, University of Waterloo, Ontario

“Using the tools of social-science exegesis, at which he is a proven master, Neyrey presents the divine Sender of Senders who speaks the message that is Jesus, by carefully building his authority to speak publicly and to teach. Neyrey shows how Luke’s presumed rhetorical training enables him to portray the authority of Jesus beyond question. This is a welcome addition to new ways of understanding the Third Gospel.”

—Carolyn Osiek, Brite Divinity School

“Jerome H. Neyrey is incomparable as a teacher to new and advanced students of the New Testament. In a unique way, he weaves together insights from ancient rhetoric and modern anthropology to illuminate Luke’s presentation of Jesus as a public teacher. If you have not read any of Neyrey’s many books on the New Testament in light of social sciences and classical traditions, this is the one to read!”

—Halvor Moxnes, University of Oslo

“Jerome Neyrey has once again produced a volume that stands on its own as a primer on social scientific and rhetorical approaches to the text that is worth imitating. In this erudite assessment of Luke’s mastery of rhetoric, Neyrey discloses how the Evangelist convincingly construes Jesus as a properly socialized and culturally ascribed authoritative public speaker deserving attention. By What Authority? is an insightful and eye-opening contribution to Lukan scholarship by a master exegete.”

—John W. Daniels Jr., Flagler College

“In a book that is both accessible for undergraduate students and from which seasoned biblical scholars might learn, Jerry Neyrey weaves together modern communications theory, ancient rhetorical practices and manuals, and social-scientific models to show how Luke constructed an ethos for Jesus to explain why he is entitled public voice in the gospel.”

—Eric Stewart, Augustana College

Jerome H. Neyrey is emeritus professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame. He is a scholar in the Context Group, pioneering a cultural reading of Scriptures. Always seeking to understand the New Testament, he is directed by modern cultural studies, with roots in the ancient cultural world. Recent examples of this are his books Imagining Jesus . . . in His Own Culture (Cascade, 2018) and An Encomium for Jesus (2020).
The New Testament contains four accounts of the life of Jesus. To some people in antiquity, four was too many. Disagreements in the Gospels over what Jesus said and did triggered debate between insiders and drew criticism from outsiders. To other people, four was not enough. As early as the first century, Christians wrote additional gospels, each with their own portrayal of Jesus and depictions of his relationships with his family, his followers, and his Father. While these gospels were not included in the New Testament canon, many continued to be important for Christian thought and practice; all these texts, moreover, are significant for the study of emergent Christianity. This short, accessible introduction draws on current scholarship on the various noncanonical (or apocryphal) gospels to present this fascinating literature to readers eager to learn more about their origins, contents, and meaning. The book begins with a discussion of the distinction between gospels that became canonical and those that came to be regarded as apocryphal. Then, the gospels are presented in chapters arranged according to Jesus’ ministry: from Infancy Gospels to texts about Jesus’ earthly career to his passion, resurrection, and postresurrection appearances. This book demonstrates how early Christians confronted crises in their communities through story, crafting new accounts of Jesus’ life that expanded upon and sometimes challenged the Gospels that became canonical. The apocryphal gospels are not Scripture, but they are no less valuable for understanding Christianity in its formative centuries and beyond.

JENS SCHRÖTER is Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Theology and Ancient Christian Apocrypha at Humboldt University, Berlin. He is the author of numerous books and articles on early Christian literature, both canonical and noncanonical.
The question of how the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke relate to each other has become the subject of often intense debate. No longer is it safe to assume that the long dominant Two Document Hypothesis can be accepted without much question. In this book, Eve introduces students and other interested readers to the issues surrounding the Synoptic Problem and goes on to argue for an alternative theory (the Farrer Hypothesis) which does away with the need for the hypothetic source Q. In the course of doing so he also provides a helpful discussion of the how and why of first-century Gospel authorship. While the reader is alerted to the difficulties and complexities that surround solving the puzzle of Synoptic relations, the discussion is kept as accessible as possible and assumes no prior knowledge of New Testament scholarship or Greek.

ERI C EVE is Fellow and Tutor in Theology at Harris Manchester College, Oxford. He is the author of *The Jewish Context of Jesus’ Miracles* (2002), *The Healer from Nazareth* (2009), *Behind the Gospels* (2013), *Writing the Gospels* (2016), *Relating the Gospels* (2021), and a number of articles and contributed chapters variously related either to Jesus’ miracles or to the Synoptic Problem.
A struggle is currently underway to figure out one of the central groups in the gospel story . . . the Pharisees. Were they “hypocrites or heroes”? Or as one recent writer put it, maybe they were just “good guys with bad press.” Scholars of Judaism and of the NT have been painstakingly correcting, even rehabilitating, the image of the first-century Pharisees, but this seems not yet to have affected most readers of Scripture. Here at last is a book that lays out for the non-specialist the evidence for the origin and true nature of the Pharisees . . . and challenges them to re-read the gospel stories with real Pharisees in mind rather than caricatures.

KENT L. YINGER, retired Professor of New Testament at Portland Seminary (George Fox University), is the author of The New Perspective on Paul: An Introduction (2011) and God and Human Wholeness: Perfection in Biblical and Theological Tradition (2019).
Far from being a stable situation, the historical context in the late Second Temple Era was full of conflict at the level of the empires and that of the rulers in Palestine. Ordinary people, including both Jerusalemites and villagers, periodically mounted resistance and even revolts against exploitative and/or domineering rulers. Pharisees and scribes, sometimes as retainers of the temple-state but sometimes as dissident retainers, usually attempted to mediate tensions and conflicts but also offered resistance at certain crisis points. With broader critical assessment of the sources and a clearer sense of the changing social-political context, it is possible to construct a (provisional) history of the Pharisees’ political position and role in, or in opposition to, the temple-state in Judea under imperial rule.

—from the Introduction

“Richard Horsley’s groundbreaking essays on the Pharisees and Jewish society are now brought together for the scholar, student, or interested reader who wants to go beyond superficial accounts of this history. At every point Horsley rethinks our use of sources, asks new questions, and tries new approaches. The result is a challenging and refreshing dive into the reconstruction of Jewish groups and early followers of Jesus.”

—Lawrence Wills, author of Introduction to the Apocrypha

“This is a superb collection of essays. With great clarity, method, and passion, Richard Horsley situates in their historical and scholarly context major issues that he has been working on for more than fifty years. His leading voice invites us to question antiquated conjectures in exploring the historical Jesus, the politics of the Jerusalem temple, the role of its priests, its scribes, and the perplexing Pharisees.”

—Gildas Hamel, author of Poverty and Charity in Roman Palestine

“Decades in the making, Richard Horsley’s spiral of insights demonstrate how the evidence, carefully examined anew, leads to a portrayal of Pharisees as ‘retainers’ serving the Jerusalem temple-state under Hasmoneans, Herod, and the high priests in the first century CE. Informed constructions of ‘the Pharisees’ will never be the same.”

—Mark Nanos, Lund University

“Horsley examines the role of the Pharisees (and scribes) in the unstable history of the temple-state under imperial rule, emphasizing the variation in their role, sometimes acting as mediators and other times as dissidents or resistance leaders. Horsley impressively creates a comprehensive treatment of the historical and sociological context to redress the distortion of the Pharisees by New Testament scholarship and, ultimately, to understand the nature of the conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees in the Gospels.”

—Sarah J. Tanzer, McCormick Theological Seminary

**RICHARD A. HORSLEY** is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. His numerous publications include these recent works from Cascade Books: Empowering the People: Jesus, Healing, and Exorcism (2022), You Shall Not Bow Down and Serve Them: The Political Economic Projects of Jesus and Paul (2021), Jesus and the Politics of Roman Palestine, 2nd ed. (2021), Jesus and Magic (2014), and Text and Tradition in Performance and Writing (2013).
These essays explore the reconception of the Gospels as first-century compositions of sound performed for audiences by storytellers rather than the anachronistic picture of a series of texts read by individual readers. The new paradigm implicit in these initial experiments is based on the recent realization that the majority of persons—85 to 95 percent—were illiterate and experienced the Jesus stories as members of audiences. Either from memory or from memorized manuscripts, the evangelists performed the Gospels as an evening’s entertainment of two to four hours. The audiences were predominantly addressed as Hellenistic Judeans who lived in the aftermath of the Roman-Jewish war. When heard whole, the Gospels were vivid experiences of the central character of Jesus. These studies of audience address and the interactions between first-century storytellers and audiences reveal a dynamic performance literature that functioned as scripts for an ever-expanding network of storytelling proclamations whose envisioned horizon was the whole world. When the Gospels were told at one time from beginning to end, they invited the listeners to move from being peripherally interested or initially opposed to Jesus to identifying themselves as disciples of Jesus and believers in him as the Messiah.

“Every great artist eventually puts together a collection of their greatest hits. The essays in this volume are no different. This ‘best of Boomershine’ includes recent reflections on the state of performance and several of the influential studies that have marked Boomershine’s trailblazing career.”
—Kelly R. Iverson, editor of From Text to Performance

“Boomershine has been instrumental in awakening us all to the importance of media for interpretation. His first chapter is an excellent introduction to the different characteristics of oral, manuscript, print, and electronic media. The other chapters bring alive texts as performed orally and experienced aurally. What a difference performance makes!”
—Joanna Dewey, author of Oral Ethos of the Early Church

“For some time now, the question is being asked what difference it makes whether the Gospels are orally performed or privately apprehended in silent readings. Boomershine offers deeply insightful observations about the Gospels’ auditory data and performative function. This highly accessible book demonstrates how the Gospels of Mark and John are appropriately being processed through the sensory gateways of the ears. This is performative criticism at its very best.”
—Werner H. Kelber, author of The Oral and the Written Gospel

THOMAS E. BOOMERSHINE is Professor of New Testament emeritus at the United Theological Seminary, Dayton, Ohio. He is the founder of the Network of Biblical Storytellers, International and founder and past chair of the Bible in Ancient and Modern Media group in the Society of Biblical Literature. He is the author of The Messiah of Peace: A Performance Criticism Commentary on Mark’s Passion-Resurrection Narrative and Story Journey: An Invitation to the Gospel as Storytelling.
In this innovative study, Horsley builds on his earlier works concerning the problematic and misleading categories of “magic” and “miracle” to examine in-depth the meaning and importance of the narratives of healing and exorcism in the Gospels. Incorporating his work on oral performance and turning to important works in medical anthropology, a new image emerges of how these narratives help us re-evaluate Jesus’s place in first-century Galilee and Judea. In his exorcisms and healings, Jesus-in-interaction was empowering the villagers in their struggles for renewal of personal and communal dignity in resistance to invasive Roman rule.

“Taking exorcism and healing as the primary work of Jesus, Richard Horsley presents Mark, Matthew, and Luke as scripts for communal performances of hope and resilience. Showing how these scripts worked in their historical situations, this splendid book explores the astonishing charisma of Jesus and its deep rootedness in the traditions and peoplehood of Israel.”
—Amanda Porterfield, author of Healing in the History of Christianity

“For nearly four decades, Richard Horsley has sought to bring broader perspectives from the humanities and social sciences to the study of Jesus. Empowering the People continues this program by reframing Jesus’s healings and exorcisms within the struggles for power between Rome and its Judean collaborators on one hand, and on the other, ‘the people.’ For those of us interested in reinvigorating the study of the historical Jesus, there is much here to consider.”
—Rafael Rodríguez, Johnson University
Jesus and the Politics of Roman Palestine
Revised with a New Preface

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RICHARD A. HORSLEY

978-1-6667-0742-7 | 260 p. | $33

In Jesus and the Politics of Roman Palestine, Richard A. Horsley offers one of the most comprehensive critical analyses of Jesus of Nazareth’s mission and how he became a significant historical figure. Horsley brings a fuller historical knowledge of the context and implications of recent research to bear on the investigation of the historical Jesus. Breaking with the standard focus on isolated individual sayings of Jesus, Horsley argues that the sources for Jesus in historical interaction are the Gospels and the speeches of Jesus that they include, read critically in their historical context. This work challenges the standard assumptions that the historical Jesus has been presented primarily as a sage or apocalyptic visionary. In contrast, based on a critical reconsideration of the Gospels and contemporary sources for Roman imperial rule in Judea and Galilee, Horsley argues that Jesus was fully involved in the conflicted politics of ancient Palestine. Learning from anthropological studies of the more subtle forms of peasant politics, Horsley discerns from these sources how Jesus, as a Moses- and Elijah-like prophet, generated a movement of renewal in Israel that was focused on village communities.

This paperback edition is updated with a new preface, bibliography, and indexes.

“In Jesus and the Politics of Roman Palestine, Horsley continues his distinguished track record of situating the Gospels in their historical and cultural contexts. With his characteristically lucid and engaging prose, he explores Roman politics in Galilee and Judea and then scrutinizes how Jesus responded to the inherent violence of Rome. In so doing, he allows the non-specialist to immerse themselves in the everyday life of ancient Palestine to better understand the Gospel traditions.”
—Sarah E. Rollens, Rhodes College

“Horsley is one of the seminal figures in what he rightly terms the ‘reorientation’ of biblical studies to acknowledge the political radicality of Jesus and the movement he led. . . . This book is required reading for everyone who truly seeks to understand the words and deeds of Jesus in historical context—the only way they can be properly understood—and their implications for today’s struggles to achieve loving, healthy communities fully leavened by egalitarian justice.”
—Obery Hendricks, author of Christians Against Christianity: How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying Our Nation and Our Faith

“Among the many books composed in the wake of the quest for the historical Jesus, Richard Horsley’s study is a much-needed contribution. His is one of the most socially sensitive interpretations of the Gospels, especially of Mark and Q. As a historian of the politics of Roman Palestine, he is in a class by himself. Vividly evoking the time and circumstances of Roman Palestine, easily accessible, and intriguingly original, this book fills a big lacuna in the ongoing quest of Jesus’s life and death.”
—Werner Kelber, Rice University

“This slim and eminently readable volume is perhaps Horsley’s most mature and elegant statement yet of the method and results of his own, distinctive quest for the historical Jesus. His iconoclasm has been prescient in the past. Again, he pressed forward, and we do well to follow.”
—Stephen J. Patterson, Willamette University

RICHARD A. HORSLEY is Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, emeritus. His numerous publications include these works from Cascade: You Shall not Bow Down and Serve: The Political Economic Projects of Jesus and Paul (2021), Jesus and Magic (2014), Text and Tradition in Performance and Writing (2013), After Apocalyptic and Wisdom (with Patrick A. Tiller, 2012), Wisdom and Spiritual Transcendence at Corinth (2008), and Empowering the People (forthcoming).
In this thought-provoking and beautifully illustrated volume, Jacobs invites us to reconsider the significance of Joseph of Nazareth and the role and influence he had in the life of Jesus. Relying on a careful reading of Scripture and recent archaeological studies, he challenges the historic and contemporary assumptions of those who have sought, through their writing and art, to marginalize Joseph and his importance in Christian history and the life of the church. Recognizing that Joseph is often minimized or left out of religious and cultural representations of the holy family, in plays and in Christmas cards, he reminds us that like Mary, Joseph was chosen by God to care, teach, and shape the one who would bring salvation and hope to the world. In the process, Jacobs encourages us to see Joseph as Scripture presents him—as believer, dreamer, prayer, protector, teacher, husband, and father—and as more than just the other person in the picture.

“The volume offers a valuable engagement with a figure in the New Testament who has been overlooked at times: Joseph. It captures the significance of Joseph in the New Testament, art, and beyond.”
—David Ray Johnson, Regents Theological College

“Jacobs illuminates a remarkably overlooked topic, the curious treatment of Joseph the carpenter in art depicting the holy family. This is a story that has been hiding in plain sight for five hundred years. Jacobs vividly details the consistent downgrading of Joseph in paintings and sculptures through the centuries and explains how this came to be.”
—Donald Furst, University of North Carolina Wilmington

“The Other Person in the Picture is a compelling investigation of Jesus’s earthly father. Jacobs walks the reader through a step-by-step analysis of Joseph’s life and relationship with his son, unraveling the story of why God chose Joseph to parent Jesus and lay a spiritual foundation so that, when God chose, Jesus could assume his role as Savior. By the end, the reader will recognize Joseph as God’s exemplar of fatherhood that we still need today.”
—Maria J. Cahill, Husson University

PHILIP WALKER JACOBS teaches art history at Newberry College, South Carolina. He is the author of Joseph the Carpenter: His Reception in Literature and Art from the Second to the Ninth Century (2016).
At this critical time of despair, divisiveness, systemic oppression, wealth disparity and poverty, global pandemic, climate crisis, and looming nuclear annihilation, readers searching for Jesus amidst these crises will (re)discover a loving, welcoming, compassionate, nonviolent God who wants us and our world healed. This book helps discern and employ those healing actions. Firmly rooted in the Ignatian spiritual practices of imaginative immersion into Jesus, Philip applies his professional teaching and learning perspectives to his late Jesuit brother’s profound and inspiring scriptural meditations to provide a variety of effective, practical ways to develop a deeper, more engaging, and unifying discipleship.

Readers are urged to consider the kingdom as Jesus reveals it, and to heed Pope Francis’ revolutionary call to “make active nonviolence our way of life.” Clergy and lay people will more deeply appreciate the essential ways in which Jesus’ words and actions counter our kingdoms’ ubiquitous employment of divisiveness, hatred, vengeance, and violence. Our book helps people act with greater certainty in creatively applying effective solutions to today’s pressing problems, based upon Jesus’ modeling of loving care and service to all people and creation.

Simon Harak’s passion for companionship with Jesus infused his constant search for nonviolent ways to resist war and cruelty. Simon opened doors for his friends, students, and loved ones to deepen their relationship to Jesus and the Gospels. Philip, his brother, readily joined the journey. Their meditations reveal the beautiful life of a man who was uproariously funny, constantly kind, and lovingly courageous. Living in the Company of Jesus invites readers to follow Simon’s lead.

“Living in the Company of Jesus is already creating the me I pray to be here now and forever. For thirty years I’d already learned much from my friends Simon and Phil Harak. In print, their wisdom leaps off the page. I dwell in it. Martin Luther King Jr. taught me long ago that gospel nonviolence is a ‘way of life.’ Their book helps me live it.”

—Jane Morrissey, co-author of Gracias, Matix, Thanks, Hermano Pedro: A Trilingual Anthology of Guatemalan Oral Tradition

“A powerful and compelling exploration of the Gospels through the lens of nonviolence—the mystery of love confronting the mystery of evil—engaging the imagination, intellect, and heart. Written with clarity, passion, and a sense of urgency, it challenges both those deeply grounded and those new to the story of Jesus in the New Testament Scriptures to see with new eyes their encounter and relationship with themselves, others, creation, and the sacred.”

—Thomas David McMurray, SJ, chaplain and director of Mission and Identity, Nativity School of Worcester

“A profound gift of luminous insight, Living in the Company of Jesus draws us into a rich study of Jesus’ nonviolent love and liberation and its application to our everyday lives. Combining their shared scholarly expertise, spiritual insights, and deeply-rooted commitment to social justice, the Harak brothers help us see that Jesus, his life experiences, and Christian discipleship are not simply concepts beyond our reach, but are truly present and possible here and now.”

—Carol M. Lukens, Educator and Nonviolence Advocate

PHILIP J. HARAK is a retired public high school English teacher, and sole proprietor of Socially Just Community Development, LLC. He holds a doctorate in Social Justice Education, consults with teachers and their students in constructing democratic and entirely inclusive learning environments. He has written over thirty high school courses, including peace and social justice studies. Committed to Christ’s nonviolence, he serves on the Massachusetts Pax Christi Board. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Margaret.

G. SIMON HARAK, SJ, exuberantly loved and served Jesus. A committed Christian pacifist, he was a university professor, theologian, Classics scholar, Christian ethicist, author, peace activist, spiritual director, and pastoral priest. He resigned his full professorship to work as Disarmament Director for the War Resister’s League. He co-founded the Marquette University Center for Peacemaking. A diligent researcher and gifted orator, he gave two thousand lectures nationally and internationally against wars in person and over media.
The psychological process of denial involves refusing to see what is in front of us, and for some time we have been struggling to shape master narratives to encompass climate breakdown. Jesus’ longer parables offer insight into the possibilities that are hidden within the hierarchies of power. Through the work of understanding the experiences of all the parable actors, we are invited to practice the empathy required to face the global challenges of the twenty-first century.

HOW CAN JESUS’ PARABLES POSSIBLY RELATE TO CLIMATE CHANGE WITHOUT SERIOUSLY MISREADING THEM? BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE: FORD EXPERTLY SHOWS THAT IT IS OUR ASSUMPTION THAT THE POWERFUL CHARACTERS IN THE PARABLES REPRESENT GOD THAT LEADS TO SERIOUSLY MISREADING THESE SUBTLE SCENARIOS ABOUT SUPERIORS AND SUBORDINATES. WITH ASTUTE PSYCHOLOGICAL INSIGHTS, FORD HELPS US TO SEE HOW THESE POWER IMBALANCES RELATE TO THE TERRIFYING THREAT CONFRONTING OUR SPECIES.

—Robert J. Miller, author of Helping Jesus Fulfill Prophecy

“Many of Jesus’ parables tell short stories about a wealthy and powerful lord manipulating a poor peasant or laborer or servant. Ford juxtaposes these stories with the wealthy and powerful fossil-fuels execs and capitalist corporations who deny the climate catastrophe of which they are the prime agents. Applying these parables helps us discern the disguised malevolence of power and privilege.”

—Richard Horsley, author of Empowering the People: Jesus, Healing, and Exorcism

Richard Q. Ford (1936–2019) worked as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist for over forty years. He is coauthor with Sidney J. Blatt of Therapeutic Change (1994) and author of The Parables of Jesus (1997) and The Parables of Jesus and the Problems of the World (Cascade, 2016).
What did the apostle Paul mean when he portrayed the creation as subjected to frustration and enslaved to destruction? What forms of frustration and destruction might he have seen throughout the Roman Empire? And how would he describe creation’s condition today?

Creation’s Slavery and Liberation addresses these questions by tracing the story of creation as it appears in Paul’s own Scriptures (the Tanakh), Roman imperial propaganda, Paul’s letter to Rome, and U.S. industrial agriculture. This story reveals God to be the Creator who makes right (justifies) and makes alive through Jesus Christ and the Spirit. Because God liberates, justifies, and vivifies the entire creation and since—according to Paul—creation’s liberation is linked to humanity’s glorification, Paul expects Christians to pursue justice and nourish life. Burroughs encapsulates key justice-oriented and life-supporting practices in seven eco-ethical principles. To make these principles come alive, she describes the ways in which Roman imperial and American industrial regimes have caused injustice and destruction and, instead, proposes more regenerative approaches to growing, enjoying, and sharing our daily bread.

“In Creation’s Slavery and Liberation, Presian Burroughs literally grounds Paul’s gospel message in the land. By attending to water, agriculture, and food and economic systems as these were being worked out in the Mediterranean world of his day, Burroughs gives us the tools we need to live more faithfully in our own lands and communities today.”
—Norman Wirzba, Duke Divinity School

“Although Paul’s groaning creation is now proverbial in treatments of the ecological crisis that are informed by Christian Scripture, this is the first study to set that concept in its full biblical, historical, and geopolitical contexts. Burroughs works with exegetical precision and imagination, as well as sound knowledge of ancient Roman economics and the science of modern agriculture. Thus, she shows what Paul understood: the earth is the ultimate victim of the greed and failed promises of idolatrous imperial systems.”
—Ellen F. Davis, Duke Divinity School
Super-Abundant Grace
Reflections on Romans
KEITH D. STANGLIN

What is the apostle Paul’s message in his Letter to the Romans? And how does it apply to us today? Is there more to learn about Romans, and is there more for the church to hear today? Keith Stanglin takes this familiar epistle and makes sense of its author’s original intent and its meaning for believers now. With attention both to the historical background and to our contemporary situation, he offers thirty-one meditations that take readers through the entire letter, beginning with the ancient arguments and arriving at modern exhortation. Each chapter is accompanied by discussion questions for use in classes and study groups. For scholars serving the church, this book is a welcome supplement to a technical commentary. For non-specialists, it is an introduction to Romans and an invitation to seek its wisdom. All readers will see Paul’s message of God’s grace in fresh ways.

“Keith Stanglin presents a refreshing journey through Romans, demonstrating the impact of Romans in the history of Christianity and its continuing power to shape Christian identity. With his careful reading of the text, he integrates a knowledge of contemporary scholarship with the issues that confront contemporary believers. This study is an excellent guide for preaching or group Bible studies.”
—James W. Thompson, Abilene Christian University

“It takes a very skilled person to distill the essence of the truths found in Romans to any level of discourse, including that of the ordinary churchgoer. But Keith Stanglin has that gift of clarifying without oversimplifying, and reading through Romans with Keith’s help is both enlightening and encouraging. . . . This guide for the perplexed should be in the hands of anyone who would like to finally crack the code that is Romans.”
—Ben Witherington III, Asbury Theological Seminary

KEITH D. STANGLIN is the Director of the Center for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas, and Professor of Theology at Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama. He is the author of many books, including Ethics beyond Rules, The Letter and Spirit of Biblical Interpretation, and Jacob Arminius: Theologian of Grace (with Thomas McCall).
Here is the inside story of the only New Testament church we know about in detail during both the 50s and the 90s of the first century AD. What did the church of Corinth look like forty years after it was founded by the apostle Paul? Did his positive influence in this church continue after he left Corinth—or did some of the earlier problems still haunt the church? And are there some timeless lessons we can learn from this church’s early history? All those questions are answered here in a fascinating detective investigation that includes thirteen captivating archaeological photos.

Renowned—But . . .

The Church of Corinth in the First Century AD and Its Relevance for the Twenty-First-Century Church

MURRAY J. HARRIS

978-1-6667-3103-3 | 144 p. | $22

Murray Harris . . . has provided us with a wonderful synthesis of his vast knowledge of the church at Corinth during the first century AD and how the church in the twenty-first century can apply that knowledge. He succinctly and accurately integrates historical, geographical, and archaeological information about the city and its residents. . . . The church today (laypersons, students, and pastors) will benefit from the many mature and thoughtful insights shared by Harris.”

—Carl Rasmussen, Bethel University, emeritus

“This economical treatise reaps the harvest of a lifetime of scholarly study on three continents. Harris compiles a concise summation of Paul’s Corinthian letters (AD 50s) and shows how Clement of Rome addresses the same church in the AD 90s. The happy result is a crisp exposition of both Pauline letters, a glimpse into the history of the post-apostolic era, and a valuable list of application points for today. An outstanding handbook from a premier exegete and wise spiritual guide.”

—Robert W. Yarbrough, Covenant Theological Seminary

“Once again, Murray Harris delivers erudite scholarship and insight into the complex world of Corinthian Christianity in the first century. Every preacher must wrestle with the Corinthian model of church, learning as much from their mistakes as well as their example. Harris’s exceptional exegesis brings to life the relationship Paul had with the church he planted, and his visits and letters written to correct and encourage their witness. Gold-star exegesis at its best.”

—Brian N. Winslade, Deputy Secretary General, World Evangelical Alliance

“Murray Harris is a master teacher. With disciplined historical imagination and profound pastoral insight, he brings the first-century Corinthian assembly to life, and from its long struggle to embody the gospel draws out lessons of urgent relevance to the twenty-first-century church. As one who had the privilege to be his student, I am delighted to see Harris’s wise, learned, and engaging lectures made available to a wide audience.”

—J. Ross Wagner, Duke Divinity School

MURRAY J. HARRIS is Professor Emeritus of New Testament Exegesis and Theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Formerly he was director of Tyndale House, a biblical research library in Cambridge (UK) and a faculty member of the Divinity School in the University of Cambridge. He has written commentaries on the Greek text of Colossians and Philemon, Second Corinthians, and John’s Gospel. He was one of the NIV translators.
In this expositional commentary of the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul shares that the universal goodness of the gospel—the news of grace and truth from Jesus Christ—is not just for Jews but is for all people, regardless of birth, tribe, or nationality. And, in his letter to the first-century church at Ephesus, Paul gives realistic and practical guidance for how to live as one people of the gospel in words that are as relevant today as they were in the first century.

EARL F. PALMER is a graduate of The University of California at Berkeley and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has served at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle, Union Church of Manila, Philippines, First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, and as Preaching Pastor in Residence at The National Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC. Earl continues to be active as Pastor at Large in the ministry of teaching, preaching, and writing under the encouragement of the Board of Earl Palmer Ministries, founded in 2008. His other books include Trusting God, The Book That John Wrote, and Salvation by Surprise: Studies in the Book of Romans.

No preacher in America in the last fifty years has done a better job of introducing people to the mystery and power of Paul's letters than Earl Palmer. Mining Paul's Letter to the Ephesians for the better part of a century, he presents us here with the fruit of his labor: bright diamonds and polished gems on page after page!

—Richard Burnett, managing editor, Theology Matters

“My soul was deeply stirred as I read this. For two reasons. One, Earl’s penetrating insights into the good news Paul is opening up for us in his letter, articulated in Earl’s winsome, engaging style. And two, the way Earl takes us into the heart and mind of Paul. . . . Reading Earl’s exposition of the letter is really a reading of the soul of a human being gripped by Jesus Christ and his gospel.”

—Darrell Johnson, Regent College

The book has clearly exposed the essential message of Paul in Ephesians as the grace of Christ! The book is richly illustrated with many of Palmer’s favorite stories and quotations, and he deftly links it with Acts and Paul’s other letters. . . . I’m delighted that Palmer’s teaching of grace can be more widely spread through his new book.

—Martha Chan, coordinator, China Academic Consortium

“Palmer’s remarkable gifts as a preacher, teacher, and author are once again on display in this study of Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians. As one of the tens of thousands around the world whose relationship with God in Jesus Christ has been strengthened and built up by the ministry of Earl Palmer, I give thanks for Called to Be a People of the Gospel and encourage others to read it.”

—Samuel Johnson Howard, bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Florida
Paul of Tarsus, the Pharisee who tried to destroy the church of God, experienced a conversion to faith in Jesus Christ that was to turn his life upside down and lead to his becoming one of the greatest missionaries and theologians of all time. His theology is highly controversial and has both inspired and appalled his listeners. Richard Bell presents the major themes in Paul's theology and also asks what he got right, what he got wrong, and what in his theology needs reinterpreting for the twenty-first century. The book thereby shows the ongoing relevance of Paul's thought for today.

To accompany this volume, a website of music designed to add an experiential dimension in discovering Paul's message for the world can be found at richardhbell.co.uk.

“[The book]This sophisticated engagement with Paul’s thinking by an outstanding exegete will take thoughtful readers deep into the meaning of myth, evil, sacrifice, atonement, reconciliation, and Israel, and should challenge specialists to revisit familiar themes in their relevance for contemporary theology.”
—Robert Morgan, Linacre College, University of Oxford

“There is no other theology of Paul like this. It is deeply informed by over thirty years of university teaching. In seeing Paul in terms of dogmatics, it is an overview of Christian theology. In truth-seeking, it asks if Paul was right on such matters as sexuality, slavery, and salvation by grace. It takes theology to be an honest, critical reflection on a life of piety. This book is a gift to us.”
—Graham H. Twelftree, London School of Theology

RICHARD H. BELL is professor of theology at the University of Nottingham, UK. He is author of Provoked to Jealousy (1994), No one seeks for God (1998), The Irrevocable Call of God (2005), Deliver Us from Evil (2007), Wagner’s Parsifal (2013) and Theology of Wagner’s Ring Cycle (2020).
The Apocalyptic Paul
Retrospect and Prospect
CASCADE LIBRARY OF PAULINE STUDIES
JAMIE DAVIES

The Apocalyptic Paul is rapidly becoming one of the most influential contemporary approaches to the apostle’s letters, and one which has generated its share of controversy. Critiques of the movement have come from all sides: Pauline specialists, scholars of Jewish and Christian apocalyptic literature, and systematic theologians have all raised critical questions. Meanwhile, many have found it a hard conversation to enter, not least because of the contested nature of its key terms and convictions. Non-specialists can find it difficult to sift through these arguments and to become familiar with the history of this movement, its most important contemporary voices, and its key claims. In the first part of this book, New Testament scholar Jamie Davies offers a retrospective introduction to the conversation, charting its development from the turn of the twentieth century to the present, surveying the contemporary situation. In the second part, Davies explores a more prospective account of the challenges and questions that are likely to energize discussion in the future, before offering some contributions to the apocalyptic reading of Paul through an interdisciplinary conversation between the fields of New Testament scholarship, Second Temple Jewish apocalypticism, and Christian systematic theology.

“Anyone perplexed by talk of the ‘apocalyptic Paul’ could do no better than to take up and read Davies’ clear, engaging, and insightful account of this recent scholarship. This companion is a fine introduction for those keen to explore Paul’s strange new world and its significance for today.”
—Philip G. Ziegler, University of Aberdeen

“In a field of scholarship littered with misunderstandings, Jamie Davies here offers a wonderfully clear, precise, and even-handed summary of the debate, displaying a deep understanding of both its exegetical and its theological dimensions. More than that, he skillfully signals how the conversation could progress in fruitful directions. Readers at all levels of knowledge will be immensely grateful for this fine book.”
—John M. G. Barclay, Durham University

“Davies deftly navigates the complex and growing array of proposals concerning the ‘apocalyptic’ Paul to clarify the history, semantics, and contextual commitments of the various approaches and to outline their principal contributions. His aim to inform the ‘non-specialist’ is admirably accomplished. But more, through his generous assessment of areas of agreement and disagreement, he encourages dialogue among Pauline specialists against the fragmentation of ‘schools’ that so often stymies genuine exchange. A timely and vital offering.”
—Alexandra R. Brown, Washington and Lee University

“As an expert guide, Davies takes readers on a walking tour through the avenues of contemporary scholarship on the apocalyptic Paul. Through his engaging summaries, you’ll both capture the main themes under discussion and appreciate the fine points of detail. He not only provides historical description but critical engagement with ongoing conversations. This is a rare volume where both beginners and those more seasoned will each find benefit, and I recommend it highly.”
—Ben C. Blackwell, Houston Theological Seminary, Houston Baptist University

JAMIE DAVIES is Tutor of New Testament at Trinity College, Bristol (UK). He is the author of Paul Among the Apocalypses? (2016).
Paul’s letter to the Galatians begins with the proclamation of liberation from destructive powers, and ends with the confident cry, “new creation!” Throughout the letter, Paul encourages his listeners to stand fast in the confidence that God in Christ will bring them from their beginning in the faith to their completion. His language is emotional, relational, and powerful, as he “uses the intimate imagery of family life to draw his converts back into the thread of conversation that mediates their life together.” This study investigates the powerful effects of Paul’s maternal imagery—his embodied, vulnerable, and authoritative “mother tongue”—in catalyzing and sustaining the communal life of faith.

SUSAN GROVE EASTMAN is associate research professor of New Testament at Duke Divinity School, and an Episcopal priest. She is the author of Paul and the Person: Reframing Paul’s Anthropology (2017).
Previous scholarship that has examined Paul's letters in light of Greco-Roman rhetoric has focused predominantly on their argumentative strategies (inventio) and overall arrangement (dispositio). In this book Brookins turns attention to the heretofore underexplored area of style (elocutio). With complete coverage of ten of the thirteen letters in the Pauline corpus, the book evaluates these letters according to the standards of the major stylistic virtues taught in rhetorical theory: correctness, clarity, and ornament. Treating ornament most extensively, the book includes a full inventory of tropes, figures of speech, and figures of thought contained in these letters. This work results in a synopsis of stylistic tendencies that not only illustrates differences in letter type within the Pauline corpus but also enables a fresh means of comparing style in the disputed and undisputed letters. This analysis also furnishes new evidence for consideration in the debate about the extent of Paul's rhetorical education. Finally, it helps illuminate the process of exegesis and thus the meaning of the text itself.

TIMOTHY A. BROOKINS is associate professor of classics at Houston Baptist University. He is also the author of *Corinthian Wisdom, Stoic Philosophy, and the Ancient Economy* (2014), among other books on the Pauline epistles.
Paul and Empire Criticism
Why and How?
NAJEEB T. HADDAD
978-1-7252-7186-9 | 132 p. | $18

The world’s ever growing highly partisan political environment has fuelled a renewed interest in the study of politics in the New Testament. This interest has given rise to “empire criticism,” which attempts to understand how the Roman Empire affected the early Christian communities and writings. The subgenre of “Paul and empire” studies has produced several important studies, but none have offered a clear methodological approach to this topic. This book fills this lacuna by introducing readers to the difficulties of method in Paul and empire studies, as well as introducing them to contemporary methods, debates, and other issues. Most importantly, it will be a guide for learning to apply sound methods to this field of study.

“Finding a reliable starting point is critical to any new method in biblical studies. In this book, Najeeb Haddad achieves this for the new methodology called ‘empire criticism,’ which analyzes Paul’s complex views of civil government. Haddad separates the chaff from the wheat in this new approach to Paul’s letters to place it on a sound footing and to avoid overinterpretations. A lucid, balanced, and reliable resource!”
—Ronald D. Witherup, PSS, author of Scripture and Tradition in the Letters of Paul

“Among many Pauline scholars it is a truism that several of Paul’s texts are anti-imperial. In this volume, Najeeb Haddad takes this truism and puts it to the test. Methodologically rigorous, historically astute, and exegetically thoughtful, Haddad shows that most of our judgments about Paul and the Roman Empire need to be rethought and made in much more complex and nuanced terms. This volume is a superb introduction to the topic of Paul and empire.”
—Stephen Fowl, Loyola University Maryland

NAJEEB T. HADDAD is Chair and Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Notre Dame of Maryland University. He is the author of the Paul, Politics, and New Creation (2021).
The central question addressed in this book is whether Paul thought that Christ Jesus pre-existed in heaven, “in the form of God,” through whom all things were made, before being sent into the world to be born of a woman, in the likeness of sinful flesh. A significant body of scholarship these days, both conservative and critical, supports the view that he did. Andrew Perriman examines the assumptions and reasoning that underlie this consensus, and makes a thorough and innovative case for reading the relevant texts from the narrow and distinctive perspective of the gentile mission. How would pagans and post-pagan believers have heard and retold the back-story of the one whom they knew only as the exalted Lord who would one day rule the nations? Such an angle of enquiry sheds fascinating, and sometimes quite startling, new light on the many exegetical difficulties that attend this aspect of Paul’s Christology—not least in respect of the opening lines of the extraordinary Christ encomium in his letter to the Philippians. But it also yields compelling insight into the significance of Jesus for the Pauline mission and, indeed, for the ancient pagan world.

Andrew Perriman

“When reading Paul’s letters, to what degree does context determine content? For Andrew Perriman, the answer is ‘quite a lot’—and that context is first-century Mediterranean paganism, the matrix of Paul’s gentile mission. How would his pagan audience have heard Paul’s claims about Christ? In the Form of a God answers this question through recreating, with sympathetic imagination, Paul’s reception within his gentile assemblies. Perriman’s fresh reading offers a refreshed Christology.”

—Paula Fredriksen, author of Paul: The Pagans’ Apostle

“In his latest book In the Form of a God, Andrew Perriman has shown himself once again to be an incredibly creative and insightful thinker. If you are at all interested in New Testament Christology, you simply cannot afford to skip reading this book. It will lead you to ask new questions and make you think even if you have given sustained attention to the key christological passages in the New Testament.”

—James F. McGrath, Butler University

Andrew Perriman lives in London, UK. He is the author of several books, including The Future of the People of God: Reading Romans Before and After Western Christendom and End of Story: Same-Sex Relationships and the Narratives of Evangelical Mission. He blogs on the many benefits of a narrative-historical reading of Scripture for both interpretation and mission at www.postost.net. He is an Associate Research Fellow of the London School of Theology.
Jerusalem to Illyricum is the geographical space and ca. AD 34 to 57 the time frame for Paul’s church planting mission. Acts includes this within its meta-narrative, and while historically accurate, it is not raw history like Paul’s letters. In this study Barnett is seeking references to Paul’s initial missionary “arrival” (eisodos) and the local cultural pushback. Of particular interest for history and theology is his encyclical to the Galatians and his account of the dispute with Cephas in Antioch. Paul’s success in his mission to the gentiles in Syria and Cilicia provoked the rise within the Jerusalem Church of those he calls “false brothers” whose colleagues travelled to “agitate” the Galatian believers and to drive the gentile believers in Antioch from the common meal. Some years later a band of preachers from Jerusalem sought to capture the church in Corinth, intending to then capture other churches in Macedonia and Asia. Paul’s missions and writings have been the subject of numerous large studies which, however, unintentionally imply that Paul’s mission years were longer than they were and that his mission writing occupied a lengthy time space. His nine missionary letters were written ca. AD 48 to 57, a mere decade, and all of which point to Paul’s astonishing energy and drive.

“Between AD 34 and 57, Paul preached Christ in six Roman provinces and wrote nine epistles. Historian and pastor Paul Barnett, by placing those writings within their historical and geographical contexts, expertly constructs a picture of the apostle and his ministry during the first two decades of Christianity—a time some have labeled ‘Paul’s silent years’ but which Barnett shows to be full of sound and color.”

—Philip H. Kern, Moore Theological College

“How was the emergence of Christianity experienced by a prime protagonist and eyewitness, the apostle Paul himself? . . . A close reading of the texts combined with Barnett’s extensive knowledge of the historical and cultural contexts provides an illuminating picture of the whole. At the same time, Barnett underlines the integrity of the Pauline gospel and its continuity with earlier apostolic tradition. Highly recommended!”

—Donald A. Hagner, Fuller Theological Seminary, emeritus

PAUL W. BARNETT is lecturer emeritus at Moore College, honorary fellow in ancient history at Macquarie University, and visiting professor at Regent College, Vancouver. He is the author of texts relating to New Testament history as well as biblical commentaries.
Students of all ages appreciate a comprehensive overview of any topic they are studying. Here you have just such a convenient summary of the life, letters, and teaching of Paul of Tarsus, one of the key figures in early Christianity. The book first sketches Paul’s Jewish pedigree, his sterling rabbinic training under Gamaliel the Elder, and his enthusiastic persecution of Jewish infidels known as the followers of Yeshua of Nazareth. After tracing the circumstances that gave rise to his thirteen extant letters written to infant Christian churches, the book ends with an investigation of Paul’s relationship with the Jewish Law, the nation of Israel, and the historical Jesus. Other topics of timeless interest include his teaching on death, resurrection, and immortality, his view of baptism and the Lord’s Supper, and his advice about ideal family relationships. And many readers will be startled to read about the four low points in Paul’s career.

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MURRAY J. HARRIS is professor emeritus of New Testament exegesis and theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Formerly he was warden (i.e., director) of Tyndale House, a biblical research library in Cambridge, UK, and a faculty member of the Divinity School in the University of Cambridge. He has written commentaries on the Greek text of Colossians and Philemon, 2 Corinthians, and John’s Gospel. He was one of the original translators of the New International Version (NIV). He resides in his native New Zealand in retirement.
La buena noticia (euangelion) del Mesías crucificado y resucitado fue proclamada primero a los judíos en Jerusalén y luego a los de toda la tierra de Israel. En Jerusalén crucificada, Jerusalén resucitada, Mark Kinzer sostiene que este público inicial y el entorno geográfico del euangelion son inseparables de su contenido escatológico. Aunque la buena noticia es universal en su preocupación y cósmica en su alcance, nunca pierde su conexión particular con el pueblo judío, la ciudad de Jerusalén y la tierra de Israel. El Mesías crucificado participa en el futuro sufrimiento de su pueblo en el exilio y, con su resurrección, ofrece una garantía de la redención próxima de Jerusalén.

Basándose en una lectura del Evangelio de Lucas y Hechos de los Apóstoles, Kinzer propone que el mensaje bíblico requiere de sus intérpretes que reflexionen teológicamente sobre los hechos de la historia posbíblica. Considera así la aparición temprana del judaísmo rabínico y los fenómenos, mucho más tardíos, del sionismo y el judaísmo mesiánico, ofreciendo sobre estos acontecimientos históricos una perspectiva teológica arraigada en la Biblia, atenta a las tradiciones judeocristianas y moderada en las restricciones teológicas que impone a la resolución justa del conflicto político de Oriente Medio.

«Jerusalén crucificada, Jerusalén resucitada es una cuidadosa pero apasionante lectura del Nuevo Testamento a través de la lente de Lucas-Hechos [...] Kinzer muestra que [Hechos] es el vínculo principal entre los evangelios y las cartas del NT y que evidencia la mezcla de judíos y gentiles en la iglesia primitiva dando respuesta a cuestiones fundamentales sobre cristología, escatología, eclesiología, ética y misionología. Los lectores de este libro descubrirán formas de ver a Jesús y a la iglesia primitiva que situarán a toda la teología cristiana bajo una nueva luz».

—Gerald R. McDermott, Beeson Divinity School

«El trabajo de Kinzer es innovador. Se enfoca especialmente en Lucas y Hechos para mostrar que Jerusalén, entonces, ahora y en el futuro, es central para la esperanza del mesías judío, Jesús; y, por tanto, también para su cuerpo eclesial, tanto judío como gentil. La buena noticia es geográfica. Kinzer desarrolla una nueva forma de sionismo centrado en Cristo, evitando el milenarismo y los escenarios de batallas sangrientas. Su trabajo está cambiando y desafiando los mapas teológicos a judíos y cristianos gentiles».

—Gavin D’Costa, University of Bristol

MARK S. KINZER es moderador de Yachad Be Yeshua (confraternidad ecuménica interconfesional de discípulos judíos de Jesús), rabino emérito de la congregación Zera Avraham en Ann Arbor (Michigan, EE. UU.) y académico senior y presidente emérito del Instituto Teológico Judío Mesiánico (escuela de posgrado que forma a líderes para el servicio en el movimiento judío mesiánico). Es autor de Postmissionary Messianic Judaism (2005), Israel’s Messiah and the People of God (2011) y Searching Her Own Mystery (2015).
An Introductory Guide to the Art of Persuasion in and of the New Testament
BEN WITHERINGTON III AND JASON A. MYERS
978-1-5326-8968-0 | 396 p. | $45

Witherington and Myers provide a much-needed introduction to the ancient art of persuasion and its use within the various New Testament documents. More than just an exploration of the use of the ancient rhetorical tools and devices, this guide introduces the reader to all that went into convincing an audience about some subject. Witherington and Myers make the case that rhetorical criticism is a more fruitful approach to the NT epistles than the oft-employed approaches of literary and discourse criticism. Familiarity with the art of rhetoric also helps the reader explore non-epistolary genres. In addition to the general introduction to rhetorical criticism, the book guides readers through the many and varied uses of rhetoric in most NT documents—not only telling readers about rhetoric in the NT, but showing them the way it was employed.

“This brief guide book is intended to provide the reader with an entrance into understanding the rhetorical analysis of various parts of the NT, the value such studies bring for understanding what is being proclaimed and defended in the NT, and how Christ is presented in ways that would be considered persuasive in antiquity.”

—from the introduction

“Whether the authors of the New Testament or the speakers they report went to rhetoric school or not, they were using rhetorical strategies they had learned listening to public speeches, sermons in synagogues or in churches, or in books they had read or heard. What many pastors, students, and professors need is an introduction to how ancient rhetoric worked. This book is it!”

—Scot McKnight, Northern Seminary

“Ben Witherington has been the leading light in plotting the rhetorical contours of the New Testament. In this welcomed update, Witherington continues to demonstrate how various rhetorical devices and structures are weaved into the New Testament and how they were deployed by authors to persuade, exhort, rebuke, and encourage their respective audiences. Witherington helpsfully shows how grasping the basic features of ancient rhetoric aids biblical interpretation and Christian preaching. A terrific volume by a seasoned scholar.”

—Michael F. Bird, Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia

“Over four decades the study of early Christian rhetoric has gathered momentum and become increasingly more labyrinthine. Witherington and Myers offer an accessible introduction that carefully attends to the intricacies of both classical analyses of persuasion and most of the New Testament documents. Scrupulously researched, with expanded consideration of the Pauline letters, the Catholic Epistles, and Revelation, the second edition of this guidebook is warmly welcomed.”

—C. Clifton Black, Princeton Theological Seminary

“Ben Witherington provides us with a substantial revision and expansion of his first edition. New chapters on the rhetoric of 1 Corinthians and Romans, Prison Epistles, James and Jude, and Revelation make this second edition much more comprehensive. The two new appendices on elementary exercises in rhetorical education and an apology for using rhetoric to study the New Testament are alone worth the price of the book. I highly recommend this volume.”

—Duane F. Watson, Malone University

BEN WITHERINGTON III (PhD, University of Durham) is the Jean R. Amos Professor of New Testament for Doctoral Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. Witherington has written over forty books including Paul of Arabia (2020) and commentaries on every book of the New Testament.

JASON A. MYERS (PhD, Asbury Theological Seminary) is associate professor of biblical studies at Greensboro College where he teaches New Testament and lecturer in New Testament at WTC Theology (UK).
Because commentaries are increasingly complex, preachers face the challenge of mastering the results of critical scholarship and merging the horizons between exegesis and a living word for the congregation. In this volume, Thompson offers a guide for preachers, using the results of current scholarship on Hebrews and 1 Peter to enrich the preaching task. He demonstrates that these ancient letters, which speak to believers whose faith has made them aliens and exiles in their own land, offer insights that speak to believers who are aliens and exiles in a post-Christian culture. While the standard commentaries analyze the historical and grammatical issues in detail, this book demonstrates the focus and rhetorical effect of each section, making it accessible for preaching. He focuses on the argument of each letter and its pastoral dimension for the ancient and contemporary audience. Thompson also demonstrates the path from exegetical insight to the focus and function of each pericope for the sermon. Brief sermon sketches demonstrate the relationship between the focus of the text and the focus of the sermon.

“Thompson has devoted his life to making his academic work accessible to the church. In this volume, Thompson merges the best of exegetical studies with the best of contemporary homiletics. He provides provocative sermon suggestions that will generate further thoughts. The result is a resource preachers can rely on for crafting relevant sermons for Christians facing discouragement. For preachers and weary-worn churches, this book provides a refreshing word of encouragement.”

—Dave Bland, Harding School of Theology, emeritus

“This volume introduces a distinctive and insightful commentary series to support preaching. . . . The comments are exegetically well informed, theologically rigorous, and homiletically suggestive. I especially like the discussion of Hebrews. Although that book is dense, Thompson’s commentary allows the preacher to bring it into the pulpit as through clear glass.”

—Ronald J. Allen, Christian Theological Seminary, emeritus

“Thompson states, ‘1 Peter and Hebrews are combined in this volume because they both speak to marginalized believers who have discovered the cost of their Christian commitment.’ Thompson connects these ancient words with concrete circumstances Christians in a post-Christian context experience. Delightfully, Preaching Hebrews and 1 Peter provides preachers with preachable exhortations and a trustworthy rhetorical guide when preaching lectio continua.”

—Tim Sensing, Graduate School of Theology, Abilene Christian University

JAMES W. THOMPSON is scholar in residence in the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University. He is the author of numerous books, including Preaching like Paul (2001), Pastoral Ministry according to Paul (2006), and The Church according to Paul (2014).
Buried for more than a thousand years in the sands of Egypt, the Secret Revelation of John has stayed a secret far longer than it should have. Even now, more than seventy-five years after its discovery in 1945, it eludes easy understanding even as it shines with the message of God’s loving presence amid suffering and violence. Illuminating the Secret Revelation of John is the first study written for the curious public, as well as for scholars who have not yet plumbed its depths. The ancient Secret Revelation of John unearths three gems of healing wisdom that have been encrusted in a millennium of doubt and theological limitation. This new work explores the many facets of these gems with a historical setting and background, a contemporary paraphrase, and a study section that invites pondering of and conversation about new questions to explore.

“Paulson makes the Secret Revelation of John approachable for laypeople and scholarly sound for the academy. Her treatment of the text is brilliant. . . . Paulson brings the Secret Revelation of John back from its biblical exile at a time when it is very much needed and solidifies its importance to the redemption of Christian spirituality in the twenty-first century.”

—Stephanie Duzant, Associate Minister, St. Matthew’s Community African Methodist Episcopal Church of Hollis

“Paulson insists on an integrated approach which includes incisive historical investigation, important literary analysis, twenty-first-century meaning making, and contemporary questions. She paints with a clear and broad brush. . . . Those of us who have known the importance of the Secret Revelation of John for more than a generation now have an accessible and informed next step forward.”

—Hal Taussig, Union Theological Seminary, retired

“Paulson provides an accessible introduction to the Secret Revelation of John. . . . Paulson unpacks its primary message and its spiritual insights in down-to-earth language. Most importantly, she addresses its relevance in the twenty-first century as she explores its multiple layers of meaning—including its subversive challenge to a Roman Empire that kept people in their place. . . . She helps us to grasp that SRJ reveals a liberation freely available to all.”

—Deborah Saxon, author of The Care of the Self in Early Christian Texts

SHIRLEY PAULSON, an independent scholar, is the principal producer of the blog, podcast, and online courses for Early Christian Texts: The Bible and Beyond (earlychristiantexts.com). Her academic interests are in early Christian theology and healing practices. She is a contributing author to Westar’s After Jesus Before Christianity. While serving as Head of Ecumenical Affairs for the Christian Science Church, she participated on two ecumenical boards and authored articles for the Journal of Ecumenical Studies (2014) and Ecumenical Trends (2017).
For many, the book of Revelation seems hopelessly hard to interpret. It gives the impression of being full of frightening and confusing visions.

However, To Follow the Lamb: A Peaceable Reading of the Book of Revelation shows that Revelation actually is fascinating, inspiring, and empowering. The key to reading Revelation is simple. Let’s take seriously the opening words of the book that tell us it is a “revelation of Jesus Christ.” Let’s expect Revelation to help us understand Jesus and his will for us. We may expect that Revelation shares the same basic sensibility that we find in the Gospels and the rest of the New Testament.

Revelation is an exhortation to discipleship—follow the Lamb wherever he goes! It offers a sharp critique of the world’s empires and of how people of faith find ways to be comfortable within the empires.

Revelation portrays God as merciful and peaceable—but engaged in a battle against the spiritual powers of evil, as fought with the weapons of love, not worldly violent weapons. To Follow the Lamb opens up Revelation’s blueprint for faithful living: Resistance to the empires and embrace of the compassionate and healing love of the Lamb.

“In the midst of the sometimes-violent rhetoric of Revelation, Grimsrud makes abundantly clear that Revelation features the nonviolent victory by the slain and resurrected Lamb, who reveals a nonviolent God, over the powers of evil, represented by the Roman empire. One of the most valuable contributions of this comprehensive theological analysis of Revelation is how it applies the book’s nonviolent resistance to empire to the American empire.”

—J. Denny Weaver, Bluffton University, emeritus

Ted Grimsrud is a worthy and capable guide through the often misread and confusing images laid out by John of Patmos to the churches in Roman Asia. Anyone who has ever wondered how to make sense of this powerful narrative will find a great companion in To Follow the Lamb. Go form a study group and dig in!”

—Wes Howard-Brook, Seattle University

“In this important book, Ted Grimsrud clears away decades of misunderstanding and misuse to reveal the beauty and power of the Apocalypse. Writing with deep insight and lucid prose, Grimsrud forcefully challenges violent interpretations of Revelation and fixes our gaze on the nonviolent Jesus. A treasure trove for peacemakers and justice seekers, To Follow the Lamb is accessible, relevant, and sorely needed. Guaranteed to deepen your appreciation of Revelation—I highly recommend it!”

—Eric A. Seibert, Messiah University

Ted Grimsrud is Senior Professor of Peace Theology at Eastern Mennonite University. Among his books are The Good War that Wasn’t—And Why It Matters: World War II’s Moral Legacy (2014); Instead of Atonement: The Bible’s Salvation Story and Our Hope for Wholeness (2013); Compassionate Eschatology: The Future as Friend (2011); and Theology as if Jesus Matters: An Introduction to Christianity’s Core Convictions (2009).
The book of Revelation continues to baffle and confound present-day readers. Its strange imagery and the bewildering number of interpretations of the book have left most readers paralyzed with fear. What is needed is a book that introduces the reader to the most important keys to keep in mind when interpreting the last book of the Bible. This book provides just that: it offers, explains, and illustrates five of the most crucial keys for unlocking the message of the Apocalypse. These keys grow directly out of the kind of book Revelation is and reads it as the word of God for the church. It leads the reader to take Revelation seriously as a message first addressed to seven historical churches in the first century, before reading it as the word of God for today. These five keys can instill greater confidence in understanding the book that has always been out of the reach of most readers.

DAVID L. MATHEWSON

“Uncovering the Treasures of the Apocalypse, Dave Matthewson provides expert advice and necessary keys for how to approach, navigate, interpret, and apply Revelation: not only for the sake of understanding its message but also for the sake of putting its truth into practice. To these ends, I wholeheartedly recommend this book.”

—Joey Dodson, Denver Seminary

“Matthewson provides interpretive lenses that bring Revelation into focus. Uncovering the Treasures of the Apocalypse encapsulates his decades of scholarship. If Revelation is a foreign land, Matthewson is a tour guide who teaches us how to appreciate what we are reading. I commend this book to those who wish to mine Revelation for all its worth.”

—Brandon Washington, Pastor of Preaching, The Embassy Church

DAVID L. MATHEWSON is Associate Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary in Littleton, Colorado. He is the author of A Companion to the Book of Revelation (2020).
Over the past two and a half decades there has been an increasing interest in how the data from the associations—known primarily from inscriptions and papyri—can help scholars better understand the development of Christ groups in the first and second centuries. Richard Ascough’s work has been at the forefront of promoting the associations and applying insights from inscriptions and papyri to understanding early Christian texts. This book collects together his most important contributions to the scholarly trajectory as it developed over a two-decade period. A fresh introduction orients the sixteen previously published articles and essays, which are arranged into three sections; the first dealing with associations as a model for Christ groups, the second focused on how associations and Christ groups interacted over recruitment, and the third on two key elements of group life: meals and memorializing the dead.

**EARLY CHRIST GROUPS and GRECO-ROMAN ASSOCIATIONS**

Organizational Models and Social Practices

**RICHARD S. ASCOUGH**

978-1-6667-0901-8 | 418 p. | $47

This collection of otherwise-scattered pieces demonstrates further just how important Ascough’s contributions have been with respect to the comparative study of groups and associations in the ancient world. Much is to be gained from repeated consultation of these essays.

—Philip A. Harland, York University

“Ascough, one of the protagonists of research on Greco-Roman associations, inspires in his essays with a wealth of sources and innovative ideas. Readers will be able to follow milestones in a line of inquiry that has provided new insights into the history of early Christianity on a broad basis and promises further substantial results for the future.”

—Markus Oehler, University of Vienna

“Early Christ Groups and Greco-Roman Associations is a superb collection of essays that cover a broad range of aspects of ancient clubs and associations, and which shows how knowledge of their practices illumines our understanding of Pauline and other early Christ groups. This is an essential primer for the study of the social context of early Christianity.”

—John S. Kloppenborg, University of Toronto

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**RICHARD S. ASCOUGH** is a Professor in the School of Religion at Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada. He has published widely in the field of New Testament with more than fifty articles and essays and ten books, including *Paul’s Macedonian Associations* (2003), *1 and 2 Thessalonians* (2014), *Lydia* (2009), and *Associations in the Greco-Roman World* (with John Kloppenborg and Philip Harland, 2012).
Work occupies most of our waking time, whether it is in a factory, office, school, or at home. But unfortunately most people of faith separate their working life from their worshipping life. Dualism is a pernicious heresy that has infected believers worldwide, namely, that church work and missionary service are holy and our everyday work is secular. In this timely volume Stevens explores the connection of the kingdom of God—the master thought of Jesus—with the marketplace. Traditionally people have either related the kingdom of God—God’s new world coming—either exclusively for the present or only for the distant future. But it is both, now and coming. This gives meaning, hope, and endurance to our work in the world. So daily labor in the marketplace gets reoriented through salty values and ingrained virtues. We become double agent spies exploring the new world coming in everyday life. We can also grapple helpfully with the resistance we face daily in the workplace.

R. PAUL STEVENS

is Professor Emeritus of Marketplace Theology at Regent College, Vancouver, British Columbia, and Chairman of the Institute for Marketplace Transformation. He has authored many books including Seven Days of Faith, Work Matters, Doing God’s Business, and The Other Six Days. He has worked as a pastor, a student counsellor, a businessperson, a carpenter, and a professor. He lives in Vancouver, BC with his wife, Gail, their three married children, eight grandchildren, and two great grandsons.
Economic justice is the core of the biblical tradition. In this innovative volume, Horsley takes the reader deep in examining how Jesus’ economic project was shaped in opposition to the Roman imperial order and how Paul’s development of communities around the Mediterranean was part of creating an alternative society among those subject to Rome. This analysis sets in the foreground the fundamental issues of food security, access to resources, and liberation. These movements emerged in opposition to Roman violence, political oppression, and economic extraction. This ultimately leads the author to consider how these issues are more relevant than ever in confronting the most recent form of empire in global capitalism. While we are not living in a Roman imperial world, we must strategize to confront the ways in which the new empire uses violence, oppression, and extraction to the detriment of the vast majority in the world, but especially those who are most vulnerable.

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—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

“Horsley powerfully breaks down the dividing walls among religion, politics, and economics in biblical studies. This essential book reconsiders underlying assumptions modern interpreters bring to the Jesus movements. It reintegrates politics and economics as inseparable from religion in the biblical text. This book is a must-read for students, faith leaders, and scholars of Jesus and Paul.”

—Crystal Hall, United Lutheran Seminary

“In this important book, Horsley insists that we learn to reread the story of Jesus and the testimony of Paul in context. . . . Horsley sees that Jesus is not offering a new ethic, but is leading a movement of resistance. . . . This book is an important advance in our thinking and merits careful and sustained attention.”

—Joerg Rieger, Vanderbilt University

“That the Bible, and therefore theology, cannot be limited to what is commonly understood as religion or spirituality is arguably the most important insight for our generation, reshaping the worlds of scholarship and of faith communities alike. In this spirit, Horsley explores how ancient biblical texts engage political, economic, and communal concerns which continue to be surprisingly relevant today.”

—Ched Myers, author of Binding the Strong Man: A Political Reading of Mark’s Story of Jesus

RICHARD A. HORSLEY is Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, emeritus. His numerous publications include these works from Cascade Books: Jesus and the Politics of Roman Palestine, 2nd ed. (2021), Jesus and Magic (2014), Text and Tradition in Performance and Writing (2013), After Apocalyptic and Wisdom (with Patrick A. Tiller, 2012), Wisdom and Spiritual Transcendence at Corinth (2008), and Empowering the People (forthcoming).
What kind of mother must a woman be to give birth to “chosen” or “saved” peoples? The many stories of biblical mothers found in the Hebrew Bible and New Testament are deeply concerned with this question and answer it in surprising and diverse ways. From Sarah, Abraham’s wife, to Mary, the mother of Jesus, each mother embodies the type of woman her culture thought she had to be to produce a holy people set apart by God. The larger question of Klancher’s book asks, to what end? What does it mean when different types of mothers are used to establish the value of some people over others? Her book explores this question and asks how the mothers’ stories and their interpretation over the centuries have authorized diverse logics of sexual and racial difference that we live with today.

“Klancher introduces us to the mothers of the Bible in clear and inventive ways. Most importantly, she begins a conversation with the issues affecting mothers of our current times. . . . The reader will encounter the hardships and wisdom of these biblical mothers and hear their voices in new ways as they continue to show mothers—and all others—ways to take a stand against the never-ending assault of patriarchy and misogyny.”
—Tina Pippin, Agnes Scott College

“Stile, Klancher’s close, honest, challenging readings force these questions upon us. You will be unable, after putting down her book, to think the same old things about the texts she examines.”
—Dale C. Allison Jr., Princeton Theological Seminary

“Framed by poignant, clever concepts of ‘birthing Israel’s family’ and ‘mansplaining the mothers,’ Nancy Klancher uses Scripture and contemporary poetry to explore biblical stories of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible mothers. Writing accessibly, she reflects on sexuality, gender, motherhood, and ethnicity. This is a must-read for those interested in motherhood, female bodies, oppression, and centuries of biblical interpretation.”
—Cheryl A. Kirk-Duggan, Shaw University Divinity School

NANCY KLANCHER is Associate Professor of Religion at Bridgewater College in Virginia. Her lifelong interests are in the areas of belonging, exclusion, identity, and how religious teachings affect these. Dr. Klancher has published two books: A Massacre Averted (2011) and The Taming of the Canaanite Woman (2013). She is passionate about the public understanding of biblical legacies. Her newest book, which explores gender and ethnic ideologies in biblical mother stories, is written for a general audience.

“The Biblical Mothers Deliver is a provocation. To what extent are we accountable for the history of the interpretation of the Bible? How can we responsibly utilize stories from another time and place? How should we evaluate conflicting voices within a religious canon? Klancher’s close, honest, challenging readings force these questions upon us. You will be unable, after putting down her book, to think the same old things about the texts she examines.”
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Review essays feature analysis and elaboration—what scholars call “criticism”—largely missing from ordinary book and movie reviews. The present book contains review essays that have appeared in a variety of publications and remain relevant for contemporary “thinking Christians.” The essays include critiques of written works by popular thinkers such as N. T. Wright, Bart Ehrman, Reza Aslan, Christian Smith, and Frederic Raphael, films by directors Mel Gibson and Ingmar Bergman, a recent biography of F. F. Bruce, and more. The hyphen in “Re-Views” links the newness of republication with the analytical character of the essays. They start with those dealing with the biblical text and its translation, proceed to some higher critical issues, graduate to literary portraits of Jesus, discuss the relation between the Bible and tradition, and conclude with some biographical portrayals of people associated with Scripture and its interpretation.

Robert Gundry is one of the foremost New Testament scholars today and has been for decades. Re-Views by an Evangelical Biblical Critic collects Gundry’s review essays of seminal books published by leading scholars on important topics. He provides in-depth, profound, and incisive analyses that not only inform us of significant issues but also help us to evaluate the right approach to understanding them. I highly recommend these essays to all serious students of the Bible.”

—Tremper Longman III, Westmont College

“In this collection of review essays by world renowned New Testament scholar Robert H. Gundry, we are invited to a rich feast of reflection on the last quarter century of biblical scholarship. Each of the essays displays the qualities that have consistently marked Gundry’s work throughout his career as a scholar, professor, and colleague: ruthless honesty; fastidious attention to detail; exhaustive command of the relevant literature; and a complex blend of appreciation and incisive criticism.”

—Shirley A. Mullen, Houghton College

“These incisive reviews help evangelical readers to chart, and ponder anew, important late twentieth-century developments in New Testament studies. There are myriad nuggets of wisdom, including: ‘The task of Christians is to show that believing in Jesus can be intelligent and truly pious at the same time.’ This led me to conduct a hasty review of my own life; I am hard-pressed to think of a higher recommendation than that.”

—Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

“The departure of Books & Culture has left a hole in the field of accessible, critical, evangelical biblical engagement. Few had published as much on their pages as Robert H. Gundry, whose contributions to New Testament Studies and to the currents of evangelicalism have informed and formed generations. Readers will appreciate this chance to re-look at key topics that have shaped the conversation on Scripture, Jesus Christ, and hermeneutics with the wisdom of a seasoned scholar.”

—Jennifer Powell McNutt, Wheaton College

Robert H. Gundry is scholar-in-residence and Kathleen Smith Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Westmont College (Santa Barbara, California). His books include Mark: A Commentary on His Apology for the Cross; Matthew: A Commentary on His Handbook for a Mixed Church Under Persecution; First the Antichrist; A Commentary on the New Testament; and A Survey of the New Testament (in English and five other languages, with more than half a million copies sold worldwide).
Yesterday, Today, and Forever
Listening to Hebrews in the Twenty-First Century

GARETH LEE COCKERILL

978-1-7252-9272-7 | 208 p. | $28

Yesterday, Today, and Forever is not a theology of the Letter to the Hebrews, nor is it simply another commentary on the text. Nevertheless, if you take time to work through this reading guide, you will gain a rich, holistic understanding of Hebrews’ theology, and you will be able to come back to this volume again and again as a resource for personal growth, teaching, and preaching. This book was written out of the author’s desire to share the fruit of more than thirty-five years of study and meditation on this often neglected but rich New Testament book, to help readers see its vision of the all-sufficient Christ and to gain a holistic grasp of the way the author of Hebrews has arranged the material of this book to encourage us in a life of faithfulness—a message of importance for the world in which we live. The book of Hebrews has been divided into seven weeks of daily readings (forty-nine days), so you will have time for Hebrews to permeate your heart and mind. If you patiently follow this schedule, you will be rewarded with an understanding of Hebrews unavailable to those who want a quick fix.

“Yesterday, Today, and Forever is such a treasure! Cockerill’s many years of in-depth study and eager willingness to be mentored by the pastor of Hebrews richly infuse this present volume. . . . Cockerill’s own pastoral heart makes this seven-week study winsome, compelling, and accessible. This book opens the door to one of the most powerful, beautiful, and persuasive sermons ever written! Those who enter this door will be richly blessed.”
—Dana M. Harris, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

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“Cockerill brings to fresh life the often-neglected book of Hebrews. Cockerill guides the reader through a magnificent seven-week journey through the glorious heights and peaks of this cherished landscape of biblical revelation. In the process, he reveals to us anew how Christ fulfills all of the great themes of the Old Testament, such as law, sacrifice, and priesthood. I encourage Christians to engage in this amazing journey and to recapture anew the glorious identity of Jesus Christ for all time.”
—Timothy C. Tennent, Asbury Theological Seminary

“Cockerill . . . presents the fruit of his work in a book that is accessible to every student of the Bible. What we find here are the reflections of a scholar who has marinated in Hebrews for years. The structure of the letter, the meaning of the text, its theological significance, and the pastoral application are unpacked clearly and profoundly. Pastors, students, and all who want to understand Hebrews will want to read this book.”
—Thomas R. Schreiner, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

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—Timothy C. Tennent, Asbury Theological Seminary

GARETH LEE COCKERILL is the author of Hebrews (2012) in the prestigious NICNT commentary series. He is professor emeritus of New Testament and biblical theology at Wesley Biblical Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi, and an associate fellow of the Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology, Cambridge, UK. Other interests include the canon of Scripture, the relevance of the Old Testament, and cross-cultural interpretation. He and his wife Rosa served for nine years in Sierra Leone, West Africa.
In the ancient world, writings were read aloud, heard, and remembered. But modern exegesis assumes a silent text. According to Margaret Lee & Brandon Scott, the disjuncture between ancient and modern approaches to literature obscures the beauty and meaning in writings such as the New Testament. Further, the structure of an ancient Greek composition derives first from its sounds and not from the meaning of its words. They argue that sound analysis, analysis of the signifier and its audible dimension, is crucial to interpretation. Sound Mapping the New Testament explores writing technology in the Greco-Roman world, then turns to ancient Greek literary criticism for descriptions of grammar as a science of sound and literary composition as a woven fabric of speech. Based on these perspectives and a close analysis of writings from the four gospels, Paul, and Q, Sound Mapping the New Testament advances a theory of sound analysis that will enable modern readers to hear the New Testament afresh. The second edition reprints the first edition with a new introduction that reviews a decade of sound mapping scholarship and argues for the continued necessity of sound mapping for New Testament interpretation.

“With precise detail and careful articulation, Lee and Scott indicate how sound—the basis of language—works integrally with language to produce meaning. Their groundbreaking study discloses how sound patterns provide interpretive force that makes meaning memorable. The importance of their insights should not be ignored, as knowledge of the science of sound and language are vital to a well-educated and savvy populace.”
—Nina E. Livesey, University of Oklahoma

“Based on a comprehensive survey of the grammarians and rhetoricians of ancient Greek literary theory, Lee and Scott establish sound as the medium and the colon as the basic form of New Testament literature. The reconception of its compositions as sound constitutes a manifesto for a new paradigm of New Testament scholarship. This new edition integrates current research and provides an authoritative foundation for the future that every second testament scholar will want to own.”
—Tom Boomershine, United Theological Seminary

“Noting the burgeoning scholarship on sound analysis as well as the surrounding relevant critical advances, Lee and Scott double down on their compelling argument that historical criticism has been seriously flawed by its inability to detect the full resonance and texture of New Testament texts. Just as the arrival of sound utterly transformed the silent world of film, so Sound Mapping radically deepens the way biblical interpreters detect the texture of the material:”
—Arthur J. Dewey, Xavier University

“Updated, expanded, and provided with a superbly informative preface, this second edition effectively reinforces the authors’ central concept of sound as a medium of intelligibility. Rather than viewing the New Testament as a bookish environment divided into chapters, verses, and literary units, we are invited to rediscover its breath units, sound patterns, and audible features. Since its inception some thirteen years ago, the book has steadily grown in importance.”
—Werner H. Kelber, Rice University, emeritus

MARGARET E. LEE is retired as Assistant Professor of Humanities at Tulsa Community College. She is the editor of Sound Matters: New Testament Studies in Sound Mapping (Cascade, 2018), author of “Sound mapping” in The Dictionary of the Bible in Ancient Media (2017), and numerous articles on sound mapping. She is co-author with Bernard Brandon Scott et. al. of Reading New Testament Greek: Greek Word Lists and Reader's Guide (1993).

BERNARD BRANDON SCOTT is the Darbeth Distinguished Professor of New Testament Emeritus at Phillips Theological Seminary, Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is the author of many books including Hear Then the Parable (1989), The Trouble with Resurrection (2010), and The Real Paul: His Radical Message (2015).
Songs of Resistance
Challenging Caesar and Empire

R. ALAN STREETT

978-1-7252-6999-6 | 196 p. | $27

Songs of Resistance: Challenging Caesar and Empire examines New Testament hymns in light of their historical and cultural contexts. Such a reading yields new insights. Rather than finding theological truths alone, one also discovers lyrics that contest and defy Rome’s “great tradition.”

The early Christ followers sang songs that opposed the empire’s worldview and offered an alternative vision for society. These songs were a first-century equivalent of modern-day protest songs. But instead of marching and singing in the streets, believers gathered in private spaces where they lifted their voices to Jesus and retold the story of his execution as an enemy of the state and how God raised him from the dead to rule over the universe. As they sang, believers were emboldened to remain faithful to Christ and withstand the temptation to comply with the sociopolitical agenda of the empire.

“Alan Streett’s Songs of Resistance offers fresh and important readings of selected New Testament songs. This important study places passages that have often been read as theological statements in relation to the ideological claims and socio-political contexts of Roman imperial power. This insightful, intertextual discussion constructs the NT texts as songs of protest and hope that rejected Rome’s ‘illusionary version of reality’ and extolled Jesus above Caesar and God’s kingdom above Rome’s.”

—Warren Carter, Phillips Theological Seminary

“For thousands of years, faith expressed in song has inspired resistance rather than compliance to the powers that be. This often-forgotten insight may come as a surprise, but it is at the heart of the good news of the gospel, and it holds momentous insights for contemporary life. Those who seek to take the biblical texts seriously will find in this book a wealth of inspiration.”

—Joerg Rieger, Vanderbilt University

“I love Alan Streett’s new book, Songs of Resistance. He rightly interprets the songs and hymns in the New Testament against the backdrop of the Roman imperial cult, in which Caesar was viewed as a son of the gods and savior of the realm, celebrated in song and poetry. The early following of Jesus resisted the cult of Caesarea, singing, instead, of a Savior who conquered death.”

—Craig A. Evans, Houston Baptist University

“In Songs of Resistance, R. Alan Streett takes seriously the need to consider not only the words that the earliest Christians likely sang, but the social function of songs. Exploring their sociopolitical as well as religious implications, Streett makes connections and comparisons with relevant material as diverse as the hymns from the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Odes of Solomon, the Psalms, and hip hop.”

—James F. McGrath, Butler University

“Streett offers a provocative study of the principal hymnic passages in the New Testament, suggesting the ways in which those who sang these hymns in the first century engaged in subversive proclamations of a higher justice, a greater lord, and a far more lasting kingdom than what they experienced under the Roman ‘peace.’ Streett connects his discussion with more recent songs of resistance, reminding us that Christian witness must hold political powers to account.”

—David A. deSilva, Ashland Theological Seminary

R. ALAN STREETT is senior research professor of Biblical Theology at Criswell College, Dallas, Texas. He is author of Subversive Meals and Caesar and the Sacrament.
Practicing Intertextuality attempts something bold and ambitious: to map both the interactions and intertextual techniques used by New Testament authors as they engaged the Old Testament and the discourses of their fellow Jewish and Greco-Roman contemporaries. This collection of essays functions collectively as a handbook describing the relationship between ancient authors, their texts, and audience capacity to detect allusions and echoes.

Aimed for biblical studies majors, graduate and seminary students, and academics, the book catalogues how New Testament authors used the very process of interacting with their Scriptures (that is, the Masoretic Text, the Septuagint, and their variants) and the texts of their immediate environment (including popular literary works, treatises, rhetorical handbooks, papyri, inscriptions, artifacts, and graffiti) for the very production of their message.

Each chapter demonstrates a type of interaction (that is, doctrinal reformulations, common ancient ethical and religious usage, refutation, irectenic appropriation, and competitive appropriation), describes the intertextual technique(s) employed by the ancient author, and explains how these were practiced in Jewish, Greco-Roman, or early Christian circles.

Seventeen scholars, each an expert in their respective fields, have contributed studies which illuminate the biblical interpretation of the Gospels, the Pauline letters, and General Epistles through the process of intertextuality.

“Max Lee and B. J. Oropeza have assembled a very strong collection of engaging studies that both deepen and broaden our understanding of intertextuality in the late classical period. I really appreciate how the Greco-Roman practice of intertextuality is brought into the conversation. Practicing Intertextuality breaks new ground and puts this important discipline on a very promising path.”

—Craig A. Evans, Houston Baptist University


As form criticism arose, the French anthropologist Marcel Jousse developed a hermeneutical paradigm, global in scope and pre-scient in its vision but opposed to the philological paradigm of biblical studies. While the philological methodology came to define modernity’s biblical hermeneutics, Jousse’s rhythmically energized paradigm was marginalized and largely forgotten. Although Jousse has left relatively few traces in writing, many of his more than one thousand lectures, delivered at four different academic institutions in Paris between 1931 and 1957, have been edited and translated into English by Edgard Sienaert. *The Forgotten Compass* surveys Jousse’s views on biblical tradition and scholarship, documenting the relevance of his paradigm for current biblical studies. What distinguishes Jousse’s paradigm is that it is firmly established within the orbit of ancient communications and deeply rooted in Jewish tradition. *The Forgotten Compass* challenges readers to come to appreciate the print Bible’s lack of fluency in the very sensibilities privileged by Jousse’s paradigm and to raise consciousness about the multivocal, multisensory culture in which the biblical traditions emerged and from which they drew their initial nourishment.

“Experience the excitement of discovery—of an author whose work may well change your way of looking at the Bible. This book lets Marcel Jousse speak for himself but also allows us the privilege of accompanying major scholars as they step out of their routine to engage critically and enthusiastically with Jousse. Unsurprisingly, Jousse taught in Paris. Perhaps surprisingly, he was a Jesuit priest.”

—Bernhard Lang, University of Paderborn

“This excellent introduction to the French ethnographer Marcel Jousse’s pioneering and groundbreaking work on orality and memory within the Palestinian Jewish milieu of Jesus enables readers to (re)discover his contributions to the study of the New Testament and modern intellectual history. Combining two of Jousse’s lectures with an introduction and critical assessments, the book indicates his avant-garde ideas and their relevance for contemporary scholarship.”

—Catherine Hezser, SOAS University of London

“What a joy this volume is for anyone interested in orality! Though focused on biblical studies, it equally appeals to communication or media ecology scholars by its introduction of the work of the anthropologist Marcel Jousse to new generations. Seeing and hearing Jousse in the context of his work makes him come alive and opens up additional ways of thinking about how people interact with their communication environments.”

—Paul A. Soukup, SJ, Santa Clara University

“*The Forgotten Compass* points the way to a paradigm more fully suited to the Aramaic Targumic world of Rabbi Jeshua of Nazareth. A global anthropologist and contemporary of Rudolf Bultmann, Jousse offers a robust, full-bodied approach to the Scriptures, at once very old and very new. Jousse is a treasure trove indeed for younger scholars especially who seek alternative pathways to discovery.”

—Randolph F. Lumpp, Regis University, emeritus

**WERNER H. KELBER** is the Isla Carroll and Percy E. Turner Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Rice University. He is the author or editor of many books, among them *The Oral and the Written Gospel* (1997), *Imprints, Voiceprints, and Footprints* (2013), and *Oral-Scribal Dimensions of Scripture, Piety, and Practice* (coeditor; Cascade Books, 2016).

**BRUCE D. CHILTON** is the Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Philosophy and Religion at Bard College. His many books include *The Way of Jesus* (2010), *A Galilean Rabbi and His Bible* (Wipf & Stock, 2013), and *The Herods* (2021).
Solomon Described Plants
A Botanical Guide to Plant Life in the Bible

LYTTON JOHN MUSSELMAN

This is a treatment of the plants mentioned in the Old and New Testaments, their uses, ecology, history, beauty, and symbolism. The book includes more than three hundred original photographs by the author from field and ethnobotanical studies over the past four decades. Special attention has been paid to plants that have been misunderstood in previous treatments. Recent advances in analytical techniques in archaeobotany, including sophisticated chemical and genomic methods, have helped elucidate the identity of problematic Bible plants. Also included is a review of recent literature on the plants. The volume will be an invaluable resource to students of the Bible, theologians, botanists, and translators.

“Solomon Described Plants is a valuable contribution to the existing literature about Bible plants. It enlightens the use of eighty biblical plants in ancient times, and by examples and excellent photos taken in Middle Eastern countries, the book brings interesting life to biblical flora.”
—Hans Arne Jensen, former Danish plant directorate

“Many people see the Bible as only a spiritual book, but it is also an earthy book, reflecting the landscape, flora, and fauna of the land of Israel. And no one knows more about biblical plants, from acacia to wormwood, than the ethnobotanist Lytton John Musselman. This book, full of sumptuous color photos, thus adds significant depth to hundreds of biblical verses.”
—Marc Zvi Brettler, Duke University

“We welcome Musselman’s Solomon Described Plants, knowing that he has walked through the fields and markets of the Middle East learning from the people who still cultivate many of these ancient plants. The more we understand the biblical lands in their historical context, the better we are able to understand the texts.”
—Ben Witherington III, Asbury Theological Seminary

LYTTON JOHN MUSSELMAN is the Mary Payne Hogan Distinguished Professor of Botany and former department chair of Biological Sciences, Old Dominion University. Recipient of four Fulbright awards, he has worked extensively in the Middle East and Africa, specializing in parasitic weeds in African agriculture and ethnobotany. His most recent books include Edible Wild Plants of the Carolinas (with Peter Schafran) and Wildflowers of the Adirondacks (with Donald Leopold).
Reading the Bible Badly exposes how American Christians misunderstand and misuse the Bible, reading Scripture through “lenses” that distort its true character. As Americans, we often read the Bible’s stories and instruction unmindful of their historical and cultural settings, disregarding the testimony of our spiritual ancestors, and finding mostly a mirror image of our own values and selves in Scripture. Some of us insist that the Bible must be the “inerrant word of God,” historically factual in every way and doctrinally infallible, and overlook so much of what makes Scripture beautiful and relevant. Others follow a lectionary that dices and splices Scripture into bite-size morsels for Sunday worship, divorces passages from their biblical settings, strikes verses deemed offensive, and undermines the literary artistry that is the lifeblood of Scripture’s profound revelation. Many of us read the Bible in fear, warping our witness to Jesus and tragically neglecting Scripture’s ever-persistent call to compassion, hospitality, and love. We come to the Bible looking for simple rules that affirm our sense of right and wrong, while missing the point of what Jesus taught about wisdom and true righteousness. Reading the Bible Badly challenges Christians to set aside their misaligned lenses, that they may encounter the Bible more fully and faithfully.

“As Karl Kuhn persuasively demonstrates, everyone interprets when they read the Bible. The question is, ‘How?’ Kuhn very accessibly and effectively exposes the bad readings of Scripture that are so prevalent today; and he shows us how to read the Bible in a way that honors its original cultural contexts, its dynamic nature, and its ‘ever-persistent call to compassion, hospitality, and love.’ Highly recommended for laypersons, congregational study groups, pastors, and religious educators!”

—J. Clinton McCann Jr., Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation, Eden Theological Seminary
“Lots of very smart people with doctorates cannot write very well. And if you can’t organize your expertise in such a form that reviewers, editors, and publishers find compelling, all the hard work that went into the PhD will be for naught in a ‘publish or perish’ world. No other resource contains the same kind of discipline-specific guidance, soft knowledge, and practical wisdom.”

—Patrick Gray, Rhodes College

“Few biblical interpreters have been more prolific authors over the course of the past decade or so than Nijay K. Gupta. In The Writer, Gupta explores how he goes about the art and craft of research, writing, and publishing, and helps others to see how they might do similarly. Whether you are an aspiring author or a seasoned scholar, you will benefit from the hard-won wisdom that Gupta shares in this volume.”

—Todd D. Still, George W. Truett Theological Seminary

“From the nuts and bolts of identifying a research question to choosing the appropriate venue for your work to tailoring your writing for multiple audiences at once, this book is filled with insights to help readers improve their writing while developing their own unique workflow. As one who has published widely and across multiple platforms, Gupta is an expert guide on this journey. Readers will surely benefit from this book!”

—Christopher W. Skinner, Loyola University Chicago

“The Writer is a practical guide for students and scholars at any stage in their careers. Gupta helps take the mystery out of the academic writing process, while reminding writers of its gifts and demands. If you wish to learn and teach the nuts and bolts of the research, note-taking, and writing process, this book is for you. It will answer questions you never knew you could ask and will leave you feeling empowered and equipped to get writing.”

—Janette H. Ok, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Generously sharing insights honed over years of advising students, Nijay Gupta provides a thorough coverage of the process of researching, writing, and publishing in biblical studies. It’s like having your own personal advisor in paper form. I would highly commend this book to anyone considering pursuing research and writing in the field of biblical studies.”

—Sydney Elise Tooth, Oak Hill College

How did the biblical authors and the people of their time view sex and sexual issues? This book takes the reader into their world. It offers a careful reading of these ancient texts and how they would have been understood in the context of their time. Did they see sex positively or as something dangerous? How did they view marriage? How do their views of marriage relate to the way most people see marriage today? What were the understandings of human nature that underpinned their discussions of appropriate and inappropriate sexual behavior? How did they view sexual relations between people of the same gender? Listening to biblical writers alongside what others were saying at the time, this book takes these texts seriously. By providing information about sex then it offers the reader a basis for discussing sex now and for approaching issues that have continued to create consternation, confusion, and often conflict in today’s world. At the same time, it provides for possibilities of seeing continuity and appreciating the richness and blessing of human sexuality.

William Loader
taught at Murdoch University, Perth, Australia, and is a minister of the Uniting Church in Australia. He has written extensively on sexuality and the world of the Bible.
Contrary to popular opinion, the story of Adam and Eve is not confined to the book of Genesis. It has roots in prebiblical myth and continued to evolve long after the Bible was completed. Bernard F. Batto traces the development of the Adam and Eve story from its origins in Mesopotamian myth to its reformulation in Genesis and beyond—including its expansion in Jewish epigraphs such as 1 Enoch and the Life of Adam and Eve, and its place in Christian innovations such as the apostle Paul’s thesis that Christ is a second Adam, and in the thinking of church fathers such as Irenaeus, who held that Christ recapitulates all humankind in himself, and Augustine, whose doctrine of original sin interprets the Adam and Eve story. Batto also examines gnostic teachings about a heavenly Adam and an earthly Adam, and surveys rabbinical attempts from the Talmudic period to find hidden meanings in the Genesis story. Islam’s emphasis on Satan’s role in seducing Adam and Eve is also discussed, and the book concludes with Milton’s unforgettable retelling of the Adam and Eve story in Paradise Lost.

Batto’s goal is not only to reveal the many faces given Adam and Eve throughout history, but also to understand the divergent cultural and theological factors powering this long, evolving tradition.

“Batto offers a luscious, patient, thick read of the Adam and Eve story. . . . This is an ambitious read, every bit a match for the Bible’s most iconic narrative. Tracing the story as it travels through time . . . furnishes Batto with a kaleidoscope of angles from which to appreciate afresh aspects of the old, primordial story. . . . Batto’s finest accomplishment is the ever richer reading of the original Genesis story that emerges in the process.”

—F. W. Dobbs-Allsopp, Princeton Theological Seminary

“Mesmerizing! With lucid, entertaining prose, Batto navigates three millennia of sources to delineate the shifting contours of interpretation of the two most influential biblical characters in Western history. Clearly, he demonstrates, we never cease to recreate Adam and Eve in our own image. This is an erudite and exhilarating read, engaging to scholars and general readers alike.”

—Valarie H. Ziegler, coauthor of Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Readings on Genesis and Gender
What were the lives of women and men like in ancient Israel? How does it affect their thinking about gender? Recent discussions of “biblical womanhood and manhood” tend to reflect our current concepts of masculinity and femininity, and less so the lived world of the biblical authors. In fact, gender does not often appear to be a noteworthy issue in Scripture at all, except in practical matters. Nonetheless, Genesis 1 invests the image of God itself with “male and female,” making sex central to what it means to be human.

Instead of working out gender through Genesis’s creation and Paul’s household codes, we want to ask: What was life like on an ancient Israelite farmstead, in a Second Temple synagogue, or in a Roman household in Ephesus? Who ran things in the home, in the village, in the cities? Who had influence and social power, and how did they employ it?

Taking insights from anthropology and archaeology, the authors of this collection paint a dynamic portrait of gender in antiquity that has been put into conversation with the biblical texts. *The Biblical World of Gender* explores gender “backstage” in the daily lives and assumptions of the biblical authors and “on-stage” in their writings.

“While much ink keeps spilling over the proscriptive texts about men and women in Scripture (particularly about women), much is done at the neglect of imagining the context of real-life, on-the-ground conduct and responsibilities in their homes, synagogues, and society. These short essays are packed with quality scholarship and insight into a more multidimensional approach to ‘the biblical world of gender.’ This approach will certainly help shape our future discussions on the proscriptive texts.”

—Aimee Byrd, author of *The Sexual Reformation*

“What role did gender have in the ‘daily lives’ of biblical characters? . . . By starting with the material culture of Israelite and Jewish communities, the authors bring women out of isolation and into their proper place as valuable contributors to the community. Gaining insight into the assumed cultural context of the ancient world allows the authors to suggest new interpretations of gender in the biblical world and starts a conversation that I hope will be ongoing.”

—Cyndi Parker, owner and creative director of Narrative of Place

**CELINA DURGIN** is the Director of Operations at the Center for Hebraic Thought, editor of *The Biblical Mind*, and has written and reported on politics, religion, and culture.

**DRU JOHNSON** is an associate professor of biblical studies at The King’s College in New York City and director of the Center for Hebraic Thought.
The collision of COVID-19 and Christmas 2020 provoked Paul Dinter to try and make sense of Christianity’s ancient narrative of “good news.” Seeing the virus as a surrogate for many unseen perils confronting our world, he determined to revisit not only December’s strange yet familiar story, but also the stranger beliefs built upon it. Examining the larger Christian narrative of salvation, as captured in the Apostles’ Creed, makes up the body of the book in which Dinter delves into its symbolic and mythic character as the surest place to find what Christianity still has to offer a hurting world.

For, beginning with Jesus’ birth narratives through the book of Revelation, a through line runs along an axis that sees dilemmas about Christian faith resolved in doing justice. Brief sketches of racial, economic, ecological/environmental, gender, sexual, and reproductive justice spell out Dinter’s case. When the Creed ends with the expectation of the “world-to-come,” it captures the message of the prophets, Jesus’ and Paul’s expectations of the coming kingdom, and Revelation’s culminating vision. It commits believers to contribute to a future human community where the justice of God will reside more fully.

“Faith communities have been vital in the efforts to implement restorative justice through education, arts programming, and musical programs. This I Believe demonstrates the critical connections between religious faith and justice efforts that I have continually witnessed in my own work. In over twenty years in the social justice field, one thing has always been clear: religious volunteers never give up on the people they serve. This important book shows how these worlds collide in lifesaving ways.”

—Sean Pica, executive director, Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison

Paul E. Dinter is a retired campus minister, professor of New Testament and religious studies, homeless services provider, nonprofit consultant, and peace activist. He is the author of numerous periodical articles, op eds, and several works including The Changing Priesthood: From the Bible to the 21st Century and The Other Side of the Altar.
Myths on the Margins
Making It to the Centre
WILLIAM LOADER

978-1-6667-3584-0 | 126 p. | $19

Can myths be true? Hiding behind their unreality is often deep meaning waiting to be uncovered. This book explores four myths first found on the margins of Israel’s faith. Over time these myths became major resources for understanding and articulating faith. They began as stories of wicked angels, kings claiming to be gods, and women whom men should fear. They then developed to become sources of deep insight. They helped open up our understanding of sin and suffering, of Christ as servant king, and of the Word and Wisdom of God incarnate. Like imaginative works of art, which can communicate truth in ways that photographs cannot, these myths adorn the halls of faith and invite wonder and engagement.

“This is a great book. From the myths of the wicked angels in the book of Genesis to the various myths associated with the Messiah in the New Testament, the author not only makes sense of myths but also critically engages with them, while using both biblical and other ancient Jewish and Christian sources in accessible translations. Warmly recommended for a broad audience.”
—Gerbern Oegema, McGill University

“The German playwright and poet Berthold Brecht . . . described the Bible as ‘a collection of exciting stories, intergenerational conflicts, murders and killings, and at its height the Song of Songs, a love song.’ Bill Loader writes about some of these exciting ancient stories. They raise questions fundamental to human existence, and he demonstrates wonderfully how relevant these old stories are for us today.”
—Wolfgang Kraus, Saarland University

“What is at stake in Jewish and Christian mythmaking? This outstanding book provides a compact and lucid source-based overview of the four basic Jewish myths that formed Christianity. Updating Rudolf Bultmann’s existential interpretation of biblical myth, Bill Loader explains excellently its meaning and relevance for contemporary readers in multicultural societies. Any reader of this brilliant book will perceive the Bible and Christian tradition anew.”
—Angela Standhartinger, Marburg University

“Bill Loader deftly unpacks several stories that shaped the religious imagination of the Christian tradition. . . . He concludes with an honest appraisal of what rational people of the twenty-first century might make of these ancient myths. This work of a distinguished scholar of Christian origins makes readily available enormous learning and insight and offers a delightful read.”
—Harold W. Attridge, Yale University

“The often-strange world of ancient biblical myths and narratives is explained here in an academically informed way as narratives of meaning and translated into contemporary contexts. The relevance of these traditions for today is convincingly demonstrated. This is a must-read for all who are interested in these fascinating stories and their relevance for today.”
—Kathy Ehrensperger, Potsdam University

WILLIAM LOADER, Professor of New Testament Emeritus at Murdoch University (Perth, Australia) and a Minister of the Uniting Church in Australia, is the author or editor of many books, including Sexuality and Gender (2021), What Can Love Hope For? (Cascade Books, 2020), and Jesus in John’s Gospel (2017).
Every speaker, teacher, or preacher has on some occasion encountered an audience that was unresponsive to what he or she had to say. One response to such communication breakdowns given by both the Old Testament prophets and New Testament authors was to declare that the hearers “have hardened their hearts to the message” or that “God has hardened them.” What is this hardness-of-heart phenomenon? Who became hardened and why? Was it a result of some “deficiency” in communication? What were the consequences of such a disposition? Is there any hope for a change of perspective for those hardened? In this concise and carefully argued volume, Charles Puskas considers all the key texts relating to human obstinacy towards God in pursuit of answers to these questions.

“Charles Puskas provides both a synchronic and diachronic analysis of the hardening metaphors within all of the Christian canon. *Hardness of Heart in Biblical Literature* is both alert to the historical factors in the development of the metaphor and sensitive to its theological implications. This book is a valuable resource for anyone studying the Christian canon’s presentation of Israel and its relation to the church.”

—Mark Reasoner, Marian University

“Puskas tackles one of the most intractable interpretive problems in the Bible. He draws from his deep knowledge of both testaments to demonstrate the pervasiveness of the ‘hardness of heart’ theme. . . . He casts his net wide, examining rabbinic teachers, church fathers, Reformation theologians, and modern thinkers. His evenhandedness and erudite scholarship make this an eye-opening journey into these difficult ‘problem passages.’”

—David Penchansky, University of St. Thomas

“*Hardness of Heart in Biblical Literature* . . . addresses the biblical texts as well as the text of the soul. Not only has Dr. Puskas challenged us to ponder the hardness of heart in biblical characters, his reflective scholarly comments inevitably move us to contemplate the texture of our own hearts. This incisive work from a preeminent biblical scholar speaks to us in the transformation of our hearts of stone to hearts of flesh.”

—Matthew Neumann, pastor, United Church of Christ

“From the pen of a seasoned scholar comes a sensitive and comprehensive study of a thorny issue in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures that does not shy away from the hard questions. Dr. Puskas has given us pause to reflect on God’s mysterious purposes, divine election, free will and predestination, and the relationship of the synagogue and the church after the Holocaust. This carefully nuanced study should spark further discussion not only among scholars but within our own hearts.”

—Roy A. Harrisville, author of *The Faith of St. Paul*
This personal and professional memoir recounts the author’s formative years and the family influences that propelled him forward. The experience of anti-Semitism in grammar school and college played a major role. The centrality of music and family were especially influential. His partnership with Carol Meyers allowed him to have a successful career in academic archaeology and in teaching at Duke University. Other endeavors, however, kept him grounded and focused on everyday matters: singing, golf, social activism, teaching, and writing. But it was teaching most of all that imbued his life with special meaning as both student and teacher confronted the riches of the past in a search for a better future.

“An engaging account of the remarkably rich and full life of an important American archaeologist, noteworthy especially for the perspectives Meyers brings to bear not only on his signature archaeological fieldwork—excavations in Israel of Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine synagogue sites—but also on key aspects of the history and character of the modern Israeli state and of modern American Jewry.”

—Susan Ackerman, Dartmouth College

“Eric Meyers calls himself ‘an accidental archaeologist,’ and then proceeds to describe the career of one of the most influential scholars of ancient Judaism of the twentieth century. Meyers narrates his life from child of Holocaust survivors to ‘biblical archaeologist’ par excellence with vivre and excitement. This volume is a tribute to a long and fruitful life and career of meaning and conscience.”

—Steven Fine, Yeshiva University

“This is an engrossing memoir by one of the greats in the archaeology of Israel-Palestine. In the Accidental Archaeologist, Eric Meyers writes with honesty and wit about topics such as the anti-Semitism he experienced as a young man in New England and the challenges he and Carol Meyers faced as they led pioneering expeditions in Galilee. An inspiring book by a scholar I am extremely lucky to have had as a teacher and mentor.”

—Benjamin Gordon, University of Pittsburgh

“Eric M. Meyers is the Bernice and Morton Lerner Professor Emeritus of Religious and Jewish Studies at Duke University. He founded the Center for Jewish Studies at Duke in 1972. He co-authored with his wife, Carol Meyers, commentaries on Haggai and Zechariah in the Anchor Bible, and he served as editor in chief of The Oxford Encyclopedia of Archaeology in the Near East. His excavations at Sepphoris were fully published in 2018. He also served three terms as president of the American Schools/Society of Overseas Research.”

“An accidental archaeologist”

A Personal Memoir

ERIC M. MEYERS

978-1-6667-4352-4 | Forthcoming

An Accidental Archaeologist

ERIC M. MEYERS

978-1-6667-4352-4 | Forthcoming
Daily we witness the spectacle of a country in chaos. Mass shootings, partisan gridlock, the growing wealth divide, gross economic inequities, crumbling institutions, and widespread sexism, racism, and xenophobia reflect a country in serious peril. Cynicism, narcissism, fear, and nihilism hide behind the veneer of success, happiness, and materialism that deludes us about our dire condition. Both America and its dominant religion are in decline and more people are raising serious questions about God, the church, and its sacred text for the role they play in past and present realities unfolding around us. This is especially true in the African American community where there are grassroots movements and emerging leaders questioning traditional beliefs of the Black church. Today, millennials and Gen Z youth question problematic things said in the Bible and why a book with moral contradictions continues to be authoritative. There is a real need to grapple with the Bible’s relevance in the ashes of social chaos. More importantly, there is a need to expand our moral imagination in new ways that can revitalize faith. In *The Bible in the Ashes of Social Chaos*, Brogdon invites readers to wade into these biblical, theological, and philosophical issues in a way that holds the sacred nature of the biblical text and questioning rooted in faith in a healthy tension. This book will resonate with people in various places in their intellectual and faith journey.

"This is a gem of a book! Brogdon wears his scholarship lightly, using a conversational tone to speak clearly and directly about how to interpret Scripture. He addresses common questions about how to understand the Bible and answers them with intellectual honesty and deep faith. This book deserves a place in every Bible study, confirmation class, and pastor’s library.”

—Shannon Craig-Snell, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

"*The Bible in the Ashes of Social Chaos* is an invaluable gift to both the Christian church and the everyday, armchair reader of the word. As a New Testament scholar and experienced minister, Brogdon asks tough questions about the biblical text and its interpretation, provides constructive answers, dispels traditional and destructive myths about the Bible, and exposes the oppressive nature of the church’s interpretation of certain texts in the Bible. I highly recommend it.”

—Darvin A. Adams, itinerant pastor in the Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church

*The Bible in the Ashes of Social Chaos* is an introduction to problematic texts.

LEWIS BROGDON is an associate professor of Black church studies and the director of the Institute for Black Church Studies at the Baptist Seminary of Kentucky in Louisville. He is the author of several books, such as *A Companion to Philemon, The Spirituality of Black Preaching, The New Pentecostal Message? An Introduction to the Prosperity Movement,* and *Hope on the Brink: Understanding the Emergence of Nihilism in Black America,* and numerous articles and book chapters.
Reading Karl Barth provides a cluster of major themes and signposts by which to orient one’s reading of Barth’s theology. It assists readers in (a) recognizing and understanding what Barth is doing theologically and why and how he is doing it; and (b) assessing the extent to which Barth’s theology is or is not a fruitful resource for their own context, as individuals and communities of faith. The distinctive value of the book’s approach lies in its demonstration of the ways in which Barth’s theology—in both his own time and in ours—“cuts both ways,” to the theological left and right. This involves identifying various theological logics that constitute the diverse and conflictual landscape of shared Christian identity and faith—both in Barth’s time and in our own—enabling readers to recognize not only where and why Barth is located in that landscape, but also where and why they themselves are located, together with their respective faith communities. This makes the book of particular interest to individuals and communities of faith who feel themselves homeless in today’s polemical polarization between theological conservatives and theological progressives, especially those who are hungry for the possibility of a progressive socio-political vision of the gospel rooted in relatively traditional confessions of Christian faith.

“Without glossing over criticism of Barth from both the left and right, Boesel brilliantly captures the particular beauty of Barth’s theology—that enormously spacious YES. This is an excellent, thorough, surprisingly enjoyable, and even occasionally humorous read. I highly recommend it for students, pastors, and the general reader who wants to be reminded of (or hear for the first time) Barth’s enduringly provocative and inspiring work.”
—Debbie Blue, pastor, House of Mercy

“This witty, winsome, and provocative text has the capacity to charm and intrigue those suspicious of Barth and to unsettle and disconcert more traditional allies and defenders. It offers an assured, distinctive, and even emphatic reading of Barth in its own right, which merits our attention, consideration, and critique.”
—Doug Gay, University of Glasgow

“Sharp, clear, and witty, in this introduction Chris Boesel invites all readers of Barth to a fresh appreciation for the value of his theology today. Longtime Barth readers will find refreshing return to the heart of the matter: the good news that God is for us—all of us—in and through Jesus Christ. Those new to or skeptical of Barth will discover how his theological orthodoxy leads to radical social critique and activism. A welcome word for a weary world!”
—Martha Moore-Keish, Columbia Theological Seminary
The doctrine of the imago Dei, that human beings are created in the “image and likeness of God,” is an endlessly fascinating topic. Not only is it a central doctrine to Christian life and practice but also touches, perhaps even helps to form, every other doctrine of the Christian faith in one way or another. We do not think about God, in a Christian sense, as any other than the God who creates humanity in God’s image. However, many of the details of this claim and what it means for human beings are left undefined by Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and it is not even mentioned in the creeds. This space leaves room for exploration. So the quest for what it means for human beings to be made in the image and likeness of God has never ceased to occupy theologians, clerics, and the laity alike. In this Companion, Peppiatt charts the developments of the doctrine through the ages, summarizing each position and perspective up to the modern day. This volume offers a compact but rich overview of the various ways in which this doctrine has been and is understood as well as pointing readers to further questions for consideration.

Lucy Peppiatt is the Principal of Westminster Theological Centre, UK, where she lectures in systematic theology and in spiritual formation. Her books include The Disciple (Cascade, 2012), Women and Worship at Corinth (Cascade, 2015), Unveiling Paul’s Women (Cascade, 2018), and Rediscovering Scripture’s Vision for Women (2019).
Since Vatican II, the key question that has developed in Catholic theology, often unstated or unrecognized, is, what is theology? The thesis presented here is that contemporary theologizing is “fractured” in many places and to varying degrees. These fractures can vary in seriousness between theologians, and a particular theologian may suffer from some fractures but not others. The fractures addressed here are between

- theology and spirituality
- theology and philosophy
- theology and liturgy
- the literal and spiritual senses of sacred scripture
- theology, preaching, and apologetics
- theology and ethics
- theology and social theory
- dogmatic and pastoral theology
- theology and the “koinonial” Christian life
- theologians and non-theologians
- the generation gap between Gen X and Millennial/Post-Millennial Catholics, and
- theology and the Magisterium.

For each of these, an attempt is made to examine the symptoms, give a diagnosis, and write a prescription.

“Comprised of beautifully written and spiritually powerful essays, this is an instructive and aspirational book. It instructs by bringing together a valuable set of interlocking views of the theological task. It is aspirational because it reminds us that resolving all these fractures is beyond any individual’s abilities. No wonder that the greatest theologians have generally been members of religious orders! Each of the essays could be a book in itself. Very highly recommended!”

—Matthew Levering, Mundelein Seminary

“Like so much today, contemporary theology is beset by fragmentation and ‘fractures’ of various kinds. In these fine essays, the contributors not only diagnose the causes and symptoms of many such ‘fractures’ in contemporary theology but also prescribe remedies for their healing. Emerging from the collection as a whole is a coherent, multifaceted vision for the reintegration of theology as a vital and vibrant practice. It is a timely, constructive, and illuminating volume.”

—William M. Wright IV, Duquesne University
God Saves
Rethinking Christianity's Most Controversial Doctrine—and Why It Matters
WAYNE G. BOULTON

978-1-7252-9212-3 | 146 p. | $22

God Saves is an argument for rediscovering one of Christianity’s most ancient, potent, and liberating teachings, albeit one frequently maligned and misunderstood. In some circles, it’s called the doctrine of predestination; in others, the doctrine of election. The time has come to reconsider it in the light of Christian scripture, and so to recast and reclaim it anew for the twenty-first century.

At the heart of the doctrine is the idea of being “elected” or “chosen” by God for salvation, which would seem to be fertile ground for arrogance, anxiety, and division. Properly understood, however, the teaching cultivates the opposite: humility, assurance, and above all, companionship, even and especially with members of other religions, or no religion at all.

In a lively, accessible style, Boulton draws on key biblical passages—from Genesis to Exodus to Paul’s Letter to the Romans—to show how, at its core, the election doctrine is the Christian Gospel in two words: God saves. We don’t. Religion doesn’t. Or, if you prefer the Gospel in one word: Jesus, from a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew Yeshua, meaning “God saves.”

“Boulton’s account of election will be welcomed by anyone who struggles with aspects of this difficult and controversial doctrine. This is a deeply thoughtful engagement with key scriptural and theological themes, but also, as a fitting legacy from a much-beloved teacher and pastor, Boulton wants us to see why this doctrine matters for our lives, emphasizing its positive implications for individuals, the church, and the world.”

—Suzanne McDonald, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology, Western Theological Seminary

“For Christians wondering what to think about the doctrine of election, God Saves is the best book ever written. With pastoral sensitivity, sound exegesis, and beautiful prose, Boulton dispels entrenched misconceptions and reveals the electing God to be the ecstatic heart of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures. Election is not about a chosen few, Boulton shows, but about a God whose saving work cannot be bounded by any doctrine. Boulton’s book is a treasure.”

—Peter J. Thuesen, author of Predestination: The American Career of a Controversial Doctrine

WAYNE G. BOULTON served as president of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education; as professor of Christian ethics at Hope College in Holland, Michigan; and as pastor of several congregations in Maryland, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. Ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), he is the author of many books and articles, and co-editor of From Christ to the World: Introductory Readings in Christian Ethics (1994).
The loss of a real and heartfelt belief in God—and by “real” I mean an experience that is both steady and moving, ethereal though down-to-earth, sentimental but never trite—comes from an earlier more foundational loss, namely that of an ardent and directed desire for heaven, and more specifically, that paradisal longing for the resurrected life. This book seeks to recover the neglected nature of heaven, degraded into something “out-there” and unknown, degraded further into a vague wish for immortality and the often empty words of consolation. Or even worse, the almost comic book reduction of heaven to an earthly social(ist) paradise, the immanentization of the Christian eschaton. The vague “better place,” which is meant well, often means nothing at all, or worse than that can hamper us when approaching and engaging the mystery of grief. This book will address and interrogate various questions about the nature of the afterlife—on the status of guilt, forgiveness, friendship, love, embodiment, sexuality—and propose various paths to answers. We are talking about that sacred innermost promise: the hope of paradisal reunion most secret and yet most universal, never abstract and shapeless, but embodied and individual. We must wonder whether our casual forgetting of this estuary of human hope, the resurrected life, has caused us to lose ourselves in such a way that we do not even know what we have lost.

“Smith Gilson’s book provides a treasure trove of philosophical reflections on human life, death, and life after death. . . . The philosopher, the theologian, and indeed the serious-minded believer will all benefit from sustained engagement with Smith Gilson’s work. I highly recommend this book for anybody who thinks seriously about human life and its persistence after death.”
—Gaven Kerr, St Patrick’s Pontifical University Maynooth

“This remarkable book offers consolation without saccharine shortcuts. It explores how our failures in love anticipate hell and how the richest experiences of earthly life . . . anticipate the life of the world to come. Rigorous and poetic, speculative and practical, this is a book not only for philosophers and theologians but also for clergy, spiritual directors, and counselors. Indeed, it is a book for all those . . . living in the shadow of death.”
—Steven Knepper, Virginia Military Institute

“Do not be fooled by Caitlin Smith Gilson’s self-admonition as a ‘novice in grief.’ Her approach in As It Is in Heaven fulfills the task of a philosophical Virgil, adeptly guiding us through the wounded non-experience of the death of the other. Gilson argues that not only does the loss of heaven reflect the diminished status of the powerful hylomorphic body-soul union but it nullifies our embodied hope in the resurrected state, as well as culturally dislodging Christianity.”
—Patrick Ryan Cooper, Saint Martin’s University

CAITLIN SMITH GILSON is Professor of Philosophy at University of Holy Cross, New Orleans.
Christ Is Time
The Gospel according to Karl Barth (and the Red Hot Chili Peppers)
MARK JAMES EDWARDS
978-1-5326-9124-9 | 212 p. | $28

Christ Is Time: The Gospel according to Karl Barth (and the Red Hot Chili Peppers) welcomes you to the jungle of Barth’s head-banging opus, the Church Dogmatics, with the beats, rhythms, and lyrics of Smashing Pumpkins, Pearl Jam, Metallica, and more. Based on lectures at Princeton Seminary, Edwards distills Barth’s treatment of key questions in philosophical and systematic theology, offering a playlist of greatest hits on trinity, Christology, prayer, and others. With the care of a scholar and the energy of a stack of Peaveys, Christ Is Time testifies that the eternal God “gives it away” as time through Jesus Christ. Let’s face it: Karl’s style is a bit Beastie. And since Depeche Mode can say it best, this just might be a match made in Nirvana. Go gaga.

“Edwards has written a book that is at once playful and serious, idiosyncratic and traditional, provocative and edifying. I wish more theologians wrote such crisp and unguarded prose.”
—Adam Neder, Whitworth University

“Edwards has a knack for translating sophisticated theology into ordinary language while elevating everyday popular music to mature theological heights. Edwards . . . reminds his reader—neophyte or specialist—that good theology delights even as it demands everything from us. This contribution will be a powerful aid to those just beginning their pilgrimage and to teachers who hope to chart that rugged terrain to others.”
—Lindsey Hankins, George Fox University

“Edwards’s book embodies the very claims made by Barth—that God’s revelation is free and breaks into our world in surprising ways—and we would do well to listen. For those wondering, ’Who is Jesus?’ ‘What is revelation?’ ‘Was the world created or has it always existed?’ Edwards provides a rocking theological journey to the tune of funk, grunge, and alt-pop.”
—Katherine M. Douglass, Seattle Pacific University

“Edwards’s lyrical storytelling, passion for the wilderness, and penchant for discerning parables of the kingdom among a panoply of rock-and-roll legends combine for a fresh, chili-pepper-infused un-taming of modern theology. This is a theology in service of the community accompanied by musical reconsiderations of divine and human natures, trinity and election, church as event, the sacramentality of food, and the meaning of time. Rock on!”
—Matthew Puffer, Valparaiso University

“The academic captivity of theology is a scandal that deprives the uninitiated of the best that has been said about God. By setting the most demanding (and true!) theology to the soundtrack of a generation, Mark Edwards has smashed the academy’s decorative pumpkins and made from them a delectable and nourishing meal.”
—Matthew J. Milliner, Wheaton College

“I have witnessed Mark Edward’s God-given ability to tackle complex theological matters in the classroom, in the pulpit, and in front of the youth group. . . . With Christ Is Time, Mark shares that gift with his reader. It is a refreshingly personal engagement that blends challenging theological thought with great music while bringing the reader right to the edge of glory (Lady Gaga).”
—Dave Davis, Princeton Theological Seminary

MARK JAMES EDWARDS is an adjunct professor at Princeton Theological Seminary and The College of New Jersey; a Lecturer in the Department of Religion at Princeton University; and Director of Youth Ministry at Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey. He has a PhD in philosophy and theology from Princeton Theological Seminary.
Amos Yong has stated that Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen has become “one of the more important theologians to be reckoned with in our time.” This becoming has developed over the course of many decades with prolific contributions in essays, monographs, lectures, and other mediums. The goal of this book, then, is to offer a curated selection of Kärkkäinen's essays for both new and established reader of Kärkkäinen. This volume offers an accessible introduction to Kärkkäinen's diverse contribution for readers who are only familiar with his popular survey texts or are new to his work overall. And yet, for those familiar with his theology, this volume provides insights into the journey his theological contributions have taken over the last fifteen years and serves as a kind of intellectual storyboard leading into his five-volume constructive systematics. In sum, this book seeks to offer a wide-ranging taste of Kärkkäinen's trajectory that will inspire more research into his work and ever more attention to his important constructive contributions to global twenty-first-century theology.
Should a Christian doctrine of salvation be concerned with this life or the life to come? With forgiveness of sins or deliverance of sinners? With the saving of the soul or the healing of the body? Should it focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ or on the presence and power of Holy Spirit? To all these questions (and more), Tony Richie’s *Saved, Delivered, and Healed: Introducing a Pentecostal Doctrine of Salvation* answers “Yes!” Then it proceeds to present from the Scriptures, from Pentecostal theology and spirituality, and from decades of pastoral and personal experiences and academic insights an energetic and holistic view of salvation grounded in the wisdom, goodness, and power of God. Its constant focus is God’s ultimate redemptive purpose in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit for the lives of real human beings living in the real world. If you have ever wondered what Christian salvation actually means and how it actually works, then this book is for you.

*“In this introductory tour of salvation, Richie serves as an expert guide who knows the terrain and yet can demystify complex ideas into language that any Christian should recognize. In doing so, he shows both the basic Protestant architecture and the stylistic features that demarcate Pentecostal distinctives.”*

—Dale M. Coulter, Pentecostal Theological Seminary

*“Tony Richie is an evangelist, pastor, and theologian. He is a committed Pentecostal and ecumenist. He has successfully integrated all of this into *Saved, Delivered, and Healed*. This is a serious treatment of the Pentecostal way of salvation in dialogue with the historic Christian tradition. Throughout, he seamlessly weaves testimony and theological reflection in a conversational style that is folksy and intellectual. In true Pentecostal fashion, Richie has written a theology that preaches!”*

—Dan Tomberlin, Pentecostal Theological Seminary

**TONY RICHIE** is Associate Professor of Theology at Pentecostal Theological Seminary in Cleveland, Tennessee. He is the author of several works on ministry and theology including the award-winning *Essentials of Pentecostal Theology: An Eternal and Unchanging Lord Powerfully Present and Active by the Holy Spirit* (2020).
Both Alexander Schmemann and Joseph Ratzinger insist that the human person remains shrouded in mystery without God’s self-disclosure in the person of Jesus Christ. Like us, Jesus lived in a particular time and location, and therefore time and temporality must be part of the ontological question of what it means to be a human person. Yet, Jesus, the one who has time for us, ascended to the Father, and the bride of Christ awaits his return, and therefore time and temporality are conditioned by the eschatological. With this in mind, the ontological question of personhood and temporality is a question that concerns eschatology: how does eschatology shape personhood? Bringing together Schmemann and Ratzinger in a theological dialogue for the first time, this book explores their respective approaches and answers to the aforementioned question. While the two theologians share much in common, it is only Ratzinger’s relational ontological approach that, by being consistently relational from top to bottom, consistently preserves the meaningfulness of temporal existence.

Andrew T. J. Kaethler is Academic Dean and Assistant Professor of Theology at Catholic Pacific College. He holds a PhD in systematic theology from the University of St Andrews.
How does an almighty and all-loving God respond to his beloved human creatures, who are made in his image and yet implicated in sin and suffering? What is the origin of human suffering? Is it sin or the limitations of human beings? Is God moved by our suffering? If he sympathizes and co-suffers with us, can he deliver us out of our miseries? Thousands and perhaps millions of people have asked these questions and are searching desperately for their answers.

Two major views have been advanced in the history of Christian theology to describe God’s response to the suffering of the world: divine impassibility and divine passibility. More recently, a third, mediating position between impassibilism and passibilism has arisen which affirms both the impassibility and the passibility of God. This position can be identified as modified classical theism, an approach that grasps the perfect and relational nature of God. Following this mediating position, this book sets out its own constructive understanding of a mediating position with the help of a new way of understanding the way in which the eternal actions (and corresponding passions) of the divine persons condition one another—the dynamic reciprocity model.

J. D. Kim is an ordained teaching elder from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and has a PhD in systematic theology from the University of Aberdeen. He is adjunct professor of theology and assistant director of the doctor of ministry KSP at Denver Seminary and serves as president of J.D. Kim Ministries, a Christian nonprofit organization located in Colorado.
How do we speak about God if God is ineffable? This paradoxical question lies at the heart of one of the strangest traditions of philosophical and theological thought: negative theology. As a tradition of thought, negative (or apophatic) theology can be traced back to the convergence of Greek philosophy with Jewish and Christian theology in the first century CE. Beginning with a seemingly simple claim about the ineffability or unsayability of God, negative theology evolved into a complex tradition of thought and spirituality. Today, together with a growing interest in patristic and medieval studies, negative theology enjoys renewed attention in contemporary philosophy and theology. This short introduction presents an overview of how the tradition developed from antiquity until present.

JOHANNES AAKJÆR STEENBUCH

received his PhD in philosophy from the University of Copenhagen with a dissertation on negative theology and ethics in Clement of Alexandria and Gregory of Nyssa.

“An inspiring and inviting tour of this sometimes rather desertic, forbidding theological territory. From its very first epigraph quoting Gregory of Nyssa, the book prodigally pours forth gems of apophatic wisdom. The principal source springs are narrated in coherent order and concise language that renders luminous this all too often impenetrable terrain. A precious compendium of what is most worth retaining from this inexhaustibly rich tradition. To be recommended most highly to the widest readership.”

—William Franke, Vanderbilt University

“This fine book displays a rare combination of breadth, depth, and clarity. Written in a lucid expository style, it covers the origins of the via negativa in Judaic transcendentalism, through the advent of Christian Platonism, the medieval tradition, to modern philosophy and theology. It is unusual to find such a command and intellectual grasp applied to so many different periods and contexts. Serious thinkers, be they philosophers or theologians, will find it indispensable in the future.”

—Raoul Mortley, Bond University, emeritus

“Negative theology is a form of both theology and philosophy that talks about the divine or the first principle of reality by using negations. As such, negative theology has origins in Judaism, Christianity, and ancient philosophy, but has continued to be influential until the present, having an impact on thinkers as diverse as Anselm, Luther, Kierkegaard, and Levinas. Steenbuc̦h’s book is a succinct, responsible, and philosophically sensitive introduction to this way of thinking.”

—George Karamanolis, University of Vienna

Johannes Aakjær Steenbuc̦h
How can we have redemption or atonement (at-one-ment) with God? Ancient Christians proposed a ransom theory, according to which God pays the ransom for us through heroic self-sacrifice so we can be liberated from the power of the demonic, sin, and death. This theory is widely rejected by philosophers and theologians, yet C. S. Lewis boldly portrays atonement in precisely such terms in his seven-volume *The Chronicles of Narnia*. In this book, philosopher Charles Taliaferro defends the integrity and beauty of redemption in these stories and offers a Narnia-inspired Christian theory of atonement. He writes for those intrigued by Lewis’s imaginary world of Narnia and for those interested in thinking about temptation, how wrongdoing may be overcome, confession, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation, restitution, death, resurrection, and personal transformation. Taliaferro argues that Lewis’s work is no mere entertaining fairytale for children but an important lens through which to view deep themes of redemption and atonement, and all the vital stages involved in overcoming evil with the superabundant good of God’s loving self-sacrifice.
What do Christian communities imagine when they think of themselves as “church”? And how do these ecclesiological imaginations inform Christianity’s past and present entanglements with violence and injustice? *Intercommunal Ecclesiology* addresses these questions by examining the distinctive role intergroup dynamics play in shaping Christian collective behaviors against the “other” that are incongruent with Christian theological principles, such as love of neighbor. Through interdisciplinary engagement with social psychology, systems theory, biblical criticism, and studies in the early history of Christianity, this book makes a case for a theological re-envisioning of the church at the three-way intersection of an anthropology of intergroup dynamics, a soteriology adequately rooted in God’s historical salvation plan, and a Christology sensitive to Christ’s collective embodiment. The book argues that within God’s plan of historical salvation, the church is supposed to function as God’s communal response to intercommunal disunity, a role it fulfills with integrity only when and where it enacts itself as a counterperformance to aggression, conflict, and indifference between human communities.

“Intercommunal Ecclesiology is a work of creativity and conviction. It makes a real contribution to liberationist theologies of church by identifying the pervasive dynamic of intergroup conflict as the ‘condition for the possibility’ of the many forms of marginalization and oppression that mark history—including the history of the church. Thoroughly interdisciplinary and robustly theological, this book deserves serious and sustained engagement.”
—Edward P. Hahnenberg, Breen Chair in Catholic Theology, John Carroll University

“This brilliant essay in ecclesiology benefits from the author’s careful attention to theologies of salvation. Professor Battin pushes forward important work undertaken since the Second Vatican Council, including the contribution of various liberation and political theologies, while drawing from contemporary research into the dynamics of intergroup violence and integrating it into his deep embrace of the entire Christian tradition. A book every theologian and bishop should read!”
—Kevin F. Burke, SJ, Professor of Theology, Regis University

“Steven Battin’s long-awaited debut monograph asks of ecclesiology a new question: Why does Christ need a church? Battin’s answer is far-reaching in its consequences: as Christ’s collective body, the church exists as a human community amidst other human communities to heal the often-violent disunity between them. Written in crisp, energetic prose, *Intercommunal Ecclesiology* charts an exciting new path forward for systematic and moral theologians alike.”
—Katie Grimes, Associate Professor of Theological Ethics, Villanova University

**Steven J. Battin** is assistant professor of Systematic Theology at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana.
You Shall Not Condemn
A Story of Faith and Advocacy on Death Row

JENNIFER M. MCBRIDE

978-1-7252-6379-6 | 210 p. | $35

This book tells the story of Kelly Gissendaner, the only woman on Georgia’s death row until her execution in 2015, and highlights the role theological studies played in her faith and in advocacy efforts on her behalf. Central to the book is the written correspondence between Kelly and German theologian Jürgen Moltmann, known internationally as the “theologian of hope.”

After reading Moltmann’s work in a course taught by McBride at the prison, Kelly began a five-year correspondence with him. When Kelly was denied clemency, a local and international advocacy movement arose that was rooted in her theological studies and friendship with him. The advocacy campaign challenged Christians who supported the death penalty to re-examine basic truths of Christian faith. As it was unfolding, the story of Kelly’s transformation changed people’s minds, not only about her case, but also about the death penalty itself. Weaving together powerful storytelling and theological expertise, McBride recounts that story again here, with an aim toward abolition, and offers practical ways that readers may enter the work.

“This beautifully written narrative theology of hope points us to the heart of the gospel, fleshing out the contours of repentance, forgiveness, transformation, and the struggle for God’s justice in the here and now.”
—Nancy Elizabeth Bedford, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

“This is a compelling redemption story. . . . McBride invites us into the theological depths of redemption, where accountability for wrongdoing brings both healing and continued resistance to the powers of sin and death manifest in the criminal justice system and the death penalty.”
—Peter R. Gathje, Memphis Theological Seminary

“For those of us who worship a Savior who was executed by the state, death row is a place for theology. Yet, the church has had little opportunity to hear and learn from the God talk that happens among the condemned. Jenny McBride has given us a gift in You Shall Not Condemn. . . . May we receive it and let its truth change us.”
—Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, author of Revolution of Values

“You Shall Not Condemn is both a powerful text in Christian lived theology and an indictment of the US criminal justice system. Jenny McBride draws upon experience, official documents, and the remarkable letters between Jürgen Moltmann and Gissendaner to construct a multilayered theology. Against the background of the cruelty of capital punishment, this book reveals the ongoing power of friendship, faith, and hope.”
—Elizabeth M. Bounds, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

“Jenny McBride narrates the powerful story of Kelly Gissendaner, a condemned occupant of death row forgiven and transformed, . . . inspired by her exchange of beautiful letters with Jürgen Moltmann, upheld in hope by a community of love, full of God’s power of resurrection. Entering this story will be a blessing, urging you to stand up against unjust legal and prison systems and shaking you to the core by our self-imprisonment through our condemnation of others.”
—M. Douglas Meeks, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

JENNIFER M. MCBRIDE is Associate Professor of Theology and Ethics and Associate Dean of Doctor of Ministry Programs at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She is author of The Church for the World: A Theology of Public Witness (2011) and Radical Discipleship: A Liturgical Politics of the Gospel (2017).
Mission and the Cultural Other
A Closer Look
RANDY S. WOODLEY
978-1-7252-6385-7 | 162 p. | $23

Mission and the Cultural Other is a decolonial critique of a too often failed missionary enterprise. Rev. Dr. Randy Woodley, a former missionary and missiologist, writes both as an insider and an outsider. As an Indigenous person, a missionary among Native Americans, and a decolonial theologian with over thirty years of experience in various missionary movements, he has seen the best and worst that American mission has to offer. Before change can be made in a guarded system such as Christian mission, the critique must be pervasive and cut to the core of the problem. To truly understand the weakness of modern mission, we need to hear from those who have been its casualties.

“Woodley provides an unflinching reading of white supremacy’s relationship to mission malpractice and a determination that Christian witness, shaped by ancient and Indigenous sources, may yet walk the harmony way. The vision of Mission and the Cultural Other is required reading if life-giving community is to thrive in our day.”
—Robert S. Heaney, Virginia Theological Seminary

“For those looking desperately for ways to engage in mission with gospel integrity, Woodley’s latest offering is essential reading. . . Woodley proposes a new way of doing mission that is informed by the worldview and values of Indigenous peoples. Mission and the Cultural Other is a painful but ultimately beautiful and hopeful book. Read it, share it, assign it for courses, and most importantly, practice it for the sake of the gospel.”
—Al Tizon, North Park Theological Seminary

“Woodley has been an important voice for Indigenous followers of Jesus who wrestle with reclaiming our cultural identities and decolonizing our theologies. In this volume, he confronts the Western missionary paradigm, highlighting the ways it has made the good news into bad news for Indigenous peoples. As a corrective, he offers his own story of participating in this old missional paradigm and the way forward through to a more holistic and Jesus-shaped way of living the gospel.”
—H. Daniel Zacharias, Acadia Divinity College

“Woodley does a fascinating job of addressing the objectifying of missions. . . The book is rooted in helping the reader see the humanity of Indigenous people through Christian lenses that are not exclusively white or white supremacist in thought. It is a must-read for those who are in love with Jesus and love Indigenous people.”
—James McGee III, president & CEO, Impact Movement

RANDY S. WOODLEY is a recognized activist/leader and teacher in the fields of Indigenous and intercultural studies, theology, ecology, and missiology. He is the author of several books, including Indigenous Theology and the Western Worldview: A Decolonial Approach to Christian Doctrine, Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth, and Decolonizing Evangelicalism: An 11:59PM Conversation co-authored with Bo Sanders.
What happens to the Gospel when you put other loyalties into positions of power in Christian life and practice? You get deformations, distortions, and caricatures of Christianity – killing in the name of love, defense of worldwide systems of domination, idolization of the nation instead of the membership in the global body of Christ, and baptism of exploitative and destructive economic ideologies. You get much of what world sees as contemporary Christianity, in other words.

Too often, however, the inadequacies of contemporary Christian life, especially in the United States, are seen as separate issues in need of ‘improvement’ or ‘reform.’ Foolishness to Gentiles invites readers to see the pathologies of the churches not as a series of disconnected problems, but predictable outcomes of deep defects of Christian formation, commitments and theology. Having mortgaged so much of the integrity of the Gospel in the pursuit of imperial and national citizenship, and having allowed the powers of race and capital to divide the unity of the church, Foolishness to Gentiles calls Christians into deeper reflection, repentance and redirection.

In a series of essays (new and previously unpublished, previously unpublished in English, and published previously in specialized venues), Foolishness to Gentiles opens doors to deeper theological and socio-political reflection, and some guideposts for more adequate practices of Christian discipleship in a variety of contexts and circumstances.

“If one is seeking a contemporary John the Baptist, then Michael Budde may be the one sought: crying out in the wilderness, making plain judgments we’d rather obscure. Herein are hard realities and honest appraisals of distressing failures. Yet he does not despair, and points us toward truths which all of us in the American empire desperately need. May God bless the reading of this book, and the reception of its words.”

—Lee C. Camp, Professor of Theology and Ethics at Lipscomb University

“We tend to think of colonialism as something that happened in the past, something we have left behind. But Budde finds it lurking in all our forms of white supremacy, triumphalism, America First-ism, patriotism, war preparations, and citizenship. After looking all around and through these structures of power, he stands to the side and asks quietly, ‘Where in all this is Jesus?’ The Catholic church’s attitude he sums up in addresses to American nations of the Southern Hemisphere—Pope John Paul asking how these nations can ever be grateful enough for the gift of the faith that the church brought them, Pope Francis asking how we can ever apologize enough for what the church did to them. Francis too is just asking, ‘Where is Jesus in all this?’”

—Garry Wills, author of What Jesus Meant

Michael L. Budde is Professor of Catholic Studies and Political Science, and Senior Research Professor in the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology (CWCIT) at DePaul University in Chicago. He is the author and editor of numerous books, including The Borders of Baptism: Identities, Allegiances, and the Church, and The (Magic) Kingdom of God: Christianity and Global Culture Industries.
Social media is shaping our lives, churches, communities, and culture in both positive and negative ways. How can we take the positive and leave the negative? This book aims to give you a practical understanding of the culture social media developed in, the culture it creates, and practical ways to engage with social media to keep the good and reduce the impact of the negative.

“Unfriending Dystopia blends a deep understanding of technology and human nature to expose why social media can be so destructive and suggest practical strategies everyone can use to avoid the pitfalls while keeping the value. In a few short chapters, Russ gives us a clear call to be neither a Luddite nor a technophile, but rather to understand technologies in their own terms, and to learn how to use them effectively without becoming their servant.”

—Chris Brady, CEO, Life Leadership

RUSS WHITE is a well-known voice in computer networking, where he advocates for simplicity, privacy, and the decentralized Internet. Russ has co-authored many software patents, books, and hours of video training in computer networks. He holds a PhD in Apologetics and Culture from Southeast Baptist Theological Seminary, an MACM from Shepherds Theological Seminary, and an MSIT from Capella University.
Futurists speculate that we are heading towards a ‘singularity,’ where AI will outsmart human beings, and humanity will coalesce into a single, ever-expanding mind for which data is everything. The idea mirrors conceptions of God as everything, singular, and all-knowing. But is this idea of the singularity, or God, good for humanity? Oneness has its attractions. But what space does it leave for individuality and difference? In this book, British-Jewish theologian, Harris Bor, explores these questions by applying approaches to oneness and difference found in the thought of philosophers, Benedict Spinoza (1632–1677) and Martin Heidegger (1889–1976), to the challenges of religious belief and practice in the era of AI. What emerges is a dynamic religion of the everyday capable of balancing all aspects of being, while holding tight to a God who is both singular and wholly other, and which urges us, above all, to stay human.

“Staying Human offers an original, well-reasoned, constructive Jewish theology that bridges technoscience and religion, transcendence and immanence, universality and particularity, and reason and the imagination. Bor thoughtfully argues that the Halakhic way of life enables its practitioners to resist the totalizing tendencies of contemporary technology and experience the particularistic, time-bound, embodied human existence that remains open to transcendence. All readers will find Staying Human a provocative and refreshing work.”

—Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Director, Center for Jewish Studies, and Irving and Miriam Lowe Professor of Modern Judaism and Professor of History, Arizona State University

“Harris Bor has produced a gripping and beautifully written investigation into the meaning of religious thought and practice in an age of Artificial Intelligence. His words bring philosophy and religion to life.”

—Samuel Lebens, rabbi and Associate Professor, Philosophy Department, University of Haifa

“Coming out of Jewish tradition and looking forward with hope to a future ostensibly determined by the ever more rapid and inexorable advance of science and technology, Harris Bor calls two improbable witnesses, Spinoza and Heidegger. His book will appeal to thoughtful Jewish readers, and to others who share his concern for the future of humanity.”

—Nicholas De Lange, Fellow of the British Academy and Emeritus Professor of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, Cambridge University

“Harris Bor offers a stimulating and energized engagement with technology from a Jewish perspective, which both displays creative insight into life’s big questions and seeks to build a religious practice based upon them. Drawing on philosophies from the East and West, he shows how Jewish spirituality simultaneously seeks the God of everything and the God that loves difference, and how these concepts can be used to navigate our technological world and are fundamental to an understanding of it. The work is bound to be of interest to the academic and religious seeker alike.”

—Nathan Lopes Cardozo, rabbi, international lecturer, author, and Founder and Dean of the David Cardozo Academy, Jerusalem

HARRIS BOR is a Fellow and Lecturer at the London School of Jewish Studies and a barrister (trial advocate) specializing in international arbitration and commercial litigation. He holds a PhD in Theology from Cambridge University, is a rabbinic scholar with the Montefiore Endowment, and has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University and University College London.
Christian realism is undergoing a renaissance in both American Christianity and around the world. Caught between globalist liberalism, on the one hand, and pragmatic realism on the other, Christians are in search of international ethics, a standard and tradition in foreign policy, that takes the two great books of life, the Christian Scriptures and the world we live in, seriously. This book is an extended, edited collection that mines the tradition of Christian realism in international relations and finds in it voices and mentors urgently fresh for a new age. With classic authors like Reinhold Niebuhr, Herbert Butterfield, Paul Ramsey, and Jean Bethke Elshtain, and contemporaries like Marc LiVecche, Rebecca Heinrichs, and others, this collection offers for the first time an organization, periodization, and collection of primary Christian realist sources for the initiate and the expert in foreign relations.

“An indispensable introduction to twentieth- and twenty-first-century Christian realism in international relations. Well-selected excerpts include familiar voices and new, showing development among thinkers over time. . . . The volume implicitly argues for Christian realism as a diverse, ecumenical, international, and contextual approach to politics. Essential reading in a world facing multiple threats and disruptions on the global stage.”

—Debra Erickson, coeditor of Jean Bethke Elshtain: Politics, Ethics, and Society

“An invaluable and overdue resource, this anthology will be a vital point of reference for scholars of Christian realism. There is a deep wisdom at work in this masterfully compiled collection of essays.”

—Cian O’Driscoll, Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs, ANU

“What has the faith of forgiveness and reconciliation to do with the cold realities of power that dominate geopolitics? Joustra and Patterson’s volume traces a tradition of Christian political thought that studies the realities of power with clear eyes and a faithful commitment to order and neighborly love. What emerges is not denominational or partisan doctrine but a plurality of voices forming a compelling vision of international relations that is at once sober and hopeful.”

—Joshua Hastey, Regent University

“Power Politics and Moral Order is the definitive reader on Christian realism. From Butterfield and Niebuhr to Elshtain and Weigle, the work includes a wide array of Christian realists addressing a host of topics. Edited by two contemporary and prominent Christian realists, Eric D. Patterson and Robert J. Joustra, the book is required reading for every student of international relations and those involved in making foreign policy.”

—Mark David Hall, George Fox University

ERIC D. PATTERSON is executive vice president of the Religious Freedom Institute in Washington, DC, scholar-at-large at Regent University (USA), and a fellow of Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. He has written or edited fifteen books, including Christianity and Power Politics Today (2008), The Christian Realists (2003), and Just American Wars: Ethical Dilemmas in U.S. Military History (2018).

ROBERT J. JOUSTRA is Associate Professor of Politics & International Studies, and founding-Director of the Centre for Christian Scholarship at Redeemer University. He is author, co-author, and co-editor of seven books, including Modern Papal Diplomacy and Social Teaching in World Affairs (2019) and more recently Calvinism for a Secular Age (2022).
In this volume, Elizabeth Phillips brings together scholarly essays on eschatology, ethics, and politics, as well as a selection of sermons preached in the chapels of the University of Cambridge arising from that scholarly work. These essays and sermons explore themes ranging from ethnography to Anabaptism and Christian Zionism to Afro-pessimism. Drawing on a wide range of authors from Flannery O’Conner and Herbert McCabe to James Cone and M. Shawn Copeland, this collection provides insight into the fields of Christian ethics and political theology, as well as ethnography and homiletics. Phillips challenges theologians to interdisciplinarity in their work, and to keep historical and traditional sources in conversation with contemporary sources from critical and liberative perspectives. She challenges Christians to engage in apocalyptic practices which name and resist the false pretenses of the political status quo. And she challenges preachers to call their congregations to moral and political faithfulness, opening up possibilities beyond both the squeamish evasion of politics in some preaching traditions and the didactic political partisanship of others.

ELIZABETH PHILLIPS is Director of Studies at Westcott House and Anglican Theological College, affiliated with the University of Cambridge. She is author of Political Theology: A Guide for the Perplexed (2012), and co-editor of The Cambridge Companion to Christian Political Theology (2015) and T&T Clark Reader in Political Theology (2017).
Breaking Through the Plate Glass Window—Prophetic Fragments
On Doing Justice and Loving Kindness in a Time of Reckoning
MICHAEL GRANZEN
978-1-7252-9457-8 | 234 p. | $30

This is a selection of writings on themes of trauma and transformation, hope and anguish, in a time of reckoning. The first section offers biographical fragments about life after the “bulldozer” runs you over. How do you get up? How do you live with others who don’t understand? How do you keep walking? They draw upon life experiences in Boston, Iona, and New Jersey. Faith is not so much about agreeing with doctrine, but a dynamic, active, seeking, questioning, trust in God. It includes both audacity and humility. The second section draws upon fragments of historical reflection, “On Violent Innocence, Mourning, and Metanoia in New Jersey.” This is an exploration of the principality of white racism, state-based violence, and exploitation of the poor. It asks the question: How did the Confederate flag get in the front window of the Presbyterian church on Lincoln’s birthday? Some of the white terrorism that happened at the Capitol is prefigured here. Yet there is grace hidden in judgment. We cannot heal from what we do not name. The third section contains fragments of prophetic wisdom from Lorna Goodison, Richard Fenn, Mike Gecan, Karen Hernandez-Granzen, and Archange Antoine. Along with Traci West and Chris Hedges, their voices are strong and true.

“This book comprises a scholar-pastor’s theological and ethical reflections on his vocational journey in two highly racialized American cities. In solidarity with teachers and peers who share his quest for racial justice, Michael Granzen concludes this insightful treatise with five short essays by colleagues, including his wife. All who are concerned about our nation’s racial divide will benefit greatly from the practical wisdom contained in this excellent book.”

—Peter J. Paris, Princeton Theological Seminary, emeritus

“Michael Granzen is one of the grand prophetic pastors and voices during these decaying days of the American empire! His powerful vision and courageous witness inspire so many of us.”

—Cornel West, Union Theological Seminary

REV. MICHAEL GRANZEN, Ph.D. is a writer and activist living in New Jersey. He co-edited, “Our Hearts Are Restless Till They Rest in Thee: Prophetic Wisdom in a Time of Anguish.” He is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) actively involved in interfaith social witness for justice. He has worked in several cities and lectured at Harvard, Princeton, Colgate, New Brunswick, and Drew Universities. He is married to the Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen, with two daughters Mikaella and Olivia.
“Things do exist that are worth standing up for without compromise. To me it seems that peace and social justice are such things, as is Christ himself.” These are words Dietrich Bonhoeffer spoke to his brother a few months before he began training future pastors in the ways of discipleship. For several years he had been speaking out against war. Near the beginning of the anti-Semitic Nazi regime, he called on his fellow Christians to speak out against a state that was engaging in oppressive measures, to respond to victims of oppression, and to be willing to suffer, as a church, if it was required to stop such oppression. His vision for training disciples was rooted in pure doctrine, serious worship, a new kind of monasticism, and the Sermon on the Mount. Bonhoeffer was convinced that through the living presence of Jesus and the explosive teachings of the Sermon on the Mount “lies the force that can blow all this hocus-pocus sky-high—like fireworks, leaving only a few burnt-out shells behind.” This is the legacy of this extraordinary theologian that this book seeks to recover—exploring how this was lived out in a world full of Nazis.

“Nation may be a pacifist, but this book is a take-no-prisoners, full-blooded attack on a certain perception of Bonhoeffer as a hero of the German Resistance. Controversial and iconoclastic, the central argument demands interpreters of Bonhoeffer to respond.”

—Jennifer Moberly, Tutor and Lecturer in Ethics and Spirituality, Cranmer Hall, St John’s College, Durham University

“If you still think Bonhoeffer can be conscripted in support of Niebuhrian-style political realism, read this book. Nation patiently, painstakingly, and powerfully continues his work of delivering Bonhoeffer from that Babylonian captivity. Nation unfolds Bonhoeffer’s nonviolence and pacifism not as ethical and political principles but as intrinsic to his radical, courageous participation in the living reality of Christ. Bonhoeffer’s work is always existentially and theologically challenging, but ever more so when illuminated by Mark Nation.”

—Douglas Harink, Professor of Theology emeritus, The King’s University, Edmonton

“Nation’s meticulous research should disrupt the popular, often truncated narrative that Bonhoeffer was a tragic realist, a failed assassin. But even if readers remain committed to that tale, this book invites us to reread Bonhoeffer’s theology with fresh eyes for our own day. In a world still full of violent powers vying for our allegiance, Bonhoeffer helps us imagine what it means to live with Christ crucified as the measure and mediator of a good and grace-filled life.”

—Erin Dufault-Hunter, Associate Professor of Christian Ethics, Fuller Theological Seminary

Discipleship in a World Full of Nazis
Recovering the True Legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
MARK THIESSEN NATION

978-1-7252-9508-7 | 258 p. | $31

MARK THIESSEN NATION is Professor Emeritus of Theology, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, Harrisonburg, Virginia. His books include Bonhoeffer the Assassin? (2013).
Let’s Talk
Bridging Divisive Lines through Inclusive and Respectful Conversations

HAROLD HEIE

978-1-7252-9605-3 | 150 p. | $22

The state of public discourse in America is dismal, reflecting an extreme us-versus-them tribalism where “me and my folks” have the full truth about the contentious issue at hand and “those other folks” are devoid of any truth and can even be demonized as evil. Rather than just cursing this darkness, Harold Heie presents what he considers to be a “better way” for those who disagree about contentious issues to respectfully engage one another, a way that is deeply informed by his Christian faith perspective; a way that reflects his understanding that to listen carefully to those who disagree with you and to then talk respectfully about your disagreements is a deep expression of the love for others to which Jesus calls all those who claim to be his followers. But this book is not just an abstract consideration of the nature of civil public discourse. Rather, drawing on his successes and failures, the beautiful and the ugly, in his attempts to orchestrate respectful conversations on contentious issues, both online and in small-group face-to-face meetings during the past decade, Heie presents practical, concrete proposals for how to talk to one another about significant disagreements, particularly in Christian churches that have tragically succumbed to tribalism.

“The way that—in this social and political climate—Harold Heie believes it might just be possible to have ‘respectful conversations’ in which ‘listening well’ prevails must make him the Don Quixote of the Christian world. But maybe, instead of being lost in a never-never land of impossibility, Harold is actually walking the narrow path that leads to eternal life. Read the book to find out why that outrageous idea might actually be the truth.”
—Mark Noll, author of Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind

“Thanks to Harold Heie for his new book, Let’s Talk. God knows how much we need it in these divisive times! If you’d like to be part of the solution rather than just complaining about the problem, this is a timely, helpful resource.”
—Brian D. McLaren, author of Faith after Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do about It

“In this revealing and compelling memoir, Heie demonstrates the many qualities that set him apart as a mature and exemplary follower of Jesus. For years, Heie has been calling us to what he calls ‘respectful conversations,’ marked by the biblical characteristics of ‘gentleness and respect.’ Those qualities, together with the author’s characteristic humility, make this a book worthy of serious consideration.”
—Randall Balmer, Dartmouth College

HAROLD HEIE served as Founding Director of the Center for Faith & Inquiry at Gordon College and as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Messiah College and Northwestern College in Iowa, after teaching mathematics at Gordon College and The King’s College.
The incursion of evil has always caused people to turn to the divine, to gods or to a god, in order to reorientate their life. Ingolf U. Dalferth studies the complexity of this procedure in three thought processes that deal with the central concepts in the Christian understanding of malum as privation (a lack of good), as evil-doing, and as a lack of faith. In doing so, he provides a detailed discussion of theories of theodicy, the argument from freedom, and the religious turn to God, in which the author explores the traces of the discovery of God’s goodness, justness, and love in connection with the malum experiences in ancient mythology and biblical traditions.

**Malum**

A Theological Hermeneutics of Evil

**INGOLF U. DALFERTH**

978-1-7252-9712-8 | 482 p. | $57

The incursion of evil has always caused people to turn to the divine, to gods or to a god, in order to reorientate their life. Ingolf U. Dalferth studies the complexity of this procedure in three thought processes that deal with the central concepts in the Christian understanding of malum as privation (a lack of good), as evil-doing, and as a lack of faith. In doing so, he provides a detailed discussion of theories of theodicy, the argument from freedom, and the religious turn to God, in which the author explores the traces of the discovery of God’s goodness, justness, and love in connection with the malum experiences in ancient mythology and biblical traditions.

**INGOLF U. DALFERTH** is Danforth Professor Emeritus of Philosophy of Religion at Claremont Graduate University and Professor Emeritus at the Faculty of Theology of the University of Zurich. From 1998 to 2012 he was Director of the Institute for Hermeneutics and Philosophy of Religion at the University of Zurich. The University of Copenhagen and the University of Uppsala awarded him honorary doctorates.
Starting with the fraught and often contested role of Christian participation in contemporary culture, and in the light of the chaotic challenges of recent events, William Dyrness develops a biblical theology of cultural wisdom, both its poetics and its practice, as a way of making sense both of these human cultural challenges, and of God’s presence on the way to the New Creation. Making use of the biblical category of wisdom in both Old and New Testaments, Dyrness offers a fresh way to understand both human responsibility in culture and God’s presence and purposes for creation as this developed in the life of Israel, and was embodied in the life and teachings of Christ. Centrally the book argues Christ’s life and teaching represent a Christian wisdom that opened up new possibilities for human culture. This Christian wisdom emerged as the Gospel made its way in culture—first into the Greco-Roman world of the Early Church and then, since the Reformation, into the modern period. Dyrness suggests this Christ-centered cultural wisdom offers resources that help illumine, and transform received notions of common grace, and even general and special revelation.

“William Dyrness gives marvelous guidance here about God’s call to us to walk wisely together as human beings. And in our quests for cultural wisdom, he argues, we will often find rich resources from ‘the facts on the ground’ well beyond the Christian community. This is a wise book about the wisdom that equips us to discern and promote God’s purposes for the creation.”

—Richard J. Mouw, President emeritus, Fuller Theological Seminary

WILLIAM A. DYRNESS is Senior Professor of Theology and Culture in the School of Mission and Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the author of Poetic Theology (2011) and most recently The Origin of Protestant Aesthetics in Early Modern Europe (2019).
Ethics and Advocacy
Bridges and Boundaries

EDITED BY HARLAN BECKLEY, DOUGLAS F. OTTATI, MATTHEW R. PETRUSEK, AND WILLIAM SCHWEIKER

978-1-6667-0298-9 | 350 p. | $43

Ethics and Advocacy considers the connections and differences between critical reflection or moral arguments or narratives and advocacy for particular issues regarding justice and moral behavior and dispositions. The chapters in this volume share an interest in overcoming polarizing division that does not enable fruitful give-and-take discussion and even possible persuasive justifications. The authors all believe that both ethics and advocacy are important and should inform each other, but each offers a divergent point of view on the way forward to these agreed-upon ends. Our shared goal is to avoid academic withdrawal and to speak relevantly to the important issues of our day while halting—or at least mitigating—the disruptive discourse—almost shouting—that characterizes our polarized current society.

“The authors of this probing volume lead us through the debate between ethics and advocacy as . . . an opportunity for us to see how integrating the two may give us productive and much-needed ways in which we can bridge the polarizations that often divide us and engage in the necessary conversations we must have to build and maintain a vibrant democracy.”

—Emilie M. Townes, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

“Today, ‘everyone knows’ that theology always comes out of and returns to a sociopolitical context. But, as Ethics and Advocacy shows, whether and how theology should advocate for contextual reforms is a contested and divisive question. . . . No matter which side of the debate you incline toward, this collection sheds light on roles we fulfill every day without always being clear on their connections.”

—Lisa Sowle Cahill, Boston College


DOUGLAS F. OTTATI is Craig Family Distinguished Professor of Reformed Theology and Justice at Davidson College. His publications include A Theology for the Twenty-First Century (2020), Theology for Liberal Presbyterians and Other Endangered Species (2006), and Hopeful Realism: Reclaiming the Poetry of Theology (1999).

MATTHEW R. PETRUSEK is Associate Professor of Theological Ethics at Loyola Marymount University. His books include Value and Vulnerability: An Interfaith Dialogue on Human Dignity (with Jonathan Rothchild), Jordan Peterson, God, and Christianity: The Search for a Meaningful Life (with Christopher Kaczor), and Evangelization and Politics: A Catholic Guide to Navigating Ideological Conflict (forthcoming). Petrusek serves as a fellow in Bishop Robert Barron’s Word on Fire Institute.

WILLIAM SCHWEIKER is Edward L. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of Theological Ethics at the University of Chicago. His publications include Religious Ethics: Meaning and Method (2020), Dust That Breathes: Christian Faith and the New Humanism (2010), Religion and the Human Future (2008), Theological Ethics and Global Dynamics: In the Time of Many World (2004), among others. He has served as Mercator Professor at Universität Heidelberg and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Uppsala. Schweiker was President of the Society of Christian Ethics (2016).
The Bible has many stories, but really there are only two. There is a story of violent humanity, and there is the story of a self-giving, nonviolent God. The question has been how to distinguish the two without creating a toxic dualism. Bartlett shows that the narratives in tension are not two opposed Testaments, even less two metaphysical principles, but the slow separating out of nonviolent revelation from the frame of violent meaning by which human beings have always signified themselves and their gods. In his prior, ground-laying book, Theology Beyond Metaphysics, Bartlett demonstrated the concept of semiotic change and how it emerges as the most appropriate way of understanding and affirming a relational shift in human and theological meaning. In this present work, he supplies a rich seam of biblical evidence with gripping essays on Old Testament books and their evolution of transformative signs and new meaning. Accounts of the life of Jesus and the teaching of Paul make the change exponential, bringing to definitive expression the inbreaking of the nonviolent divine. Signs of Change creates a theological masterstroke, showing step-by-step how semiotic evolution leads human existence to the truly saving knowledge of a nonviolent God.

“Bartlett understands the power of stories to create the future. Some stories produce a future that is more violent. Others lead to reconciliation and peace. At a time when so many are weaponizing the Bible’s stories to cause harm, Anthony invites us to rediscover the Bible’s trajectory out of rivalry and into deep conviviality.”

—Brian D. McLaren, author of Faith after Doubt

“A rigorous expositor, Bartlett profoundly re-dimensions our historic assumptions about divinely sanctioned violence. In an age that often looks outside of the Bible for wisdom, Bartlett draws attention back to sacred Scripture as a culturally pivotal source of revelation—about God and ourselves.”

—Gena St. David, author of The Brain and the Spirit

“Say goodbye to biblical delusions and a religion of self-justifying purity with its necessarily violent God. Instead, discover faith—a new self and a new God in a new world, beyond a poisoned religious imagination. Tony Bartlett...takes us on a new, consistent, and compelling interpretative journey through Hebrew scripture, Jesus, and Paul. A master class in reading and teaching the Bible.”

—Scott Cowdell, author of René Girard and the Nonviolent God

“Humanity needs the hope this book represents! Bartlett teaches us to understand the Bible as the story of new creation, showing us how to read Revelation’s transformative signs and so engage in the work of bringing harmony to creation. We look around at the current ‘apocalyptic’ violence which threatens our survival, and the good news of this book becomes urgent: God in Jesus Christ has launched a project of human transformation from violence to nonviolence!”

—Paul Nuechterlein, Curator, Girardian Reflections on the Lectionary

“A biblical theology of nonviolence: this book, both seasoned and entirely fresh in its rigorous ‘bibicality,’ persuasively reads the Christian canon as a cohesive story of re-signification and transformation towards non-retaliation. Exciting in the bold sweep of its storytelling yet firmly grounded in the generative matrix of the text, it opens up striking reencounters with Exodus, Job, the suffering servant, Jonah, Jesus, and the Slaughtered Lamb.”

—Brigitte Kahl, Union Theological Seminary

ANTHONY BARTLETT came to the US in 1993 and completed his doctorate at Syracuse University in 1999. Before that, he ran a center for the homeless in London, England, and was a Roman Catholic priest for eleven years. He is author of several books, and he and his wife are leaders of a local and online community, the Bethany Center for Nonviolent Theology and Spirituality.
Christians have an increasingly complex and often conflicted relationship with technology. As Genesis 1 succinctly and profoundly declares, God created humanity in his image, and as part of that vocation, we are called to make something of the world. Technology is one of the most important and powerful ways that human beings exercise this dominion. But while technology can extend our humanity in powerful and exciting ways, many of us feel that it can compromise or fracture our humanity at its core. As a result, questions quickly emerge. What does it mean to be human? How does our creation in the image of God affect the way we use, design, and understand technology? Should our general posture toward technology be cautious or optimistic? This collection of scholarly and pastoral essays, drawn from the 2019 annual theology conference of the Center for Pastor Theologians, offers substantive Christian reflection on a wide range of issues pertinent to a distinctly Christian vision of technology today—and in the future.

“The gifted contributors to Technē have provided a path to a hermeneutic for the church’s engagement with modern technology. Saving us from being both anti-technological monks and unbridled technological zealots, in Technē we have encounters with the use of technology that will allow pastor theologians and academic pastors to disciple believers to be tech-wise. I greatly enjoyed learning from them how to see technology as a significant part of the story of redemption.”

—Eric C. Redmond, Moody Bible Institute

“By defining technology broadly and theologically, Technē does not chase after any trend, but thoughtfully attends to the past, present, and possible future. All Christians, but especially those who bear responsibility for others, be they pastors, educators, authors, parents, or mentors, will find discussion of both questions they’ve puzzled over and also questions they haven’t yet thought to ask. I look forward to returning to the wise principles in this volume for years to come.”

—Amy Peeler, Wheaton College

“Technology has invaded every aspect of our lives and yet has often evaded the theological reflection of the church. Rather than blindly embracing technology or attempting to reject it altogether, the church needs a distinctly Christian vision of technology that is grounded in God’s wisdom and relevant for our contemporary context. Technē is a brilliant collection of essays that will equip followers of Jesus to be thoughtful and faithful in today’s technological world. I highly recommend it.”

—Jeremy Treat, pastor for preaching and vision, Reality Church of Los Angeles

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“Eisenhower superbly captures the complexity of bioethics in this compendium of terms, concepts, and historical figures. It is particularly valuable for those trained in medicine, natural sciences, or humanities who wish to understand how these areas of knowledge mesh and clash within this multidisciplinary field. Inclusion of major influential moral philosophies and religions firmly equips the reader to probe the historical depths and contemporary challenges of bioethics.”
—James J. Rusthoven, Department of Oncology, McMaster University, emeritus

“Eisenhower makes an important contribution to bioethical literacy for professionals, scholars, and the public, and for scientists, humanists, and religious communities. A Bioethicist’s Dictionary displays and advances Eisenhower’s expansive understanding of bioethics as an ‘ethics of life’ by presenting short summaries of bioethical topics from A-Z and of major historical figures. Numerous cross-references invite the reader to make conceptual connections and patterns in exploring the world of bioethics.”
—Courtney S. Campbell, Oregon State University

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—Heidi A. Monroe, School of Health Sciences, Seattle Pacific University

A Bioethicist’s Dictionary
WILLIAM EISENHOWER

978-1-6667-0511-9 | 228 p. | $30

With a “big tent” understanding of bioethics, this dictionary provides definitions of 755 important terms drawn from a wide variety of contexts: medicine, nursing, behavioral health, forensic science, research ethics, public safety, social work, and epidemiology, on the one hand; bioethics, ethics, law, history, philosophy, and theology, on the other. Bioethical approaches (such as Principlism) and ethical categories (Fallibilism) are given their due, as are the major theoretical orientations (Feminist Bioethics). Terms from outside the USA, especially the UK, are in evidence. Many Greek and a few Latin equivalents are provided; for example, “cloning (κλών = twig or branch).” Cross references abound. That’s Part 1. Part 2 offers single-paragraph introductions, 95 in all, to Historical Figures from a number of fields: medicine and nursing, dentistry and pharmacy, certainly; but there are also philosophers, scientists, environmentalists, public health pioneers, noteworthy psychologists and psychiatrists—along with many others. The religions are not neglected: important Christian thinkers are represented along with nine famous clinicians from the Islamic Golden Age. This resource offers the definitions of important terms and the identifications of historical figures that everyone interested in bioethics should have access to.
Forty years of avid bicycling came to a conclusion for D. Stephen Long in early October, 2020. Fearing his own imminent death required Long to reflect on life, on its beginnings, middle, and endings. This work uses the lessons learned from cycling, and the experience of the rapid onset of illness, to discuss God, friendship, racism, sexuality, justice, virtues, vices, and much more. It offers a moral theology but one more in keeping with how we take it up—not through theories but in the practices that make up everyday life. Attention to everyday life can help us live well and in so doing prepare us to die well.

D. STEPHEN LONG

is Cary M. Maguire University Professor of Ethics at Southern Methodist University. He is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and has authored seventeen books, including Truth Telling in a Post Truth World (2019), and Augustinian and Ecclesial Christian Ethics: On Loving Enemies (2018).

“Steve Long understands the gift of life and life with God, especially seen from the seat of a bicycle. This beautiful memoir and theological meditation . . . instructs as deeply as it inspires. Place this book in the hands of any student and they will learn the meaning of cycling, the meaning of faith, the meaning of friendship, and what is required to become someone as deeply cherished and loved as D. Stephen Long.”

—Willie James Jennings, Yale Divinity School

“Framed by the thrill and danger of his beloved sport, it’s a given that Steve’s life story is a wild ride. It’s also a gift that he tells it with the grace of a pastor, the precision of a theologian, the tenderness of a father and husband, and the faithfulness of a friend. The Art of Cycling, Living, and Dying is a wise and winsome book.”

—Debra Murphy, West Virginia Wesleyan College

“Authors are always in the middle of a conversation,’ writes Long in the opening pages of this beautiful memoir. Long draws us into the conversations that form his life as an obsessed cyclist, family man, moral theologian, and Christian facing his own mortality. Just as importantly, he summons us into a deeper exploration of the conversations that shape our own lives; by speaking his mind and life, he invites us to speak our own.”

—Rebekah Miles, Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University

“A celebration of life—life in God, and that we have it at all—D. Stephen Long’s latest is a feast for the living. . . . This book tells a remarkable story, one that is at once unique to one person’s loves and universal to the human condition of loving. Beautifully written, gently profound, winsome through and through, fun and funny, Long’s charming memoir shows what theology sounds like when keyed to the rhythms, and upheavals, of life with God.”

—Jonathan Tran, Baylor University
Welcoming the undocumented resident refugee into the life of the polis is a challenge for some communities and a moral imperative for others. This book provides a Christian ethic for church leaders, congregants, and their churches to discern a way of welcoming their neighbors who are refugees residing in the US without authorization. Grounded in political theology and the Presbyterian-Reformed faith tradition, the ethical debates presented here and the legal overview of US immigration and alienage laws applicable to the undocumented resident lead to practices of worship, witness, and welcome for churches that can be tailored to different contexts.

When Jesus challenged the sharp lawyer to love his neighbor as himself, the lawyer asked Jesus: “who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded by telling him the parable of the Good Samaritan. Then Jesus asked the lawyer: “who was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” And the crestfallen lawyer answered: “the one who showed him mercy.” Jesus told him “to go and do likewise.” This book assists faith communities to find mercy for those undocumented refugee neighbors who many would condemn. It points a path towards doing the “likewise” of mercy in ethically defensible ways.

“Clémot has given the church a wonderful book that encourages churches to welcome others in the name of Christ. Discerning Welcome not only tells us why but how to be a refugee-welcoming church. Here’s the guidance of a wise, experienced pastor and attorney who sees the current influx of refugees as a God-given opportunity for North American Christians to rediscover the welcoming, resourceful hospitality at the core of our faith.”
—Will Willimon, Duke Divinity School

“Undocumented refugees face many difficulties. . . . Ellen Clark Clémot has provided an immensely helpful discussion and path to discernment for churches which wish to welcome neighbor refugees and are committed to the mercy of Christ. She carefully considers ethical, theological, and legal issues to help churches provide an ethic of welcome to refugees. All churches need to read this book!”
—Donald K. McKim, editor of Encyclopedia of the Reformed Faith

“This book unfolds a Reformed theology of hospitality with and for the undocumented refugees in our communities. It is a theology that is grounded in the riches of the Reformed tradition and that also distills a wisdom born of pastoral practice, legal experience, and a clear-eyed analysis of the contemporary situation and its challenges. The result is a practical theology of welcome as a civic practice.”
—Luke Bretherton, Duke University

**Discerning Welcome**
A Reformed Faith Approach to Refugees

**ELLEN CLARK CLÉMOT**

978-1-6667-0892-9 | 140 p. | $21

*ELLEN CLARK CLÉMOT* (DMin Duke, MDiv Princeton, JD NYU, AB Brown) is an attorney and ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She is also Sr. Pastor and Head of Staff at The Presbyterian Church of Chatham Township in New Jersey, a welcoming congregation.
Suicide is a growing tragedy in the US and in the church. We can stop the climbing numbers of suicide deaths, but it is going to take everyone working together, including the church. Without the church, suicidal people may not hear the life-affirming messages they need to hear. Without an informed church, people who have lost loved ones to suicide may leave the church. Too often, the church watches from the sidelines not knowing what to do. Why is it that the wider (secular) culture is more engaged in suicide prevention than God’s people, especially given that Christians care deeply about the sanctity of life? The apostle Paul modeled suicide prevention for the church when he stopped the suicide of the Philippian jailer. But pastors and congregants may not know how to follow his example. The result is that people who struggle with suicide or who have lost loved ones to suicide wonder if the Bible or their church have anything relevant to say about suicide. This book will provide the resources needed to help prevent suicide in a church, even when a church does not want to start one more program.

Karen Mason is professor of counseling and psychology and the director of the MA Counseling program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. She is the author of Preventing Suicide: A Handbook for Clergy, Chaplains and Pastoral Counselors (2014), and co-author with Scott Gibson of Preaching Hope in Darkness: Help for Pastors in Addressing Suicide from the Pulpit (2020).
An Agrarian Proposal
New England Agrarianism in Service of the Common Good

REBECCA JUDGE and CHARLES TALIAFERRO

978-1-6667-1009-0 | Forthcoming

An Agrarian Proposal examines how the communitarian perspectives shared among colonial New England’s settlers and the farming methods they employed can be adapted to cultivate contemporary agricultural practices, policies, and ethical commitments. Together these promote sustainable farming and land stewardship, even as they valorize farming as a vital locus for cultivating virtue. In contrast to the celebration of libertarian ideals and the general distrust of government regulation characterizing the writings of many prominent modern agrarian writers who follow the tradition of Jefferson and the Southern agrarians, An Agrarian Proposal explores how faith-based commitments shared among colonial New England’s settlers resulted in resource distribution and stewardship practices that created a sustainable approach to land and resource management. An Agrarian Proposal adds to contemporary considerations of the ethics and practices of agrarianism by exploring a time and place where regulation was deemed a necessary means of fostering good land stewardship and where a faith-based communitarianism challenged individualism to promote sustainable land practices by individuals farming New England’s rocky and isolated fields.

“A noteworthy contribution to contemporary proposals to reform agricultural policy in a way to save us from environmental catastrophe. . . . If you believe history can be a guide to the future and that Christian theism, properly understood, might provide the basis for public policy, read this book. You’ll find an incisive analysis of what ails American agriculture—and America.”

—Gary Comstock, North Carolina State University

“This timely study of the communitarian agrarianism of New England, as contrasted with Southern libertarian agrarianism, is essential reading for followers of the stewardship tradition, as well as for students of American intellectual history. Its recommendations deserve to be heeded at the levels of both local state and federal government.”

—Robin Attfield, Cardiff University, emeritus

REBECCA JUDGE is Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies and holds the Husby-Johnson Endowed Chair of Business and Economics, St. Olaf College.

CHARLES TALIAFERRO is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy and Oscar and Gertrude Boe Overby Professor Emeritus, St. Olaf College.
Is the beloved community local, national, global, or universal? What kind of love is required for the beloved community? Is such a community only an ideal, or can it be actualized in the here and now? Tracing the phrase beloved community from Josiah Royce through Martin Luther King Jr. to a variety of contemporary usages, Goodson, Kuehnert, and Stone debate answers to the above questions. The authors agree about the importance of beloved community but disagree on the details. These differences come out through arguments over the local vs. the universal, the type of love the beloved community calls for, and what it means to conceptualize community. Ultimately, they argue, the purpose of beloved community involves responding to the cries of the wounded and those who suffer in the wounded world.

“Between the voices and concerns of two prophetic pragmatists and a retired Lutheran minister, the beloved community comes to life in these pages. The theme is presented and developed in reflective conversation that digs deeply into a rich variety of traditions and concerns. Attentive readers will face a kind of altar call to begin the hard work of joining and serving the community they seek.”

—Roger Ward, Georgetown College

“This text provides a kaleidoscope on Josiah Royce’s felicitous concept of ‘the beloved community,’ which was most powerfully elaborated in the life, work, and rhetoric of Martin Luther King Jr. . . . Bridging the academy and the pulpit, the contributors harmonize around the cries of the wounded within a wounded world. Its human, all-too-human deficiencies notwithstanding, Goodson, Stone, and Kuehnert focus on what a beloved community demands of us who have the ears to hear.”

—William David Hart, Macalester College

JACOB L. GOODSON is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas.

BRAD ELLIOTT STONE is Professor of Philosophy and Associate Dean in the Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California.

PHILIP RUDOLPH KUEHNERT is a retired Lutheran Pastor living on the sunrise side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. He combined forty years of pastoral ministry with twenty-five years as a pastoral psychotherapist in New Orleans, Atlanta, and Fairbanks (Alaska) before retiring to Virginia.
At a time when we have never known more about our globe or shared more information, we live—paradoxically—in a driven, disconnected world. In science, in economics, our communications industry, and even in the public sphere, the human person tends to disappear from consideration or evaporate into an abstraction. The new political theology tries to break the spell of this cultural amnesia. These essays and interviews invite readers to consider the future by asking *Where are we headed* and *what do we stand for*. Johann Baptist Metz’s theology emerged as an attempt to understand shifting borders and threatening situations. It does not prescribe a political agenda or policies, but it does ask where we might stand if we are to shape a meaningful future together rather than in isolated or in ideological camps. Beginning with the spirituality of his popular *Poverty of Spirit*, Metz developed a new method of theological inquiry for our anxious times. These essays represent the mature clarification of his earlier work.

“Now more than ever we need the particular genius and passion for God that characterized Metz’s six decades of theological labor. We are all in John Downey’s debt for this collection that introduces the reader to the most important themes of Metz’s mature work. The essays are carefully chosen, and the interviews reinforce Metz’s own insistence that theology must always develop within a biographical framework. Highly recommended.”

—Matthew Ashley, University of Notre Dame

“The prophetic voice of Johann-Baptist Metz calls to us from the pages of this book. The essays uncover key themes in the new political theology that are important for philosophers and critical theorists as well as theologians. Downey’s inclusion of interviews keeps the content accessible. This is an excellent resource for everyone willing to respond to Metz’s challenge to face the world with open eyes.”

—Steve Ostovich, College of St. Scholastica, emeritus

“When students or friends come to me seeking theological light amidst the darkness of suffering and the confusing pluralities of our age, one name always comes to mind: Johann-Baptist Metz. In this marvelous book of short essays and interviews, his key themes recur, overlapping in poetic rhythm, filled with ancient and ardent longings, heralding anew the advent of God.”

—Kevin F. Burke, SJ, Regis University

This is a book about God and gods, Spirit and spirits, prayer and sacraments, ghosts and resurrection, Jesus and the church. It grows out of immersion in Catholic and Anglican traditions and acute awareness of abuses in their name. It is an honest and personal exploration of what still holds up and what has had to be discarded.

NICHOLAS PETER HARVEY is a former Catholic monk and freelance theological writer and speaker. He is author of *Death’s Gift* (1985) and *The Morals of Jesus* (1993).

LINDA WOODHEAD, MBE, is F. D. Maurice Professor at King’s College London and an expert on contemporary religion and spirituality. She is author with Andrew Brown of *That Was the Church That Was* (2016), and many other books.
The majority of Americans have looked on in some combination of horror and befuddlement as many white Christians, particularly evangelicals, have revealed beliefs and opinions seemingly antithetical to the Christian faith, whether holding racist attitudes, supporting conspiracy theories, aligning with nationalistic and authoritarian movements, or becoming hostile toward the different and marginalized. Dr. Dave Verhaagen, a nationally board-certified psychologist and author, tackles the challenge of explaining the psychology behind what has become the unique mind of the modern white Christian. Each chapter explores one or more robust psychological principles that help make sense of why white Christians think like they do.

“*How White Evangelicals Think* is a book that meets the current moment. Drawing on decades of clinical expertise paired with an insider knowledge of the movement, Dave Verhaagen highlights the barriers facing white evangelicalism with an unsparing yet empathetic spirit. Those inside white evangelicalism as well as those outside it will benefit from wrestling with what Verhaagen shows us.”

—Andrew L. Whitehead, author of *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*

“A number of authors have offered important analysis of alarming trends among US white evangelicals. Dave Verhaagen takes a psychologist’s perspective here, and his diagnosis centering on collective vulnerable narcissism is a breakthrough proposal that rings sadly true. This book must be added to a handful of others that constitute essential reading about what has gone so very badly, dangerously wrong with US white evangelicalism.”

—David P. Gushee, Mercer University

**DAVE VERHAAGEN** is an author of eight previous books and nine book chapters. He is a licensed and nationally board-certified psychologist who earned his PhD from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Before he cofounded one of the largest psychology practices in the country, he served as the clinical director for three mental health agencies. His numerous faculty appointments include a current appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Psychology at Vanderbilt University.
It can be a shock in our culture for a Christian to encounter evolutionary biology and conversely for a Darwinian to encounter biblical Christianity. Can a devout Christian with a high view of scripture accept scientific views of evolution? Some proponents of biblical Christianity or Darwinian evolution are quick to claim their incompatibility. However, as strong believers in both Christ and the sciences, we find more harmony than friction between them. If you or someone you care about sees a tension between evolution and Christian faith, we want to help you understand their interaction. This book, written by a biologist, a pastor/biblical scholar, and a theologian, addresses questions from the gifts of each of their disciplines. We acknowledge the insights and authority of the Bible, explain the science of evolution, explore their mutual relevance, and argue that holding the two together deepens our understanding of the world and its creator.

“What about Evolution? is one of those rare resources that sheds more light than heat when addressing the controversial issue of the relationship between evolution and faith. Writing from their own disciplinary areas of expertise, the authors guide us through a complex thicket of issues—biological, theological, biblical, and pastoral—with both wisdom and grace. An excellent resource for you—and surely others you know!”
—Todd Wilson, Cofounder & President, The Center for Pastor Theologians

“A scientist, a theologian, and a pastor write about evolution. Instead of the entrée to a witty joke, What about Evolution? is a serious invitation to learn more about both science and the Bible. Humility, gracious dialogue, and fellowship take center stage as the authors respond to challenging questions from the science vs. faith conversation. This book supports anyone searching for faithful and fruitful ways to converse about evolution and Christianity.”
—Sarah Bodbyl Roels, Faculty Developer, Colorado School of Mines

“This book tackles some of the most difficult questions that emerge at the interface of evolution and Christianity. It is technically sound and nuanced in dealing with scientific, biblical, and theological issues, yet it remains accessible and pastoral at its core. The authors demonstrate the importance of engaging well with these issues and model how this can be done with humility in the context of a community with different experiences, perspectives, and concerns.”
—Ryan Bebej, Associate Professor of Biology, Calvin University

APRIL MASKIEWICZ CORDERO is professor of biology and dean of educational effectiveness at Point Loma Nazarene University. Her PhD from UCSD focused on promoting learning in biology.

DOUGLAS ESTES is associate professor of biblical studies and practical theology at Tabor College. His PhD in theology from the University of Nottingham included emphases on biblical interpretation and science/religion.

TELFORD WORK is professor of theology at Westmont College. His PhD in religion is from Duke University, focusing on doctrine of scripture.
Hope is not an attitude—it’s a way of life. Therapist Ted Brackman, a colleague of Jim Wallis in the early Sojourners community, mines psychological, theological, and sociological insights in this practical and compassionate guide for “living well while ill.”

Ted’s work was deepened by his eleven years with pancreatic cancer (after a nine-month prognosis). He developed and lived out a way of life animated by hope in the transcendent reality of God’s future coming to us in the present. In his writing, he is an honest, inspiring companion:

• for those who struggle to face the next hour with courage and strength.
• for those who feel defeated and need a new way forward that reframes the present.
• for caregivers and advocates who need new tools for replenishing both internal and external resources.
• for communities of faith seeking to bring change to, and empowering hope within, marginalized populations.

For all those ready to find a new way of living when false hopes and distractions are stripped away, to learn how to build a foundation for personal, communal, and social thriving . . . Ted Brackman offers Bright Hope.

“Bright Hope is a light in dark times. It offers wisdom, guidance, and inspiration for living a grateful and hopeful life, even in the face of extreme personal and societal challenges. Brackman masterfully weaves his experience living with terminal cancer into examinations of social injustice and homelessness, helping us to see the path to hope and the utility of remaining hopeful.”

—Tristia Bauman, senior attorney, National Homelessness Law Center

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For all those ready to find a new way of living when false hopes and distractions are stripped away, to learn how to build a foundation for personal, communal, and social thriving . . . Ted Brackman offers Bright Hope.

“We’re all dying every day, but not all of us know that to the depths as did Ted Brackman. His book is a passionate, intelligent, faithful cry from the heart that speaks to all people seeking to follow Jesus in challenging times. Drink in Ted’s words of wisdom and be inspired anew to walk in joyous discipleship!”

—Wes Howard-Brook, author of “Come Out, My People!”: God’s Call Out of Empire in the Bible and Beyond

“As a spiritual director, I find the insights and practices in Bright Hope an entry point into apprehending and living into real hope. . . . And as one who accompanied Ted throughout his journey of life in the face of death, I am a witness to how he knew and lived into the ‘bright hope’ he longed for all to see.”

—Sue Ferguson Johnson, spiritual director, Abide in Me

“Bright Hope” is a light in dark times. It offers wisdom, guidance, and inspiration for living a grateful and hopeful life, even in the face of extreme personal and societal challenges. Brackman masterfully weaves his experience living with terminal cancer into examinations of social injustice and homelessness, helping us to see the path to hope and the utility of remaining hopeful.”

—Tristia Bauman, senior attorney, National Homelessness Law Center

“I will never forget what Ted shared shortly after his diagnosis: ‘I’m not asking “Why me?” but rather, “Why not me?”’ His hope wasn’t in being the exception to the rule, but rather as one who turned his face into the storm with resilient hope. . . . Fellow strugglers with disease and injustice will find encouragement in the words of a man who lived out his faith with genuine, gritty hope like no one else I have ever known.”

—Linda J. MacDonald, author of How to Help Your Spouse Heal from Your Affair

TED BRACKMAN, MA (Pacific Lutheran Univ., Tacoma), MDiv (interdisciplinary program in theology, psychology, and social ethics from the Pacific School of Religion / The Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley), was a retired counselor and social change advocate. He lived with his wife, Debra, in Sumner, WA. They have two adult daughters (Greta, Tera) and three grandchildren (Lander, Cora, Isla).
For four decades, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan R. Wilson has cultivated an imagination for “kingdom realism” as a pastor, teacher, theologian, and friend. To celebrate his seventieth birthday, Kingdom Come has gathered reflections from fellow theologians, popular authors, poets, and practitioners to mark both the range of Wilson’s influence on the Christian church and the consistency of his prayer and work for God’s kingdom to come here on earth as it is in heaven.

With contributions from:
Isaac Villegas
Reggie Williams
Willie Jennings
Stanley Hauerwas
Greg Jones
Tim Dickau
Chandra Mallampalli
Reinhard Hütter
Axel Schoeber
John Berkman
Phil Kenneson
AKM Adam
Margaret Adam
Craig Smith
Jen Harvey
Jeff Greenman
Loren Wilkinson
Marilyn McEntyre
Anna Robbins
Terry Smith
Munyamasoko Gato Corneil
Mike Pears
James Purves
Danny Zacharias
Mike Swalm
Susan Phillips
Ross Lockhart
Ross Hastings
Matt Humphrey
Peter Harris
Anthony Brown
Phil Rolnick
Andrew Shepherd
Chris Hall
Joy Banks
Christopher Johnston
Soohwan Park

“Far too few beyond the theological academy may recognize the insight or importance of the work of Jonathan R. Wilson, which has charted a way for Christian faithfulness in the midst of cultural fragmentation. Yet if this volume and these contributors are any indication of the significance of his influence as a pastor, teacher, and scholar, then this book and his work surely deserve to be taken very seriously.”
—Curtis W. Freeman, Duke Divinity School

“Whenever I think of Jonathan Wilson, many descriptors come to mind—scholar, teacher, pastor. But the word that dwarfs all of them is a humble and heartfelt one: friend. All the lectures, articles, sermons, and books that he’s shared over the years are ultimately an act of friendship—a lifetime offering of the caring and affection he holds for others, for creation, and for God. No contemporary theologian embodies such deep mutuality and companionship through their work.”
Judith Butler and conservative Christian theology are often perceived to be antithetical on questions of gender. In Reforming a Theology of Gender they are shown to be strange bedfellows. By engaging in dialogue with Butler on her terms—desire, violence, and life—this book absorbs the heart of Butler’s critique, revealing a righteous law and a seductive image in conservative theologies of gender. The law of Adam and Eve manifests in the unjust administration of guilt, grief, and death. By confronting this law, which in fact condemns all in their bodies, further reflection on Butler’s thought leads to thinking about where one finds life in one’s body of death. The seductive image of Adam and Eve is revealed to be a false hope and a site that induces slave morality or body-works-based righteousness. Butler’s voice is strangely prophetic because it calls the church to offer hope and life by reorienting its gaze from the beautiful yet lifeless bodies of Adam and Eve to the bloodied and scarred, risen body of Jesus Christ. Gender, in the end, is shown to be a vocation of becoming what one is not.

Butler’s difficult body of work and is critical reading for any church seeking to faithfully engage the turbulence of our newly gender-fluid age.

—Brian Brock, University of Aberdeen

“If theological accounts of gender will succeed, they must be characterized by at least two traits: first, they must engage a complex set of interlocutors with patience, charity, and nuance; and second, they must be sensitive to the rich ways the Christian story of creation and redemption implicate our understandings of the topic. Patterson’s book exemplifies both of these traits brilliantly in its interpretation of Judith Butler’s work and in its constructive theological proposal.”

—Felipe do Vale, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

“A persistent searching analysis of Judith Butler’s influential queer theory inspires the deepest reflections on subjectivity, desire, violence, law, and embodied life. Patterson articulates here a Christian vocation of gender that is transformed by her critique whilst, in return, witnessing to another transformation made possible in unity with Christ. This is an exemplary study in discipleship in a contemporary context.”

—Susan F. Parsons, editor, Studies in Christian Ethics

DANIEL R. PATTERSON is lecturer in theology at St. Trivelius Institute, Sofia, Bulgaria, and adjunct lecturer at Sheridan Institute of Higher Education, Perth, Australia.
The Back Side of the Cross
An Atonement Theology for the Abused and Abandoned
DIANE LECLERC and BRENT PETERSON
978-1-6667-3171-2 | 276 p. | $35

The cross has always been portrayed as the means of salvation and forgiveness for sinners, but does it have anything to say to those who have been *sinned against*? This book shows that the atonement of Christ has powerful potential to speak to those who have been wronged, especially those who have been abused and abandoned in countless ways—those who cower at the back side of the cross wondering if they are included. As victims of various kinds of abuse are beginning to come out of the shadows in cultural conversation and in the context of the church, *The Back Side of the Cross* is a timely book for several audiences. It is thoroughly rigorous and will interest theologians and their students; it also offers a very practical section for pastors and those who want to care for the wounded; and it can even reach survivors themselves as it offers true hope in the urgency of such real pain.

"Leclerc and Peterson affirm our sinned-against brokenness and our hope of full redemption! Their prophetic voices are poignant and provocative in providing alternative theological perspectives that take survivors' experiences and needs well into account. Although a work of theology, there are so many pastoral implications that offer brilliant helps to our everyday dilemmas of grief-stricken, abandoned, and abused parishioners. There is a balm in Gilead for those on the backside of the cross."
—Rondy Smith, founder and CEO, Rest Stop Ministries

"Contemporary social movements are raising a level of awareness to the suffering of victims in ways that were previously without precedent. Yet, part of what I see taking place in these movements is a society attempting to grapple with victimization in the absence of a theology that adequately addresses very complex issues. . . . This book offers the kind of creative, astute, and well-timed theology so needed for such a time as this."
—Timothy R. Gaines, Trevecca Nazarene University

"There are very few resources that help us understand how trauma can have an impact on the *spiritual* life and experience of a survivor. . . . This book helps bridge this gap. I have woven some of this book's theology into my practice with clients. I have heard more than once 'Why haven't I ever heard this before?' The insights offered by the authors will help pastors, clinicians, and survivors themselves work toward healing and wholeness."
—Julie Schmidt, LCSW

"This book will be important for educators and pastors; it will be timely for Christians everywhere. More narrowly, Leclerc and Peterson's emphasis meets a pronounced need in Wesleyan circles, in which language of atonement and holiness focuses on freedom from sin but may leave out those who have experienced unwilling violation. Instead of perceiving the atonement primarily as freeing people from guilt, this book takes seriously that the cross represents hope and redemption for those sinned against."
—Kara Lyons Pardue, Point Loma Nazarene University

"This volume is a valuable, potent theological contribution to the growing body of literature focusing on the experiences, wisdom, and theological protest of the 'sinned against,' dismantling the focus of traditional atonement theologies and giving voice to so many of us who are survivors of violence."
—Elaine A. Heath, author of *Healing the Wounds of Sexual Abuse: Reading the Bible with Survivors*

**DIANE LECLERC** is Professor of Historical Theology at Northwest Nazarene University. Her own personal experiences and her extensive work with women in pastoral settings aids her in theological reflection on abuse and trauma.

**BRENT PETERSON** is Dean of the College of Theology and Christian Ministries and Professor of Theology at Northwest Nazarene University. He is a leading voice in the Wesleyan tradition on the sacraments, and founded the Wesleyan Liturgical Society.
Praying in the Dark
Spirituality, Nonviolence, and the Emerging World

DANIEL O. SNYDER

978-1-6667-3191-0 | 236 p. | $31

Nonviolence for the soul. Nonviolence for the world. The future of democracy. How are we going to find our way through all the polarizations to a new world that works for everyone? Against the backdrop of his Quaker heritage and his own life story, Dan Snyder brings together the four disciplines of theology, depth psychology, strategic nonviolence, and spirituality. The resulting conversation points toward a reimagining of God, self, and world. We can be both incredibly joyful and deeply responsible citizens. We can drink from the deep wells of compassion and mercy. Those wells are fed by hidden springs that are beyond fixed ideologies, beyond belief and doubt, beyond action and inaction, even beyond all of our convictions about religious, moral, or political correctness. We are created by Love, for love. We drink deeply from Love's hidden spring when we learn to pray in the dark.

"From the boundary between contemplation and action, Dan Snyder shares his wilderness journey into the depths of self and world. . . . In anguish, uncertainties, and joyful discoveries, he wrestles with God. Listening to the soul in clients, dreams, and Scripture, he redefines nonviolence as inner as well as outer activism. This book reveals how psychotherapy, theology, and prayer each can open us to divine mystery and love."
—R. Melvin Keiser, Guilford College, emeritus

"Dan Snyder is a skilled guide to personal and collective integration, reconciliation, love, and joy. Drawing from an array of disciplines and from his experiences as a peace activist, therapist, educator, jazz lover, and Quaker Jesus follower, he shows us ways to ‘become true’ and whole. This book offers illumination, healing, and generative wisdom. It is a rich and good gift, worth reading, rereading, and pondering."
—Guy Sayles, Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity

"Powerful, clear, poetic, and deeply relevant to our times, this book is distilled from a lifetime of faithful seeking. Beginning with a profound adolescent awareness of being fully loved by God, Dan invites us into the currents of this mystery fed by the tributaries of Quakerism, theology, nonviolence, biblical studies, philosophy, depth psychology, and jazz. In the multiple-sourced writing, he revives and rehabilitates the seriously endangered words in our day: God, prayer, truth, and Jesus."
—Mahan Siler, author of Exile or Embrace

"Praying in the Dark is a must-read for all who understand that nonviolence is the only way forward for our world. Dan Snyder does a masterful job of joining contemplation to action, calling us to engage with our deepest selves in order to engage in life-giving ways with the needs of the world. A longtime explorer of the inner life, Dan is a trustworthy guide for anyone willing to plumb the depths of being human in quest of the beloved community."
—Parker J. Palmer, author of Healing the Heart of Democracy

DANIEL O. SNYDER is a pastoral counselor and spiritual director in Black Mountain, NC.
The most divisive and damaging aspect of the church in America is the combination of racism and white supremacy that has been woven into the fabric of the church to the degree that one cannot discuss the church in America apart from this sin. Nowhere is this clearer than in American Methodism, including The United Methodist Church. That denomination, which has been divided for decades over issues regarding human sexuality and homosexuality, is a product of a long history of racism and white supremacy. While initiatives have been taken to address these matters, there has not been any effort to help the church focus on being anti-racist in its practices or public witness at every level, including local church levels. This is a book that identifies this sin and offers an innovative look at the mission of the church, based on biblical witnesses to new life with the resurrection. It offers proposals for reparations and renewal that will come when the church woke.

“William Lawrence offers a prophetic and pragmatic plan to confront the pervasive problem of white supremacy within the United Methodist Church and American Methodism at large. With every page, Lawrence invites readers to awaken and act as disciples empowered by a risen Christ to transform a broken church and heal a country disfigured by the congenital defect of racism. I strongly endorse this book and highly recommend that all American Methodists read When the Church Woke.”

—Sharon Grant, Hood Theological Seminary

“When the Church Woke is critical but not cynical. In this extraordinary theological and historical critique of the United Methodist Church in the US, Lawrence presents a church that stands at the crossroads of a deeply rooted racist past and a future with the possibility of exercising judgment and forgiveness to overcome the racial crisis that the church has too long ignored.”

—Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church

WILLIAM B. LAWRENCE is professor emeritus of American Church History at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. He is an ordained elder in The United Methodist Church and a clergy member of the North Texas Annual Conference. Before retirement, his career included both academic and church positions. He was a pastor in New York, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC. He has served on the faculties and staffs of four theological schools. And he has been president of the Judicial Council of The United Methodist Church.
Can today’s Christians reconcile a belief in self-actualization with the extreme ethical demands of the New Testament? The author argues that they can, although not easily, and that the felt uneasiness between two concerns—self-fulfillment and self-gift—may generate a healthy tension.

There is then an apparent mismatch between two views of ethics. On the one hand, psychological humanism is based on self-affirmation, acceptance of one’s limitations, moderation, and the search for a quality of life in the midst of globalization. On the other hand, the radicalism of the gospel emphasizes passion (in the two senses of this word), self-transcendence towards the infinite, and generosity for God and others. Nonetheless, these two tendencies are neither incompatible nor easily reconcilable.

The book uncovers both the pitfalls of self-actualization and the misleading interpretations that have disfigured the radical gospel. It highlights the developmental factors, views of human life, successes, and failures which play a considerable role in a person’s journey. It brings psychological, biblical, philosophical, theological, and pastoral clarifications to bear on the issues. This book will help its readers to grasp what a psychologically informed Christian ethic can be, both intellectually and practically.

"Louis Roy tackles one of the more difficult questions of our time: How can one be fully human and profoundly Christian at the same time? Roy takes seriously both the psychologies of self-fulfillment and the movement toward self-transcendence. Anyone who desires to be both truly human and yet faithful to the gospel will want to read this book and will benefit from its insights."
—Donald J. Goergen, Aquinas Institute of Theology

"Louis Roy does a masterful job of debunking the common notion that self-transcendence and self-actualization are intrinsically opposed, and rather suggests that a proper understanding of each reveals their intrinsic and dynamic complementarity. In doing so, he explores a range of thinkers—from Aristotle and Aquinas to Lonergan and Kristeva—in an accessible way that yet honors their depth and subtlety. A rich resource for anyone entrusted with the care of souls, minds, and hearts."
—Joseph J. Guido, Providence College

"In conversation with many voices from the disciplines of psychology and philosophy, Louis Roy demonstrates that love of self and love of other are complementary, not opposed. He then engages the voice of Christian faith, asserting that believers experience this reality through the self-gift of a Trinitarian God whose very being is mutual giving and receiving of love."
—Marielle Frigge, Mount Marty University

"Are ‘self-realization,’ understood as psychological fulfillment, and a radical following of the gospel at odds? Can we be both enculturated and countercultural in a discerning way? For answers, Self-Actualization and the Radical Gospel a read. Louis Roy will provide the psychological and philosophical depth for an amazing synthesis!"
—Carla Mae Streeter, Aquinas Institute of Theology

LOUIS ROY, a Dominican friar from Canada, received a PhD from Cambridge University. He was a professor at Boston College for twenty-one years and now teaches at Dominican University College in Ottawa. He is interested mainly in the relations between Christianity and cultures, interreligious dialogue, spirituality, and mysticism. Among his books are Coherent Christianity, Embracing Desire, and The Feeling of Transcendence, an Experience of God?
The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have starkly reminded us of the realities that threaten our future on planet Earth. Christian faith is not a way of escaping these realities, but of engaging them in the struggle for justice and peace—motivated by love, enabled by faith and sustained by hope. This is based on the conviction that in Jesus Christ the reality of God has become redemptively embodied within the reality of the world. Written within the context of South Africa but with global vision, and in conversation with the legacy of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, this book is an attempt to stir up discussion and inform action in connecting worldly and transcendent reality. Inevitably this will be controversial, not least because that is something that Bonhoeffer risked. This is certainly true when it comes to the five realities that provide much of the book’s substance: the persistence of racism, the will-to-power, scientism and soulless technology, the conflict in Israel-Palestine, and the threat of wars and pandemics. Is it possible to believe in the God of Jesus Christ in such a world? If so, what does that mean, and how does it help us live creatively, redemptively, and faithfully? To answer these questions, the author examines the meaning of faith; the human desire for transcendence; and the need for conversion, wisdom, solidarity, and responsible freedom.

JOHN W. DE GRUCHY

is emeritus professor of Christian studies at the University of Cape Town, and Extraordinary Professor of Theology at Stellenbosch University. He is the author of numerous books, including several on Dietrich Bonhoeffer. His recent titles include This Monastic Moment (Cascade Books, 2021) and Bonhoeffer’s Questions (2019). He and his wife, Isobel, are members of the Volmoed Retreat Centre, an intentional community in Hermanus, near Cape Town, South Africa.
One of the greatest crises facing the church is the crisis of racial injustice that has so long marred the body of Christ in America. Evangelicals have traditionally had a set of biblical, theological, and cultural tools we have used for dealing with questions about race: the necessity of personal responsibility, the possibility of heart renewal through faith in Jesus, the transformative impact of interpersonal relationships, and the bedrock conviction that every human being is made in the image of God and is thus of equal worth and dignity. But in the world after 2020, the evangelical church must now recognize that our theological playbook has been ineffective in rooting out racism from the church and in confronting our own complicity in racial injustice. We must now ask: What other theological convictions are required of us as we consider the image-bearing humanity of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and many others? Confronting Racial Injustice explores theological vistas to aid the church in our pursuit of racial justice.
The Swiss theologian Karl Barth (1886–1968) was one of the greatest theologians of the twentieth century. This book shows how German and European history of that century—the First World War, the rise of Hitler, the German church struggle—resonates in the theological work of Barth. He opposed National Socialism and criticized the naturalness with which the West got carried away in the Cold War rhetoric after the Second World War. A beautiful, accessible overview work for anyone who wants to get to know Barth better.

“While the extreme Right seized power in Europe during the twentieth century, Karl Barth trained the church to resist fascist fake news. Karel Blei follows his courageous way from the twenties to the sixties and opens a fascinating panorama of theology in battle dress.”

—Maarten den Dulk, Professor emeritus of Practical Theology, Protestant Theological University, Netherlands

“A reader who wants to acquire an overview of Karl Barth’s theology in the whole of its development—presented against the background of the turbulent times of its arising, well informed but not interrupted by scholarly debates—will find an excellent guide in Karel Blei.”

—Rinse H. Reeling Brouwer, Miskotte/Breukelman Chair for Theological Hermeneutics, Protestant Theological University, Amsterdam

KAREL BLEI was a minister of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands. From 1987 to 1997 he was general secretary of the (then) Netherlands Reformed Church (now part of the Protestant Church). From 1989 to 1998 he was a member of the World Council of Churches Central Committee. From 1989 until 1997 he served as moderator of the (then) World Alliance of Reformed Churches Department of Theology.

ALLAN JANSSSEN (1948–2020) was a retired minister in the Reformed Church in America (RCA), a General Synod Professor for the RCA, a professor emeritus at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, an author of several books, and the translator of several Dutch theological works.
Methodism was born in crisis. It was a religious response to political polarization, ecclesiastical lethargy, classism and privilege, wage slavery and economic disparity, as well as to prejudice, inequality, and exclusion based on gender and race. Among the crises that convulsed Georgian England were: 1) the debilitating effects of the political use of religious authority; 2) the challenges of keeping faith in an age of science and reason; 3) the decline of “main line” religion; 4) the painful and oppressive impact of class privilege; 5) the inequities caused by dramatic economic disparity; 6) the hopelessness of wage slavery; 7) the devaluing and structural exclusion of women; 8) racial prejudice, and the systematic oppression non-white people; 9) the social crisis caused by religious prejudice; and 10) the debilitating effects of popular culture and its pastimes. The current volume traces how each of these historic crises drew from the early Methodists theological, spiritual, moral, and organizational impulses that became part of their spiritual DNA and left them with family traits that have come down to us in this very day. In a subsequent volume, Shaped by Controversy, eight of the main internal struggles that caused familial strife within the Methodist tradition will be examined and assessed. Taken together, these volumes are like a “distant mirror” with which Methodists and other modern Christians might take a good look at themselves. As such this is an invitation to hope anew and for Methodists as well as Christians of all backgrounds to consider who they are and what they intend be for Jesus Christ in the world.

JOHN R. TYSON

Born in Crisis and Shaped by Controversy

The Relevant History of Methodism, Volume 1: Born in Crisis

JOHN R. TYSON

978-1-7252-8132-5 | 178 p. | $25

Numerous books have explored different facets of Methodist history. Few, however, have been able to connect past controversies with present realities better than Tyson’s book. ... This is a must-read for anyone who cares about the future mission of the Methodist movement.”

—Christopher Evans, Boston University School of Theology

“If most history is written about victories from the perspective of the victors, then Tyson has chosen a strikingly different approach. He narrates the story of a Methodist movement forged in the crucible of crises and controversies. ... But his analysis of trauma in the ‘Methodist family system’ does leave room for hope.”

—Paul Chilcote, Director of Global Wesleyan Theology, Wesley House

“This well-researched volume traces some of the disputes that have historically threatened the witness and unity of ‘the people called Methodists.’ ... This work will lend itself especially well to students of the history of Methodism, classes in Wesleyan social ethics, and advanced study groups in United Methodist congregations.”

—Wendy J. Deichmann, United Theological Seminary

“In this engaging work, Tyson dives headlong into the crises that have marked Methodism since its inception, and even the crises that created the context in which this warmhearted movement took shape. ... This is not a book about Methodist hero worship but an honest and thoughtful engagement with a diverse and varied ‘family,’ warts and all.”

—Ryan N. Danker, Director, John Wesley Institute, Washington, DC

JOHN R. TYSON is Professor emeritus of Church History at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. He is an internationally known expert in the field of Wesleyan Studies and has drawn upon a lifetime of research and practical experience in the Methodist tradition to examine the social, cultural, theological, and political forces that gave birth to Methodism, as well as the main historical controversies that shaped, shook, and forced the tradition to define and sometimes redefine itself and its mission to a troubled world. Tyson has also published Charles Wesley: A Reader, Charles Wesley on Sanctification, In the Midst of Early Methodism: The Life and Letters of Selina Hastings, Assist Me to Proclaim: The Life and Hymns of Charles Wesley, The Way of the Wesleys, and Praying with the Wesleys.
This book draws together a collection of thirteen published and unpublished articles which together constitute a new reading of the character and development of Latin Trinitarian theology in the fourth and fifth centuries. The focus of the essays is on Augustine of Hippo (354–430 CE), but Augustine is treated here as an inheritor of earlier Latin tradition. Many of the figures of that tradition here receive a new interpretation—particularly Marius Victorinus. Augustine himself is explored from many angles; at every turn the developments in his theology are shown to be a response to the anti-Nicene theologies of the period.

The beginning of the book discusses the manner in which modern “systematic” theology has engaged Augustine only through a simplified version of late-nineteenth-century categories. In conclusion, the broader question of how far modern theology can actually engage Patristic theology is explored at length.
Although the Epistle of Barnabas may be best known for its Two Ways Tradition or its anti-Jewish use of Scripture, its contents reveal much that will be of interest to anyone studying Christian origins. In keeping with other contributions to the Apostolic Fathers Commentary Series, this volume not only introduces readers to critical issues such as date, authorship, and opponents but also reflects on the multifaceted scriptural interpretations at play within the argument and sketches the theological beliefs that underlie the text. The commentary also provides a fresh English translation of the Greek text while endeavoring to highlight the internal literary connections within the Epistle of Barnabas. In so doing, this book provides a knowledgeable and accessible interpretation of a fascinating early Christian document.
To Unite the Scattered Children of God
Hope for the Spiritual Uniting of Humanity, from Isaiah to the Present Day
STEVEN FINLAN

978-1-6667-1499-9 | 160 p. | $23

To Unite the Scattered Children of God is an accessible exploration of hope for the spiritual uniting of humankind, in worship and in other ways, from Isaiah on down to present times. Several prophets shared this hope: “Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people” (Zech 2:11). To an even greater degree, Jesus set in motion a universalizing power. Jesus and Paul inspired hope for the uniting of Jews, Samaritans, and Gentiles into “one fold,” in the “unity of the faith.” The book also builds upon the work of Teilhard de Chardin regarding the convergence of the human race under the spiritual influence of Christ, the omega point of evolution. Insights from pneumatology, process theology, personalism, interfaith discussions, and world peace advocacy add to the discussion.

“This book is an original and highly readable synthesis of biblical theology with a scientifically informed sense of a still-awakening universe. Highly recommended.”
—John F. Haught, author of God after Einstein

“Stephen Finlan has written a richly concise theological synthesis on the theme of spiritual unity that begins with Genesis and takes us through both Testaments, the church fathers, a host of modern theologians, and official church teachings, with vital applications for peace in our world.”
—Terence McGoldrick, Providence College

“You don’t have to belong to an organized religion to celebrate the ideal of spiritual unity. Inspired by eminent philosophers like Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Alfred North Whitehead, Stephen Finlan points to the potential for greater harmony among religions through a focus on shared worship. Finlan’s book is an inspiring read.”
—Steve McIntosh, author of The Presence of the Infinite

STEPHEN FINLAN is the pastor at The First Church, West Bridgewater, MA. He is the author of eight academic books, including Problems with Atonement (2005), The Family Metaphor in Jesus’ Teaching (2013), Bullying in the Churches (2015), and Salvation Not Purchased (2020). He has taught at Drew University, Fordham University, and other institutions.
Charles Wesley and early Methodist women shaped Wesleyan theology and practice just as much as John Wesley. All these pioneers in the renewal of the church engaged together in a quest for love divine. That journey led them to timeless discoveries related to God’s grace, the liberating nature of life in Christ, the joy of Christian discipleship, and the sense of purpose to be found in partnering with God in the celebration of beloved community. The early Methodist people learned their theology by singing it. “Faith working by love leading to holiness of heart and life.” “Accountable discipleship.” “The rediscovery of a missional church.” Discover the meaning of sound bites like these as you explore these themes and more.

Heinrich Bullinger (1504–75) was an important and influential sixteenth-century Protestant Reformer. Sadly, today, many are unaware of his significance. This book serves as a gateway into understanding Bullinger's life and theology, introducing them in a fresh and accessible way for non-specialists. After outlining Bullinger's life-story, the main theological themes in Bullinger's thought are explored through chapters on Holy Scripture, God, Christ, the Holy Spirit, predestination and covenant, sin and salvation, church and ministry, Word and Sacraments, the state, and last things. A concluding chapter considers the abiding significance of Bullinger's theology and what his views can mean for faithful Christian living today.

Donald K. McKim is a former seminary dean, professor of theology, and executive editor for theology for Westminster John Knox Press. He is a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Jim West is lecturer in biblical studies and church history at Ming Hua Theological College, Hong Kong, and pastor of Petros Baptist Church in Tennessee.
This volume develops an approach to preaching that brings together two important forces. One is process theology and the other is a homiletic of conversation based on mutual critical correlation. In this approach, the preacher does not unilaterally announce the Word of God but is the leader of an exciting conversation involving the biblical text, process theology, the congregation, and voices from the larger world. The preacher seeks to help the congregation identify God’s invitations towards inclusive well-being and to imagine how to respond in ways that are consistent with those invitations, that promote inclusive well-being.

The book begins with a crisp and clear summary of the worldview of process theology, highlighting its distinctive views on how God operates in the world through invitation and on the interrelationship of all things. The work then outlines an approach to biblical exegesis informed by process perspectives and sketches a method for bringing the biblical voice into dialogue with voices from tradition, contemporary theology, and the congregation and preacher. The volume suggests shaping the sermon to honor process theology and conversation. The volume concludes by noticing how perspectives from process and conversation help the preacher embody the sermon in engaging ways.

“You Never Step into the Same Pulpit Twice
Preaching from a Perspective of Process Theology
RONALD J. ALLEN
978-1-7252-5965-2 | 244 p. | $31

“This is the book we’ve been waiting for from Ron Allen! You Never Step into the Same Pulpit Twice offers a holistic synthesis of process theology and homiletics that is the first of its kind. Allen’s insights emerge from decades of faithful activity in the church and academy as a practical process theologian pursuing God’s invitation to ‘inclusive well-being.’ This is a must-read for understanding process theology and its embodiment in the preaching life.”
—Casey Sigmon, Saint Paul School of Theology

“How can we best understand God’s relation to the world in an age of modern science and the involuntary suffering caused by pandemics, global warming, and violence? Allen invites the reader into his personal and scholarly journey to find a way to preach that brings the God of the Bible into the deepest possible interaction with the actual realities of the world today. This is an original, timely, and elegantly written book.”
—John S. McClure, Vanderbilt Divinity School, emeritus

RONALD J. ALLEN taught preaching and Gospels and Letters at Christian Theological Seminary for thirty-seven years. He is the author of many books, including I Will Tell You the Mystery (Cascade, 2019). He edited the two-volume work on theologies of preaching: Preaching the Manifold Grace of God (Cascade, 2022). Volume 1 focuses on historical theologies, and Volume 2 focuses on contemporary theologies.
The second edition of Qualitative Research responds to the growing need in Doctor of Ministry programs for a textbook that guides students in Participatory Action Research, prospectus, and dissertation that reflect the recent trends in the discipline of practical theology.

The Standards of Accreditation for the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools states, “The Doctor of Ministry is an advanced, professionally oriented degree that prepares people more deeply for religious leadership in congregations and other settings.” Standard 5.3 states, “The Doctor of Ministry degree has clearly articulated student learning outcomes that are consistent with the school’s mission and resources and address the following four areas: (a) advanced theological integration that helps graduates effectively engage their cultural context with theological acumen and critical thinking; (b) in-depth contextual competency that gives graduates the ability to identify, frame, and respond to crucial ministry issues; (c) leadership capacity that equips graduates to enhance their effectiveness as ministry leaders in their chosen settings; and (d) personal and spiritual maturity that enables graduates to reinvigorate and deepen their vocational calling.” In accordance with the standards, Qualitative Research guides students through appropriate research methods to satisfy the objectives of the degree in order to enhance ministerial leadership for the transformation of communities of practice.

“Sensing’s plain-language guide for doing DMin research serves as a vital resource for DMin projects from conceptualization to reporting. Emphasizing the communal and transformative nature of DMin research clarifies that research is not just technical but can also testify to the actions and presence of God in the context and has the potential to catalyze lifelong learning and ministry development.”

—Mark Chapman, Tyndale Seminary

“As a DMin program director, I remain grateful for Tim Sensing’s indispensable book. Qualitative Research has become a proven reference guide to the research tools of practical theology that DMin students use to ask contextual questions about their ministry according to the academic standards of advanced ministerial education. This smartly updated second edition brings years of pastoral and teaching reflection to service in the church.”

—Gregory Heille, OP, Aquinas Institute of Theology

TIM SENSING is professor of practical theology at the Graduate School of Theology at Abilene Christian University. Tim has taught research methods for the Doctor of Ministry program since 1999. He has consulted with doctoral programs in North America and Australia.
The Brain and the Spirit
Unlocking the Transformative Potential of the Story of Christ

GENA ST. DAVID

978-1-7252-7508-9 | 218 p. | $29

The Brain and the Spirit invites readers to embark on a practice of listening to the Christ story through the earpiece of neuroscience. After many years steeped in brain science, the author had an unexpected encounter with a theologian, James Alison, whose trust in God and forgiveness toward others appeared to defy neurobiological explanation. How did his encounter with the Christ story produce in him the Christlike responses that it did? This question launched the author on a thrilling quest to listen to the scriptures and take up questions of creation, humanity, sin, Jesus, salvation, the Spirit, and the body of Christ, to hear what might get amplified by our ever-expanding understanding of the human brain. Readers are invited to eavesdrop on the twists and turns of the author’s story and take up their own practice of listening to the Spirit, scripture and theology through the earpiece of neuroscience, and to become curious how the Christ story may spark trust which unlocks our brain’s capacity to engage reality with relationality, kindness, creativity, and access to joy.

“St. David is a thoughtful observer and generous teacher who is always asking how we might say ‘yes’ to the Spirit. This book is an answer: beautifully imagined, beautifully written, at once deeply theological and deeply scientific, this faithful attempt to reconcile our brains and our souls will offer beauty to anyone who reads it.”
—Greg Garrett, author of A Long Long Way: Hollywood’s Unfinished Journey from Racism to Reconciliation

“St. David takes us on pilgrimage through the brain of a Christian, pointing out where neurons are firing and where transformation is happening as the good news does its work. Her curiosity, creativity, facility with neuroscience, and deep affection for the elements of the Christian faith are all on display as she helps us see why trust, forgiveness, and integration in Christ are also patterns of an emotionally healthy life.”
—Anthony D. Baker, Professor of Systematic Theology, Seminary of the Southwest

“In a time of rampant distrust and widespread trauma, this is a book we desperately need. Gena St. David combines scientific savvy with spiritual insight to help us imagine what healing, trust, and transformation can look like. She carries us along as she makes her own story a bridge between the narratives of Scripture and the insights of science. She is a gifted writer, a first-rate storyteller, and a careful researcher. I’ll never see my brain the same way again! If all truth is God’s truth, then St. David is helping the rest of us pull diverse pieces of that truth together in unexpected ways. Readers who enter from the world of psychology will be invited to contemplate the mystery that exceeds observation. Readers who enter from the world of spirituality will be invited to engage the science that can explain us to ourselves and make us more compassionate toward others. Reading this book is an invitation to joy.”
—Scott Bader-Saye, Academic Dean, Professor of Christian Ethics and Moral Theology, Seminary of the Southwest

GENA ST. DAVID is Associate Professor of Counselor Education and Director of the Lois Henderson Wessendorf Center for Christian Ministry and Vocation at Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas.
In *Teaching for Spiritual Formation*, church historian and experienced Christian educator Kyle R. Hughes advances a fresh vision of Christian teaching and learning by drawing upon the riches of the Christian tradition, synthesizing the wisdom of the early church fathers with contemporary efforts to cultivate a distinctively Christian approach to education. Of interest to a wide range of Christian educators, this book examines how the writings of five significant church fathers can illuminate our understanding of the vocation of teachers, the nature of students, the purpose of curriculum, decisions about pedagogy, and how spiritual formation works. Besides reimagining these aspects of Christian education, Hughes also offers habits and practices that can help bring this vision of Christian teaching and learning to life, challenging Christian educators to sharpen their approach to the integration of faith and learning in practical and accessible ways.

“Kyle Hughes is that rare Christian school teacher who is both a genuine scholar and guide to his students—in this case, readers of his new book. Since so few classroom teachers rise to the level of scholarship in their fields, it is thrilling to discover someone capable of sharing with others the depths of wisdom gained by close acquaintance with our church fathers.”

—Bruce Lockerbie, Chairman/CEO, PAIDEIA

“In this refreshing and insightful book, Hughes encourages Christian educators to move ahead by looking back at the wisdom of church fathers who have gone before... What a challenge is laid before teachers to develop their own interior life so that they may have more to give to students. Hughes helps us reimagine how teachers might better understand their role as critical disciplers of students in their faith journey.”

—Dan Beerens, Senior Fellow, Center for the Advancement of Christian Education

Kyle Hughes is history department chair and faith-learning integration coordinator at Whitefield Academy in Atlanta. He also serves as director of catechesis at Christ the King Anglican Church. An accomplished researcher in the field of early Christian history, he is the author of *How the Spirit Became God* (2020) and *The Trinitarian Testimony of the Spirit* (2018).
These essays in this book are pastoral and scholarly, to encourage parents to nurture and foster Christian family life by learning from scripture and history. The Bible, in both testaments, offers us stories that provide moral and spiritual substance to the nurture of the child and the family. Beginning with the mythopoetic story of Adam and Eve, and the fratricide of Abel by the envy of Cain, the stories of the sacrifices parents made, then moving on to the stories of Abraham and Isaac, Ruth and her mother-in-law, Hannah and her son Samuel, Jeremiah the child prophet, these stories form our moral imaginations. Further, for Christians, they all augur the promise of the Incarnation, with the birth of Jesus to Mary and Joseph. Then through the history of the Church the role of the Child is further unfolded. It begins with Jesus teaching that to be as one of his disciples is to be a child. This is so radical that the subsequent churches have found it hard to follow. Perhaps one symbolic attempt was that of the monks’ cowl which is a child’s garment, and still worn in their monasteries. The book even explores the way that Christian maturity is one of childlikeness.

“Jim Houston has had a remarkable career: friend of C. S. Lewis, founding principal of Regent College, networker extraordinaire with remarkable gifts for creating scholarly community. But on the church’s accounting, Jim is more remarkable still. Now in his centenary year, he is not only still teaching and writing original material. He is, more importantly, fast becoming the child that Christ commands us all to be: full of wonder, never met a stranger, in love with the kingdom Jesus is bringing.”

—Jason Byassee, coauthor of Following: Embodied Discipleship in a Digital Age

JAMES M. HOUSTON is founding principal and emeritus professor of spiritual theology at Regent College in Vancouver, British Columbia. He is co-founder and a Senior Fellow of the C. S. Lewis Institute in Washington, DC. His teaching career began at Oxford, lecturing in the field of cultural and historical geography. His areas of interest include the Christian classics, historical theology, and the traditions of Christian spirituality.
Is social enterprise yet another example of the expansion of the market into all areas of life and society, in this case the marketization of poverty? Or does it offer genuine hope as part of a solution to some of the challenges facing contemporary society, and as an example of an economy of mutuality? Framing this question theologically, does it offer the potential of "faithful economic practice"? The Promise of Social Enterprise makes the case that how we answer this depends on the language we use to describe—and perform—social enterprise. Arguing for the need to move beyond the narrow and reductionistic logic of mainstream economics, the economic nature of the language of gift and mutuality is explored. Drawing on the theological framework of Pope Benedict XVI and the work of John Barclay on Paul's understanding of the social implications of the Christ-gift, this book considers the contribution that a theology of gift, with its incongruity and mutuality, makes to the theory and practice of social enterprise.

“I've waited for years for this book—and Mark Sampson has delivered with gusto. The Promise of Social Enterprise is a candid, incisive, and impressively clear theological framework for social enterprise’s potential as a humanizing force. Sampson puts the ‘social’ back into social enterprise as a way to combat the ethical problems of marketization on the one hand and charity on the other. . . . My students will be starting with this book.”

—Kenda Creasy Dean, Princeton Theological Seminary

“With its long-running penchant for privatism, the church has been largely mute in the face of urgent economic issues among us. . . . Sampson’s bold, lucid exposition provides an entry point for that work. He sees that the work to be done, on the one hand, is ‘deconstructing the myth of the inevitability of capitalism,’ and on the other hand ‘creating space for a theological imagination of an alternative.’ This book in effective ways shows how the gospel claim of ‘mutuality’ is an opening for fresh thinking, fresh policy, and fresh action.”

—Walter Brueggemann, Columbia Theological Seminary

“Engaging with sociology, anthropology, and economics, Sampson develops a powerful theological case for grounding social enterprise as an expression of gift and mutuality that arises uniquely from the Christ event and has the potential to creatively transform people, communities, and society. A vital read for those seeking a serious and deeper response to the problems of contemporary capitalism.”

—Paul Williams, Regent College

“This is a timely book which brilliantly supplies intellectual heft and direction for an economic practice of immense promise whose time has surely come.”

—John M. G. Barclay, Durham University

“Too often, we live as if theology and economics do not mix. Too often, the conversations we do engage in presume the answers before asking the questions. In wading into these waters, there is no better guide than Mark Sampson. As scholar and practitioner, Sampson has led the way in helping us re-imagine these topics and our own faithful economic activity for the work of the church and our communities.”

—David P. King, Indiana University

MARK SAMPSON is the co-founder of RootedGood. He has a doctorate in theology from King’s College, London.
Shane had the privilege of meeting his long-time hero: civil rights leader, and minister, John Perkins. Little did he know that we would form a friendship and John would become a mentor. Over a series of years they had numerous conversations as Shane wanted to know from John what leading a life faithful to Jesus Christ actually looks like.

What followed was a series of vulnerable and heartfelt conversations between John and Shane and their reflections on those conversations. John's words and advice are distilled into nine axioms for peacemaking and transformation.

Go and Do
Nine Axioms on Peacemaking and Transformation From the Life of John Perkins

JOHN PERKINS AND SHANE BLACKSHEAR

I am so grateful for the life and witness of John Perkins. . . . Thankfully, Shane has done an excellent job taking us to the front porch to sit and receive invaluable stories and wisdom from a wise, Jesus-shaped elder of the church. Go and Do is gripping and inspiring, and every page invites us deeper into a life of faithful justice, healing, and transformation, which is exactly what we need right now.

—Drew G. I. Hart, author of Who Will Be a Witness?

We have much to learn about peacemaking from the life and ministry of John M. Perkins. In our relationally broken world, Perkins models how to bridge the divide and love the people we least like, even hate, the way Jesus did. Go and Do will no doubt guide Christian leaders practically to promote the peace of Jesus in their local communities.

—Michelle Ami Reyes, author of Becoming All Things

With a robust understanding of the complexities of peacemaking, Shane Blackshear and John Perkins pastorally point us to the alternative way of Jesus by drawing on the richness of Scripture. Shane and John understand that peacemaking is messy and difficult, but readers’ hearts and minds will be nourished and infused with God’s creative and healing imagination for the world. We need this book more than ever.

—Tara Beth Leach, author of Radiant Church

JOHN PERKINS is the founder and president emeritus of the John and Vera Mae Perkins Foundation and cofounder of Christian Community Development Association. He is one of the leading evangelical voices to come out of the American civil rights movement, and is an author and international speaker on issues of reconciliation, leadership, and community development. For his tireless work he has received fourteen honorary doctorates. One Blood, along with Dr. Perkins’ other books, provides an enduring legacy for a man who continues to leave his mark on American culture.

SHANE BLACKSHEAR is the host of the podcast Seminary Dropout, and on the pastoral team at Austin Mustard Seed. He lives with his wife, Kate, and their kids, Margot and Amos, in Austin, Texas.
Contemporary society can be described as splintered: busy and noisy, but also empty and in need of healing. Christians are called to sing the Lord’s song anew to the world but are sometimes confused about whether to prioritize loving God or loving our neighbor. This collection of essays shows that both are needed: mission and spiritual disciplines are actually intertwined and reciprocal.

Some contributors to this volume take a theoretical perspective; others write from their experience in ministry. Disciplines discussed include classic ones like prayer and study, as well as novel ones like cruciformity, mindfulness, and neighborhood engagement.

Written in accessible language with multiple anecdotes, this book aims to inspire both the practice of spiritual disciplines and the practice of mission.

Join us as we journey from the Philippines to American nationalism to a prayer truck in inner city Hamilton, as we engage in quiet contemplation as well as compassionate action. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we dance rhythms of resting and responding, listening and leading, praying and proclaiming. Whether through solitude, discipleship groups, inviting strangers to dinner, speaking out against idolatry and injustice, or simply being present, we join Jesus as he repairs the splintered spaces of our lives.

E. JANET WARREN is an independent, interdisciplinary scholar whose vocations include theology, medicine, and psychotherapy. She lives in Hamilton, Ontario. Her publications include Cleansing the Cosmos (2012) and All Things Wise and Wonderful (2021).
Wonder, a topic of perennial Christian interest, draws us into fundamental questions about God and the things of God. In God and Wonder: Theology, Imagination, and the Arts, internationally recognized theologians, artists, and ministers weigh in on the place of wonder in Christian thought, attending to the ways that wonder informs our thinking about the arts, imagination, the church, creation, and the task of theology. What is the place of wonder in the Christian life? How can a theology of imagination contribute to our understanding of God and the world? What does wonder have to do with the life of the church in preaching, teaching, and worship? How might reflection on wonder enhance our understanding of place, vocation, and family? In God and Wonder readers enter a rich and insightful conversation about how cultivating wonder and the gift of imagination can revitalize our understanding of the world.

“God and Wonder will surely capture your imagination. Rarely do articles from a theology conference sparkle like these chapters. Written almost entirely by or about artists, they remind us that artistry reflecting God’s own creativity has always been the most effective expression of the gospel.”

—William Dyrness, Fuller Theological Seminary

“A multifaceted investigation of the disposition of wonder that not only constitutes a proper beginning, and end, for the study of theology, but also rightly orients us to all of created reality. This book is fantastic, and I say that very rarely about multiauthor books. What a gift to both scholars and students, and to pastors and artists as well.”

—W. David O. Taylor, Fuller Theological Seminary

“This rich collection of essays draws upon the abundance of the arts and the imagination to recover a sense of wonder in the world, in the church, and before God. The variety of the contributions from scholars, artists, writers, and teachers produces a book that from Coleridge to Spike Lee explores the challenge of wonder and excites the reader with the riches of the imagination, from the visions of children to the wisdom of Scripture and theology.”

—David Jasper, University of Glasgow

“This volume calls all of us to become ‘wonderstruck theologians’—a timely call indeed! But how might we learn again to be filled with awe? Here we find mundane answers that give marvelous witness to the glory of God: worship, children, homemaking, art, poetry, iconography, even lament rooted in longing. The essays in this book should reawaken the church to the nature of theological labor.”

—Matthew Levering, Mundelein Seminary

“A diverse and rich collection of essays that hone facets of a Christian theology and practice of creative and artistic communication. An important contribution to evangelical theology that often privileges the epistemic element of Christian spirituality and neglects its affective and poetic dimensions. This book shows that wonder begins with an ineffable encounter with God that compels expression. Each chapter explores concrete modes and forms of that theological expression from church to cinema.”

—Steven M. Studebaker, McMaster Divinity College

JEFFREY W. BARBEAU is Professor of Theology at Wheaton College. He is the author or editor of several books, including The Cambridge Companion to British Romanticism and Religion (2021), The Spirit of Methodism: From the Wesleys to a Global Communion (2019), and Religion in Romantic England: An Anthology of Primary Sources (2018).

EMILY HUNTER MCGOWIN is Assistant Professor of Theology at Wheaton College. She is also a priest and canon theologian in the Anglican diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others (C4SO). Her most recent book is Quivering Families: The Quiverfull Movement and Evangelical Theology of the Family (2018).
Recovering from the trauma of sexual and domestic violence is a process that can lead you to find your own strength. Shaped by a faith identity incongruent with her reality as a survivor of sexual and physical abuse, Ellis Davis became intimately familiar with domestic violence and the church’s reluctance to intervene. Then, using marriages as a touchstone for self-discovery only led her into increasingly violent relationships. Even while navigating the process to wholeness as a woman police officer, Ellis Davis was not assured an expedient process through the courts nor protection from male police officers. Determined to define her worth for herself, Ellis Davis shares with liberating vulnerability decades of blessings and betrayals as she self-actualized from being a victim of domestic violence and sexual traumas to becoming victoriously accomplished and deeply content.

This book provides hope for survivors, pastoral wisdom for seminar-ians, cultural sensitivity for service providers, and is useful as a guide for faith-based study groups.

Through part memoir, part theological reflection, and part call to education and action, Sharon Ellis Davis transparently offers her life story as one of hope, healing, and possibility. She shows how honoring the whole of one’s life, the gift of deep friendships, and love of family can pave the way for restoration to self, to others, and to God.”

—Joanne Lindstrom, McCormick Theological Seminary

“Ellis Davis reflects upon the sexual and domestic violence she experienced as a child, teen, and adult, all from men she should have had every reason to trust. She unflinchingly describes the cataclysmic impact these evils have had upon her overall well-being and boldly challenges community leaders, both spiritual and secular, to adopt appropriate collaborative and strategic responses. I strongly recommend this tome.”

—Al Miles, lead chaplain, The Queen’s Medical Center, Honolulu

“Sharon Ellis Davis uses autobiography to educate her audience about the truth and trauma of sexual and domestic violence. Hers is a painful and powerful journey shared by too many women of faith. It is a remarkable story of a remarkable woman’s strength and courage. She battles not only the abusive men in her life but also the church and herself. Reader, be aware: the truth will make you flinch before it sets you free.”

—Marie Fortune, founder, FaithTrust Institute

“A raw and lucidly vulnerable memoir of Ellis Davis’s journey of healing from the trauma of multiple experiences of sexual violence. She bravely draws back the curtains of silence, inviting us to look closely at the all-too-familiar world of sexual abuse. . . . A compelling read for victims, victim advocates, and pastoral-care practitioners seeking or needing an autobiographical account of healing in the journey toward freedom and wholeness. Ellis Davis bares her soul.”

—Mitzi J. Smith, Columbia Theological Seminary

“*The Trauma of Sexual and Domestic Violence* is a soul-stirring account of Sharon Ellis Davis’s personal experience. . . . Ellis Davis’s penchant for truth telling, compassion for victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and masterful storytelling inspire hope, inject humor, and bestow agency on readers who are preparing or ready to be agents of change.”

—JoAnne Marie Terrell, Chicago Theological Seminary

***SHARON ELLIS DAVIS*** is an affiliate professor at McCormick Theological Seminary, a trainer for the Faith Trust Institute, and a nationally recognized speaker on domestic violence in the church and society. Ellis Davis was a Chicago police officer for thirty-one years and upon retirement served as a Chicago police chaplain and UCC pastor. She is the author of *Battered African American Women: A Study of Gender Entrapment*. 

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**The Trauma of Sexual and Domestic Violence**

**Navigating My Way through Individuals, Religion, Policing, and the Courts**

**SHARON ELLIS DAVIS**

978-1-6667-1541-5 | 208 p. | $28

Recovering from the trauma of sexual and domestic violence is a process that can lead you to find your own strength. Shaped by a faith identity incongruent with her reality as a survivor of sexual and physical abuse, Ellis Davis became intimately familiar with domestic violence and the church’s reluctance to intervene. Then, using marriages as a touchstone for self-discovery only led her into increasingly violent relationships. Even while navigating the process to wholeness as a woman police officer, Ellis Davis was not assured an expedient process through the courts nor protection from male police officers. Determined to define her worth for herself, Ellis Davis shares with liberating vulnerability decades of blessings and betrayals as she self-actualized from being a victim of domestic violence and sexual traumas to becoming victoriously accomplished and deeply content.

This book provides hope for survivors, pastoral wisdom for seminar-ians, cultural sensitivity for service providers, and is useful as a guide for faith-based study groups.
James used to laugh and joke with the other third graders. Now he was angry, aggressive, and defiant. James was hurting, but Pastor Becky didn't know how to help. Like many children's pastors, she didn't realize that a child in her ministry was experiencing symptoms of trauma. She wasn't sure how to respond to his big feelings and challenging behaviors.

Trauma-Informed Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide to Reaching Hurting Kids helps children's ministry leaders understand trauma and strengthen their ministries to serve and disciple hurting kids.

Divorce, bullying, adoption, abuse. Learn how trauma touches the children you love and what most churches get wrong when it comes to teaching and disciplining children who have experienced trauma.

Why does Isaac keep talking back? Why is Sara under the table crying? Make sense out of the most frustrating, confusing, and heartbreaking child behaviors.

Through inspiring, real-life stories, discover practical, research-based strategies to begin transforming your ministry this Sunday.

Good intentions are not enough. Our changing society craves authentic churches equipped to reach all children. This powerful, groundbreaking book will help you: Cultivate caring relationships. Eliminate challenging behaviors. Encourage your team. And amplify your church's impact in the community!

"There should be no safer place for God's precious, created child than the children's ministry in our local church, especially for those with a history of trauma. This deeply important and practical book invites each of us into the conversation about what it really means for our children's ministries to be safe and connecting spaces where the gospel can touch each heart."
—Julie Cooper, Senior Vice President of Training and Curriculum, Trauma Free World

"If we really want our churches to be places for kids to meet Jesus and grow in their faith, we must build teams who are equipped to respond to all kids, regardless of their behaviors or unique needs. Robert and Lori give us the why behind some difficult behaviors and practical tips...on how to respond in ways that create connection and healing."
—Kim Botto, Director of Training and Development, Found Village

"The Crosbys have expertly combined years of research with practical application to make reading their book an engaging experience. Their use of real-life stories makes it a joy to read and hard to put down. Anyone who desires to serve children who have experienced trauma in their lives will find this book extremely helpful. A must-read!"
—Leon M. Blanchette, Chair, Department of Christian Ministry, Olivet Nazarene University

"This is a book the field of children's ministry needs now more than ever. The authors poignantly outline the profound impact trauma has on children. The text is both informative and transformative. Informative in providing a comprehensive overview of childhood trauma and transformative in inviting the reader to reframe their understanding of children's behavior and develop a ministry approach that can offer healing. This book will change children's ministry in crucial and necessary ways."
—Heather Ingersoll, Executive Director, Godly Play Foundation

ROBERT G. CROSBY is Professor of Psychology at California Baptist University. A former youth pastor with over twenty years of experience in children's and youth ministry, he holds a PhD in educational psychology and is one of the world's leading scholars in the field of children's ministry research.

LORI A. CROSBY is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and a Registered Play Therapist Supervisor who specializes in treating children who have experienced trauma. She has been serving in children's ministry for over twenty years.
What gives life its meaning? This question stands behind every philosophical inquiry, and philosophy itself arises from it. Confronting the problem of meaning is, as Camus says, the fundamental task of human life. Yet at bottom, meaning is an aesthetical category. Meaning hinges on interpretation. It makes sense then to turn to art—and in particular the art form which deals most explicitly with meaning, the novel—if we are to attempt to address it.

Inspired by but critical of Roland Barthes’s “death of the author” literary theory, The Mask of Memnon seeks to reconcile opposing philosophical approaches to the question of meaning by examining the death of the author from the perspective of the character, not the reader. In this work, the traditional dichotomy between external/objective meaning and internal/subjective meaning is upended and a new paradigm is proposed.

“The Mask of Memnon is a breath of fresh air, a unique work of mesmerizing philosophy—one readers will wish they had authored themselves! With this incredibly deep set of reflections on philosophy, art, and literature, Beauchard restores our belief in the meaningfulness of writing by giving us what we have all been waiting for, something truly worth reading.”
—Steven DeLay, Old Member, Christ Church, University of Oxford

“Combining a deep philosophical knowledge with detailed literary analysis and an engaging, lyrical style, The Mask of Memnon productively advances existentialist debates about the nature of meaning—and, just as important, meaninglessness. With his emphasis on ‘characterly living,’ Beauchard offers transformative readings of monumental literary works while also demonstrating the value of more novelistic forms of philosophical inquiry capable of reaching into the unsettling core of human existence.”
—Scott M. Reznick, Assistant Professor of English, State University of New York

JEAN-LUC BEAUCHARD is a philosopher of religion. He has taught courses in philosophy, theology, and literature at multiple colleges and universities in New England.
What do we mean when we call something or someone evil? The word “evil” tends to conjure up images of demons, devils, and horrifying crimes, things that you and I couldn’t possibly get involved with! But is that true? Is evil really something that only wicked people who are “quite unlike ourselves” get up to? Could it be that you and I are not only capable of doing evil things, but are already involved with such things? This book explores the hidden nature of evil and draws out the ways in which all of us, knowingly or otherwise, are caught up in webs of evil that bring about disastrous consequences, often to the weakest and most vulnerable amongst us. We need to find ways of learning to see evil and resisting it by all means possible. If we can’t see evil, we can’t resist it. If we can’t resist it, we get sucked into it.

JOHN SWINTON is professor in practical theology and pastoral care and chair in divinity and religious studies at the University of Aberdeen. He has published within the areas of theodicy, mental health, dementia, disability theology, spirituality and healthcare, qualitative research, and pastoral care.
Given the fierce urgency of now, this important book confronts and addresses key problems and questions of political theology with the aim of proposing a radical political theology for the Anthropocene Age. LaMothe invites readers to think and be otherwise in living lives in common with all other human beings and other-than-human beings that dwell on this one earth.

Ryan Lamotte is a professor of pastoral care and counseling at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He is the author of Care of Souls, Care of Polis: Toward a Pastoral Political Theology.

“A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era is defiantly prophetic, provocatively otherwise, extensively researched, theologically astute, and courageously hopeful—a tour de force. Readers concerned about the world’s economic disparities, societal violence, political disorder, and the reality of climate change have a wise teacher in LaMothe. Be empowered into reflection, conversation, and the courage to care.”

—Jaco Hamman, Vanderbilt Divinity School

“A profound look at what it means to hope in a loving and realistic way during the climate crisis. Careful discussions of sovereignty, dwelling, and the space of appearances add up to a political theology wise enough to face the thoroughly-going changes already upon us.”

—Phil Helsel, author of Pastoral Care & Counseling: Care for Stories, Systems, and Selves

“Are you overwhelmed by the moral distress of caring for this fragile earth and each other in the face of climate crises and a pandemic? Read this book. It will help you find purpose through your daily acts of care. You will be sustained by LaMothe’s theology of ‘the non-sovereign God’s indeterminate, infinite love/care in creation.’ You will find solidarity in caring that dismantles theologies of sovereignty that have wreaked havoc upon the earth.”

—Carrie Doehring, Iliff School of Theology

“In this meticulous and moving political theology, LaMothe stares without flinching at looming ecological disasters and mass migration arising from climate change. Refusing facile assertions of hope along with nihilism and despair, LaMothe locates in moments of tender parental vulnerability and of tormented divine humility a path forward for responding to one another and to all creation. No one else could have written this stunning work.”

—Robert C. Dykstra, Princeton Theological Seminary
Søren Kierkegaard’s vociferous attacks upon Christendom have hardly endeared him to the ecclesial establishment, yet the church continues to dismiss his paradoxical voice at its peril. This book moves beyond the ill-conceived postmodern interpretations of Kierkegaard’s thought by illuminating his ecclesiological value through a distinctly kerygmatic lens.

Kierkegaard’s authorship demonstrated this mission in creative and arresting ways. His sharp critiques of academic theologians and duplicitous pastors remain starkly relevant today. Furthermore, his fascinating reflections on inconsequential sermons, biblical defamiliarity, indirect communication, pastoral correctness, street preaching, revivalism, and even church furniture, further illustrate the ways he sought to re-imply the gospel to a Christendom-poisoned church.

Hearing Kierkegaard’s ecclesiological voice afresh, we also see its surprising applicability to the post-Christendom situation, which may like to think it has moved on without him. This book will intrigue anyone interested in the fundamental questions of what it means to hear (or not to hear) the gospel today, if we dare to allow our ears to do so.

“Edwards has written a lively, insightful, and hugely readable study of Kierkegaard’s genuine significance for contemporary Christian self-understanding amidst the ever-threatening condition of ‘Christendom.’ Taking Kierkegaard Back to Church, it turns out, involves taking the church to school with Kierkegaard. The author’s vivid case for the ‘kerygmatic Kierkegaard’ looks to ensure that today’s churches are not left without the salutary provocation of Kierkegaard’s summons to the serious joy of Christian life.”

—Philip G. Ziegler, Chair in Christian Dogmatics, University of Aberdeen

“As Edwards beautifully reveals, the Kierkegaard who is often dismissed as a ‘subjectivist’ and ‘individualist’ is actually a deeply ecclesial thinker, one whose ‘kerygmatic’ sense of the gospel challenges even today the faith and preaching of our own ‘post-Christendom’ church. Through spirited dialogue with classical and contemporary theologians and recent Kierkegaard scholars, Edwards splendidly situates Kierkegaard as a radical ecclesial interrogator of our own understanding of the gospel’s role in the church. ‘Take and read!’”

—David J. Gouwens, Professor emeritus of Theology, Brite Divinity

Aaron P. Edwards is Lecturer in Theology, Preaching, and Mission at Cliff College, Derbyshire, UK. He is the author of A Theology of Preaching and Dialectic (2018), and the coeditor, with David J. Gouwens, of the T. & T. Clark Companion to the Theology of Kierkegaard (2019).
What is free will and do humans possess it? While these questions appear simple they have tied some of our greatest minds in knots over the millennia. This little book seeks to clarify for an audience of educated non-specialists some of the issues that often arise in philosophical disputes over the existence and the nature of human free will. Beyond that, it proposes a particular solution to the puzzles.

Many philosophers have argued that free will is incompatible with determinism, and many have also argued that it is incompatible with indeterminism. So, is free will simply an incoherent concept? Talbott argues that the best way out of this quagmire requires that we come to appreciate why certain conditions essential to our emergence as free moral agents—conditions such as indeterminism, ignorance, and a context of ambiguity and misperception—are themselves obstacles to a fully realized freedom. For a fully realized freedom requires that, as minimally rational individuals, we have learned some important lessons for ourselves; and once these lessons have been learned, some of our freest choices may be such that we could not have chosen otherwise because so choosing would then seem to us utterly unthinkable and irrational.

“Thomas Talbott is the leading philosophical defender of theological universalism—the claim that all people are ultimately reconciled to God. In arguing for universalism, Talbott has developed important and enlightening views on the nature of free will. Understanding the Free-Will Controversy is, therefore, a welcome textbook on the subject and is the best introduction to the topic on the market. Talbott presents all views clearly and fairly but doesn’t shy away from taking controversial positions. Highly recommended!”

—Thomas D. Senor, University of Arkansas

“Thomas Talbott is the leading philosophical defender of theological universalism—the claim that all people are ultimately reconciled to God. In arguing for universalism, Talbott has developed important and enlightening views on the nature of free will. Understanding the Free-Will Controversy is, therefore, a welcome textbook on the subject and is the best introduction to the topic on the market. Talbott presents all views clearly and fairly but doesn’t shy away from taking controversial positions. Highly recommended!”

—Kevin Timpe, Calvin College

“It is often assumed that in order to be free in any given situation, one must always have the ability to act otherwise. Professor Talbott analyzes this premise in a way which is valuable independently of the dispute between theists and atheists.”

—David Artman, author of Grace Saves All: The Necessity of Christian Universalism
Apocalyptic (end times) beliefs are found across different religious cultures and time periods, especially those influenced by the Abrahamic faiths. These apocalyptic beliefs are often associated with radicalized politics and what we would today often describe as “populist” movements and leaders. What are the roots of such beliefs? How have they developed over time? In what ways do they impact the modern world? In a series of case studies—ranging over different faiths, time periods, and global locations—this book explores how and why these beliefs have become so often the driver of radicalized politics.

Martyn Whittock is a licensed lay minister in the Church of England and taught high-school history for thirty-five years. He is the author or co-author of fifty-five books on a variety of historical themes and is a commentator on the interaction between faith, history, and politics. He has a particular interest in the impact of end-times beliefs on politics and culture. He has contributed guest blogs and commentary on several online Christian news platforms and publications, and also on television and radio.
Christianity is a way of life centered on the person, life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. As a religious way of life, Christianity is multifaceted, involving numerous beliefs and practices. This book explores many of the varied facets of the Christian faith, including its foundations in the story of Israel, the person of Jesus, the early Christian community, and the sacred text called the Bible. In turn, Robinson’s book examines Christianity’s core doctrines, ethical norms, and worship practices, rounding out the study by considering four key contemporary challenges faced by Christian believers—namely, the problem of evil, the relationship of Christianity to other religions and to science, and the role of women in church and society. Among the strengths of this book is that it addresses these multiple features of Christianity in a single volume: it is aptly titled Christianity: A Brief Survey.

“Michael Robinson has produced a masterful overview of the Christian religion, including foundations, theology, ethics, worship, and certain other issues. Readers will learn not only of the major themes of the Christian faith, but of the manifold differences of interpretation of those themes in different Christian traditions. The volume can serve either as a textbook or as a reference work, and it is useful and accessible both to those with previous knowledge of Christianity and to those studying it for the first time.”

—William Hasker, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy emeritus, Huntington University

“This book is a truly impressive achievement for the daunting task of introducing Christianity in one volume. Robinson brings his characteristic clarity and analytic skills to bear on a remarkably balanced treatment in terms of breadth and depth, dealing with theology, ethics, worship, and focused controversial issues. He treats the various traditions and perspectives with insight and care, making the book useful across a broad range of institutions.”

—Dan R. Stiver, Professor of Theology, Hardin-Simmons University

MICHAEL D. ROBINSON is Professor of Christian Studies at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. He has authored several scholarly works, including the books Eternity and Freedom (1995), The Storms of Providence (2003), and Christianity: A Brief History (Cascade Books, 2019).
George Lindbeck wrote one of the most often read and debated theological works of the twentieth century, *The Nature of Doctrine*. Despite the work’s wide readership, few read the book considering his work as an ecumenist. In addition, few have read Lindbeck’s other writings. This work seeks to remedy this situation by providing (1) a context for understanding *The Nature of Doctrine*, (2) a corrective to misreadings of Lindbeck’s work, (3) an introduction to his broader corpus, and (4) some possible ways in which Lindbeck’s work can contribute to future ecumenical discussion and to Christian theological practice more broadly. It will do so by focusing upon several key roles or aspects of Lindbeck’s life and thought, from his understanding of his own Lutheran background and his participation in Lutheran-Catholic dialogue, to his training in medieval philosophy and theology and later work on the church as Israel.

“George Lindbeck is the most important book we have for understanding Lindbeck’s theological importance embedded in his biographical life. . . . Each chapter not only tracks Lindbeck’s biography but shows how each stage shaped his theology as a complex whole, with each chapter concluding with discussion questions for the general reader. This is essential reading for how a twentieth-century theology turns into twenty-first-century theology, embodied in a life at once theologically rich and humble.”

—James Buckley, Loyola University Maryland

“Many know George Lindbeck only through *The Nature of Doctrine*, his groundbreaking study of the logic of doctrine and theology. Lindbeck was a wide-ranging theologian, however, whose many essays both give context to his ecumenical work and provide a new perspective on important topics. Shaun Brown’s comprehensive presentation provides an excellent and accessible introduction to Lindbeck’s work, orienting readers to Lindbeck’s most significant insights.”

—Michael Root, Catholic University of America, emeritus

“Shaun Brown provides a superbly clear introduction to the work of George Lindbeck. Lindbeck’s work has been widely misunderstood, and is often neglected as a result, but it remains provocative and significant. Brown shows that Lindbeck’s proposals for a postliberal theology become clearer and more fruitful the more they are rooted in his ecumenical work, his long engagement with Catholicism, his love for Aquinas, and his fascination with the relationship between Christians and Jews.”

—Mike Higton, Durham University

**SHAUN C. BROWN** is the Associate Minister of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Garland, Texas, and an adjunct professor at Johnson University and Hope International University.
Workshop of the Holy Spirit invites students into the exciting adventure of theological education.

Many aspects of modern theological education have their historic roots in the ideas of the Enlightenment. This foundation creates compartmentalized structures and frameworks that may not lead to the thriving of theological students. In contrast, Pietist leader P. J. Spener asserted in 1675 that theological schools should be “nurseries of the church” and “workshops of the Holy Spirit”—a formative environment that enhances intellectual, spiritual, and missional growth. Using the medieval workshop as a helpful metaphor for us today, and writing at the intersection of the student-faculty relationship, Strong and Bielman describe the components both in and out of the classroom that enhance fruitful ministry preparation.

This book engages theological education in our changing religious context. It offers fresh questions for students, highlighting emerging, innovative, and alternative models of training for life in the Spirit. Each chapter contains relevant stories from theological education students, while including descriptions of the history of theological education.

“In Workshop of the Holy Spirit, Strong and Bielman offer a much-needed re-orientation to the church’s task of theological education. Their pastoral wisdom, scholarly knowledge, and compassionate experience practicing the craft frame authentic and substantial rationale. This is a must-read for students, pastors, and ecclesial scholars eager to reimagine and reclaim theological education’s participation in the Holy Spirit’s work.”
—Lacey C. Warner, Duke Divinity School

“Strong and Bielman challenge trends that separate theological education and ministry preparation from the church’s vital role in vocational and spiritual formation. They call us back to a historical framework that offers a fresh look at how theological education could be a cooperative, rather than competitive, endeavor. Further, they invite students, church leaders, and theological educators to return to a more holistic understanding of ministry in which the Holy Spirit shapes faithful leaders for contemporary challenges.”
—Estrelda Alexander, president, William Joseph Seymour Foundation

“A beautifully crafted book for theological students to envision their studies through the powerful metaphor of a ‘workshop for the Holy Spirit.’ Moving beyond debates about curricula and method, Strong and Bielman beautifully illumine the journey of theological learning as an ongoing process of being mentored into intimacy with God.”
—L. Gregory Jones, president, Belmont University

**DOUG STRONG** is Paul T. Walls Professor of Wesleyan Studies and the History of Christianity at Seattle Pacific University. He was the founding dean of Seattle Pacific Seminary.

**JESS BIELMAN** is the Associate Director of Innovation with the Greater Northwest Area of the United Methodist Church. He was formerly a professor and campus pastor at Warner Pacific University in Portland, Oregon.
Sixteen-hundred years ago, Augustine begged his African congre-gants to think rationally, pay attention to evidence, and listen to their neighbors. He knew this would not be easy. He knew that human error is more common than human knowledge. He himself had been a member of an elitist cult for nearly ten years and then had spent several years as a skeptic resigned to seeking wealth and honors rather than hoping for truth or goodness. He would not be surprised by the rise of white supremacist cults or the nihilistic apathy that have arisen in the "post truth" era. He had seen nativism, elitism, fear, and doubt rise in response to a crisis of hope that truth could be found, a crisis that led to the use of physical force rather than educated disputation, a crisis that ended in the fall of both Rome and Carthage to Vandals and Visigoths.

Augustine’s response was to preach publically the hope that encouraged him in his own personal quest for a happy life. This book examines that hope in Augustine’s context until the current moment.

“Wisdom’s Friendly Heart tracks St. Augustine’s response to the skepticism and conspiracy theories of his time through 1,500 years and from North Africa to North America. His emphasis on truth-seeking as embodied friendly relationship with others and with truth can also address the urgent questions and concerns of our time. This brilliant and well-researched book will be useful to scholars and to anyone who has been intrigued, puzzled, and stirred by reading Augustine.”

—Margaret Miles, Graduate Theological Union

“Augustine, an old pessimistic curmudgeon? Wrong. By the way, does our own time fare better? Among us, a deep mistrust about the truth, smeared by fake news of all ilk, despair of the future, a hidden hatred of the body are rampant. In her short, fresh, crisply written, reader-friendly book, Prof. Hockenbery Dragseth prescribes a cure. She convincingly shows that Augustine’s passionate quest for wisdom as the source of joy can adequately meet our predicament.”

—Rémi Brague, Pantheon-Sorbonne University and Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich

“A meticulously re-lecture of Augustine from a philosophical viewpoint. It avoids confessional commitments and gives a fresh interpretation with regard to Augustine’s search for truth. In particular this interpretation faces postmod-ern and post-Christendom challenges and makes a vital contribution to contemporary searches for intellectual security. The study reintegrates Augustine into actual debates and votes for Christian hope as a model for overcoming the plurality of solutions to current problems with a rational as much as spiritual way of religious thought.”

—Markus Wriedt, Goethe University Frankfurt
Emmanuel Levinas (1906–1995) is perhaps one of the best-kept philosophical secrets of recent times. By locating ethics as first philosophy, based on the call of the other, Levinas has revolutionized the Western philosophical tradition. In effect, the perennial priority of the self is displaced by the uncanny urgency of the other. Emmanuel: Levinas and Variations on God with Us gives the reader an introduction to the life and work of this humble philosophical genius. Several applications are made of Levinas’s insights: interreligious dialogue, analytic versus continental philosophy, law and freedom, maternity, childhood, hermeneutics, and ethical contemplation. Most especially, Levinas is brought into lively conversation with Jean-Luc Marion. Levinas’s phenomenology of proclamation is set in confrontation with Marion’s phenomenology of manifestation throughout the book. Erotic love is met with a love filled with responsibilities for the other. Mount Carmel and Mount Zion face one another in a topography of the infinite. Readers will appreciate the variety of themes treated, as well as the dynamic interaction between philosophy and theology. Given the fragmented postmodern milieux of the world today, perhaps the philosophical intuitions of Emmanuel Levinas were prepared “for such a time as this” (Esth 4:14).

DONALD WALLENFANG, OCDS, Emmanuel Mary of the Cross, is professor of theology and philosophy at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. He is the author and editor of several books, including Phenomenology: A Basic Introduction in the Light of Jesus Christ (Cascade, 2019), Metaphysics: A Basic Introduction in a Christian Key (Cascade, 2019), Human and Divine Being: A Study on the Theological Anthropology of Edith Stein (Cascade, 2017), and Dialectical Anatomy of the Eucharist: An Etude in Phenomenology (Cascade, 2017).

“With an intensity, clarity, and scholarship refined, disciplined, and inspired by the profoundly Jewish and Catholic philosophy of Emmanuel Levinas, Wallenfang’s book offers a challenging and admirable vision of religion and of Roman Catholicism in particular, rededicated to the elevating challenges of ethical responsibility—caring for the other before oneself—as the very height of holiness.”

—Richard A. Cohen, author of Out of Control: Confrontations Between Spinoza and Levinas

“Zealous truth seekers never tire of dubbing what refuses expression in words yet whose presence is incontestable. Despite the incommensurability of any search for truth, those who devote their lives to this ineffable experience are drawn to others who share the same vocation. Emmanuel is exactly of this kind. No less than this book is about Emmanuel Levinas, it is about its author. In this respect, the first-name title also implies the life choice of the author, Donald Wallenfang.”

—Ronny Miron, author of Hedwig Conrad-Martius: The Phenomenological Gateway to Reality
During a 1980s Edmonton Oilers game, fans unveiled a banner claiming, “On the 8th day, God created Gretzky.” Intersections between religious belief and sporting participation are nothing new, where players, coaches, and fans are known to pray, cross themselves, and point to the heavens during a game. But what should be the relationship between sports and religious faith?

*On the Eighth Day* introduces the theology of sport from a Catholic standpoint. It wrestles with sport’s universal appeal, its rich symbolism, and its spiritual and moral characteristics. Sport is a place where embodied games can be sacramental; where traditions of the past speak to contemporary peoples; and where truth and justice are demanded in a world affected by sin.

The eighth day recalls the playful, re-creative work of God the Creator embodied in Christ’s resurrection. In this sense, this book marks out a “new day” in Christian attitudes toward modern sport and the continuing call to redeem sport in service of human flourishing. Comprehensive yet accessible, the book will engage thoughtful lay sports fans and academic students alike.

“**On the Eighth Day**

*A Catholic Theology of Sport*

**MATT HOVEN, J. J. CARNEY, AND MAX T. ENGEL**

978-1-6667-0114-2 | 202 p. | $27

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“**This is a groundbreaking book, standard reading for anyone interested in sports and Christianity—whether Catholic or not. This is basic Catholic theology and basic sports studies at its best!”**

—Chad Carlson, Hope College

“A clearly written, eminently accessible, and theologically perceptive reflection on sports . . . The authors’ balanced approach considers carefully the dangers and ethical challenges that are often encountered in the world of sports. Yet, drawing on the riches of the Catholic theological tradition and a wide range of historical and contemporary illustrations, they also help us recognize that participation in sports may offer nothing less than a sacramental encounter with the divine.”

—Richard R. Gaillardetz, Boston College

“Laced with lively sports stories, this thought-provoking and accessible book is more than a Catholic theology of sports. It is also a sports theology. While theological guideposts for bringing out the best in sports abound in this book, so do sports guideposts for bringing out the best in faith and life. The authors go head-on with tough questions about flourishing, suffering, doping, social justice, and what it means to be faithful humans in sports.”

—Tracy J. Trothen, Queen’s University

“Hoven, Carney, and Engel have written a wonderful new book that introduces undergraduate students and others to Catholic theology and spirituality at the same time that it helps them to gain new insight into the problems and possibilities of sports itself. I highly recommend it!”

—Patrick Kelly, SJ, University of Detroit Mercy

“The authors . . . have managed to weave theological and philosophical ideas alongside stories from across the world of sports. This book is an important and much-needed addition to the ever-expanding academic work addressing sports and religion which will encourage others to explore how their Catholic faith has helped them make sense of this wonderful human pursuit.”

—Mark Nesti, sport psychologist, SportinSpirit Limited

**MATT HOVEN** is Kule Chair and Associate Professor of Religious Education at St. Joseph’s College, University of Alberta at Edmonton, Canada. He is the lead editor of *Sport and Christianity: Practices for the Twenty-First Century* and author of several articles.

**J. J. CARNEY** is Associate Professor of Theology at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the author of multiple books, including *For God and My Country: Catholic Leadership in Modern Uganda*.

**MAX T. ENGEL** is Associate Professor of Education and Theology at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. He is the lead author of *Your School’s Catholic Identity: Name It, Claim It, and Build on It*. 

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The genome revolution of the last twenty years has changed biology forever. It has provided stunning insights into the evolution of species (such as ours) and the development of new functional capabilities (such as placenta, brain, and immune networks). We are learning how genes make a human animal—but that loving relationships with others are required to make a human person. Random mutations, filtered by directing order, underlie evolutionary development, but also cause diseases such as cancer. We are wont to question God when faced with devastating natural and moral evils. But deeply embedded in the biblical story we encounter a Creator who has always purposed to deal with the evils of a freely operating world by extirpating them through Jesus of Nazareth, who is God incarnate.

GRAEME FINLAY has been involved in cancer research and has taught scientific pathology in the University of Auckland. He is author of *Human Evolution: Genes, Genealogies and Phylogenies* (2013) and the *Gospel according to Dawkins* (2017).

"This is big history. Life on Earth is a mind-boggling adventure in enormous amounts of historically inherited developing information, generated and tested over millennia. Genetic biology is the evolution of caring. Finlay traces this from planetary to molecular scales, culminating in suffering love. I guarantee every reader an unprecedented challenge for the next age."

—Holmes Rolston III, University Distinguished Professor, Colorado State University

"The Bible and science look pretty immiscible. Feeding the four thousand doesn’t seem to have much in common with natural selection, let alone the gravitational constant. Graeme Finlay disagrees (as do I). Finlay’s biological credentials are secure, but he also has a firm grip on the truths of Christianity. . . . Underpinned by unfolding histories, both phylogenetic and biblical, Finlay brings humanness back to central stage and thereby re-asserts the eschatological destination of our species."

—Simon Conway Morris, Professor emeritus of Evolutionary Palaeobiology, University of Cambridge

"*Evolution and Eschatology* offers an informed and helpful discussion of the complicated issues arising at the interface of traditional Christian theology and contemporary evolutionary theory. Finlay’s ambitious work draws on the best thinking of scholars who have wrestled with the ‘big questions’ of our origins and found ways to embrace both creation and evolution. Readers will find much of value in this well-written and thoughtful book."

—Karl Giberson, Scholar in Residence, Stonehill College

"Scientifically precise and theologically rich. An authoritative tour through human origins, development, and broader human biology, melded with careful Christian thought; depicts the history of life on Earth as an impressive but incomplete narrative finding ultimate fulfillment in Jesus. Warmly recommended to all seekers after truth concerning nature and its Author."

—Zachary Ardern, Postdoctoral Fellow in Evolutionary Genomics, Wellcome Sanger Institute
In this book, John Buchanan takes us on a journey through the early death of a parent, the ups and downs of addiction, the extraordinary revelations of psychedelic experiences, and the rewards of a sober and meaningful life. Reflecting on these experiences, the author identifies five pivotal events that drove him to seek a deeper understanding of the significance of extraordinary experiences, the nature of mind and the universe, the meaning of life, and most generally to ask: What is Reality? Drawing on his wide-ranging studies and explorations, Buchanan discusses the ideas that most influenced his search and led him to conclude that transpersonal psychology and process philosophy, especially as developed by Stanislav Grof and Alfred North Whitehead, offer the most satisfying answers. He presents in some detail the essence of Grof’s and Whitehead’s thought as it pertains to these basic questions about life and reality so that readers can appreciate these ideas for themselves. Buchanan argues that taken together process thought and transpersonal theory offer the kind of enspirited worldview capable of providing both the necessary inspiration and the intellectual understanding for confronting the great challenges facing our world.

JOHN H. BUCHANAN received a doctorate in liberal arts from Emory University. He was trained and certified as a Holotropic Breathwork practitioner by Stan and Christina Grof. He is a contributing coeditor for Rethinking Consciousness (2020).

“John Buchanan has searched the relevant literature with peculiar thoroughness in quest of a developed vision that does justice to both the objective and the subjective worlds. . . . For one who has been testing Whitehead in similar ways in other fields for fifty years, Buchanan’s enthusiasm is profoundly gratifying. It is hard to see what more can be asked of Whitehead before his thought will be recognized as having solved the need for a unified cosmology.”
—John Cobb, Claremont School of Theology, emeritus

“Occasionally, the story of a life is so well told that it draws you in, becoming your story. And occasionally, theory and personal experience are woven together so tightly that each sheds light on the other. Here, both happen. In understanding the author, one understands transpersonal psychology, process metaphysics, and (dare I say?) something of non-ordinary states, the mystical quest, and God. The result is one of the most compelling accounts of conscious and unconscious experience I have read in years.”
—Philip Clayton, Claremont School of Theology

“Ever found process thought—with the whole universe pulsing and sparkling in every quantum—a bit of a trip? John Buchanan confirms your suspicion! This irresistibly readable narrative of psychedelic exploration, of a long path ultimately sober and all the more visionary, opens a stunning new portal into our shared reality. We discover not just a remarkably lucid introduction to Whiteheadian theo-cosmology, but—aimed right at our self-destructive civilization—the chance of a spiritual awakening.”
—Catherine Keller, Drew University
Four (and a half) Dialogues on Homosexuality and the Bible

DONALD J. ZEYL

978-1-6667-1502-6 | 170 p. | $24

Four (and a half) Dialogues on Homosexuality and the Bible explores four different interpretive approaches to biblical texts regarding homosexuality and same-sex marriage. Differences of interpretation are discussed openly, honestly, and charitably. The dialogues’ four characters maintain friendship with each other despite their disagreements, and so the book serves as a model of how difficult, potentially divisive conversations on a controversial topic might be conducted. Three of the four perspectives presented for examination are well represented in the existing literature; the fourth is not as familiar and is offered and developed as a proposal for bridging the divide that persists among theologically conservative Christians who honor the authority of Scripture over their thinking and their living.

Ongoing conflict over this issue is destructive of the unity toward which the Bible summons all believers to strive, and so the book includes also a call to create space for one another—both individually and institutionally—for differences in theological conclusions and in community practices.

Each of the dialogues begins with one of the characters telling their personal story regarding their sexuality, continues with that character’s case for their view, and concludes with a series of suggested discussion questions.

“Donald Zeyl here offers a creative, engaging, remarkably rigorous imaginary dialogue about key biblical and moral issues associated with LGBTQ inclusion in Christianity. An interesting approach carried out with precision and creativity, bringing fresh energy to a mainly stalemated debate.”
—David P. Gushee, Mercer University

“Four (and a half) Dialogues on Homosexuality and the Bible is a thoughtful discussion of many of the questions surrounding biblical sexuality. Each of the participants inhabits a different view, but all aspire to have their views rooted in the authoritative Scriptures. Although the topic is homosexuality and the Bible, it is really a book about friendship. The characters model the qualities we need in our discussions of difficult topics.”
—Gregory E. Ganssle, Talbot School of Theology

“Whether real or imaginary, these dialogues reflect the reality of where many find themselves today, grappling with the tension between their Bible and their experience. A wonderful resource and stimulus toward greater empathy and toward becoming better informed on the issues.”
—William Loader, Murdoch University, emeritus

“There is not a person I trust more than Don Zeyl to help us learn to have conversations with people rather than about people. Don embodies the compassion of the divine, and his wisdom, grace, and knowledge are unparalleled. His serious theological, philosophical, and ethical work makes him an expert to whom we must listen. This book is a must-read, an imperative read, for those who love the Christian church and their LGBTQ+ loved ones.”
—Nathan Albert, University of Lynchburg

DONALD J. ZEYL is Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at the University of Rhode Island. He is author/translator of Plato: Gorgias (1987) and Plato: Timaeus (2000), and editor of The Encyclopedia of Classical Philosophy (1997).
This volume brings together decades of research in philosophical theology on the concepts of justice, art, and liturgy. One might be inclined to think that reflections on these topics should take place in isolation from one another, but as Wolterstorff masterfully demonstrates, they are indeed united in love. Inherent in each of these topics is a logic that affirms its object. Whether the dignity of the other, the desire for creative and enhancing understanding of the other, or the infinite goodness of the creator, all these things and practices find their completion in a unitive core of love. Which is to say, ultimately, they find their fulfillment in the worship of God and in the affirmation of the image of God in each of us.


Sarah Coakley, FBA, University of Cambridge and Australian Catholic University

“Some thinkers labor in a particular furrow, hand to the plough, making progress on an area or line of argument over the course of time. Others, like Nicholas Wolterstorff, manage to contribute to the propagation of several different intellectual crops in different fields. In this work, he brings together essays in areas in which he has made signal contributions individually: on the notion of justice, on art and aesthetics, and on liturgy—binding them together with love. It is an important collection of his work, and a valuable contribution to the cross-fertilization of these distinct areas, which he has done so much to help flourish.”

—Oliver D. Crisp, Professor of Analytic Theology and Director of the Logos Institute, University of St Andrews

“We can always rely on Nicholas Wolterstorff for original and philosophically astute insights on matters which we often—wrongly—take for granted. Here, in his most recent set of collected essays, he brings together his reflections on justice, aesthetics, and liturgy, and finally unites them under the category of divine love. Let us not imagine that Wolterstorff has finished his thinking, for here we see yet new enrichment and depth.”

—Sarah Coakley, FBA, University of Cambridge and Australian Catholic University
The landmark World Council of Churches convergence text, *The Church: Towards a Common Vision* (2012), which has the potential to become this generation’s *Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry* (1982), invites the churches to envision how their own distinctive visions of the church might have a place in the global church’s imagination of the ecumenical future. *Seeds of the Church: Towards an Ecumenical Baptist Ecclesiology* is a collaborative effort by members of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity to respond to this invitation. This book contends that the distinctive Baptist ecclesial vision is best embodied in twelve core practices of Baptist churches and their interrelationship: covenanting, discerning, gathering, befriending, proclaiming, equipping, baptizing, discipling, caring, theologizing, scattering, and remembering. *Seeds of the Church* opens a window on what is possible when Baptists engage with people of other Christian traditions in the exploration of the common heritage of people belonging to the one household of faith. The global Baptist theological voices represented in this volume offer it as a reading of an ecumenical text in a Baptist key that paves the way for ecclesiological renewal—among Baptists and in the whole church to which they belong.

“*Seeds of the Church* provides ample evidence that Baptists understand themselves best as they engage in relationship and dialogue with others in the worldwide Christian church. But this is no theoretical exercise. The strength of this book lies in its critical reflection on various actual practices of Baptist ecclesiology and how these can contribute to, and be enriched by, a growing ecumenical consensus around the rich concept of the church as koinonia. I warmly commend it.”

—Anthony Peck, general secretary, European Baptist Federation

“This fine collection of essays represents an intriguing Baptist contribution to ecumenical dialogue, namely, beginning with a recent ecumenical convergence text and following its emphases through the lens of traditional Baptist commitments. The beauty of this collection lies largely in its consistently receptive and generous tone and a posture geared toward giving and receiving as opposed to merely comparing and contrasting. Those of us from neighboring free-church traditions have much to learn from these thought provoking and inspiring essays.”

—Jeff Cary, Lubbock Christian University

**TEUN VAN DER LEER** is Tutor at the Dutch Baptist Seminary in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

**HENK BAKKER** is Professor at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands, and James Wm. McClendon Chair for Baptistic and Evangelical Theologies.

**STEVEN R. HARMON** is Professor of Historical Theology at Gardner-Webb University School of Divinity in Boiling Springs, North Carolina, USA.

**ELIZABETH NEWMAN** is Adjunct Professor of Theology at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, North Carolina, USA, and Chair of the Baptist World Alliance Commission on Baptist Doctrine and Christian Unity.
This book proposes a bold vision of the “end” of human life and the cosmos based on the hopeful vision of Christian faith. In a dialogue with the best of Christian tradition, the natural sciences’ conjectures of the “end,” as well as Islam’s rich teaching on the doctrine of the Last Things, a fresh constructive eschatology is recommended.

While based on wide and deep academic learning, the conversational style of the book makes it suitable for various kinds of audiences, from pastors, to students, to scholars, and to interested lay folks.

“If the end is nigh, why should we care about anything? Offering a broad overview of relevant topics and angles on growing sentiments of impending doom, Kärkkäinen argues that Christians—and all the people of good will—should go about planting their trees, both literally and metaphorically.”
—Olli-Pekka Vainio, University of Helsinki

“Dare we hope for new creation in the self-giving of the triune God? Kärkkäinen boldly proposes that we must dare to hope to experience the full meaning of life in the present. He then develops the particulars of his reflection in conversation with both science and Islam! This brilliant reflection shows us once again why Kärkkäinen is one of the leading theologians of our time.”
—Frank D. Macchia, Vanguard University

“In this thoughtful and comprehensive book, Kärkkäinen makes Christian eschatology come alive. In conversation with Islam and science, he brings together a concern for the life to come with our personal and communal responsibilities today. I highly recommend this book for anyone who wants to know what Christian eschatology might say about our shared human and cosmic destiny.”
—Lois Malcolm, Luther Seminary

VELI-MATTI KÄRKKÄINEN is Professor of Systematic Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary and Docent of Ecumenics at the University of Helsinki.

978-1-6667-3054-8 | 206 p. | $27
Of late, speaking about religion has become a problem. Whether we are in our homes, at worship, on the street, in college classrooms, or anywhere that conversations happen, speaking about religion often can turn into a heated exchange. As our political and religious divisions widen, so does our inability to cross over to meet others halfway with compassionate, convicted, and civil dialogue. Speaking of Religion ... not only offers ways in which we might open ourselves to hearing and caring about others, but also seeks to help us understand our own convictions more fully. Such dialogue is not often easy, but it is essential if we ever hope to find our way into a future where fear, hatred, and cruelty can be set aside. As Plato is reputed to have said, “We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark. The real tragedy of life is when adults are afraid of the light.” Speaking of Religion seeks to look for light in a world that all too readily gets lost in the night of religious ignorance.

Roy Hammerling

Approaching the Academic Study of Religion with Compassion, Conviction, and Civility

ROY HAMMERLING

978-1-6667-3086-9 | 136 p. | $21

“This is a practical manual for teachers of the academic study of religion. I wish I had this when I first taught world religions. It is a lucid guide to how to create a classroom that is a compassionate, convicted, and civil community. Hammerling effectively uses case studies to show how students bringing very different religious or secular perspectives to the classroom can learn to practice empathetic listening while never being asked to give up thoughtfully held convictions.”

—David B. Myers, Professor of Philosophy, retired, Minnesota State University Moorhead

“At a time when religious illiteracy flourishes and religiously fueled divisions are making our world less kind, Speaking of Religion ... is a much-needed intervention! This engaging, accessible introduction to the academic study of religion encourages readers to link critical thinking about religion to a compassionate orientation to each other. With humility and passion, Hammerling demonstrates how developing religious literacy through the academic study of religion enhances personal meaning, convicted civility, and collective well-being.”

—Michelle Lelwica, Professor of Religion, Women and Gender Studies, and Pre-Law, Concordia College

Speaking of Religion ... is a unique and valuable contribution toward introducing the academic study of religion. Both students and teachers will benefit from engaging with Hammerling’s deep and insightful reflections on how we can best explore matters of faith and meaning.”

—Ahmed Atzaal, Associate Professor of Religion and Social Activism, Concordia College

ROY HAMMERLING is Professor Emeritus of Religion, Greek and Roman Studies, and the History of Christian Spirituality at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota.
This book is an attempt to write about Kierkegaard’s philosophy in the style of Kierkegaard’s philosophy: energetic, playful, free spirited, surprising, and joyous. It is a deliberately crumby book in the sense that it seeks out the fragments, scraps, and crumbs of philosophical arguments that are generally ignored or swept away, like so much rubbish, but that are actually the most interesting parts of the meal. The Anti-Assistant-Professor Method that this book follows adopts Kierkegaard’s many excellent jokes about assistant professors as a guide to how not to write about Kierkegaard’s philosophy; specifically:

- Don’t cease to be human.
- Don’t be a parasite, merely feeding off other people’s creations and never creating anything new.
- Don’t reduce or simplify or systematize Kierkegaard’s ideas in order to make life easier for everyone (because that was never the point).
- Don’t kill Kierkegaard’s philosophy by lecturing on it, thereby turning it into a collection of dead ideas for nonhumans rather than subjective truths that need to be lived.

Following these guidelines, the book attempts to extend and amplify some of Kierkegaard’s most important ideas in a way that combats the persistent problem of nihilism—a disease that even Kierkegaard succumbed to at the end of his life.

“With laughter on his side, Stuart Dalton playfully employs the Anti-Assistant-Professor Method and succeeds in showing readers how to misunderstand Kierkegaard. Readers familiar with Kierkegaard’s writings will unlearn many fine things, while those new to the weird world of Kierkegaard will find that humor is the best aid to learning what one does and doesn’t need to know.”
—Michael Strawser, University of Central Florida

“Stuart Dalton’s Kierkegaard is fun, funny, and joyously playful. Amid the growing pile of worthy tomes on the Danish thinker, this stands out like a jewel: sparkling, entertaining, and genuinely insightful. If there were one book I’d want to put into the hands of a new reader of Kierkegaard, this would be it. Enjoy the ride!”
—Steven Shakespeare, Liverpool Hope University

“In How to Misunderstand Kierkegaard, Stuart Dalton does Kierkegaard the immense service of presenting his thought in a way that would further its impact on readers. Few have managed to synthesize humor and earnestness in order to achieve true earnestness, as Kierkegaard wished us to do. For adopting the earnestness that Kierkegaard recommended and making good use of it to introduce his thought, I wholeheartedly recommend this work.”
—Lydia Amir, Tufts University

STUART DALTON is a philosophy professor at Western Connecticut State University in Danbury, Connecticut.
In *By Way of Obstacles*, Emmanuel Falque revisits the major themes of his work—finitude, the body, and the call for philosophers and theologians to “cross the Rubicon” by entering into dialogue—in light of objections that have been offered. In so doing, he offers a *pathway through a work* that will offer valuable insights both to newcomers to his thought and to those who are already familiar with it. For it is only after one has carved out one’s pathway that one may see more clearly where one has been and where one might be going.

Here readers will discover the profound relation between Falque’s emphasis on the human experience of the world and his desire for philosophy and Christian theology to enter into conversation. For only by speaking within the human horizon of finitude can Christianity be credible for human beings, and it is because Christian theology teaches that God entered into our finitude that it can also teach us something of what it is to be human. Contemporary phenomenology, Falque warns, over-privileges an encounter with the infinite that cannot be originary. Calling us back to finitude, he calls us to a deeper understanding of our humanity.

“Complementing the earlier lovers’ quarrel with his mentors and French predecessors, in this new book, Emmanuel Falque responds instead to some of his contemporary critics. Writing ‘as an act of life,’ he forges for readers a pathway through his rich and extensive work, showing us ‘how things stand’ at the crossroads between phenomenology and theology.”

—Christina M. Gschwandtner, Fordham University

“Emmanuel Falque gives us in *By Way of Obstacles* a way of negotiating his prolific work. Here, we see Falque being formed as a thinker by Miguel de Unamuno on the one hand, and by Mikhail Bulgakov and Nikolai Berdyaev on the other. Always, too, we find him meditating on the meaning of experience, the exposure to peril that marks all genuine philosophical and theological thought.”

—Kevin Hart, The University of Virginia

“Anyone interested in French phenomenology and theology must read the work of Emmanuel Falque, and *By Way of Obstacles* is the place to begin. Summarizing and explicating Falque’s key questions, motivations, and innovations, *By Way of Obstacles* enables readers to come to grips with the dimensions of his project and his responses to aspects of critique. Sarah Horton’s translation remains faithful to Falque’s struggle while bringing its diverse resonances to light in English.”

—Robyn Horner, Australian Catholic University

“With his characteristic intellectual bounty and passion, Falque demonstrates the generativity of the art of disputatio, shaping and sharpening his thought through debate and confrontation with a broad gathering of thinkers and methodologies—philosophical, theological, and psychoanalytic—across history. The resulting essay captures the dynamic vitality and orality of a raucous symposium; it bears witness to thinking in motion while also clarifying the ground from where Falque speaks.”

—Tamsin Jones, Trinity College

**EMMANUEL FALQUE** is Professor and Honorary Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy of the Catholic University of Paris. He is the founder of the International Network in Philosophy of Religion (INPR).
Is the mind just a by-product of the brain? Or is mind the fundamental reality, which creates matter? This book is a defense of mind as prior to matter. It is a philosophical work, written in an accessible style, which explains idealism as the teaching of most classical philosophers, and as most consistent with modern science.

KEITH WARD

978-1-6667-3528-4 | 88 p. | $16

"Let us be clear that for each of us the primary reality is consciousness—everything else is derivative."
—John Eccles, Neurophysiologist

"The evolutionary assumption implies that consciousness is efficacious—that it is not an epiphenomenon."
—Gerald Edelman, Neurobiologist

"Consciousness is the phenomenon whereby the universe’s very existence is made known."
—Roger Penrose, Oxford Mathematician

"It [an event] has not really happened . . . until it is an observed phenomenon."
—John Wheeler, Mathematical Physicist

"The content of consciousness is an ultimate reality."
—Eugene Wigner, Nobel Laureate

"All real things are contents of consciousness."
—John von Neumann, Quantum Physicist

"I regard consciousness as fundamental—matter is derivative from consciousness."
—Max Planck, Physicist

KEITH WARD is the Regius Professor of Divinity Emeritus at Oxford University, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He has taught philosophy at a number of British and American universities.
Keith Ward—philosopher, ethicist, theologian, Anglican priest, cathedral canon, and book-writing addict—has spent his life thinking about “the big questions” (and, what’s more, getting paid for it!). This philosophical pilgrimage led him from jobs at Glasgow and St. Andrew’s Universities in Scotland, to Cambridge University, then on to King’s College, London, followed by Oxford University (by invitation of the Queen!), before moving back to London at Gresham College, Heythrop College, and Roehampton University. Along the way he became a fellow of the British Academy and of a number of academic institutions, gathering up doctorates from various places, and writing more books than your bookshelf can handle. This sounds awfully dull, but according to Keith Ward, it was great fun, and he experienced all these things with a feeling of slight surprise, and with an irrepressible sense of humour.

Having retired, exhausted, at eighty-one, Ward could not resist one more book. This is it—a humorous account of his life and thought, especially to show how he developed his own philosophy of personal idealism. It is both a genuinely amusing account of the life of an English academic and a rather profound account of an anti-materialistic and scientifically informed philosophy.

“Adventures in Belief combines Keith Ward’s autobiographical reminiscences with highly readable accounts of his religious and philosophical beliefs, all done with self-deprecating wit and humor. Readers of his many books will be delighted to know more about their context in his life, while anyone looking for an introduction to philosophy and theology will find it here in a wonderfully approachable form.”
—John Barton, University of Oxford

“Keith Ward’s captivating autobiography will delight his many admirers and impress a wide readership drawn to the big questions in philosophy and religion. Full of self-deprecating humor and sardonic aphorisms, it combines the serious reflections of a connoisseur of the world’s great religions with often hilarious accounts of turning points in his life that apparently originated in mistakes. How a one-time atheist became a distinguished idealist philosopher and adventurous Christian theologian makes for an utterly absorbing read.”
—John Hedley Brooke, University of Oxford
EcoActivist Testament
Explorations of Faith and Nature for Fellow Travelers
H. PAUL SANTMIRE

978-1-6667-3688-5 | 144 p. | $22

Ecoactivist Testament is written for those who are now at the front lines of discipleship in this era of planetary emergency, especially for those who sometimes feel spiritually isolated or exhausted. In this forthright and plainspoken book, longtime Christian ecojustice activist and well-known ecological theologian H. Paul Santmire, inspired by the witness of Saint Francis of Assisi, tells a powerful personal story as he explores the riches of a biblically informed theological vision of God's love for the whole creation. This engaging first-person narrative will appeal both to faith-based ecoactivists of long standing and to those who are pondering this calling for the first time.

“EcoActivist Testament bears witness to the goodness of creation and its integrity, offering grace and hope for all people of faith concerned about our planetary crisis. As Santmire shares his own journey of becoming a champion of nature and a pioneer in the field of ecotheology, the reader is invited first to let go and be—praising God with creation—then to find their own path toward the healing of earth and all her creatures.”
—Daniel R. Smith, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

“This book allows you to walk in the woods with a theologian who has taught about the Bible's impact on human relationship with nature for several decades. You also get to travel with Santmire underwater amidst a coral reef, within a powerful river's current, alongside ponds emerging with life, and various other islands of wilderness. This book is a true gift, as Santmire moves beyond theory and speaks with a pastoral presence to accompany weary fellow justice seekers.”
—Phoebe Morad, executive director, Lutherans Restoring Creation

“In today’s Anthropocene, ‘thin hope’ is analogous to what Bonhoeffer called ‘cheap grace.’ Hope is often claimed but not actively pursued. . . . Santmire addresses this theological deficiency and offers intimate commentary on living into radical hope amid planetary ruin. Born of fifty-plus years of place-based reflection, study, and prayer, EcoActivist Testament threads story, scriptural reasoning, spiritual practice, and lament into a fabric that is capable of girding Christians who seek strength and joy in the struggle to be ‘Earthkin.’”
—Kiara Jorgenson, St. Olaf College

Jesus rose from the dead, and that makes a difference in our lives here and now. The Christian faith is not just about the past or about the future. We are a new creation in Christ. The gospel is about reconciliation, union with Christ, and participation in Christ.

In *Life in Christ*, all aspects of the life of Christians, in the church and world, are addressed from the perspective that we are in Christ. In doing so, Burger builds bridges between different Christian traditions.

“What does it mean to find one’s identity in Christ? What does it mean to live in union with him—to be ‘in’ Christ? Hans Burger has wrestled deeply and carefully with these questions of Christ-centered identity as both a pastor and a theologian for more than a decade. I’m so grateful that his pastoral wisdom, theological precision, and historical depth are now being made available to an English-speaking audience. This book is a gift for those seeking a deeper and richer union with Christ.”

—Matthew Kaemingk, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s question ‘Who is Jesus Christ for us today?’ is as relevant and urgent in the twenty-first century as it was in the twentieth. The short answer is: he is our life. What the world needs now is a longer answer that would explain how a first-century Palestinian Jew is the way, truth, and flourishing life for the whole human race. Burger rightly argues that the gospel is about life in Christ, and he wisely insists on the importance of recovering the whole story, person, and work of Christ for understanding God and ourselves.”

—Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

**HANS BURGER** is professor of systematic theology at Theological University Kampen/Utrecht (the Netherlands). He is the author of *Being in Christ* (2008).
Science is an aspect of modern culture that carries a huge weight of prestige. It operates on a foundation of supporting presuppositions, understandings of reality that people assimilate from infancy. Such presuppositions constitute our worldviews, but we are generally unaware of them. In this book, Graeme Finlay argues that many presuppositions that were essential for the development of science were imbied from Judeo-Christian faith in the creator God, and they remain vital for the continued vitality of science.

Furthermore, theology and science share a feature that points towards their common engagement with reality. New findings catch us by surprise—so much so, that we must conclude that we encounter previously unrecognized realities in genuine experiences of discovery. We don’t invent those surprising phenomena. Both theology and science engage with an objective reality that is not of our construction.

The subterranean connection between science and theology at the level of presuppositions and their openness to engage with reality indicate the potential for ongoing fruitful and mutually beneficial dialogue between the two disciplines. The author illustrates this potential through examples from the field of ecological economics.

“This short book provides a fascinating introduction to the relationship between Christian faith and science, showing how pursuit of the latter is predicated on an understanding of the former, an understanding that is neglected by most practicing scientists today. Graeme Finlay demonstrates that science is a God-given pursuit, a gift, illuminating the truth about God’s world, but that God’s word is necessary to enable us live wisely in the world in light of scientific advances.”

—Meric Srokosz, National Oceanography Centre

“Graeme Finlay makes a lively, engaging, and accessible case for science as God’s gift to humanity. In doing so, he engages with an impressive range of recent scholarship not only in his own specialist fields of scientific pathology and cancer research but also in the history of science, theology, ecology, and the environmental sciences. I warmly recommend it!”

—John Stenhouse, University of Otago

“Written by a working scientist with deep insights into both the scientific method and the Christian Scriptures, this is a fascinating tour through the ways science and the Christian faith have developed and work together as indispensable allies. It is an encouragement to scientists and others who seek to make their work part of their worship of God and who care about the future of this planet.”

—Robert S. White, Cambridge University, emeritus

“It is rare to find such a broad and comprehensible theological exposition on science. Graeme Finlay provides his strongest critique of disconnecting science from its source and lawgiver, warning us against misinformation that seeks to disconnect us from truth and the ecological disaster that is unfolding as a result. Readers will be encouraged to be continuously surprised by the discovery of truth in science and theology. What a gift!”

—Jacob W. Martin, Curtin University

**GRAEME FINLAY** (PhD in cellular immunology) has been involved for many years in cancer research and in the teaching of scientific pathology at the University of Auckland. He is the author of *Human Evolution: Genes, Genealogies and Phylogenies* (2013), *The Gospel According to Dawkins* (2017), and *Evolution and Eschatology: Genetic Science and the Goodness of God* (2021).
The diverse Baptist movement goes back to the separatist wing of English puritanism. The book first describes the history and missionary expansion of this movement. It then lays out its teachings on baptism, eucharist, and ministry, its commitment to religious liberty and human rights, its socio-political involvement as well as the role of women in the church. Finally, exemplary details of Baptist existence in the local congregations and Unions/Conventions from around the world provide insight into the colorful life, work, order, and faith of a global people, held loosely together by its World Alliance. All thirty essays are written by experts in their fields from all continents.

“In this outstanding volume, Geldbach utilizes the skills of an impressive and international array of Baptist scholars who know their respective traditions well. Their essays describe the history, practice, and theological diversity of Baptist communions across the globe. The book is an invaluable tool for Baptists and those who study them.”
—Bill J. Leonard, Wake Forest University, emeritus

“In Baptists Worldwide, Geldbach helps weave together the story of Baptist transformation from humble origins to a truly worldwide communion while offering powerful insights from across Baptist history, doctrinal teachings, and from every continent in the world. Pastors, theologians, denominational leaders, and members of churches around the world will gain fresh insight into the work of God through the Baptist family and will be challenged again to live with missional conviction.”
—Elijah Brown, general secretary and CEO, Baptist World Alliance

ERICH GELDBACH was University Professor of Ecumenical Studies at the Protestant Faculty of Theology of the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany. He retired in 2002 and serves on two commissions of the Baptist World Alliance.
The Christian church was born in the Middle East and grew there for centuries. Its interaction with Islam turned Christianity in this once predominantly Christian region into a marginalized jewel, surviving at great peril within a difficult, even sometimes hostile, political and religious climate. Of course, the story of Christianity over the last 1,300 years is not solely one of conflict, marginalization, and persecution but is also about accommodation, interchange, and cooperation. This introductory book details the history of the church in its Middle Eastern birthplace through the past two thousand years. It is a story described as “a lost history” by Philip Jenkins, but it is here uncovered and placed on display. For those with eyes to see, the church of the Middle East is here revealed as a precious jewel, still catching the light.

Surviving Jewel
The Enduring Story of Christianity in the Middle East

MITRI RAHEB & MARK A. LAMPORT

“With energy and verve, Surviving Jewel examines the kaleidoscope of Middle Eastern Christianity. Readers will appreciate the volume’s impressive historical and geographical sweep, attention to Christian diversity, and clear analysis offered by an array of experts in the field.”
—Heather J. Sharkey, University of Pennsylvania

“Surviving Jewel tells the rich story of Christianity in the Middle East. It provides an accessible account of the Christian experience in the Middle East from origins to the present day by exploring the historical context, the diversity of experiences of Christian communities, and contemporary issues.”
—Fiona McCallum Guiney, University of St Andrews

“This volume tells an absorbing story that illustrates both how the Middle East shaped Christianity and how Christianity shaped the Middle East. This story not only illustrates the diversity of Christian life in the Middle East but is also a vital element in the study of global Christianity today.”
—Elizabeth Monier, University of Cambridge

“Imaginatively conceived and with a variety of different approaches, this appropriately titled book offers a panoptic overview of Christianity in the Middle East, with an emphasis on the contemporary situation.”
—Sebastian Brock, Oriental Institute, Oxford University

“Christian-Muslim relations are not defined by Muslim relations with the West. This rich resource brings together in one place a vast array of data and insight, informing readers about the mosaic of churches in the Middle East and providing vital context for understanding Christian-Muslim relations in the region and beyond.”
—Martin Whittingham, director, Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford

“Surviving Jewel is a very welcome introductory volume to Eastern Christianity. It is concise and largely comprehensible for newcomers to the subject. . . . This book will appeal both to young students in the academia and to the general public globally. Authors and editors are to be commended for this important effort.”
—Martin Accad, Arab Baptist Theological Seminary

MITRI RAHEB is the president of Dar al-Kalima University College in Bethlehem, Palestine, and president of the Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.
MARK A. LAMPORT has been a professor for thirty-five years at graduate theological schools in the United States and Europe.
Choosing ten films that were considered “suspicious,” “un-American,” or even “dangerous” by the conservative media, and especially the infamous “House Un-American Affairs Committee” (HUAC) between 1947–1953, each chapter briefly outlines how progressive Christians should have supported the message of the film rather than condemned it. Each chapter explains why the film was considered controversial, and then proposes a number of arguments drawing heavily on Scripture, arguing that Christians should have, and still should, consider these films about social justice issues to be deeply biblical, and not “un-American.” Intended for an adult education series, this book can serve as a kind of “handbook” for a church or parish “Film Series” that raises serious questions of social justice and Christian response.

“Here is a book that demonstrates the values of biblical scholarship in the life of the church; thinking carefully about Bible and culture; an open and curious mind. Revisiting controversial films from another era while also thinking about the social questions of today, Smith-Christopher has again demonstrated his skill as a reader of culture and invites (or provokes?) us all into conversation. Take up and read, and watch, and think, and talk!”

—Anthony Rees, Charles Sturt University

“Daniel is, in my opinion, one of the finest biblical scholars in the world, and an expert teacher. He also has a keen eye for the intersectionality that exists between the world of the biblical text and the cultural context of the reader. The Blacklisted Bible provides a fine template for exploring the way that our own biblical perceptions and insights can be so profoundly influenced by the cultural context within which we live.”

—Don Tamihere, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church, New Zealand and Polynesia

“The Blacklisted Bible offers a fresh hermeneutic lens. . . . Daniel Smith-Christopher skillfully guides us through a collection of films very much a part of their time yet so prescient in our own, pairing their counterparts with Scripture. These films cried out in the wilderness, demanding justice when justice seemed unattainable, just as the prophets of old. I will never see these films the same way ever again.”

—Rémi Aubuchon, Screenwriter/Producer

DANIEL L. SMITH-CHRISTOPHER is Prof. of Old Testament at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. The author of several books including A Biblical Theology of Exile (2002) and Micaiah: A Commentary (2015), he is also a popular adult education teacher and speaker.
This book tells the story of the people’s experience in dealing with profound changes in religion during the English Reformation. Continental Protestantism influenced the changing nature of English religion, but Catholicism was still the familiar old religion. Official religious policy swung back and forth between different forms of Protestantism and Catholicism, probably causing some to experience some form of spiritual whiplash. But, most clung to their old, familiar faith. Official religious policies provide the backdrop for this story with the people taking the lead. Over time, especially during Elizabeth I’s reign, Protestantism became more familiar, leading most people to accept some form of that new religion by the end of her reign. However, religion continued to change, or at least to shift in subtle ways. And so, the book’s story doesn’t end with Elizabeth’s death. It continues through key religious developments in England and beyond, answering the question of how the church of Elizabeth’s day became the global Anglican church of today.

“This clear, vivid, and engaging book stresses the participation of laypeople, including women, in the English Reformation and its aftermath, as the decisions and deaths of four monarchs changed England’s official religion four times in the early seventeenth century. Protestant women provided food and clean shirts to their coreligionist priests in prison; later, Catholics prayed the rosary during Protestant services. The story continues, showing how today the international Anglican Communion maintains diversity within unity.”

—Marianne Novy, University of Pittsburgh

“This book offers a concise, lucid, and thematically consistent introduction to the English Reformation as it relates to the Episcopal Church. It will be helpful to anyone attempting to discern that tradition’s strengths and weaknesses as it explores its place in the evolving American religious landscape, as well as the gifts it can bring to (and receive from) the wider church.”

—Thomas Breidenthal, author of Christian Households: The Sanctification of Nearness

CAROLINE LITZENBERGER is an Episcopal priest and associate professor of history at Portland State University. She is author of The English Reformation and the Laity.
“This readable emolument is a timely reminder of how Merton was shaped by the liturgical year and his own immersion in the monastic offices. It is wonderful to have it available to a new audience.”

—Lawrence S. Cunningham, University of Notre Dame

“Introduced with meticulous care by Patrick O’Connell, Liturgical Feasts and Seasons is a wonderful opportunity to journey with Merton through the liturgical year as his novices once did—to be guided by Merton not only as a monastic teacher but also as a contemplative teacher for all of us. Merton’s explication is at once deep and clear, but also at times strikingly personal and immediate—as much as he illuminates the liturgical seasons and their biblical roots, he connects them to who we are and our own spiritual journeys.”

—Tom Del Prete, former president, the International Thomas Merton Society
Preaching the Manifold Grace of God, Volume 1
Theologies of Preaching in Historical Theological Families
EDITED BY RONALD J. ALLEN
978-1-7252-5961-4 | 360 p. | $41

Preaching the Manifold Grace of God is a two-volume work describing theologies of preaching from the historical and contemporary periods. Volume 1 focuses on historical theological families: Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed, Anabaptist, Anglican/Episcopal, Wesleyan, Baptist, African American, Stone-Campbell, Friends, and Pentecostal. Volume 2 focuses on families that are evangelical, liberal, neo-orthodox, postliberal, existential, radical orthodoxy, deconstructionist, Black liberation, womanist, Latinx liberation, Mujerista, Asian American, Asian American feminist, LGBTQAI, Indigenous, postcolonial, and process. In each case, the author describes the circumstances in which the theological family emerged and describes the purposes and characteristics of preaching from that perspective.

“In volume 1 of Preaching the Manifold Grace of God, Ronald J. Allen and his team of collaborators give a gift to the church and the academy that will bless both communities for years to come. Now more than ever, we need resources that help us name our theologies and better understand the rich diversity in theological traditions. This wonderful book helps us do both. Already excited for volume 2.”
—Jared E. Alcántara, Truett Theological Seminary

“Ron Allen gifts us with an insightful collection of essays from preaching scholars and practitioners who reflect upon the theologies of preaching that ground their various ‘theological families.’ . . . I am convinced that this compilation of essays may hold potential for evoking generative dialogue that can enhance various Christian traditions and denominations’ appreciative engagement with one another.”
—Veronice Miles, Wesley Theological Seminary

“Preaching the Manifold Grace of God acknowledges we all come to interpretation from a perspective, often framed by our ecclesial identity. In this volume, Allen gathers homiletic voices to expose the distinct characteristics in preaching resulting from these various points of view. The gift of this volume is it provides description without value judgment. For those seeking to understand the theological nuances of meaning that characterize the oral interpretation of the Bible, this is the book to read.”
—Joy J. Moore, Luther Seminary

“This curated volume of a diverse cohort of scholars reveals the diverse theologies of preaching embedded in historical theological families. It reminds readers that preaching is never acontextual and always theological, not merely rhetorical. Readers will learn implicitly how just as there is not one theology of preaching, but theologies of preaching across traditions, there are various vibrant Christianities in the world.”

RONALD J. ALLEN was Professor of Preaching, and Gospels and Letters at Christian Theological Seminary for thirty-seven years. He is the author or editor of forty books, including The Sermon without End, coauthored with O. Wesley Allen Jr. (2015). He is also a coeditor of the three-volume Preaching God’s Transforming Justice (2012) and the editor of the widely used sermon collection Patterns of Preaching (1998).
“Allen and contributors offer a timely resource to help new and longtime practitioners consider the traditions and contexts that shape their preaching. It recovers an often invisible, but ever present, thread between the past and present. A must-read for the lifelong and conscientious student of preaching in the complex world before us.”
—Lisa L. Thompson, Vanderbilt University Divinity School

“This helpful homiletical resource explores theologies of preaching from diverse contemporary perspectives, illuminating the richness of the proclamation of the gospel in the church. It is a true gift, because the breadth of contemporary theological perspectives in this book is a revelation of the breadth and beauty of God.”

RONALD J. ALLEN was Professor of Preaching, and Gospels and Letters at Christian Theological Seminary for thirty-seven years. He is the author or editor of forty books, including The Sermon without End, coauthored with O. Wesley Allen, Jr. (2015). He is also a coeditor of the three-volume Preaching God’s Transforming Justice (2012) and the editor of the widely used sermon collection Patterns of Preaching (1998).
What happens to faith if you get dementia? Does the real “you” disappear? Does your relationship with God evaporate as neurons begin to disconnect? Will you forget God? Here, the voices of Christians from the evangelical tradition bring insight to the profound questions faith encounters amidst the disorientation of dementia: “. . . even when my brain falls apart . . . nothing can separate me from the love of God . . . faith is stronger.” ‘Tricia Williams seeks deeper understanding of their faith experience and practice through careful listening and theological reflection within the boundaries of a biblical agenda: who I am, knowing God, experience and practice of faith, the shadows of suffering, embodied memory, spiritual growth, and hope for now. Fresh theological insights and challenges for the church call for creative practices to nurture the faith of disciples of Jesus who live with this disease: “They must remind me.” In this book, these voices reveal a growing, positive experience of faith in the light of dementia—and of hope in Christ. Faith does not end with diagnosis: “God . . . has not forgotten me.”

‘TRICIA WILLIAMS has been deeply involved in reflection on issues of faith and dementia for several years. She has written widely on the subject, including the faith resources Being with God. This book arises from her doctoral research published as What Happens to Faith When Christians Get Dementia? (Pickwick).
Can the church celebrate the eucharist in “contagious times,” like the coronavirus pandemic, and if so, how? In this book, Richard Burridge investigates a wide range of proposed options, both in the everyday physical world (fasting the eucharist, spiritual communion, solo and concelebrated communions, lay presidency, drive-in and drive-thru eucharists, and extended communion) and in cyberspace (computer services for avatars, broadcast eucharists online, and narrowcast communions using webinar software like Zoom). Along the way, he tackles the whole range of concepts of the church, ordination, and the eucharist. This book is essential reading for anyone desiring an informed and provocative guide to the theology and practice of holy communion in our challenging times.

“No one will finish reading this book without a deeply enhanced sense of the meaning of the eucharist. Painstaking and impressively well-documented and researched, it will be an invaluable resource, stimulating much debate and reflection.”
—Rowan Williams, former archbishop of Canterbury

“In this carefully researched and original book of quite extraordinary scope, the author brings to light the deepest meaning of the relation of God to a world that includes cyberspace.”
—Paul S. Fiddes, University of Oxford, Baptist theologian

“Renowned biblical theologian Richard Burridge’s arguments give us much to think about in this ongoing important debate.”
—Michael B. Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church

“A visionary eucharistic theology and ecclesiology for the future’s hybrid physical and virtual expressions of church.”
—Mitzi J. Buddé, Virginia Theological Seminary, deacon in the Evangelical Lutheran Church

“A provocative, interesting, rich, and thoughtful book. It is well worth the read and furthers the discussion considerably.”
—C. Andrew Doyle, Episcopal bishop of Texas

“Reading Burridge’s material about online eucharists moved my theological goalposts!”
—Pierre Whalon, former bishop of the convocation of Episcopal Churches of Europe

“A fascinating study. Something all church leaders need to wrestle with!”
—Michael F. Bird, Ridley College, Melbourne

“Richard Burridge’s theological depth and willingness to be radical in his thinking make this book essential reading.”
—David Walker, bishop of Manchester

THE REV'D CANON PROFESSOR RICHARD A. BURRIDGE is an internationally recognized biblical scholar, ethicist, theologian and social commentator. During his career, he has been a schoolmaster, parish priest, university chaplain, academic, and professor, and he served as Dean of King’s College London for over 25 years from 1993 to 2019. He is the author of several books, including the groundbreaking What are the Gospels? He was awarded the 2013 Ratzinger Prize by Pope Francis, the first non-Roman Catholic to receive this prize for academic scholarship.
Whether we realize it or not, our churches are full of those who have experienced and are living with the aftereffects of horror and trauma, whether as survivors, carers, or perpetrators. The central question of this book is simple: How can our churches become open to the Trinity such that they are trauma-safe environments for everyone? How can we join the triune God to become trauma-safe churches? While the reality is bleak, the church can dare to hope for healing because of the reality of God and the body of Christ. Using the metaphor of the dawn of Sunday, the authors propose a double witness to trauma that straddles the boundary between the deadly silence of Holy Saturday and the joy of Easter Sunday. While witnessing loss and lament we can also be open to the possibility of new life through God’s trinitarian works of safety and recovery in the church. This involves adopting some basic principles and practices of trauma safety that every pastor, congregation, and layperson can begin using today. Creating trauma-safe churches is possible through God the Trinity.

“Moving beyond pat answers and reductionistic attitudes, the authors demonstrate the resources of a Christian understanding of the Trinity for the church’s handling of trauma. Despite often failing their members, churches can and must have a positive role in healing. This book charts a practical course through what is often a very challenging pastoral terrain. It should be required reading for pastors and religious workers, as well as for anyone entrusted with the care of other souls.”
—Adonis Vidu, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

“Cockayne, Harrower, and Hill show us how the triune God gives us solace in sufferings, hope amidst horrors, and strength in our weakness. This is no empty therapeutic but theology for healing and restoration after traumatic experiences. A terrific resource in pastoral theology.”
—Michael F. Bird, Ridley College

This book offers a pastoral theology that knows how to journey through the pain and the horror of suffering, abuse, and bodily trauma. Cockayne, Harrower, and Hill . . . provide well-researched and nuanced perspectives on the effects of trauma with strategies for how to engage the bodies and the stories of those impacted. . . . For each of the contributors, even in the darkness before the dawn, hope lingers and creates a path toward life.”
—Chelle Stearns, Seattle School of Theology & Psychology

Joshua Cockayne is a city center mission lead in the Diocese of Leeds and an honorary lecturer in theology at the University of St Andrews. He has published widely in philosophical theology on issues related to spirituality, liturgy, and ecclesiology.

Scott Harrower is associate professor of theology, history, and ethics at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia. He is an Anglican priest and is the author of God of All Comfort: A Trinitarian Response to the Horrors of This World.

Preston Hill is assistant professor of integrative theology at Richmont Graduate University which houses an Institute of Trauma and Recovery. He is an ordinand in the Anglican Church in North America.
This book is a collection of sermons preached at home and abroad, intended mainly for a lay audience, which presents teachings and applications of biblical texts from both the Old and New Testaments. It builds around the theme of the Christian life being a walk with a hidden and revealed God, a walk requiring understanding, a walk in which one remains faithful, a walk that has developmental stages, and a walk requiring wisdom.

**Oil Enough to Make the Journey**  
Sermons on the Christian Walk  
**JACK R. LUNDBOM**

978-1-6667-0045-9 | 198 p. | $27

“Discipleship is a journey, and it meets many challenges along the way. But there are waymarks in Scripture to guide a person, and Jack Lundbom explores them. Lundbom employs his rich store of learning and scholarship to engage the texts. But he also engages his audiences, both in actual preaching previously and now in print. There is much here to learn about those texts and how one can employ them in preaching today.”

—Arland J. Hultgren, Luther Seminary, emeritus

“I’m very happy that Oil Enough to Make the Journey will be published. This book has a wealth of ideas and very valuable insights. I’d like to give my compliments to Jack for this work.”

—Meici Sun, Nanjing Union Theological Seminary

“As a student of Dr. Lundbom, I was privileged to listen to his sermons declaring biblical truth with academic excellence and profound insight. This collection of sermons presents God’s wisdom and guidance in the pilgrimage. Dr. Lundbom faithfully walks in the ‘way’ that he preaches and marks his journey with the amazing grace of God.”

—Junxião Bai, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong

**JACK R. LUNDBOM** is a retired professor of Old Testament and Christian Origins and also an ordained minister of the Evangelical Covenant Church who has lectured, preached, and written extensively over a period of fifty years. His major works include commentaries on *Jeremiah* for the Anchor Bible (1999, 2004) and *Deuteronomy* (2013).
Faith, Life, and Learning Online
Promoting Mission Across Learning Modalities
Edited by Brant M. Himes and John W. Washatka
978-1-6667-0568-3 | 206 p. | $27

Faith, Life, and Learning Online is an invitation for faith-based institutions to take bold steps toward integrating a holistic mission of spiritual formation into the online learning environment. For Christian higher education, faith integration is a matter of mission, not modality. Regardless of whether learning happens in the traditional classroom, through hybrid models, or exclusively online, Christian universities have a missional mandate to continue their long legacy of forming students of competence and character. While traditional campuses continue to provide unique and meaningful opportunities for students to grow in their faith, online learning has opened new avenues for engagement and development of spiritual formation. As such, all Christian higher education institutions are now called to take advantage of this unique technological moment to continue to offer transformative opportunities for the holistic integration of faith, life, and learning in the online environment.

“In light of the changing landscape of online Christian higher education and the need to ensure that Christian formation is taking place, the authors provide a holistic approach that encompasses the broader ecosystem of vocation and calling. The authors provide students with a pathway for Christian formation and engagement in the world, while welcoming diverse religious students to engage in faith seeking understanding.”
—Mark A. Maddix, School of Theology & Christian Ministry, Point Loma Nazarene University

“Faith, Life, and Learning Online does a remarkable job bringing intentionality to the discussion of integrating formative principles with life experiences. . . . This book could help educators, administrators, and students alike reexamine commonly held notions about formation across educational landscapes. It articulates the capacity to use online education to launch students into the world as change agents informed by faith and spiritual depth.”
—Mary Lowe, Rawlings School of Divinity, Liberty University

Brant M. Himes is Associate Professor in Humanities at Los Angeles Pacific University. He is the author of For a Better Worldliness: Abraham Kuyper, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and Discipleship for the Common Good (2018).

John W. Washatka is Associate Professor in Humanities at Los Angeles Pacific University.
The transformation of patriarchal church culture begins with gender equality in the pulpit. For too long, the Christian pulpit has been monopolized by men. This pattern is especially pronounced in evangelical Asian American and Latinx congregations, where women’s voices are marginalized and male dominance is reinforced in the church as well as the family.

The consequences are enormous:
- Robbing the church of the fullness of the gospel
- Silencing the voices of women preachers
- Masculinizing Christianity
- Losing younger generations of women leaders
- Modeling structural power inequality
- Increasing violence against women

Making academic hermeneutical work accessible for the pulpit, *A Biblical Study Guide for an Equal Pulpit* reappropriates a gendered approach to biblical texts. Among the perspectives investigated, Kay Higuera Smith’s “Two Mothers—Two Promises” takes a perspective-shifting look at Sarah and Hagar; Eunny P. Lee’s “Valorous and Wise: Women Who Build Up the House of God” depicts Ruth and the woman of Proverbs 31 as builders of the household; and Sophia Magallanes-Tsang’s “Listening for Your Voice; Let Me Hear It: The Prophetic Feminine Voice in Songs 8” interprets the Song of Songs as a prophetic female voice.

“A century after women’s suffrage, women still exist under a glass ceiling in American society, which is unfortunately still being scripturally justified within some ecclesial . . . communities. Hertig and her friends . . . help us see that the biblical message is even better news for women than the so-called gospel preached from predominantly male pulpits. Come, Holy Spirit—move afresh upon men and women, young and old, American and Asian—with a new Pentecost!”

—Amos Yong, Fuller Theological Seminary

“This book is a delightful collection of works that successfully integrates personal stories with scholarly analyses, leading the reader to rediscover new insights from various biblical texts. . . . I strongly recommend *A Biblical Study Guide for Equal Pulpits* as a wonderful tool for pastors, teachers, and seminary students, or simply for anyone who wants to study the Bible in a new way.”

—Loida I. Martell, Lexington Theological Seminary

“I am very grateful for *A Biblical Study Guide for Equal Pulpits*. This collective work by respected practitioner scholars of the Asian American and Latina communities samples homiletics, biblical exegesis, and pulpit ministry other-

wise. . . . It helps us reposition our biblical readings in the ultimate reality of an equitable God, as supposed to binaries designed to support a hierarchical Eurocentric pulpit.”

—Oscar García-Johnson, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Hertig’s *A Biblical Study Guide for Equal Pulpits* persuasively argues that women of color who are preachers and teachers are the future of the prophetic Christian movement. It’s a must-read in our churches, colleges, and faith-rooted justice movements!”

—Peter Goodwin Heltzel, Boston University School of Theology

**YOUNG LEE HERTIG** is cofounder and executive director of Innovative Space for Asian American Christianity (ISAAC) and Asian American Women on Leadership (AAWOL). She is the author of *The Tao of Asian American Belonging* (2019) and coeditor with Chloe T. Sun of *Mirrored Reflections* (Wipf & Stock, 2010). She has taught at Azusa Pacific University, United Theological Seminary, and Fuller Theological Seminary. She holds advanced degrees in counseling psychology, theology, anthropology, and intercultural studies.
This collection of essays constitutes an attempt to work faithfully at the generative interface of the Bible and our life in the world. This interface variously yields, in our attentiveness, assurances and summons and often empowerment for the work of faith. That work of faith is in our moment urgent, given the force of evil and violence among us, performed by willing thuggery, by dark money, and by the hidden manipulation of social power in hurtful ways. Given such social reality, it is Brueggemann’s hope that these pieces may be a source of strength and support for those who resist and refuse those nefarious forces in our midst. Thus he intends that these pieces give voice to the assurance and summons of the gospel, so that we may be able to live differently in the world, differently in ways that are marked by forgiveness, generosity, and hospitality. Such living is in the face of great pressure toward scorekeeping, parsimony, and fearful exclusion. Such living is a way of joy and hope that is on offer nowhere else. It is Brueggemann’s intent to contribute as he can to the “hopes that drive us onward,” in resistance to “the fears that hold us back.”

“Walter Brueggemann brings to speech what pastors and preachers long to say. This collection emboldens us to offer the church and world a counter-narrative of hope as an antidote to despair. Brueggemann demands of us a willingness to face our own denial, to engage our own grief, and to practice God’s liberating truth-telling.”

—Clover Reuter Beal, co-pastor, Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church
A selection of homilies and sermons preached in “Ordinary Time” that focus on the texts of the lectionary and the demands of Christian life. Some are short talks delivered in the context of the monastery, some are sermons delivered to students of theology, some are presentations to congregations scattered across the US, and some are sermons preached at ritual moments of transition.

“...the church’s most penetrating theologians have invariably been preachers immersed in ‘the word of God, living and active’ (Heb 4:12). Among them stands Luke Timothy Johnson: exegete, prophet, consoler, and—of prime importance—Christian disciple. Perceptive, honest, and faithful, Out of Season is a gathering of sermons for all seasons. Attend carefully. Through them, the Spirit unites us with the mind of Christ.”

—C. Clifton Black, Princeton Theological Seminary

“...preachers, seminarians, new disciples and old: come with your hands and hearts open, because in this book Luke Timothy Johnson gives bread, not a stone, to all who ask. In sermon after sermon, Johnson graciously expounds Scripture’s word about God’s claim on every aspect of our lives. But be ready, for in Johnson’s telling, this word not only nourishes—it also convicts and lays bare the very secrets of our hearts.”

—Susan R. Garrett, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

LUKE TIMOTHY JOHNSON is the Robert W. Woodruff Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins Emeritus at Emory University. Once a Benedictine monk and priest, he taught at Yale Divinity School and Indiana University before spending his last twenty-four years at Emory. All along the way, he preached as well as taught.
While the North American church grapples with an eroding position of privilege in society, there is a liberating vision of church from the margins. This manifesto defines eight marks of liberating churches that were identified through research of antebellum hush harbors. Hush harbors were the covert gatherings of enslaved Africans to worship and organize for change free from the surveillance of plantation Christianity. *Liberating Church* explores how the marks of antebellum hush harbors are being lived out now in several faith communities. This book offers a guide for anyone who wants to embrace innovative models for building spaces of faith and activism with structural critique and spiritual power.

**BRANDON WRENCHER** is a minister, organizer, teacher, and facilitator. He works across faith, education, and non-profit sectors at the intersections of decolonizing church, contemplative activism, and local presence to build beloved communities.

**VENNEIKIA SAMANTHA WILLIAMS** is a person whose pursuit of justice is informed by the radical Black tradition. From designing curriculum, graphics, and events to facilitating in-person and virtual trainings on racial, political, and spiritual matters, Venneikia is a lifelong learner and instructor.
Return to the Parish
The Pastor in the Public Square
EDITED BY DAVID HORN AND JASON R. MCCONNELL
978-1-6667-3524-6 | 218 p. | $29

Return to the Parish: The Pastor in the Public Square is a pastoral theology that challenges pastors to view their local community (rather than their congregation) as their primary sphere of ministry. Too many churches have become insular by hoarding their resources (including their pastors) and trying to sustain their own survival instead of seeking the peace and prosperity of their town or city. By breathing new life into an old idea of “parish,” this book casts a vision for pastors (and churches) to actively engage their community with the gospel rather than simply perpetuate more programs inside the church. It offers a new paradigm for pastoral ministry, where pastors model and mobilize their churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the public square through community involvement and cultural engagement.

The book chronicles seven young pastors (from diverse ministry contexts) as they seek to become “new parish pastors” who lead their congregations into engaging various sectors of the public square: business and workplace, science and technology, healthcare, politics, education, the arts, and multiethnic settings.

“Return to the Parish encourages and equips early career pastors to transition from proficiency to mastery in ministry by getting proximate to the issues in their local community and then theologically reflecting and engaging those local issues. Why? Because God is far more concerned with the world than the church. The church is only the church when it engages the world.”
—Libby Davis Manning, director, Wabash Pastoral Leadership Program

“Eight New England pastors formed a ‘kinship’ to explore creative ways to shepherd a flourishing church . . . . Return to the Parish is the fruit of this labor of love. Instead of becoming a dying, inward-focused, decontextualized church, they demonstrate how pastors can impact the public square and obey the Great Commission by applying the gospel to the many parishes that make up our world.”
—Douglas D. Webster, Beeson Divinity School

“Return to the Parish is a collection of wise words from wise practicing pastors. . . . The ripple effect of ministry is much wider than the church building but intersects with various layers of ministry and society. This book will help readers appreciate the wide reach of the pastorate from the perspective of a collection of engaged, thoughtful pastors.”
—Scott M. Gibson, Baylor University

DAVID HORN was the director of the Ockenga Institute at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Massachusetts, where he developed and delivered a wide variety of educational programs for pastors and parishioners for more than twenty years. He also served on the pastoral staff of the First Congregational Church of Hamilton, Massachusetts. He currently serves as the executive director of the Ockenga Fellows program and a mentor on the Doctor of Ministry Program at GCTS. He is the author of Soulmates: Friendship, Fellowship, and the Making of Christians Community.

JASON R. MCCONNELL has served as the senior pastor of the East Franklin Union Church and Franklin United Church in Franklin, Vermont since 2004. He also serves as co-director of the Ockenga Fellows program and a mentor on the Doctor of Ministry Program at GCTS and a mentor for the Cross-Cultural Ministry Practicum at Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, Alabama. He is the general editor of Beholding Beauty: Worshipping God through the Arts.
Churches around the world have been confronted by shame and culpability in widespread revelations of child sexual abuse.

In this book, Jeffrey Driver, who has served the Australian Anglican Church as both a diocesan bishop and archbishop, explores some of the underlying cultural and theological influences that may have predisposed the possibility of abuse, as well as the defensiveness and cover-ups that sometimes followed.

The first responses of most churches to the revelations of abuse were, of necessity, mostly structural and programmatic. Recognizing the institutional temptation to do only enough to settle a crisis, Jeffrey Driver calls for something different from the churches.

Drawing on the imagery of Holy Saturday, he encourages a deeper journey of reflection and change, for churches and church leaders to linger reflectively in the grey spaces of loss and shame long enough to hear the voice of God addressing them through the vulnerable and the wounded once more, calling the church back to itself and into a deeper, humbler relationship with the world it is called to serve.

“In this volume, Driver tackles the task of reflecting deeply on the cultural factors that permit abuse in the church. . . . Drawing on the broad cultural and philosophical movements that have shaped Western societies, Driver holds a mirror up to the churches to see for themselves the shadow side that the wider community has long seen. This opens possibilities for the deep cultural and institutional transformations demanded of the churches by the tragedy of abuse.”

—Phillip Aspinall, AC, Anglican archbishop of Brisbane and formerly primate of Australia

“Concerned about a church known for its abuse failures and dysfunctional institutions, and where power and domination are tacitly accepted, Driver will give you a sharp-eyed and informed analysis and some hope about where to go. A clearly written theological and social analysis. A brilliant discussion of symbols of power in the church. Startlingly radical. Absolutely a must-read for anyone who is concerned about the church. This is an excellent and timely book.”

—Bruce Kaye, Charles Sturt University

“Jepperfry W. Driver” was the Anglican Archbishop of Adelaide, Australia, for eleven years, and before that, the Bishop of Gippsland. In retirement, he is a research scholar with the University of Divinity in Melbourne and acting Principal of Newton College in Papua New Guinea.

“Grey Spaces”Searching Out the Church in the Shadows of Abuse

JEFFREY W. DRIVER

978-1-6667-3616-8 | 166 p. | $24

“In this volume, Driver tackles the task of reflecting deeply on the cultural factors that permit abuse in the church. . . . Drawing on the broad cultural and philosophical movements that have shaped Western societies, Driver holds a mirror up to the churches to see for themselves the shadow side that the wider community has long seen. This opens possibilities for the deep cultural and institutional transformations demanded of the churches by the tragedy of abuse.”

—Phillip Aspinall, AC, Anglican archbishop of Brisbane and formerly primate of Australia
We in mainline churches are uneasy, maybe even scared. Why are our voices not heard? After all, we are the reasonable Christians, the updated Christians, the respectable ones who have dominated the cultural landscape since colonial times. This book presumes that trying to reverse the loss of our traditional status in society is both futile and beside the point. What’s called for when we find ourselves in a state of crisis is to rediscover the big picture, the Christian hope projected on a large screen. This requires the courage to revisit the sources from which all Christian hope springs, rediscovering their life-giving power. That power rises from the counterintuitive affirmations of the gospel represented in Christ’s incarnation; his healing the afflicted; his raising the dead; his vulnerability; his cross, resurrection, and “universal restoration” (Acts 3:21). Preaching and worship that embodies and lifts up the hard parts, the life-giving parts, is neither fundamentalist nor an exercise in nostalgia. It is rather evidence of confidence in the triune God who makes the unknowable known. The Good Shepherd promised: “My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). And when they do, they will.

RONALD P. BYARS is professor emeritus of preaching and worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary, where he taught following many years in pastoral ministry in both Michigan and Kentucky. His books include Believer on Sunday, Atheist by Thursday (Cascade Books, 2019), Finding Our Balance (Cascade Books, 2015), and Come and See (Cascade Books, 2014).
I invite you to go on a pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is a journey with a sacred goal. The sacred goal I have in mind for you is knowing God. Perhaps you’re already on that pilgrimage. Perhaps you already know God. If so, I invite you to know God better.

A literal religious pilgrimage involves going to a place. In the Christian tradition, pilgrims have journeyed to such places as Jerusalem, Rome, and Santiago de Compostela. Going to these places requires moving your body to them.

But the pilgrimage I’m inviting you to start—or continue—is a pilgrimage for your soul. Your purpose on this pilgrimage will be to get your soul closer to God.

A pilgrimage is something you do. On a literal pilgrimage, you have to keep your body moving in the same direction for a long time. Doing so requires using and caring for your body.

On a soul pilgrimage, you have to keep your soul directed toward God for a long time. Doing so requires the use and care of your soul by means of engaging in various spiritual practices. Will you accept my invitation? Will you join my wife Jennifer and me on this soul pilgrimage?

JAMES E. TAYLOR is Professor of Philosophy at Westmont College in Santa Barbara. He is the author of Introducing Apologetics: Cultivating Christian Commitment (2006) and Learning for Wisdom: Christian Education and the Good Life (2017).

JENNIFER MOE TAYLOR has worked primarily in the field of education, most recently at Westmont College. A freelance writer since 2019, she is a graduate of UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara.
Buddhism and Christianity are ancient, rich, and multivalent wisdom spirituality traditions that often have insightful similarities as well as distinct perspectives from entirely different starting points. *Fragrant Rivers of Wisdom* explores some of these paths and encourages readers to gain, as far as is possible, a participant’s appreciation of another faith. This book aims to help readers celebrate and enjoy the rich wisdom legacies of a teacher revealing a pure lotus blossoming from mud and the legacies of a peasant Jewish carpenter from Galilee revealing love on a cross. Both teachers share the power of love, the joys of healing encouragement, and the creative resources of spirit-filled living. Their ancient words and their modern communities still following these paths are dynamically relevant for our modern context of confusion and challenge.

**A. CHRISTIAN VAN GORDER** is an Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and World Religions at Baylor University. He is the author of *Jews and Christian Together* (Cascade, 2020) and *No God but God* (2003).

“Fragrant Rivers of Wisdom has merit to promote creative thinking and enhance respectful listening for interfaith engagement between Buddhists and Christians. It is well written, serving as a resource of cherished respect and incarnational vision. Christian faith meets and speaks to Buddhist wisdom to search for common ground and mutual agreement.”

—Paul S. Chung, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

“Van Gorder demonstrates that no religion has a monopoly of ‘wisdom spirituality’ and that Buddhists and Christians, although different, have much in common—more than enough to work together creatively for a better world. His additional argument that Christians should seek forgiveness for ‘centuries of dismissiveness’ and exclusivist arrogance toward other religions is pertinent and timely. The flavor of this book is positive and refreshing.”

—Elizabeth J. Harris, former President, European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies

“Through an engaging, creative introduction to Buddhism, the author invites other Christians into new avenues of Buddhist-Christian dialogue. The conversation van Gorder envisions is characterized by humility, trust, and commitment to one’s own tradition, and its goal is shared action for social justice, deeper interfaith friendships, and fresh insights. This is an enjoyable, informative book for Christians at any stage of their interfaith journey.”

—Kristin Johnston Largen, President, Wartburg Theological Seminary

“As growing numbers of committed Christians choose to engage in ‘respectful dialogue’ with committed Buddhists, the uninitiated to this form of engagement may wonder what ‘respectful dialogue’ entails. *Fragrant Rivers of Wisdom*, taken as a whole, is an excellent introduction. Not an analytical, intellectual introduction, but one based on van Gorder’s personal experience of living among Asian Buddhists. As it turns out, the path of ‘respectful dialogue’ leads to a new cadre of warm friends with whom we can both disagree and love deeply. Recommended.”

—Terry Muck, Asbury Theological Seminary, retired
Hope in the Wilderness
Spiritual Reflections for When God Feels Far Away
NOEL FORLINI BURT

“Behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak to her heart . . . ” (Hos 2:14)

Hope in the Wilderness urges you to consider that your wilderness experiences—places where you suffer deeply, places where you can’t find or feel God anymore, places of transition and upending of the life you used to know—are the very places where God speaks to your heart. As Noel Forlini Burt invites you into her own season of wilderness wandering, she enfolds the story of biblical characters who also wandered in wilderness, gently beckoning you to open yourself to the heart of God in your own story. Not merely a book to read, Hope in the Wilderness beckons you to lament your losses honestly, to be allured by the God who loves you, and to discover hope in the midst of your own wilderness.

“Noel Forlini Burt teaches and lectures widely in the intersection of Bible and spiritual formation. A spiritual director, retreat leader, and academic, Noel believes the Bible is a deep well from which people can draw in their own spiritual formation. She has one husband, one dog, and one cat. Noel recently moved home to Alabama, where she drinks as much coffee as she possibly can.

“This is a little book with big heart that invites readers to embrace wilderness as holy ground. Forlini Burt shows us her journey through wilderness with humor and insight. Sometimes she bushwhacks, sometimes she lingers. But always, she listens as her heart points her home.”
—Amy Oden, Saint Paul School of Theology

“One of the remarkable elements of Forlini Burt’s writing is her ability to weave together compelling personal stories and rich biblical scholarship. These elements combine to shed light on the all-too-human, wilderness experiences of doubt and disquiet. Through her words, Forlini Burt serves as a hope-filled spiritual director for those seeking to understand who God is and how God guides in the uncertainties of everyday life.”
—Angela Reed, George W. Truett Theological Seminary
When Lisa Knopp visited Nebraska's death row in 1995, she couldn't have imagined that one of the inmates she met that day would become a dear friend. For the next twenty-three years, through visits, phone calls, and letters, a remarkable, platonic friendship flourished between Knopp, an English professor, and Carey Dean Moore, who'd murdered two Omaha cab drivers in 1979 and for which he was executed by lethal injection in 2018. From Your Friend, Carey Dean: Letters from Nebraska’s Death Row, tells two other stories, as well. One is that of a broken correctional system (Nebraska’s prisons are overcrowded, understaffed, and underfunded, and excessive in their use of solitary confinement), and what it’s like to be incarcerated there, which Moore frequently spoke and wrote about. The other is the story of how a double murderer was transformed and nourished by his faith in God’s promises. Though Moore and Knopp were different types of Christians (he was a Biblical literalist and an evangelical; she is a Biblical contextualist with progressive leanings), they shared faith in God’s love, grace, mercy, and abiding companionship.

LISA KNOPP is the author of seven books of creative nonfiction including, Bread: A Memoir of Hunger and What the River Carries: Encounters with the Mississippi, Missouri and Platte. Her essays have appeared in Georgia Review, Seneca Review, Creative Nonfiction, Michigan Quarterly Review, Shenandoah, Gettysburg Review, and Brevity. Knopp is a Professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. She lives in Lincoln.
“Reading the Two Books of God is a delightful companion through the times of the year: both calendar and liturgical. . . . Mann invites the reader into deeper consideration of aspects of nature and Christian Scripture that may have been skimmed as familiar or rudimentary. The reader is likely to experience both nature and Scripture differently after reading this offering.”

—Anne Herndon, retired counseling psychologist

“Understanding his sermons in terms of Scripture and nature, Tom has gracefully woven his theology through them. In his sermons, you hear and see his love of nature and his profound understanding of the biblical Scriptures. . . . The ideas he gleans from the Bible, his garden, and his hikes are fresh and redemptive. This book makes the Bible meaningful and the earth integral to each day of our lives.”

—Lucy A. Austin, retired pastoral counselor

“An extraordinary collection of sermons that engages the reader’s imagination and intellect, Reading the Two Books of God integrates a spiritual sensuality of experience with a reverence for Scripture and theology (with a dash of gentle humor). . . . Mann challenges readers to a deep listening and a deep looking at time. Highly recommended—a superb and rare blend of scholarship, theological humility, and commitment to the goodness of the created world.”

—Linda Browne, chaplain, Salemtowne Retirement Community

“Reading the Two Books of God is an extraordinary gift to religious leaders and others who seek to hear God through the words of ancient poets and prophets and through the whispers, thunders, and ‘wow’-inducing ordinaries of canyons, deserts, oceans, mountains, and neighborhood backyards. Each sermon invites readers to proclaim ‘glory’ and then head outdoors to experience that ‘glory’ with Scripture in their hearts and minds and the sacred dirt of God’s good earth under their feet.”

—Jill Y. Crainshaw, Wake Forest University School of Divinity

“Reading the Two Books of God is a compelling argument for not reading Scripture and nature as though they had nothing to do with one another but understanding each in light of the wisdom offered by the other. . . . This beautifully written book will enrich both readers’ faith and their commitment to social justice for God’s good but imperiled earth.”

—George W. Stroup, Columbia Theological Seminary, emeritus

THOMAS W. MANN has taught religious studies at the college, seminary, and doctoral levels and has served as a parish minister in the United Church of Christ. He is the author of The God of Dirt (2004), The Book of the Former Prophets (Cascade, 2011), and The Book of the Torah (2nd ed., Cascade, 2013).
During the last few decades there has been an increasing interest in the connection between our faith and our work, along with the growth of resources and organizations to bring the two into dialogue. Despite this, most Christians continue to feel that their daily work is less valuable than that of pastors, missionaries, or full-time workers in a religious organization.

In a fresh and practical way, this book sets out the biblical, historical, and theological grounds for challenging this commonly felt view. It includes a range of engaging personal case studies that demonstrate the profound effect integrating one's work up into one's faith can have—relationally, institutionally, and societally as well as evangelistically, pastorally, and missionally. Attention is also given to the increasingly addictive, fragmented, and precarious nature of work today, and to how we can spiritually find our way to discerning and expressing our unique God-given vocation.

The final section of the book considers whether any of our work has eternal value, and retells a compelling parable of what this might look like.

Robert Banks has taught practical theology and ethics at universities and seminaries in Asia, North America, Europe, and his homeland Australia. His previous books, several of which have won national awards, focus on biblical studies and Christian lifestyle, leadership, and mission, and he has worked closely with lay groups in the marketplace, civil service, and film industry. He is presently an Honorary Professor at Alphacrucis College in Sydney.
“The heresy of heresies was common sense.” —George Orwell, 1984. This book is a defense of common-sense realism, which is the greatest heresy of our time. Following common-sense philosophers like Thomas Aquinas, G. K. Chesterton, C. S. Lewis, Dallas Willard, and J. P. Moreland, this book defends a common-sense vision of reality within the Christian tradition. Mosteller shows how common-sense realism is more reasonable than the materialist, idealist, pragmatist, existentialist, and relativist spirits of our age. It maintains that we can know the nature of reality through common-sense experience and that this knowledge has profound implication for living the good life and being a good person.

“Given the current status of Western culture in general, and the academy in particular, the need for The Heresy of Heresies has never been greater and the author more qualified. Professor Mosteller has exercised his considerable analytical skills for two decades on the topics in this book, and he approaches them—quite appropriately—in a rigorous commonsense and Christian way. . . . This book is a breath of fresh air, and if you don’t know why you should read it, then that is evidence that you should.”
—J. P. Moreland, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Biola University

“Who would expect a Prius-driving surfer from San Diego, California, to start an intellectual revolution on campus? In contemporary philosophical discourse, giving rigorous and sound arguments for ‘common-sense’ realism is indeed tantamount to a revolutionary act. Mosteller’s witty and insightful book offers an overview and thorough analysis of the best traditional and contemporary accounts of common-sense realism. At the same time, he proves that thinking about philosophical issues should positively impact one’s life.”
—Mátyás Szalay, Director of Edith Stein Institute of Philosophy, Granada

TIMOTHY M. MOSTELLER is Professor of Philosophy at California Baptist University. He is the author of Relativism: A Guide for the Perplexed and Theories of Truth: An Introduction.
**Four Views on Christian Metaphysics**

*Edited by Timothy M. Mosteller*

978-1-7252-7330-6 | 156 p. | $23

Four Views on Christian Metaphysics presents four prominent views held among Christians today on the major questions in philosophical metaphysics. What is the nature of existence itself? What is it for something to exist? What are universals? What is the soul? How do these things relate to God, in light of special and general revelation? The four Christian perspectives presented in this book are: Platonism, Aristotelianism, idealism, and postmodernism. The purpose of this book is to help Christians think deeply and carefully about a Christian view of the ultimate nature of reality and our place in it.

“Four Views on Christian Metaphysics offers deep reflection on the way in which Christianity ought to inform theorizing about the whole of reality. The contributors model a distinctively Christian style of philosophical debate which seeks the truth but does so in love. The book is therefore not just an introduction to the theme of Christian metaphysics, but also a guidebook for how to go about the business of doing Christian philosophy.”

—Thomas M. Ward, Baylor University

“Four Views on Christian Metaphysics in general, and Christian metaphysics in particular, has returned to the playing field. Unfortunately, there has been little of help in exploring comparatively various metaphysical systems and their aptness for spelling out a Christian ontology. With the release of *Four Views on Christian Metaphysics*, that problem is solved. Mosteller...has assembled an outstanding group of representatives for four important positions. The writing is rigorous and informed, yet readable. This would be an excellent text in a course in metaphysics. I highly recommend it.”

—J. P. Moreland, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

**Timothy M. Mosteller** is professor of philosophy at California Baptist University. He is the author of *The Heresy of Heresies: A Defense of Christian Metaphysical Realism*, and co-editor of *Contemporary Perspectives on C. S. Lewis' Abolition of Man*. 

**Cascade Books**
Battlestar Galactica (BSG) has been praised for its ongoing relevance as a cultural commentary over the past two decades. Fans have explored the science, the politics, and the extraordinary special effects of the series. One theme continues to surface in blogs, podcasts, and convention interviews—BSG’s focus on religion. BSG is a series that believes in its religion. In it, the human and Cylon characters face existential crises, do missional work, and attempt to convert one another to religious value systems.

So Say We All tells the story of each season with particular focus on the values held by characters in the series, and their individual journeys toward enlightenment. The religious aspects of BSG paint a picture of how religion shapes values of life, free will, and acceptance, and influences how and why people live their lives.

Erica Mongé-Greer holds a PhD in Divinity (U. Aberdeen/Trinity College Bristol), specializing in Biblical Ethics and ancient Near Eastern religious texts. Dr. Mongé-Greer is a Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Adjunct Professor, avid Reader (& sometimes Writer) of Science Fiction, and Pop Culture Theologian. Follow her musings and reviews on ScholarlyWanderlust.com

“Cylons can teach humans a thing or two about theological anthropology. Mongé-Greer provides an enjoyable and intriguing commentary to Battlestar Galactica, taking readers beyond the space drama, focusing our attention on the religious discourse lying at the heart of the series. Fans and students alike will enjoy binge-watching BSG while exploring important questions like ‘Who is God?’ and ‘What does it mean to be human?'”

—Michael Wingert, Holy Transfiguration College, Agora University

“So Say We All offers Battlestar Galactica fans an engaging exploration of the intersections of science fiction and religion in the four-season television series. Mongé-Greer presents the complex ways in which this fantastic story world functions as discursive space for answering our own questions about the nature of the divine, the ethics of creation, and the duty to self and other.”

—Kate Koppy, New Economic School
Millennials and progressive Christians are continuing their work of creating alternative spaces for spiritual and religious expressions in North America. The practices and beliefs of progressive Christian movements like the emerging church and millennials, who tend toward spirituality over and against religion, have been the targets of much criticism. Yet millennials and progressive Christians continue to both curate spaces for self- and collective expression while also engaging within contexts often critical or hostile. This collection analyzes these movements from theological, religious-studies, and social-scientific perspectives to provide a more holistic view of what is taking shape in religious and spiritual trends, and it ventures to project what may lie ahead for the progressive Christianity that is emerging and enduring.

“Whether religious, post-religious, or merely curious, many of us are fascinated by the rapid, radical transformation of North American religiosity. Among the richest sources are the ‘emerging church’ movement and the study of millennial spirituality. These pages are packed with data, narratives, and stories that both intrigue and surprise. Highly recommended both for scholars and for all who struggle to understand what’s happening to the church today.”

—Philip Clayton, Claremont School of Theology

**TERRY SHOEMAKER** is a Lecturer in the School of Historical, Philosophical, and Religious Studies at Arizona State University. He is the editor of a Religion and Sport Series and the editor of *The Prophetic Dimension of Sport* (2018).

**RACHEL C. SCHNEIDER** is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Religion and Public Life Program at Rice University.

**XOCITL ALVIZO** is Assistant Professor at California State University, Northridge. She is coeditor of *Women, Religion, Revolution* with Gina Messina (2017) and cofounder of FeminismAndReligion.com.
It is through their music that the Indigo Girls build upon the theological idea of community-building and solidarity-forming, in order to tell the stories, to relate the authentic experience of human struggle and reconciliation, of human love and pain. Further, they work outward, convicted that their music and songwriting is an avenue to speak truth to power. All of this serves as theological reflection worked out in public and vocal forms of prophetic denunciation and proclamation. Their songs take on this prophetic tone of denunciation—speaking against oppression, inequality, and injustice. Moreover, their music does not remain complacent in the critique; through their songwriting they participate in prophetic proclamation—envisioning alternative ways of being, contributing to the collective imagination of contexts of equality, peace, and human freedom.

“Music reaches the depths of our souls in ways nothing else can. This Is Not a Fighting Song explores this truth and leads us to uncover many layers of meaning in the work of the Indigo Girls. Through careful research and thoughtful reflection, Holladay takes a deep dive into the theological and spiritual meaning of their work. I’ll listen to all kinds of music with completely different ears because of it.”
—Traci Smith, author of Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home

“Creativity, theological reflection, joy, and deep meaning are present in Meredith Holladay’s This Is Not a Fighting Song. As Holladay invites all readers to reflect on the music and meaning making of the Indigo Girls, so she invites all readers to reflect on their own process of meaning making in the world. This book is an encounter with hope.”
—Leah Grundset Davis, author of Believe the Women

MEREDITH HOLLADAY is an educator and ordained minister in the Kansas City area.
Welcome to this exploration of the Roots of hip-hop. The roots of hip-hop, as in: the Roots—a story of one of the most enduring, multi-talented, and successful groups of the past thirty years in any genre—and the story of the roots of hip-hop, that is, the story of hip-hop, a musical culture born in New York’s South Bronx during the 1970s. Alongside the two hip-hop stories I tell here, I also tell the story about what God has to do with the Roots of hip-hop—a theological story, if you will. I describe how, in the process of becoming one of the most creative faith-rooted voices in music today, the Roots’ developed a calling as artists. And I do this, in part, to say that you, too, can discover and live your prophetic calling. You can’t help but be inspired by the Roots. Yet the best result of that is that you become inspired to be your most playful, passionate, purposeful, prophetic self in the world around you.

CHRISTIAN SCHAREN is Pastor of St. Lydia’s Dinner Church in Brooklyn, New York. He is the author of Fieldwork in Theology (2015), Broken Hallelujahs (2011), and One Step Closer (2006).
WITH Speech Is My Hammer, Max Hunter draws on memoir and his own biography to call his readers to reimagine the meaning and power in literacy. Defining literacy as a “spectrum of skills, abilities, attainments, and performances,” Hunter focuses on dispelling “literacy myths” and discussing how Black male artists, entertainers, professors, and writers have described their own “literacy narratives” in self-conscious, ambivalent terms. Beginning with Frederick Douglass’s My Bondage My Freedom, W. E. B. Dubois’s Soul of Black Folks, and Langston Hughes’s Harlem Renaissance–memoir The Big Sea, Hunter conducts a literary inquiry that unearths their double-consciousness and literacy ambivalence. He moves on to reveal that for many contemporary Black men the arc of ambivalence rises even higher and becomes more complex, following the civil rights and the Black Power movements, and then sweeping sharply upward once again during the War on Drugs. Hunter provides rich illustrations and probing theses that complicate our commonsense reflections on their concealed angst regarding Black authenticity, respectability politics, and masculinity. Speech Is My Hammer moves the reader beyond considering literacy in normative terms to perceive its potential to facilitate transformative conversations among Black males.

MAX A. HUNTER spent his formative years experiencing urban decline in Southern California and Washington, DC. He earned his PhD in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and master’s degree in bioethics from the University of Washington, and two master’s degrees, in history of science and in education, from Harvard University. He has served as a diversity-affairs liaison to the Association of American Medical Colleges. At Seattle Pacific University, Hunter developed a premedical program focused on health disparities and the social determinants of health. Dr. Hunter seeks not only to understand health disparities but the roots and perpetuation of literacy ambivalence among Black men. A renowned omnivore and soccer dad, he enjoys cooking, dining out, and walking down Alki Beach with his family in Seattle, Washington.
The world is disenchanted. Rationalization, intellectualization, and scientism rule the day. We used to see the world as a magical place, but now it's just a material space. How did we get here? The shift comes in part from the rise of a certain kind of secularism, one that reduces human experiences to whatever is explainable through observation. Love? It's just a biological drive. Joy, a rush of adrenaline. Beauty, an influx of dopamine. If you can't test it, it isn't true; or so the thinking goes.

_The Romantic Life_ draws upon eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Romanticism to provide five strategies to re-enchant the world, five ways to imbue the world with meaning, truth, and beauty. According to the Romantics, far from being useless, encounters with “impractical” things like the imagination, nature, symbolism, sincerity, and the sublime give our lives a richness and depth that cannot be attained on a purely material account of the world. By learning from their example, we can come to see “into the life of things,” as William Wordsworth called it. We can be re-enchanted.
A culturally influential sub-discipline within literary studies, literary theory has developed in parallel form in other arts and social science disciplines, so that one might refer to “cultural theory” or “social theory” as well, or even just to “theory.” It’s as familiar as the word “postmodern” and as tricky as “deconstruction.” What is it about? What is at stake?

Theory is about rationality. This book’s title invites two different interpretations of what it might mean to say so. For many, the essence of literary theory is the unmasking and redescription of rationality in other terms. Put ironically, rationality is male; rationality is white; rationality is repression....

The book’s title, however, can also be read in a second way. On this reading, rationality itself is the essence of literary theory and central to literature, art, and society. Certain conceptions of what it entails can be problematic; the critique in the first way of reading the title remains relevant. Yet one can affirm rationality as integral to human flourishing, including the processes of producing, analyzing, and enjoying literature, art, and culture.

This book provides readers with a clear overview of theory’s development and the abiding presence of its concern with the status of rationality across its forms.

“Is the reach for rationality a Platonic binding to the ideal or a Faustian pact with darkness? At a moment when the idea of rationality appears suspect from all camps threatening to tear asunder our social fabric, Klassen’s treatise redeems an integral element of what makes us human. Accessible to a broad readership and saturated with close readings, this book is nothing short of an apologia for the arts and humanities.”

—Charles Stankievech, Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, University of Toronto
Since the US presidential election of 2016 the words propaganda and fake news have been prominent in American political and cultural discourse. Yet very few people can provide a coherent explanation of what they mean, precisely, when using them. On the two sides of the political spectrum (“red” and “blue”), each points out messages from the other side that they think are untrue—or that they simply don’t like.

Unlike our dangerously biased political system, however, reality has more than only two sides. For decades, Americans sat by while their mediated world was carved into a single “red reality” focused in necessary opposition to a single “blue reality.” We’ve been given “red media outlets” and “blue media outlets” to stoke our collective rage, each against the other’s lies.

But the first two decades of the twenty-first century have presented us with a new information environment, one of unregulated and seemingly uncontrollable information. Like the young boy in a popular folktale, we can now see—if only we can resist the pressures of social conformity—that both emperors, red and blue, strut proudly before us, naked.

Propaganda 2.1 is a handbook for seeing reality clearly—and coping with it.

“Writing in the tradition of media-ecology scholars such as Jacques Ellul and Neil Postman, Peter Fallon takes on the subject of propaganda with intelligence, insight, and moral clarity. Coupling historical context with contemporary analysis, Propaganda 2.1 is essential reading for anyone concerned about the contemporary media environment and where we may be headed in the years to come.”

—Lance Strate, Fordham University

“Propaganda 2.1 is a timely contribution to digital-literacy education. After a thoughtful rereading of Ellul’s classic work, the book offers in a lucid exposition a wealth of original research and insights into the changing nature of propaganda in the twenty-first century. No student of media or reader who wants to better understand and defend themselves from the new generation of propaganda in the digital age can afford to ignore this extremely resourceful book.”

—Casey Man Kong Lum, William Paterson University

PETER K. FALLON is the author of two award-winning books, Why the Irish Speak English (Marshall McLuhan Award for Outstanding Book, 2007) and The Metaphysics of Media (Lewis Mumford Award for Outstanding Scholarship, 2010), and a third book, Cultural De/fiance, Cultural Deviance (2013).

FALLON SPENT twenty-three years in television, seventeen of those years at the NBC News TODAY program in New York before leaving the news business in 1999 to teach full-time. Working in what he called “the news racket,” Fallon learned firsthand about both the power and reach of propaganda 2.0.
How do the suspense films of Alfred Hitchcock, Orson Welles, and Carol Reed allow us special insight into the popular mentality of their contemporaries—contemporaries who went to war against the forces of Adolf Hitler? How did midcentury films that fetishized clocks and time-keeping devices as diverse as Peter Pan, High Noon, Rear Window, Shadow of a Doubt, The Stranger, and Odd Man Out produce unique experiences that invited audiences to literally watch cosmic time? What role did cinema audiences play in perpetuating the presumption that order exists in the universe—and how have the polyvalent institutions of church and state implicated human agency in such perpetuation? This full-length academic treatment of the topic employs formal film analysis that is situated squarely within historical studies and addresses these cinematic and phenomenological questions—and more.

The world today is such a wicked place,” Black Sabbath declared in 1969, when they recorded their debut album, set against a backdrop of war, assassinations, social unrest, and disillusionment. Cries for justice from the Civil Rights Movement, and for peace and love from the culture of “flower power,” had been met with violent backlash from the ruling class. It was on this stage that Black Sabbath entered—the heaviest rock band the world had yet known. This band was shaped by a working class upbringing in Birmingham, England, where actual metal defined the small town existence of factories, bombed-out buildings, and little else. With their music, Sabbath captured the dread and the burgeoning pessimism that was haunting the minds of young people in the sixties and seventies.

Today, we are in a similar age of crisis: climate disaster, extreme inequality, police brutality, mass incarceration, and now, pandemic. Black Sabbath speaks to our time in ways few other bands can. They deploy apocalyptic imagery to capture the destruction of the planet by despotic superpowers, and they pronounce a prophetic indictment on agents of injustice. In this book, theologian and cultural critic Jack Holloway explores Black Sabbath’s music and lyrics, and what they had to say to their historical context. From this analysis, Holloway outlines a Black Sabbath theology which carries significant import for modern life, reminding us of our deep responsibility to transform a broken world.

“Who knew Black Sabbath could be mined for such theological gems! Jack Holloway makes connections I would have missed, and the result is a stellar exploration of theology Black Sabbath style! Fantastic read!”
—Thomas Jay Oord, Northwind Theological Seminary

“Jack Holloway clearly knows his way around both metal music and radical Christianity. Readers of this book will hear, feel, and, most of all, live the uplifting spiritual experiences that Holloway finds in the terrifying music of Black Sabbath. Hands of Doom is a hell of a book in every way.”
—Gregory Erickson, New York University

“Jack Holloway’s powerful book is a call to revolutionary justice. He traces a theological thread through Black Sabbath’s music that begins with doom and ends with a call to radical application of the only force that can possibly address the fear and upheaval of our times: yes, this book about Black Sabbath is ultimately a book about love. Brimming with insight and innate musicality, Hands of Doom is an essential guide to the true meaning of faith.”
—Elizabeth M. Edman, author of Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know about Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity

“Hands of Doom is an incantatory elucidation of an overlooked aspect of a group that changed rock music forever, and a devilishly delightful reading of pop culture’s transcendent appeal.”
—Ed Simon, author of Pandemonium: A Visual History of Demonology

“‘The black clothes, the upside-down crucifixes, the bat—it’s strange to think that Black Sabbath can have anything to say about theology, and yet Jack Holloway brilliantly explains how this seminal heavy metal band illuminates divinity, precisely because they took the darkness as seriously as the light. An incantatory elucidation of an overlooked aspect of a group that changed rock music forever, and a devilishly delightful reading of pop culture’s transcendent appeal.”
—Cláudio Carvalhaes, Union Theological Seminary
Advice from Aristotle
Life Lessons from the *Nicomachean Ethics*

ANDREW YOUNAN

“Aristotle knew things about happiness, habits, and human nature. This book is about his book, the *Nicomachean Ethics*.”

What this book will NOT do:
• Make you feel good.
• Make you rich.
• Make you a good person.
• Make you happy.

What this book MIGHT do:
• Teach you some tips on how to become a better person.
• And that might make you happy, which feels pretty good.
• And maybe that will help you get rich (I don’t know, I’ve never done that).

Want to know how being good, being happy, and feeling good are related?
Buy this book.
And then read it.
Or buy it for your kids or nephews or whatever.

“A handbook for happiness is as clear and accurate as Aristotle could wish but written in a language—and with a sense of humor—that Homer Simpson would enjoy. A rare achievement.”

—Christopher Blum, Augustine Institute

“This is a wonderful book about the pursuit of happiness written precisely for the average Joe. It presents the perennial wisdom of Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* in a manner that is fun to read and easy to understand by non-philosophers. . . . Written with a somewhat ironic and jesting tone and down-to-earth examples, it will be especially attractive to a younger audience.”

—John Goyette, Thomas Aquinas College

“Advice from Aristotle provides a refreshingly accessible, acerbic, and thought-provoking introduction to Aristotle’s system of moral philosophy. . . . Rigorous but fun, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in living a more fulfilling life.”

—Kristopher G. Phillips, Southern Utah University

ANDREW YOUNAN is a priest of the Chaldean Catholic Church and a philosophy professor. He translates Aramaic, writes on laws of nature, teaches seminarians, annoys his cat, and plays a mediocre mandolin.
Black theology’s addressing of economic poverty in the Black neighborhoods and communities of the United States gives substantive reasoning to the fact that Black poverty is a theological problem. In connecting the narrative of idolatry to the irreversible harm that is associated with all forms of poverty, this new book interlocks the racial subjugation of Black Americans with the false assumptions of capitalism. Here the inner-city blues of poverty are experienced by those who reside in metropolitan cities and rural towns. The poverty of Black Americans is described with a vision of development and reconciliation—one that is intentional in its use of cultural language and inclusive to the destructive images of Black people’s deprivation. In understanding how idolatry foundationalizes deprivation in the inner-city communities, I envision the liberation motif in Black theology working with the mission of the Black church for the purposes of community empowerment and neighborhood development. As a form of material and structural poverty, Black poverty is an interdisciplinary study that requires a holistic approach to ministry. With a theological focus on deprived inner-city communities, this new volume strategically moves the conversation of Black poverty from description to construction to solution.

"At this stage of the struggles for racial equity and justice in America comes Inner City Blues to bring together Black Liberation Theology and social and economic analysis. Adams provides deep insight into the life and culture of Black Americans with amazing fresh interpretations. Adams pulls the veil away from the plight of Black Americans by pointing to the theological problem at the root of that phenomenon. There are both great hope and genuine practical solutions offered in this book."

—David R. Sawyer, Simmons College of Kentucky

“Black Theology has two underdeveloped areas of study: black poverty and pneumatology. In this timely work, Adams brings together these two areas to provide clear theological analysis of the real legacy of slavery and racism: multigenerational poverty. Inner City Blues is long overdue, and readers will be grateful to be in Adam’s debt for bringing a piercing honesty to the seminal issue Black America faces.”

—Lewis Brogdon, Baptist Seminary of Kentucky

DARVIN ANTON ADAMS pastors the Lane Tabernacle CME Church in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. He also serves as the Teaching Dean of the Evansville/Hopkinsville District and Scholar In-Residence for the Second Episcopal District under the leadership of Bishop Marvin Frank Thomas, Sr. Dr. Adams completed the PhD in Theology and Ethics at Garrett Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. An 8-time award-winning preacher, Dr. Adams has had 40 articles published nationwide.
This book contends the text of the Noachian deluge narrative categorically underscores all God did to preserve life in spite of the disaster. Despite the picture of devastation that the narrative depicts, the prominent emphasis of the text is on deliverance and redemption, i.e., salvation, not judgment. The focus of the Genesis flood is acutely bent towards God's salvific rather than punitive purposes. The arc of salvation within the flood narrative can be broken down into two main ideas. Firstly, God's intention for creation is not thwarted, and, secondly, God commits himself to his intentions of creation. God's intention for creation can be stated thus: the establishment of order via covenant showing the sanctity of human life and the upholding of all life. This involves, in particular, humanity as his image bearers, including the lex talionis (life-for-life) principle.

Judgment and Salvation
A Rhetorical-Critical Reading of Noah’s Flood in Genesis
DUSTIN G. BURLET
978-1-6667-3672-4 | 306 p. | $40

The Scriptures often refer to the Genesis flood as a great catastrophe and a great act of judgment. But in this book Dustin Burlet offers his readers hope by looking at the other side of the story. God didn't totally destroy the world. He preserved it and set his creation purpose going again. And the story is shaped so as to persuade its readers to accept such a hopeful worldview. So readers of Genesis and readers of Burlet's book, be encouraged!

—John Goldingay, Fuller Theological Seminary

The notion of divine judgment in the Old Testament is getting a lot of bad press these days. The flood narrative, which describes God as nearly destroying all of humanity, is often viewed as incompatible with the revelation of God in Jesus Christ. But as Dustin Burlet skilfully demonstrates, the flood story was in fact written to teach the wonderful and surprising truth that the God of the Bible loves humanity and is constantly at work to redeem it.

—Pierre Gilbert, Canadian Mennonite University

Interpreting biblical narratives is always challenging, for often popular perceptions are misleading. Dr. Burlet's detailed and informed analysis of the flood narrative in Genesis offers a helpful corrective, highlighting how the theme of divine salvation has not received sufficient attention. His analysis of the story using ‘rhetoric as persuasion’ casts fresh light on this important biblical narrative, revealing how it is a story about salvation as much as judgment.

—T. Desmond Alexander, Union Theological College

In my judgment, Dustin Burlet has succeeded admirably in demonstrating beyond question that the intent of the author(s) in this passage is not primarily on God's annihilating judgment of humanity and the rest of his creation; rather, the primary emphasis is on everything Yahweh did to preserve the life of lost humanity and his spoiled creation, humanity’s addiction to violent living notwithstanding. Thank you, Dustin.

—Victor P. Hamilton, Asbury University, emeritus

A superficial reading of the Noahic flood narrative in Genesis 6–9 too often results in the reader coming away from the text with an overwhelming sense of doom and gloom. However, by examining the narrative with some of the tools of rhetorical analysis, Dustin Burlet identifies the dominance of the theme of salvation. The text represents an aspect of the Hebrew worldview, and the lessons learned from it can contribute significant elements to a Christian worldview in our own day.

—William D. Barrick, The Master’s Seminary, emeritus

DUSTIN G. BURLET is an instructor at Millar College of the Bible in Winnipeg, Manitoba. His reviews and articles have appeared in journals including the Canadian-American Theological Review, Conspectus, the Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society, and others.
The horrific text of Judges 19 is puzzling, especially to Chinese Christians who read the Chinese Union Version. This dominant translation of the Bible seems to place the blame for the tragedy on the concubine, which in turns legitimates violence against women. Using tools of narrative, intertextual, and ideological criticism, Tsoi reveals an anti-Levite rhetoric in the text that has been neglected by translators. An examination of the translation context suggests that an anti-concubinage agenda in the social context of Republican China might have contributed to the bias in the translation, resulting in more than a century of misinterpretation among Chinese Christians.

“With Dr. Tsoi as their expert guide, readers are helped to negotiate the various contexts of the shocking crime described in Judges 19. . . . The ancient biblical context, the Chinese context of the translators of the CUV Bible, and Western biblical criticism are adroitly explored, critiqued, and, through the skill of Dr. Tsoi, enabled to inform each other. The result is both liberating and challenging. This study exposes the evil of violence against women, an evil that the Bible refuses to condone.”
—Greg Goswell, Christ College, Sydney

“Tsoi makes a welcome contribution to contextual studies of the Hebrew Bible with a focus on Judges 19. By using a contextual hermeneutic for Chinese Christians and the tools of biblical criticism, she offers fresh insights on this very controversial chapter. This is an excellent and very helpful resource for those seeking insight into contextual modes of reading, biblical interpretation in the Chinese context, the politics of translation, and concubinage.”
—Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, Pilgrim Theological College, University of Divinity

“Reading Judges 19 philologically, culturally, intertextually, narratively, and ideologically—all can be found in this one title written by Dr. Tsoi. It is an intersection and integration of scholarly insights, like a satisfying treat to searching minds. The book is food for thought for people who wish to engage the biblical text meaningfully by considering the biblical context, its social and political dynamic, and a reader’s cultural milieu.”
—Elaine Wei-Fun Goh, Malaysia Theological Seminary

“This attempt to resolve the enigma of the violence in Judges 19 proves to be an endeavor of a brave heart, challenging the most popular Chinese translation of the Bible. Dr. Tsoi’s success is explicit. Though she was brought up with the CUV, she exercises her scholar acuity to read this story both in and out of Chinese culture, leading to a fruitful dialogue with the Hebrew Bible. I strongly recommend this book.”
—Dennis T. Law, Chinese Theological College Australia
In the Old Testament, the Levites stand as key ministry leaders for the worship of the people of God, from their origins with Moses and the tabernacle, to their service at the Jerusalem temple, to their roles in the postexilic period. This study proposes a multidimensional reading of the texts centered on the Levites in the Davidic narratives of 1 Chronicles 10–29. From a literary point of view, the notion that the Levites are closely associated with the symbol of God’s presence is explored. From a historical perspective, the roles of the Levites in expanding the service to God and his people is examined. And from a theological perspective, the means by which the Levites facilitate the song of God’s people is studied. Overall, this work seeks to defend the idea that these texts contribute significantly to the rhetorical argumentation, the historiographic method, and the biblical-theological meaning of the canonical books of Chronicles generally, and of the Davidic narratives of 1 Chronicles 10–29 specifically, as they emphasize the central role played by proper Levitical worship leadership at the time of David and during the challenging situation of the Chronicler’s Yehudite postexilic audience.

“This is an important book. Clayton combines careful analysis of the literary, historical, and theological dimensions of 1 Chronicles to analyze David’s assignment of duties to the Levites in the anticipated Solomonic temple as recorded there. . . . He shows that there is good reason to believe that 1 Chronicles is historically credible from a preexilic Davidic perspective and, in fact, would have been especially relevant to postexilic Israel as they organized the priestly and Levitical ministry in the second temple.”

—Richard E. Averbeck, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

“Expertly handling a discerning range of interpretive tools, Clayton reveals the enduring value of Chronicles. Incisively applying a range of methodologies to the data found in key texts, he opens the second-temple world of Chronicles for the present day. The result is truly multidimensional and deeply canonical.”

—James K. Bruckner, North Park Theological Seminary

J. Nathan Clayton is Assistant Professor of Old Testament at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago. Before his teaching ministry, he pastored in Chicago and in New York City.
When reading the Psalter, the sequencing of individual psalms is often overlooked or taken for granted, and it is easy to assume that the psalms’ placement results purely from happenstance. The present volume, however, assumes that strategic approaches to juxtaposition, which editors and arrangers apply elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible, were similarly adopted in the arrangement of the Psalter. Furthermore, the _Intertextual Commentary_ illuminates the vast array of biblical texts employed by the psalmists. In addition to the commonly recognized literary tool kit available to biblical poets (parallelism, metaphor, anthropomorphism, chiasmus, etc.), the poets relied heavily on inner-biblical allusion and exegesis to construct their compositions. Primarily adopting a diachronic approach, Emanuel isolates literary sources employed by the psalmists, and further postulates how the psalmists wove specific words and phrases into the fabric of their compositions.

“Since the psalms may appear to be aimlessly thrown together, many readers correspondingly read the psalms randomly. In this book, Emanuel convincingly demonstrates not only how the psalms were written to refer to other parts of the Old Testament but also are carefully arranged in a particular order, providing a guide to help readers engage the richness of this beautiful book in the Old Testament.”
—Charlie Trimm, Biola University

“With an eye for the compilers’ careful craftsmanship paired with an ear attuned to intertextual conversations, Emanuel serves as an excellent guide for considering the rich connections of the psalms arranged together as Book 1 of the Psalter. Through its balanced approach and clear style, this investigation of juxtaposition and allusion in Psalms 1–41 will become an invaluable resource for both seasoned scholars and students alike.”
—Michelle A. Stinson, Denver Seminary

“Students and scholars alike will find an abundance of riches in Emanuel’s attentive work. For anyone wishing to expand their repertoire of means and methods for thoughtful, fresh engagement with the psalms, this commentary is a must-have.”
—Kevin Chau, University of the Free State

**DAVID EMANUEL** is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Language at Nyack College in Manhattan.
The gap between the New Testament and the Imprecatory Psalms is less than we think. When faced with prayers against enemies in the Psalms, we are too quick to assume that these Old Testament authors were ignorant of some basic New Testament ethics. They are self-righteous, thinking they have earned God's favor. They don't know that the wicked can repent and be forgiven. They believe in vengeance and hating their enemies. We assume wrongly. These prayers are far more aware than many modern churchgoers of how deeply our own sin runs, so that even when persecuted, we are not automatically entitled to divine help. Even when we are truly entitled to justice against unrighteous attackers, if God rescues us, that is unmerited grace. Further, the psalms are fully aware that their enemies can repent, and they show mercy to them. The Book of Psalms teaches its readers—individuals and the whole people of God—to desire the repentance, forgiveness, and divine blessing of all nations, even the people's most vicious enemies.

“There are few ‘eureka’ moments in Psalms studies, but Steffen Jenkins has found one! The problem of retribution, especially the pesky imprecations (‘curses’), has been a sore spot in biblical theology for centuries. Jenkins, powered by a canonical approach, argues that David, in book 5, has become the master teacher of how to pray for Israel and the nations, both objects of Yahweh’s undeserved ‘steadfast love and plenteous redemption.”

—C. Hassell Bullock, Wheaton College (IL), emeritus

“With sustained and careful analysis of Psalms 1–3 and the shape of Book 5, Jenkins demonstrates persuasively that the Imprecatory Psalms should not be understood as self-righteous requests for revenge. Rather, they ‘show concern for the welfare of the enemy, including . . . a desire for their repentance and blessing.’ His work also clearly shows how attention to Psalter shape continues to yield illuminating and important results—very impressive!”

—J. Clinton McCann Jr., Eden Theological Seminary

“Steffen Jenkins has produced a fresh and stimulating analysis of the Imprecatory Psalms that will greatly aid academics and students for years to come as they explore this difficult portion of the Psalter.”

—Jonathan Gibson, Westminster Theological Seminary

“I am delighted to commend enthusiastically Steffen Jenkins’s study on the imprecatory psalms. Steffen’s commitment to the absolute trustworthiness of God’s word shines through his insightful and always engaging exposition of this often much abused portion of Scripture. Jenkins writes not only with academic care but also with pastoral sensitivity. I look forward to more coming from his pen (or computer).”

—Ian Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary

“This study makes an important contribution to the theology and ethics of the calls for divine retribution within the Psalter. It can also serve as an accessible introduction to reading the Psalter as a book and with an awareness of significant links to other parts of the Old Testament. Having studied and lectured on the Psalms for years, I have nevertheless learned much from this work which broadened my perspective on the Psalter, deepened my understanding of individual psalms, and changed my mind on a few issues.”

—Thomas Renz, Oak Hill Theological College, retired

STEFFEN G. JENKINS is lecturer in biblical studies at Union School of Theology, prior to which he has served as a seminary lecturer in Cuba, a minister in England, and Tutor for biblical languages at Tyndale House, Cambridge.
Community provides a constructive collection of essays offering biblical and theological reflections on the topic of community in honor of the Mennonite Old Testament scholar August H. Konkel's seventieth birthday. As such, Community follows the trajectory of Gus's own myriad contributions to scholarship that have been intentionally engaged both on behalf of and as a lively and constructive member of such community. These essays present forays across the spectrum of biblical and theological studies that intersect with the many contributions of Gus's life work.

RICK WADHOLM JR. is Associate Professor of Old Testament at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri. He is the author of A Theology of the Spirit in the Former Prophets (2018).

MEGHAN D. MUSY is Assistant Professor of Old Testament at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary at Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri.
In a world in which genuine forgiveness seems as rare a commodity as ever, this collection of essays offers an opportunity to explore where and in what forms forgiveness may be found in the Hebrew Bible—a text which is foundational for Western religions and the cultures they have influenced over the last two millennia. In the wake of renewed interest in forgiveness in antiquity and recent suggestions that it bears little resemblance to modern conceptions, this book investigates the ways in which the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament itself conceptualizes forgiveness. How and in what ways does God forgive? Where, if at all, do we see reconciliation between people in the Old Testament, and what does it look like?

“One hears it said that forgiveness is just a New Testament idea: the Old Testament God is too wrathful to forgive people and the Israelites are too vengeful to forgive anyone! How excellent it therefore is to have this study of key passages in the Old Testament that talk about God’s forgiveness and about people forgiving each other (without oversimplifying what the Old Testament does have to say).”

—John Goldingay, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Despite its theological import, the concept of forgiveness has often been neglected in academic writing. This well-rounded and tightly edited volume rectifies this omission and sheds new and significant light on the topic. I can highly recommend it.”

—Lena-Sofia Tiemeyer, Örebro School of Theology

“Remember Their Sin No More?, readers have the opportunity to grapple with some of the key biblical texts related to the theme of forgiveness. Guided by a group of renowned scholars, readers do not find here simplistic answers but helpful guidance for navigating both divine and human dimensions of forgiveness in Scripture. A must-read for those interested in the conception and practice of this important theme.”

—Mark J. Boda, McMaster Divinity College

“This volume, with its host of insightful contributors, initiates an overdue discussion of an issue crucial for our contemporary world. In doing so, it participates in work which bolsters the case for clear continuity between the Christian Testaments. For these reasons, among others, it is a worthwhile read.”

—Brittany N. Melton, Palm Beach Atlantic University

Remember Their Sin No More?
Forgiveness and the Hebrew Bible
EDITED BY DAVID J. SHEPHERD AND RICHARD S. BRIGGS
978-1-7252-8196-7 | 162 p. | $25
Talk is essential to human social life. Through conversation we form friendships, share dreams and hopes, and develop a common outlook on the world around us. Talk with God can achieve the same thing. This book examines the conversational prayers in the Hebrew Bible, their structure and content, to understand how talk with God forms friendship, shares dreams and hopes, and develops a Divine-human outlook on the world. Conversation forces the petitioner to surrender control of the encounter and become susceptible to unscripted give and take with the Divine. Conversation with God is always a risk, but the rewards can be great. Through conversation Abraham and Moses became friends with God. The same can be true for us.

Terry Giles is Professor of Theology at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. Previous books include A Doubter’s Guide to the Bible (2009), The Samaritan Pentateuch, with Robert T. Anderson (2012), and The Naomi Story—The Book of Ruth, with William J. Doan (Cascade, 2016).
Given the present state of affairs in the area of intertextuality, along with the multitude of competing interpretations of Scripture, *Validity in the Identification and Interpretation of a Literary Allusion in the Bible* seeks to bring a measure of reason and methodological control back into the discussion. With that in mind, this work is heavily philosophical yet also deeply practical. By defining what literary allusions are and how they work, David Klingler seeks to provide some interpretive criteria for assessing the various claims about literary allusions in the Bible.

"Intertextuality is a hot topic among biblical interpreters. The diversity of definitions and methods can be overwhelming. David Klingler’s well-researched study brings clarity to the discussion. He surveys philosophical hermeneutics, provides an insightful critique of postmodern approaches, and interacts with various viewpoints regarding literary allusion. He develops a well-reasoned method for how to validate the presence of literary allusion and to articulate its relevance for interpretation. Klingler’s work is a must-read for biblical scholars."

—Robert B. Chisholm Jr., Dallas Theological Seminary

**DAVID R. KLINGLER** is an Associate Professor of Bible Exposition at Dallas Theological Seminary.
And Their Eyes Were Opened
A Theological Analysis of Blindness in the Hebrew Scriptures
RAY MCALLISTER

This book is a detailed theological analysis of blindness in the Hebrew Bible. It explores blindness in the context of religion, law codes, theodicy, social justice, and healing. McAllister first considers the wider context of ancient Near Eastern cultures before analyzing various words for blindness found in the Hebrew Bible. The focus then shifts to examining blindness in various blocks of material, in the Law, the Prophets, and the Writings, before synthesizing the findings. This book is excellent for scholars and students interested in better understanding disability in the context of the Bible and the ancient Near East.

“McAllister walks the reader systematically through the Old Testament, examining references to physical and spiritual blindness. This thorough analysis of the text of the Torah, Prophets, and Writings presents a compelling argument that God loves the blind and visually impaired. McAllister draws powerful conclusions both for how the blind and visually impaired can interact with society and religious organizations, and how society and religious organizations should relate to the blind and visually impaired.”

—Janine Lim, Associate Dean, School of Distance Education, Andrews University

“Ray McAllister provides a comprehensive analysis of the surprising array of passages dealing with blindness in the Hebrew Bible. As one who is blind, the author displays remarkable sensitivity to the issues related to this disability. He adroitly lays bare the actual and ideal positions of the blind in ancient Israel, synthesizes a profound biblical theology of blindness, and offers practical implications of his research for dealing with contemporary issues of blindness and other disabilities. I highly recommend this book to all who seek to understand blindness and other disabilities from a biblical perspective.”

—Richard Davidson, J. N. Andrews Professor of Old Testament Interpretation, Andrews University Theological Seminary

“McAllister brings unique sensitivity to his thorough theological analysis of blindness in the Hebrew Bible against its ancient Near Eastern cultural background. Not only does he present penetrating exegetical insights regarding biblical terms and passages that refer to the loss of sight, but as a totally blind person, he sees implications concerning blindness and treatment of individuals with this disability that a sighted person is not likely to recognize with the same degree of clarity.”

—Roy E. Gane, Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages, Andrews University

RAY McALLISTER is the first totally blind person in the world to get a PhD in Hebrew Scriptures. He has taught distance education religion classes for Andrews University and works as a licensed massage therapist in Michigan. In 2016, Dr. McAllister and two other visually impaired biblical scholars received from the National Federation of the Blind the top prize Jacob Bolotin Award for their work making biblical language materials accessible to the blind. He is the author of The Blind Dream–Chaser (2018) and Journey of Passion (1998).

Vine argues from a biblical theology perspective that Matthew's pervasive and consistent application of the nation-directed identities of prophet, righteous person, student-teacher, wise man, and scribe to the followers of Jesus reveals a concern less with defining community boundaries or promoting "church growth" and more with casting a powerful vision of nations transformed through the acceptance of the sovereignty of the risen king.

Matthew's missiological horizon stretches well beyond defending, as suggested by some commentators, an inferred first-century Matthean community in an acrimonious intramural dispute with other Jewish groups. Rather, Matthew prepares his readers, first century and later, through a multifaceted and nuanced theology of discipleship, for participation in a missiological movement that is national in its focus, breathtaking in its scope, eschatological in its significance, and open in its appeal.

"In this stimulating study, Cedric Vine offers a fresh look into the concept of discipleship in Matthew from the perspective of mission. He demonstrates effectively that the evangelist defines the followers of Jesus by five roles—prophets, righteous persons, disciples, wise men, and scribes. ... A significant contribution to Matthean scholarship, it will appeal to those who want to dig deeper into the geniuses of Matthean theological ideas."

—Ranko Stefanovic, Seventh-Day Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University

"The central argument of this book is very important: it asks us to take seriously the fact that in the Gospel of Matthew, mission is orientated to nations, not only individuals. Moreover, it sees the different categories of disciples portrayed in the Gospel as a strategy for such mission, with differentiated roles assigned to prophets, teachers, scribes, and others. So, this will prove a significant contribution not only to Matthean studies but also to missiology."

—Richard Bauckham, University of St Andrews, emeritus

CEDRIC VINE is Associate Professor of New Testament at Andrews University in Michigan and author of *The Audience of Matthew* (2014). He holds a PhD in Biblical Studies from the University of Sheffield, UK.
Matthew's Gospel makes mention of prophets and prophecy more than any other canonical Gospel. Yet its perspective on prophecy has generally been neglected within biblical scholarship when, in fact, Jesus’ prophetic vocation is a central christological theme for Matthew.

This new study by Matthew Anslow seeks to draw attention to this underdeveloped focus within Matthean studies. The central claim of the book is that in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus’ prophetic vocation is presented as a multi-faceted phenomenon, drawing on several prophetic traditions. Like biblical and popular prophets before him, Jesus is depicted by Matthew as calling Israel back to covenantal faithfulness, thereby providing guidance for the identity, theology, and communal life of God’s people.

“Through innovative entry points and meticulous exegetical work, Anslow opens up a compelling vista of Jesus’ vocation as prophet that goes way beyond identifying Jesus as a new Moses or Elijah figure. This study gives fresh insight into the coherent vision of Matthew’s Gospel, showing how Jesus’ prophetic words and actions reveal both judgment and God’s covenantal faithfulness, characterized by merciful love.”

—Vicky Balabanski, Flinders University of South Australia

“Matthew Anslow makes an excellent contribution to Matthean studies in this study of the theme of Jesus as prophet. His exploration of the role of prophecy in the ministry of Jesus is rooted in a careful study of the historical context and a thorough knowledge of the secondary literature. Anslow illuminates an important, underappreciated aspect of Matthew that enriches our understanding of Matthew’s Jesus as the prophet who fulfills the law.”

—Donald A. Hagner, Fuller Theological Seminary, emeritus

MATTHEW ANSLOW is a theological educator for the Uniting Church of Australia’s NSW/ACT Synod. He is a scholar and activist, having published numerous academic and popular articles on subjects such as peacemaking, civil disobedience, agriculture, biblical studies, and philosophy. Matthew lives with his wife, Ashlee, and their three children at Milk and Honey Farm, two hours west of Sydney, Australia.
In this book, a socio-rhetorical analysis blending literary with social sciences approaches provides the exegetical leverage to explore Matthew's use of the Lord's Prayer in shaping the identity of his community in the antiquity. The book lays down a foundation for drawing insights from the Lord's Prayer concerning Christian norms, values, and traditions that are pertinent to pastors, students, researchers, and lecturers who are interested in exploring matters of identity in their communities, institutions, and society at large.

F. MANJEW A M’BWANGI

The Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9–13
A Socio-rhetorical Analysis of Identity Politics of the Matthean Community

978-1-6667-1018-2 | 164 p. | $25

M’bwangi goes beyond current scholarly discussions concerning the meaning and function of the Lord’s Prayer within the nascent diasporic Jesus movement by locating the prayer as an identity-formation emblem that contested existing Greco-Roman hegemony . . . . This important book gives further insight concerning the sociology and identity formation of the Jesus movement in diaspora.”

—Zorodzai Dube, University of Pretoria

“This book offers a fresh look at a prayer that for too long has been read predominantly through the lenses of ‘religion’ or ‘faith.’ . . . M’bwangi’s reading of the Lord’s Prayer offers a lens to read Matt 6:9–13 as a call to a new identity within a specific socioeconomic and political context. In this identity, kingdom and righteousness go hand in hand.”

—Ernest van Eck, University of Pretoria

“This book fills a unique gap on just how Matthew’s version of the Lord’s Prayer contextually fits into the larger sociopolitical framework of his society. . . . It is a must-read for church leaders and theologians involved with societal-conflict mitigation.”

—Stephen Muoki Joshua, Pwani University

F. MANJEW A M’BWANGI is an ordained Anglican Priest (Diocese of Mombasa), a lecturer (Pwani University, Kenya), and researcher (University of Pretoria, South Africa). He has published a number of articles in double blind peer-reviewed journals: “Paul and identity construction in early Christianity and the Roman Empire” (2020), “Covid-19 and Eucharistic fellowship in Matthew 26.26–28” (2020), and “Salvation in Matthew 5:17–20 and its Implications in the Church” (2020).
No canonical Gospel is more concerned with wealth and poverty than Luke. A centuries-long debate rages over just how revolutionary Luke’s message is. This book seeks to recover Luke’s radical economic message, to place it in its ancient context, and to tease out its prophetic implications for today. Luke has a radical message of good news for the poor and resistance to wealth. God is shown to favor the poor, championing their struggle for justice while condemning the rich and recommending a sweeping disposal of wealth for the benefit of the poor. This represents a distinct break from the ethics of the Roman Empire and a profound challenge to modern economic systems. Generations of interpreters have worked to file down Luke’s sharp edges, from scribes copying ancient manuscripts, to early Christian authors, to contemporary scholars. Such domestication disfigures the gospel, silencing its critique of an economic system whose unremitting drive for profit and economic growth continues to widen the gap between rich and poor while threatening life-altering, environmental change. It is time to reclaim the bracing, prophetic call of Luke’s economic message that warns against the destructive power of wealth and insists on justice for the poor and marginalized.

“King maintains that the economic message about wealth and poverty in Luke’s Gospel was radical in the late first and early second centuries and remains radical for today. While his is a closely detailed exegetical analysis, it is also a work of constructive theology, making it doubly valuable. Subsequent scholars of wealth and poverty in Luke will surely need to acknowledge their debt to his sedulous incorporation of cutting-edge postcolonial and liberationist interpretations from the margins.”

—Gregory Allen Robbins, University of Denver

“King offers a comprehensive reappraisal of Luke that is itself radical. . . . King argues not only that Luke’s Gospel is faithful to Jesus’ ministry to the poor, but he demonstrates that Luke confronts economic injustice in ways that go well beyond traditions of Jesus’ preaching. King’s recasting of Luke’s Gospel is not a simple historical reevaluation of the text, it is a contemporary prophetic interpretation of Scripture. Let those who have ears to hear, hear.”

—Pamela Eisenbaum, Iliff School of Theology

**DAVID D. M. KING** is a United Methodist pastor and graduate of the Joint Doctoral Program in Religious and Theological Studies at University of Denver and Iliff School of Theology.
Luke’s Rhetorical Compositions
Essays in Lukan Studies
PAUL ELBERT
978-1-6667-0283-5 | 196 p. | $29

Luke’s Rhetorical Compositions offers new ideas in Lukan scholarship, especially in regard to Aelius Theon’s first-century rhetoric manual (*Progymnasmata*) and inter-textual, Lukan-Pauline, biblical studies. Two chapters deserve special mention: the material in chapter 3 is a groundbreaking discussion of Acts 2:38 in which its Greek verb tense speaks to the subsequent reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit following salvation, not coincident with salvation. In Acts 2:38 it is Luke’s intention to portray Peter as promising the gift of the Holy Spirit to hearers and to those beyond narrative time as a Pentecostal experience.

Chapter 9 discusses Luke’s use of progymnasmatic examples in his descriptions of the salvation experience. It also discusses Luke’s clarification of Paul using narrative persuasion from Jesus tradition and history. Also, Luke’s use of basic soteriological vocabulary provides clarity and plausibility. His distinctive selection of examples from the Jesus tradition and his duplication of Paul’s soteriological vocabulary is very helpful.

“Elbert provides deep insight into the mind and method of Saint Luke. . . . While showing Luke’s distinctively inspired insights in the proclamation of the church, he also shows that the writer of Luke-Acts is being faithful to the common apostolic witness found in Paul and the Gospel traditions. . . . Elbert, like Saint Luke, writes to the twenty-first century Theophilus ‘that you may know the truth concerning the things in which you have been instructed.’”

—James B. Shelton, Oral Roberts University

“Elbert draws again from several disciplines to frame his compelling arguments. He makes informed use of Greek rhetoric, which Luke draws upon in his paired volumes. . . . He also devotes significant attention to numerous links between Luke’s message and Paul’s writings. . . . Although he has been disappointed with ETS for its failure to really address issues such as Spirit reception, nonetheless, he is thoroughly positive in his approach and contribution.”

—Lyle Story, School of Divinity, Regent University

**PAUL ELBERT**, physicist-theologian and New Testament scholar, before retirement, was working in interpretive methods and narrative-rhetorical Greco-Roman backgrounds with respect to Luke-Acts, with a particular focus on the rhetorical use of examples and precedents, together with the fulfillment of prophecy theme in Lukan thought. He has served as chair and as co-chair of the Formation of Luke-Acts section within the Society of Biblical Literature and is a former adjunct faculty member at the Pentecostal Theological Seminary. He was the founding editor of the *Journal of Biblical and Pneumatological Research*. 
For centuries scholars have analyzed the composition of Luke-Acts presupposing that the reference to “many” accounts in Luke's Preface indicates the written texts which served as the author's primary sources of information. To justify this portrait of Luke as a text-based author, scholars have appealed to analogies with the text-based authors Dionysius of Halicarnassus, Diodorus Siculus, Plutarch, and Arrian. Luke among the Ancient Historians challenges this portrait of Luke's method through surveying the origins and development of ancient Greek historiography in chapters on Herodotus, Thucydides, Polybius, Josephus, and Luke. By focusing on the values and practices of ancient historians, Peters demonstrates not only that ancient authors following the model of Thucydides regarded the testimony of eyewitnesses, as opposed to texts, as the proper sources for historians but that Luke emulated the values, practices, and craft terminology of the contemporary historiographical tradition. Taking seriously the self-presentation of Luke as a reporter of contemporary events who claims to write on the basis of “eyewitnesses from the beginning,” and personal investigation, this book argues against analogies with text-based historians who wrote about non-contemporary events and instead situates Luke within a portrait of the values and practices of historians of contemporary events.

JOHN J. PETERS has an MA from Regent College (Vancouver, Canada) and a PhD from Regent University (Virginia Beach, USA). At present he is actively working on a second book focusing on the question: What was Luke attempting to do? He lives in Virginia.

“Peters has written a fresh and stimulating portrayal of Lukan historiography. . . . Peters argues his position with methodological clarity and rigor, and this is why this book makes a significant contribution to the quest for the sources, methods, and purposes of Luke-Acts, which deserves a broad and thorough discussion.” —Michael Wolter, University of Bonn

“Peters makes a crucial distinction between Greek historians writing about contemporary events and those writing about noncontemporary events and places the author of Luke-Acts conclusively among the former. This distinction shows that the author does not rely only on isolated written accounts but primarily on autopsy, traveling, and inquiring eyewitnesses. Peters thus perceptively challenges some modes of form criticism and redaction criticism, pointing to Luke-Acts as an independent source for historical reconstruction.” —Samuel Byrskog, Lund University

“Although I believe that Luke had some written as well as oral sources available, Peters has provided a detailed and masterful case by comparing Luke's methodology with the most analogous ancient authors: historians of recent events. . . . Anyone interested in reading Luke-Acts as ancient historiography . . . needs to attend to and learn from Peters’ detailed work.” —Craig S. Keener, Asbury Theological Seminary

“This is an important contribution to what should now be the central task of Gospels scholarship: to reassess the nature of the Gospels after the demise of form criticism. . . . Peters shows that Luke claims to have sourced his work directly from eyewitnesses, including some of the disciples of Jesus. It hardly needs saying that this must have a major impact on the study of Luke’s Gospel in particular, but also the Acts of the Apostles.” —Richard Bauckham, St Andrews University, emeritus
Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher's Commentary on Jesus' Parable of Dives and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31)

ROBERT J. KARRIS

978-1-6667-1475-3 | 96 p. | $22

Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher was a water walker. He was learned in both law and theology. His leadership skills were so outstanding that he quickly became a major superior in his Dominican Order. Having gotten word of Hugh's talents, the pope made him a cardinal. The famed artist Fra Angelico placed Hugh in a crucifixion scene with the words “biblical interpreter” above his head. These words beautifully sum up what he was to generation after generation of biblical scholars and preachers till the sixteenth century. The Franciscan Cardinal St. Bonaventure (d. 1274) generously copied from Hugh's Commentary on Luke without attribution. So did the Dominican Bishop St. Albert the Great (d. 1280). Producers of homily aids in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries filled their pages with nuggets from Hugh. What will you like about Hugh? First, he's not in an ivory tower. He calls out his fellow prelates for being more interested in gold than in sharing God's mercy with sinners and the poor. Second, he knows how to preach the text, breaking it down into memorable soundbites. Third, he knows and creatively adapts the Scriptures and tradition. Reading his commentary on Dives and Lazarus will not only activate your mind and warm your heart. Would you be surprised if it also were to trouble your conscience?

“Karris . . . provides us with a rare treat in this gem of a book that brings to life a thirteenth-century interpretation of the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. Karris shows that the work of Hugh of St. Cher is still as relevant today as in his own time. The parable, as Hugh interprets it, continues to disturb Christians of means and move them to action on behalf of persons who are made poor today.”

—Barbara E. Reid, OP, Catholic Theological Union

“Modern biblical scholars can sometimes forget that their patristic and medieval predecessors could also analyze the Scriptures with intelligence and grace. . . . A fresh translation, an illumination of the historical context, and an annotated presentation of Cardinal Hugh’s provocative interpretation of the parable make this work a delight.”

—Donald Senior, CP, Catholic Theological Union

“Today the name of Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher may not be well known—even among biblical scholars—but it should be. Readers will owe a great debt to the work of Robert Karris, who has so deftly shown the perspicacity and breadth of intellect of this medieval Dominican friar. Karris writes that he became enthralled with the work Hugh of St. Cher. Having read this study of Hugh’s commentary on the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, I now not only understand the thrill that Fr. Karris confesses, but I share it.”

—William L. Burton, OFM, St. Mary’s Seminary and University

“After years of studying the influence of Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher’s influence on Saint Bonaventure, Karris’s turn to studying the influential source of the Seraphic Doctor’s exegetical inspiration is most welcome. This long-anticipated study is a crucial tool for those seeking to understand the depth and breadth of mendicant scriptural exegesis in thirteenth-century Paris.”

—Timothy J. Johnson, School of Humanities and Sciences, Flagler College

“Composed in the vibrant spiritual and cultural context of the Dominican convent of Paris, the Postilla circulating under the name of Hugh of St. Cher is one of the most surprising and influential medieval commentaries to the Bible. By translating and analyzing its interpretation of the story of Lazarus and the rich man, Karris offers an excellent entry point into this rich world, ideal for anyone interested in the thirteenth-century pastoral revolution and in the reception history of the Bible.”

—Pietro Delcorno, University of Bologna

In examining Luke’s multiple appeals to the figure of Elijah, this study not only provides clarity to a fascinating but often misunderstood element of the Lukan narrative, but also provides a helpful model for understanding an even more perplexing question in Lukan studies, namely, the presentation of the nation of Israel. No New Testament author takes more interest in Elijah than Luke, who may allude to the Elijah-Elisha narratives as many as forty times. This study pushes past questions of typology and one-to-one correlation that have stalled scholarly discussion on the topic, examining the theological significance of Elijah in Luke-Acts as a literary motif. It is argued that, in drawing on a common association between Elijah and the Old Testament concept of remnant, Luke appeals to Elijah at key moments in the narrative in order to signal the development of his remnant theology. For Luke, as in the days of the prophets, the concept of remnant holds in tension God’s irrevocable promises to Israel with the widespread rejection of God’s new work of salvation; the faithfulness of a few with a hope for the nation as a whole; and the particular election of Israel with the message of salvation for all nations.

“Everyone knows Luke-Acts is laced with Old Testament imagery. And everyone knows the Old Testament figure of Elijah plays a prominent role, at least in Luke. Before reading this work I was content, however, with underwhelming explanations of the meaning of Elijah (and Elisha) imagery that had little impact on the larger Lukan theology. After reading this book, I now find myself wondering how Luke-Acts could actually be understood without Otten’s thesis. . . . I myself will never read Luke-Acts the same way again. . . . Otten’s scholarship is thorough, his argumentation clear, and his prose engaging. All Gospel scholars, let alone Lukan specialists, owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Otten for this contribution to our understanding.”

—Nicholas G. Piotrowski, President and Academic Dean, Indianapolis Theological Seminary

“If there is no Gospel writer who surpasses Luke in presenting Jesus as a kind of new Elijah, then there is no scholar who surpasses Otten in explaining why. Agree or disagree with its conclusions: no serious reader of Luke’s Gospel can afford to bypass this book.”

—Nicholas Perrin, President, Trinity International University

JEREMY D. OTTEN is Senior Researcher in New Testament at the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven.
In John 6:51–59, John describes the Eucharist of Jesus by modeling Dionysus. In particular, John 6:53, “unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you” is one of the most difficult verses found anywhere in the Bible. To explain this, a new approach is needed when one consistently contemplates why John uses flesh (σάρξ) instead of body (σώμα), and “This is my flesh,” instead of “This is my body.” The Dionysiac ritual of eating and tearing raw flesh shows cannibalistic elements. Unlike other negative descriptions of cannibalism in ancient literature, Dionysus is described as both an eater and a giver of raw flesh. By reevaluating the negative term of cannibalism, John positively applies this Dionysiac cannibalism to the Eucharistic words in 6:51–59. Because emphatically and slightly ironically, scholars’ arguments show that John 6 is still a “hard teaching” of Jesus, Jesus’ hard saying (6:60) is a consequence of this cannibalistic language and the ambiguous features of Dionysus.

“This exhaustively researched book not only is unique in the field, it makes a significant contribution both to Johannine scholarship and to ancient Dionysian religion. . . . Dr. Cho already is an important voice in New Testament scholarship in South Korea and deserves this hearing more broadly, which Wipf & Stock has made possible.”

—Dennis MacDonald, Claremont School of Theology, emeritus

“This Is My Flesh integrates Johannine exegesis, Greco-Roman ideas, Dionysus cultic aspects, and a discussion on sacramentalism within the framework of a single monograph. Cho conceives of the Johannine Eucharist from the perspective of the sacred meal traditions and the Dionysus cult in the Greco-Roman religions. As it is a thoroughly researched and carefully written book, it will be a helpful resource to anyone who reads it.”

—Johnson Thomaskutty, The United Theological College, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India

JAE HYUNG CHO is a lecturer at Korea Christian University at Seoul, South Korea. He is the author of Greco-Roman Religion and the New Testament and Early Christianity and Gnosticism, which are published in Korean.
In the spirit of Ludolph of Saxony (c. 1295–1378) and Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), *The Fourfold Gospel* invites the reader into the mystery of God’s redemption in Jesus Christ. All the parallel passages in the Gospels are glossed together, along with the unique material, using a medieval interpretive approach called the Quadriga or the acronym PaRDeS in Hebrew. Meditating on the literal, canonical, moral, and theological senses of Scripture offers a scaffolding for the spiritual formation of the reader. This volume focuses on the summoning and purgative stage of discipleship—the Sermon on the Mount—as well as participating in Christ’s healing of creation.

**JOHN DELHOUSAYE** is Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at Arizona Christian University and Scholar-in-Residence at The Spiritual Formation Society of Arizona.
Whether you are reading the story of Pilate’s encounter with angry crowds during the trial of Jesus or reading one of the numerous accounts of mob violence in the book of Acts, you will find that the threat of crowd violence is a common theme in the New Testament, particularly in the Gospels and Acts. In *Facing the Mob*, Benjamin Browning provides a thorough examination of how government officials in the early Roman Empire responded to civil unrest. He then uses these insights from the ancient world to provide readers of the New Testament with tools that will help them to interpret civil unrest passages more effectively.

“With thorough research, fresh insights, and measured conclusions, Browning’s *Facing the Mob* makes an important contribution to the field of New Testament studies. I heartily recommend this work to students and scholars alike.”
—Casey B. Hough, Luther Rice College & Seminary

“In *Facing the Mob*, Browning provides a clear examination of how the Roman Empire approached civil unrest. His model outlining Roman approaches is deftly applied to the New Testament and provides a useful approach for those wishing to explore this concept further. Every reader of Scripture will benefit from a greater understanding of the social and cultural setting of the text. Browning provides a helpful tool in this regard.”
—Norris Grubbs, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

“Browning’s research into mob violence and Roman governmental response brings insight into the stories of Jesus and Paul. We now can follow not only the logic of governmental response but also the complex interconnectivity that ancient social systems placed upon those governmental operations in predictable ways—and that predictability is a key contribution of this study. Browning has enriched our understanding and exegetical grasp on the unfolding plotlines of famous New Testament stories.”
—Gerald L. Stevens, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

“Browning’s work is an excellent contribution to New Testament studies that offers a window into a largely unexplored pocket of the early Roman Empire. . . . Browning’s method for examining civil unrest combines historical-cultural elements with the social sciences to give a reasoned understanding of the larger Roman backdrop of the biblical world.”
—Justin Langford, Louisiana Christian University

**Benjamin Browning** is a pastor and teacher with five years of experience teaching in academic settings and over a decade of ministry experience. He earned a PhD in New Testament from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in 2020 and currently resides in New Orleans, Louisiana, with his wife and his two children. He is also the host of the New Testament Setting Podcast and the Biblically Correct YouTube channel.
What place do the four Gospels give Satan, demons, and Jesus’ human opponents (including Jewish leaders but also Jesus’ disciples) in their accounts of Jesus’ life? This study takes a literary-historical approach to the Gospels, examining them as narratives. It shows how the authors were in the process of developing the devil as a character and determining which roles he filled. New interpretations of individual passages in the Gospels are given as well as new understandings of the theological emphases of each author. This study is also a contribution to redaction criticism and the relative chronology of the Gospels. It employs the theory of Matthean posteriority which revolutionizes our understanding of the literary relations between the Gospels and allows for a new understanding of theological development in early Christianity.

“In this illuminating and thorough study of the antagonists in the battle against God, Jesus, and the disciples that underlies each of the four Gospel narratives, Dr. Löfstedt provides us with a fascinating look at the dark side of the story. His approach to the texts is exegetical; in dialogue with scholarship, his arguments are carefully reasoned and his conclusions judicious. This is a masterful study that will benefit all students of the NT.”

—Donald A. Hagner, George Eldon Ladd Professor emeritus of New Testament, Fuller Theological Seminary

“As the result of many years’ research on the devil and other opponents of Jesus in the Gospels, Torsten Löfstedt provides a detailed yet accessible analysis of the function of these characters in the evangelists’ literary compositions. He also provides valid arguments in favour of an often-neglected view of the relationship between the Gospels that needs to be taken seriously. A solid contribution to the understanding of the history and theology of New Testament texts.”

—Tobias Hägerland, Reader and Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies and Theology, University of Gothenburg

TORSTEN LÖFSTEDT is associate professor in religious studies at Linnaeus University in Växjö, Sweden.
The idea of “justification by faith” is noticeably illustrated in narrative form in the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9–14). Did Luke the evangelist copy or import this idea from the apostle Paul? Or is there a better likelihood that Luke derived the theme from the teachings of Jesus himself? The answers to these questions have implications on the likely origin of this central Christian theme, and the connection between Jesus and Paul. In The Tax Collector and the Pharisee, Peter Tan-Gatue builds a plausible case that this notion of “justification by faith” comes from material sources that already exist in the Jesus tradition. Through biblical exegesis, critical use of authenticity criteria, and contributions in ancient and current historical-cultural studies, this work challenges the idea that justification is a Pauline innovation and also affirms the intrinsic authenticity of the Lukan parable.

“More than a few scholars have concluded that it is implausible to think that the justification theme found within the Lukan parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector derives not from Pauline-influenced redaction but from Jesus himself. Tan-Gatue renders this claim not only plausible, but downright compelling. Tan-Gatue constructs an impressive cumulative case by weaving together detailed exegesis, critical reflections on authenticity criteria, and historical-cultural insights drawn from first-century Judaism and oral-tradition studies. The result serves as an important contribution to Lukan and Pauline studies, and to historical-Jesus research.”

—Paul Rhodes Eddy, Bethel University

“In arguing that the idea of justification found in the Lukan parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector might stem from the historical Jesus, Peter Tan-Gatue . . . illuminates the significance and the possible origins of Luke’s special parables while demonstrating the coherence of their ideas of repentance, justification, and forgiveness with other parts of the synoptic tradition.”

—Eric Eve, Harris Manchester College, Oxford

“Did Jesus ever teach anything like Paul’s doctrine of justification by faith? If so, how often? . . . Peter Tan-Gatue tackles these and related questions in a wide-ranging doctoral dissertation that takes the parable of the Pharisee and tax collector as its jumping-off point. His findings are appropriately modest, but all the more worthy of scrutiny as a result.”

—Craig L. Blomberg, Denver Seminary

“I am pleased to commend this fine book. It makes . . . significant contributions toward demonstrating the origin of the Pauline doctrine of justification from Jesus’s teachings and establishing ‘coherence’ as a more suitable criterion in the studies of Jesus tradition than the more narrowly conceived criteria that have commonly been used in the critical scholarship.”

—Seyoon Kim, Fuller Theological Seminary

**The Tax Collector and the Pharisee**

**Exploring the Plausible Origin of the Parable’s Justification Theme**

**PETER TAN-GATUE**

978-1-6667-0706-9 | 216 p. | $30

PETER TAN-GATUE is the pastor of Praise Community Church in Covina, California. He earned his PhD in biblical studies (New Testament emphasis) from Asbury Theological Seminary.
What is Luke’s main purpose in writing the book of Acts? In this close study of the entire Acts narrative, McGinnis analyzes Luke’s story of the first Christians in light of ancient rhetorical conventions, concluding that Luke presents his stories to strengthen the missional commitment and practice of his readers. Missional Acts approaches a vast amount of varied mission content systematically, dividing it into rhetorical instruction about missional stimuli, structures, strategies, and suffering, while using a body analogy to provide coherence. Even the enigmatic ending of Acts intentionally advances Luke’s rhetorical purposes. Luke’s teaching finds its culmination in the ministry of his archetypal missionary, the apostle Paul, whose missionary journeys are a Lukan masterclass in mission strategy with much to teach about ministry that transforms whole regions. McGinnis rejects the traditional dichotomy that Paul is either a missionary or a prisoner and shows that throughout his work Luke depicts suffering as an integral part of the mission, seeking to prepare his readers to face opposition of various kinds. Missional Acts will help readers approach Acts in innovative ways by reading it through a primary missional lens.

“In this groundbreaking study, McGinnis critically evaluates the means Acts uses to champion a world-wide proselytizing mission. . . . Rooted in Luke’s idiosyncratic trinitarian theology, mission boils down to this: ‘Christians’ in the Roman world should open house churches to those of differing customs, laws, and ethnicities, and leaders should support planting new house churches.”
—Yancy Smith, Senior Director of Bible Translation, Bible League International

“It took a church planter/scholar to give us this brilliant overview, opening up the Book of Acts in line with Luke’s unashamedly strategic intentions. Missional Acts is packed with rich biblical insight for the church. . . . To read this book is to see Acts with new eyes. It is, in essence, to draw alongside the earliest Christians and be ignited by the same flame.”
—Mark Powley, Principal, St Hild College

“In this exhilarating study of Acts, the missional nature of the church is set forth with great vigor and academic skill. Like the book of Acts itself, we are confronted with the irresistible advance of the word, the unending empowerment of the Spirit, and the universal scope of salvation.”
—Steve Moyise, Professor emeritus of New Testament, University of Chichester

DANIEL MCGINNIS is Vice Principal of St Hild College and the Founder and Executive Director of Leeds School of Theology. Formerly a church planter, he is passionate about the convergence of academic theology, biblical studies, and missional leadership. As an American and adopted “Yorkshireman,” he grew up in Houston, Texas, and now lives with his wife and two teenagers in Sheffield, England.
This book provides a close look at how Paul uses the Greco-Roman royal benefaction system in Romans 5:1–11 as well as 5:12—8:39 to accomplish his theological purpose of portraying Jesus Christ as the supreme royal benefactor so that the Roman believers might faithfully respond to his reign now even as they anticipate glorification. This study makes at least three significant contributions. First, at the lexical level, it provides a reading that accounts for the benefaction motifs that permeate Romans 5:1–11 and Romans 5:12—8:39. Second, it looks at the relationship between χάρις as used in Romans 5:2 and the Messiah’s sacrifice as described in Romans 5:6–10 even as it asserts that Paul portrays Christ as a royal benefactor in ways that surprise the Greco-Roman notion of brokerage and the expectation that a beneficiary would be willing to die for the sake of his benefactor. Third, the study demonstrates that the Messiah’s supreme benefaction demands appropriate reciprocity or fitting response.

“With clarity and erudition, Enoch Okode convincingly explains how Paul’s Letter to the Romans creatively deploys the Roman social construct of royal benefaction to mark out the unexpected act of God in his Son which transforms his beneficiaries’ character and strengthens hope through adversity. Okode’s is a vital contribution on which future work can and must build.”

—Jon C. Laansma, Gerald F. Hawthorne Professor of New Testament Greek and Exegesis, Wheaton College, Illinois

“Timely, important, and rewarding. Enoch Okode brings a new coherence to Paul’s logic in Romans by situating the gospel, grace, and loyalty in the context of ideal kingship and benefaction. Our understanding of Paul’s theology of salvation has been greatly enriched.”

—Matthew W. Bates, author of Salvation by Allegiance Alone

“Enoch Okode offers a compelling and fresh reading of Romans 5:1–11 (and 5:12—8:39) in light of the Greco-Roman benefaction system. He persuasively argues that Paul portrays Jesus Christ as the supreme royal benefactor to whom believers must respond with faith, through suffering, in anticipation of glorification. Okode makes a valuable contribution to the growing literature addressing Paul’s messianism in light of Greco-Roman discourses of benefaction and reciprocity.”

—Constantine R. Campbell, author of Paul and the Hope of Glory

ENOC O. OKODE is Lecturer and Dean of the School of Theology at Scott Christian University in Kenya.
An Intertextual Commentary on Romans, Volume 2
Romans 5:1–8:39
CHANNING L. CRISLER

978-1-7252-6343-7 | 300 p. | $40

An Intertextual Commentary on Romans is an exhaustive treatment of the hundreds of Old Testament citations, allusions, and echoes embedded in Paul’s most famous epistle. As many scholars have acknowledged, to understand Paul’s engagement with Israel’s Scriptures is to understand Romans. Despite this acknowledgement, there is a dearth of reference works in which the primary focus is how the Old Testament impacts Paul’s argument from Romans 1:1 to 16:27. This four-volume commentary aims to provide just such a reference. The interplay between Romans and its vast sea of Old Testament pre-texts produces unstated points of resonance that illuminate Paul’s rhetorical argument from the letter’s opening to its closing doxology.

Volume 2 examines the scriptural pre-texts in Romans 5:1—8:39. While this portion of Romans contains only one full citation, it is teeming with scriptural allusions and echoes that are critical to understanding Paul’s argumentation. Crisler leaves no intertextual stone unturned as he probes the subtext of one of the richest sections in the entire Pauline corpus. From Paul’s key transition in Romans 5:1 to his poetic flourish in 8:31–39, and everywhere in between, Crisler explores the interplay between the apostle’s endless engagement with Israel’s Scriptures and his message to the Christians in Rome. This volume contributes to the commentary’s overarching aim which is to provide scholars, interpreters, and students with verse by verse analysis of how Israel’s Scriptures impact almost every clause of Paul’s most famous letter.

“In this fascinating and enlightening book, Crisler considers the Old Testament matrix that lies behind Romans 5–8, chapters that play a formative role in the letter. Insights and connections abound, and we are reminded in a fresh way that Romans wasn’t written in isolation—that there is a canon consciousness informing Paul as he writes. Crisler helps us to see a wider framework, and we can be grateful since we will never mine fully all the riches of what many consider to be Paul’s most important letter.”
—Thomas R. Schreiner, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

Praise for the first volume:

“With Crisler’s work we finally have a commentary that aims to mine the depths of Paul’s use of Scripture in Romans. What makes this study unique is its comprehensive approach to intertextuality that not only explores Paul’s quotations but also his allusions and echoes. Readers will find a virtual feast of pretexts from which to interpret Paul’s most celebrated letter.”
—B. J. Oropeza, editor of Perspectives on Paul: Five Views

CHANNING L. CRISLER is Associate Professor of New Testament at Anderson University, South Carolina. He is the author of Reading Romans as Lament (2016) and Echoes of Lament and the Christology of Luke (2020).
An Intertextual Commentary on Romans, Volume 3
Romans 9:1–11:36
CHANNING L. CRISLER

978-1-7252-8805-8 | 378 p. | $48

A n Intertextual Commentary on Romans is an exhaustive treatment of the hundreds of Old Testament citations, allusions, and echoes embedded in Paul’s most famous epistle. As many scholars have acknowledged, to understand Paul’s engagement with Israel’s Scriptures is to understand Romans. Despite this acknowledgment, there is a dearth of reference works in which the primary focus is how the Old Testament impacts Paul’s argument from Romans 1:1 to 16:27. This four-volume commentary aims to provide just such a reference. The interplay between Romans and its vast sea of Old Testament pre-texts produces unstated points of resonance that illuminate Paul’s rhetorical argument from the letter’s opening to its closing doxology.

Volume 3 examines the scriptural pre-texts in Romans 9:1—11:36. This section of the letter is the most intertextually dense section of the New Testament and the most theologically controversial section in the entire Pauline corpus. If interpreters hope to navigate these exegetical and theological challenges, they must carefully analyze the intertextual subtext of these chapters where Paul engages Israel’s Scriptures at every rhetorical turn. This volume provides such an analysis. In this way, it also contributes to the commentary’s overarching aim, which is to provide scholars, interpreters, and students with verse by verse analysis of how Israel’s Scriptures impact almost every clause of Paul’s most famous letter.

"In this third volume of An Intertextual Commentary on Romans, Channing Crisler continues his mammoth project of providing a close, careful, and comprehensive study of Paul’s engagement with Scripture in his longest and most Scripture-soaked letter. Within Rom 9–11, scriptural echoes, allusions, and quotations are particularly thick on the ground, and Crisler offers insightful commentary on the way in which they function in Paul’s argument.”

—David Starling, Morling College

“If there is any part of the New Testament that calls for a comprehensive commentary on its use of the Old Testament, it is surely Rom 9–11. Channing Crisler has now given us this gift. He makes a compelling case that Rom 9–11 represents the divine answer to Paul’s lament over Israel’s unbelief, an answer found in Scripture’s promise that God will come and save his people.”

—Kevin W. McFadden, Cairn University

CHANNING L. CRISLER is Associate Professor of New Testament at Anderson University, South Carolina. He is the author of Reading Romans as Lament (2016) and Echoes of Lament and the Christology of Luke (2020).
In Your Mouth and In Your Heart
A Study of Deuteronomy 30:12–14 in Paul’s Letter to the Romans in Canonical Context
COLIN J. SMOTHERS

Paul’s use of Deuteronomy 30 in Romans 10 has puzzled interpreters and led to many divergent readings. In this book, Smothers argues that what Paul has found in Deuteronomy 30:11–14 is a prophetic promise of righteousness which he declares fulfilled in the gospel of the Lord Jesus, the message of the righteousness of faith. By quoting Deuteronomy 30:12–14 in Romans 10 as the content of the message of the righteousness of faith over against Leviticus 18:5 and the righteousness of the law in Romans 10:5–8, Paul proclaims a promise fulfilled in accord with the original meaning of the text written by Moses in Deuteronomy. More precisely, Paul reads Deuteronomy 30:11–14 as an extension of the reality foretold in Deuteronomy 30:1–10, which points forward to the new covenant experience of faith-empowered obedience, or heart circumcision, which includes the internalization of the word of God—the eschatological torah—by the Spirit of God.

“Colin Smothers takes on a difficult hermeneutical inquiry, and in the course of this valuable study, he displays considerable interpretive skill, theological acumen, and biblical wisdom. Even those, like myself, who come to slightly different interpretive conclusions will appreciate the clarity and power of this presentation. Read and relish!”
—James M. Hamilton Jr., The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Deuteronomy 30 is a key text in determining one’s overall theology. Also central is the way Paul uses this text in Romans. Smothers challenges the consensus with a close and thought-provoking reading of these texts that will benefit greatly all who read and contribute to a robust biblical theology.”
—Peter J. Gentry, Phoenix Seminary

“With detailed exegesis and careful biblical theology, Smothers argues convincingly that Deut 30:12–14 focuses on the eschatological future in its original context and that Paul in Rom 10 faithfully identifies how Christ and the new covenant fulfills and realizes Moses’s original hopes. . . . This faithful and exceptional evangelical study of the New Testament use of the Old Testament shows the benefits of carefully wrestling with the close, continuing, and complete contexts of Old Testament texts.”
—Jason S. DeRouchie, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

COLIN J. SMOTHERS is Adjunct Professor of New Testament Interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Boyce College in Louisville, Kentucky.
One exciting area of study is Paul’s use of the Old Testament. The apostle routinely appeals to Scripture to support his arguments and to persuade his readers. One gets the impression that Paul has a high respect for Scripture and that his knowledge of it is broad and comprehensive. And yet, there is something enigmatic about his use of the Old Testament at the same time—something elusive and even puzzling. His interpretations can appear strained, sometimes going beyond the text’s original context. Is Paul a poor reader of Scripture? Is there genuine tension between Paul’s interpretations and the original context of his quotations? In this riveting study, Matthew L. Halsted takes readers through Romans to explore these and related questions. In the end, he argues that such tension does exist and that the solution is not to ignore it or view it as a liability, but rather to preserve it by adopting a hermeneutic that can sufficiently account for it as an integral element for each and every act of interpretation. Following the insights of philosopher Hans-Georg Gadamer (1900–2002), Halsted describes Paul’s use of Scripture as dialogical re-authoring—a term that captures the dynamic relationship between the apostle and the Jewish texts that were so important to him.

“Halsted has produced an outstanding and brilliant book on philosophical hermeneutics and its relation to Paul’s use of Scripture in Romans. . . . Paul does not simply reproduce the text, as his use of Hosea demonstrates. He is faithful to the text but expounds it as a ‘dialogical re-authoring.’ Paul retells the stories of Abraham, Adam, the exodus, the law, and new life. His ‘pre-understanding’ is Christology. I commend this book without reserve.”
—Anthony C. Thiselton, University of Nottingham, emeritus

“Halsted creatively demonstrates how Gadamer’s hermeneutics helps us better explain how Paul interprets and uses Israel’s Scriptures. He intriguingly argues that Paul often goes beyond the original intentions of the human authors of the Old Testament without neglecting or contradicting those intentions, and that Paul does so via a ‘dialogical re-authoring.’ I highly commend Halsted’s book to those interested in biblical and Pauline intertextuality.”
—Andrew Hollingsworth, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Did the Bible transition from the medieval Vulgate to the vernacular forms of the Protestant Reformation? What about from Erasmus’s Greek text? Were there significant differences in the various vernacular Bibles of the Protestant Reformation? How did this or didn’t this come to be? Utilizing the unique Greek text of 1 Corinthians 6:9, this book explores the relationships between culture, location, theology, and the art of biblical translation within the Protestant Reformation. Far from a simplistic transition from their previous forms, this work details the differences even one singular text of translation might find within the various locales of the early modern period. Ultimately, the text details that, in addition to faithful thought, location, culture, and community necessities drove the art of biblical translation in the Protestant Reformation and early modern period.

“The volume is a fascinating study of how Protestant Reformers and humanist Catholics created vernacular translations relying on ‘original sources.’ The focus is on a single, problematic passage (1 Cor 6:9). Many modern English translations mention ‘homosexuals.’ The study suggests that humanist scholars, struggling to render Paul’s words, focused on pederasty rather than ‘sodomy.’ The result is an excellent analysis which places this text in the historical context of the humanist return ‘to the sources.’”

—William G. Naphy, University of Aberdeen

“What does it mean to read the Bible literally? How does one do that in translation? . . . In this closely argued and historically rich work, Wirrig demonstrates how each act of translation is itself an act of interpretation. The light he shines on difficult, and still socially relevant, texts complicates the narrative of biblical interpretation in the present and illuminates our understanding of the history of exegesis and translation in important ways.”

—David Whitford, Baylor University

ADAM L. WIRRIG holds a PhD from Aberdeen University and serves as the Director of the Master of Theological Study program at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio where he is also a fully affiliated faculty member in the History of Christianity department.
Very little work has been done on the function of example as a rhetorical induction in the New Testament. This lacuna in scholarship is particularly striking given Paul’s personal (rhetorical) examples in his Letter to the Galatians. In *Induction and Example*, C. T. Johnson, therefore, addresses a much needed area of Pauline research. Johnson first constructs a methodology to assist readers in interpreting and identifying Aristotle’s induction and the rhetorical example, and then using this methodology, he focuses on Paul’s personal (and rhetorical) examples to get at “the truth of the gospel” in the letter to the Galatians. The monograph defines and describes two aspects of induction (observation and experience) and how they function in the biblical text, especially how individuals arrive at their inductive conclusions. Further still, Johnson describes how the various types of example—historical, recent, personal, and analogical—are used as rhetorical devices to persuade a person, or community to embrace or reject a particular position in the future. *Induction and Example* is essential reading not only for scholars and students of New Testament rhetoric, but also for anyone interested in the ways in which the apostle Paul communicated personally and persuasively to the early churches under his influence.

“Johnson is headed in the right direction. . . . Borrowing from Aristotle’s logical, scientific, and rhetorical methodology, he uses Aristotle’s account of induction, intellection, likeness, and example to show how theological claims made in Scripture conform to and satisfy basic epistemological criteria formulated by the mainstream historical tradition. It is an exciting project that makes full use of recent advances in Aristotelian scholarship and commentary.”

—Louis Groarke, St. Francis Xavier University

“Johnson’s work is one of the most sustained, nuanced, and helpful studies of rhetorical example to appear in the field of New Testament rhetorical criticism, and it provides some remedy for the relative neglect of this area of ancient and early Christian rhetoric.”

—Troy W. Martin, Saint Xavier University, from the foreword

*C. T. JOHNSON* has a PhD from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He is the author of “*The Earth’s Ethos, Logos, and Pathos: An Ecological Reading of Revelation*” (2014).
Least of the Apostles
Paul and His Legacies in Earliest Christianity

BRENDAN W. CASE and WILLIAM GLASS

978-1-6667-3133-0 | 248 p. | $34

*Least of the Apostles* is a study of Paul’s relation, both in his ministry and through his epistles, to the rest of apostolic Christianity. Studies relating Paul to Judaism, the Roman empire, or Greco-Roman philosophy abound; we adopt the comparatively neglected approach of relating Paul specifically to his fellow apostles. The first three chapters explore the influence on Paul of sources from the earliest church (James and his circle, the “apostolic decree,” and proto-Synoptic traditions), while the final three explore Paul’s influence on Hebrews, Luke and John, and the Petrine Epistles. We conclude by considering the implications of these findings for New Testament theology.

“Case and Glass forcefully and elegantly interrogate regnant critical models of the development of early Christianity. . . . Their argument portrays an early church whose unity is not the simple deposit of a monolithic tradition but rather ‘the hard-won fruit of personal sacrifice, patient discernment, and painful disagreement.’ If they are right, that early history might offer a hopeful vision for divided ecclesial communities in our own time. This book is a must-read for all students of the New Testament and the early church.”

—Richard B. Hays, Duke University, emeritus

“All too often, Paul is depicted as a solitary genius, a theological maverick whose ministry among the Gentiles developed in splendid isolation from—or in unyielding conflict with—the practices and convictions of the Jerusalem apostles. In this wide-ranging collection of essays, Case and Glass expose the largely unexamined assumptions behind this picture of Paul and offer in its place a compelling portrait of an apostle committed to the costly work of maintaining ‘communion with Peter, James, and the rest of the early church.’ Whether or not one agrees with their conclusions, the penetrating questions they pose to the discipline of New Testament Studies must not be ignored.”

—J. Ross Wagner, Duke Divinity School

**BRENDAN W. CASE** is the Associate Director for Research of the Human Flourishing Program at Harvard University. He is the author of *The Accountable Animal* (2021).

**WILLIAM GLASS** is a serial entrepreneur and Anglican priest.
Women, Salvation, and Childbearing
The Mystery of 1 Timothy 2:11–15
KENNETH L. WATERS SR.
978-1-6667-3738-7 | 170 p. | $26

This book offers a completely original, groundbreaking interpretation of one of the most difficult passages in the Bible. For too long, a closed circle of voices has dominated the discussion about the meaning of 1 Timothy 2:11–15. Ministry leaders have continued to struggle with inadequate solutions to the problems posed by the text, and women, especially those called to ministerial service, have suffered from missteps in its interpretation. Kenneth Waters uncovers what he argues is a long-hidden key to understanding the comments about women, salvation, and childbearing in this controversial passage. He maintains that although it was a truth known to the original hearers of this letter, it has been hidden from later generations of readers.

“Kenneth Waters offers a fresh reading of a difficult text that opens new possibilities for understandings of it, the author of the Pastoral Epistles, and even the workings of the churches 1 Timothy addresses. The arguments Waters provides demand the attention of all serious interpreters of this letter. Waters further calls interpreters of biblical texts, and of this one in particular, to take responsibility for the effects their interpretations have on people's lives.”

—Jerry L. Sumney, Lexington Theological Seminary

“This work is clearly written, has thoroughly researched both the primary and secondary sources, and reaches persuasive, nuanced answers to difficult questions. It is just the type of erudition one might expect from Waters. Therefore, I recommend Waters's book highly to those persons interested in the social history of Pauline Christianity in general and women within the Pauline tradition in particular.”

—Thomas B. Slater, McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University, emeritus

KENNETH L. WATERS SR. is professor of New Testament and associate dean of personnel, contracts, and undergraduate studies at Azusa Pacific University. He has published extensively on the Gospels and Paul.
How did the words of Jesus influence the writing of 1 Peter? That is the question that is at the heart of this study. Of course, the answer is complicated by the fact that 1 Peter nowhere directly references the words of Jesus. Nevertheless, the impact of his words are evident throughout the letter. The first third of the book lays the foundation for answering the question by giving clear and concise criteria for identifying places where 1 Peter uses the words of Jesus. The rest of the book walks through the text of 1 Peter section by section, submitting each potential echo of Jesus’s words to the criteria previously developed. The book concludes by considering how the words of Jesus influenced the themes and content of the letter.

TIMOTHY E. MILLER

978-1-6667-3337-2 | 290 p. | $39

“Behind Tim Miller’s excellent study stands an exercise rarely undertaken in today’s Christian academia: 1 Peter memorized in its entirety. Tim’s recitation of the epistle with kerygmatic pathos followed by profound exegetical reflections will be remembered as a highlight of our doctoral seminar. . . A study that combines the rigor of academic investigation with spiritual nourishment drawn from memorized Scripture will always impress and persuade.”
—Radu Gheorghita, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Timothy Miller has produced a comprehensive work on the use of the Jesus tradition in 1 Peter. He carefully defines his method, argues his case for each suggested use, supports the argument with many charts and tables, and makes appropriately modest conclusions. . . All in the field will appreciate his clarity, care, and modesty and that he has written what will be the necessary foundation for further work on this topic.”
—Peter H. Davids, Chaplain, Dominican Sisters of Mary, Georgetown, Texas

“Intertextuality between the Old and New Testaments hinges on one’s methodology. The same is true for intertextuality within each Testament. Tim Miller establishes and follows a disciplined methodology that attends to demonstrable links between Jesus’ teaching and 1 Peter. This book provides insight on a number of levels—a resource for teachers, students, and pastors.”
—Todd R. Chipman, Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

TIMOTHY E. MILLER is Assistant Professor of New Testament at Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary in Allen Park, Michigan.
This book focuses on a neglected area of New Testament studies—the function of prayer across the Johannine literature. By building on the author's previous work, *Prayer in John’s Farewell Discourse*, this book takes another step forward by exploring how prayer in the Farewell Discourse compares to prayer in 1 John, 3 John, and Revelation. It also seeks to discern how prayer is linked to the ethical behaviors of Johannine disciples, their missional success as they carry forth the mission of God in the world, and the eschatological impulse of calling for Jesus to come again in order to complete his work in the world. As a bonus, the final chapter highlights key elements of Johannine prayer that are relevant to the contemporary reader who approaches the Scriptures not merely as ancient documents to be read and interpreted but as timeless truths that are to be applied and obeyed.

“In this insightful book on a significant but underexplored topic: prayer in the Johannine writings. The emphasis on prayer’s ethical, missional, and eschatological dimensions is spot-on. Adams offers important perspectives on some key passages that are often misinterpreted and on theological connections among the writings. Careful analysis plus a perceptive chapter on prayer today make this volume a worthy addition to the library of students, scholars, and teachers/preachers.”
—Michael J. Gorman, St. Mary’s Seminary & University

“Having already established himself as a leading authority on prayer in the Fourth Gospel, Scott Adams now expands his treatment of prayer to the Johannine Epistles and Apocalypse as well. In seeing the purpose of prayer as partnership with Christ in the furthering of his will and work in the world, authentic prayer bears extensive spiritual, social, ethical, and political implications. An excellent book on a timeless subject!”
—Paul N. Anderson, George Fox University, Newberg

“Too often our prayers are ethereal abstractions that lack theological grounding in a communal ethic. In this helpful study, Scott Adams draws from Scripture to show the church and the academy how to recontextualize prayer so that it is more thoroughly rooted in the cross-and-resurrection ethic of the true king’s reign.”
—Matthew W. Bates, Quincy University

**SCOTT ADAMS** is an assistant professor at Regent University School of Divinity in Virginia Beach, Virginia and serves as the lead pastor at the Midtown Location of Our Savior’s Church in Lafayette, Louisiana.
This collection of nineteen representative essays is a Festschrift written by former colleagues and students in honor of Prof. Dr. Robert Jewett (1933–2020) and his legacy. Our hope is that future generations of Bible readers will find this textbook on biblical interpretation helpful for navigating through the strong winds of exegetical, theological, and hermeneutical methods. Jewett’s expansive research interests have inspired each author in this tribute volume, each of whom has witnessed to the ways that helmsman Jewett has navigated through the often-choppy ocean waters of biblical interpretation—as well as the complex, changing world of religion, sacred texts, films and popular culture, psychology and sociology, politics and Pauline studies.

Contributors

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Christopher Deacy
A. Andrew Das
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“This collection of essays is a fitting tribute to a giant of Pauline studies. Each essay honors Bob Jewett by both celebrating and moving beyond his own historical, exegetical, interdisciplinary, and cross-cultural contributions and commitments. It is especially appropriate today that voices from non-Western and indigenous cultures, like those included in this volume, be heard and engaged.”

—Michael J. Gorman, St. Mary’s Seminary & University

“From the question of the political dimension of Paul’s Gospel, the socio-historical situatedness of Robert Jewett’s Romans: A Commentary, to the honor-shame competition of Rome’s society and the Corinthian correspondence, this is a rich collection of stimulating essays that illustrate Robert Jewett’s lastling contributions to Pauline scholarship.”

—Annette Weissenrieder, Martin Luther University of Halle-Wittenberg

“Biblical scholars from around the world splendidly honor Robert Jewett as a complete biblical scholar by offering (1) essays prolonging his text-focused scholarship, (2) essays emphasizing that any exegesis of Paul’s letters is necessarily framed by the interpreter’s context, and (3) essays illustrating that any interpretation of Paul’s letters necessarily prolongs Paul’s discourse as a word-to-live-by in a particular cultural setting.”

—Daniel Patte, Vanderbilt University

K. K. YEO is Harry R. Kendall Professor of New Testament at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and affiliate professor at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Northwestern University. Among his many publications are What Has Jerusalem to Do with Beijing? (2018) and the edited The Oxford Handbook of the Bible in China (2021).
Several of the ways and cultures that the Bible privileges or denounces slip by unnoticed. When those—the privileged and the denounced—are not examined, they fade into and hide in the blind spots of the Bible. This collection of essays engages some of the subjects who face dispersion (physical displacement that sparks ideological bias) and othering (ideologies that manifest in social distancing and political displacement). These include, among others, the builders of Babel, Samaritans, Melchizedek, Jezebel, Judith, Gomer, Ruth, slaves, and mothers. In addition to considering the drive to privilege or denounce, the contributors also attend to subjects ignored because the Bible's blind spots are not examined. These include planet Earth, indigenous Australians, Palestinians, Dalits, minjungs, battered women, sexual-abuse victims, religious minorities, mothering men, gays, and foreigners.

This collection encourages interchanges and exchanges between dispersion and othering, and between the Bible and context. It follows in the currents of postcolonial and gendered studies, and closes with a script that stages a biblical character at the intersection of the Bible's blind spots and modern readers' passions and commitments.

“A very unique, intriguing collection of fifteen articles edited into three thematic parts. Each article has a distinctive perspective based on biblical texts and its own contemporary social, political, and religious situations. . . . An excellent introduction in the first chapter guides readers as to what they will encounter in each chapter. This fascinating structure gives readers freedom to pick up any chapter and experience aha moments."
—Hisako Kinukawa, Japan Agricultural Theological Seminary

“We don’t know what we don’t see unless and until someone brings certain things we missed to our attention. Havea and Melanchthon have given us a gift by alerting us to the blind spots we may have about the Bible. Their book confronts me with three inescapable questions concerning biblical interpretation: What do I see? What do I not see? And, most importantly, why?”
—Tat-siong Benny Liew, College of the Holy Cross

“Havea and Melanchthon gather scholars from across the globe that evocatively focus on the Bible's blind spots and blind devotion to the Bible. This book is a must-read for anyone willing to have their eyes opened to the dispersed and othered in the Bible and society.”
—Crystal Hall, United Lutheran Seminary

“What a wonderful volume that brings together an array of creative, thought-provoking contributions that . . . uncover those blind spots that exist in both text and readers. Essay after essay helped me see things in the text I’ve not yet seen, and stimulated further reflection on the politics of othering, the exceedingly painful legacy of empires old and new, and the powerful ways in which this ancient text is reclaimed by communities all over the world. A must-read for any contextual Bible reader!”
—Juliana Claassens, Stellenbosch University

**JIONE HAVEA** is a native pastor in the Methodist Church in Tonga and a research fellow with Trinity Methodist Theological College (Aotearoa, New Zealand) as well as with the Centre for Public and Contextual Theology at Charles Sturt University (Canberra, Australia).

**MONICA JYOTSNA MELANCHTHON** is a Lutheran pastor in the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church of India and associate professor of Old Testament at Pilgrim Theological College, within the University of Divinity (Melbourne, Australia).
In the nearly two millennia since the resurrection of Jesus, can coherence be found within the ways Christians of different ethnicities have approached the Bible? How does one seek guidance in understanding the Scriptures and then draw on that experience to understand oneself and the world? In *The Church and Her Scriptures* the ancient diversity of Greek, Latin, and Syriac speaks through, for instance, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine of Hippo, and Jacob of Serugh. The witness and voices of women as recorded in the Book of Daniel and the Gospels themselves are examined. Reanimated through ancient sources, the daily prayer life and holy death of Macrina the Younger, philosopher of God, attest the contemplative power of the laity. The Psalms, so interwoven in her life, prove to be vitalizing for Christians. Their example inspired new psalms in the Epistles. Typology recurred, fed by Jesus’s teaching, and this mode of exegesis and key examples of it are likewise respected in this volume. Limning the framework for all this is Patrick Hartin’s magisterial essay on *Dei Verbum*, the Vatican II document on the Bible.

“This collection of essays matches its honoree perfectly: Patrick Hartin has a distinguished career serving the church with his wisdom for bringing its Scriptures to its people in an intelligible, critically examined manner; beginning with his own sensitive reading of *Dei Verbum*, the essays gathered here perform that same service beautifully for its readers. A fitting tribute to a wonderful pastor, priest, teacher, and scholar.”

—Rob Kugler, Lewis & Clark College

“Tkacz and Kries pay fitting tribute to Patrick Hartin, a faithful and humble exegete of the sacred text in an age of disbelief and superciliousness... The result, which combines the best of patristic biblical hermeneutics and modern biblical studies, is a delight for those who care about the contemporary problems of our world and the way in which the Holy Bible continues to inform our lives.”

—Richard Conrad, OP, University of Oxford

**CATHERINE BROWN TKACZ** is the first woman to earn the PhD in medieval studies at the University of Notre Dame. She has often lectured on biblical studies and theology, especially at Blackfriars in Oxford and the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. Her over 130 publications include her fourth book, *Women as Types of Christ, East and West*. Pope Francis has appointed her to his new commission for the study of women and the diaconate.

**DOUGLAS KRIES** is Professor of Philosophy at Gonzaga University, where he researches in political philosophy, including the political thought of St. Augustine. Among his works are *The Problem of Natural Law* and (with Ernest L. Fortin and Michael W. Tkacz) *Augustine: Political Writings*. He has previously collaborated with Catherine Brown Tkacz as co-editor of *Nova Doctrina Vetusque: Essays on Early Christianity in Honor of Fredric W. Schlatter, S.J.*

**THE CHURCH AND HER SCRIPTURES**

**Essays in Honor of Patrick J. Hartin**

**EDITED BY CATHERINE BROWN TKACZ AND DOUGLAS KRIES**

978-1-6667-1282-7 | 266 p. | $36
In Pentecostal Hermeneutics in the Late Modern World, L. William Oliverio, Jr. offers a series of forays into the places where late modernity and Pentecostalism have met in interpreting God, the world, and human selves and communities. Oliverio provides a historical, constructive, and ecumenical approach to understanding current trajectories in Pentecostal interpretation as he engages a variety of philosophers and theologians. Together, these essays point to a way forward for Pentecostal hermeneutics in the context of the late modern world.

L. WILLIAM OLIVERIO, JR.

We live in a world facing many crises, pandemics, climate and environmental challenges, human rights abuses, and threats of totalitarian regimes. Romano Guardini (1885–1968), a major influence of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, worked through one of the most difficult periods of German history—the first half of the twentieth century. What does he have to say to these challenges, and how is his notion of providence relevant today? Jane Lee-Barker shows how Guardini’s insight and deep thought on God’s providence weave their way through his work, enabling the reader to fully appreciate “God’s world.” In relationship with God, the human person is invited to participate in responsible care for the world while responding to their own vocational call from the God who sustains him or her.

Jane Lee-Barker is an Anglican parish priest in South Australia, an adjunct lecturer in theology at St. Barnabas College and Charles Sturt University and a postdoctoral research associate at the Australian Lutheran College, University of Divinity. She is a graduate of Griffith University and the Pontifical Gregorian University Rome, Italy. She serves on a number of national ecumenical commissions. This book is an adaptation of her doctoral thesis.

“Lee-Barker’s book brings us a superbly rendered account of Guardini’s religious philosophy of divine providence that speaks to our lives amid our twenty-first-century challenges. Informed by his personal and contextual settings, we are taken on a journey through his reflections, perceptively interpreted by the author, whose deep understandings open doors that enlighten our own existence today. Faith, trust, love, and grace are integrated in God’s will and wisdom for us as individuals and community.”

—Lee Parker, distinguished professor at RMIT University, Melbourne, and Glasgow University

“In God’s World, No String Puppets, Jane Lee-Barker tells the story of the development of the doctrine of providence in the work of Romano Guardini. She presents this against the background of the emergence of Nazism, whose racial determinism Guardini resisted by establishing the vocation of the Christian over against the subtle contradictions of nature and creation, destiny and providence. I thoroughly recommend this important and highly accessible scholarly work, which remains relevant in today’s challenging times.”

—Cathy Thomson, principal at St. Barnabas College, Adelaide
How does God relate to the world? What difference does our understanding of God make for conceiving of God's relation to us? Christian theology has seen a flourishing of activity in response to these questions under a common doctrinal theme: Trinity. That said, proposals for understanding how God relates to the world through the Trinity of God's being—otherwise known as the relationship between the immanent and the economic Trinity—vary significantly. This book, reflecting on the work of four modern theologians—Dorner, Barth, Pannenberg, and Jenson—offers a set of constructive proposals on key issues relating to the God-world relation, including a way to understand divine immutability without denying God's living history with others and a trinitarian notion of divine sovereignty that demonstrates how God transcends history from within the structures of time. At each step along the way the author conveys how Trinity opens up a richer, more expansive conception of God's relation to us. This book shows how Trinity serves the practical work of theology as faith seeking understanding.

Scott P. Rice serves as Resident Theologian at Highrock Covenant Church in Boston, Massachusetts. He has published articles in Pro Ecclesia, The Heythrop Journal, and Canadian American Theological Review.
The thought of contemporary North American theologian and ethicist Wendy Farley is an unflinching clarion call to justice and compassion. Farley invites us to discover ways of embodying the deep compassion capable of resisting pernicious distortions and traumatizing injustices that harm and dehumanize us all. This volume of essays embodies her invitation to awaken as beloved community. And when we are overwhelmed by the magnitude of struggle and despair, Farley reminds us that the powerful longing of hope, at times against all evidence, refuses to give up on seeking justice and wholeness. Compassionate justice, radical hospitality, creative liberation, and deep listening emerge as more than ethical values for Farley; they are expressions of erotic faith, a praxis of faithfulness born of divine desire.

These writings explore transformative perspectives and practices that have the capacity to help us recover and author our identity as the “god-bearers” we are. Erotic faith embodies the love-seeking persistence of divine faithfulness necessary to transform us from within; it meets the truth of human harm, vulnerability, and suffering by offering a complex, struggling, unscripted creativity capable of remaking us, and our world, until the beloved community is whole.

With contributions by:

"At this time of virulent injustice, this essential book offers a clarion call for Christians to do two things—honestly confront and reckon with the ways that their tradition has justified domination, cruelty, and exploitation, and wholeheartedly embrace, nurture, and expand the aspects of that tradition that enable them to live with radical compassion, mutual respect, and reciprocity with other peoples and with the natural world that enchants, delights, and sustains us."
—Sharon D. Welch, former Provost and Professor of Religion and Society, Meadville Lombard Theological School

"When Wendy Farley offered her alternative to classic Christian theodicies in her now classic work Tragic Vision and Divine Compassion, she became a prominent voice within constructive theology. By making human experience of suffering and evil her starting point, particularly the experience of those who have been pushed to the margin within church and society, Farley introduced a paradigm shift in contemporary theological discourse. This volume bears a witness to the significance of Farley’s unique and powerful theological contribution."
—Arnfríður Guðmundsdóttir, Professor of Systematic Theology, University of Iceland

MARI KIM teaches Social Ethics and Philosophy for the Division of Communications and Social Sciences at Everett Community College. Kim resides in Seattle, Washington, and her constructive theological exploration of experiences of desire, ambiguity, and ambivalence in cultural identity formation, Eros in Eden: A Praxis of Beauty in Genesis 3, is forthcoming.
From the time of Plato’s proposed expulsion of the poets, tragedy has repeatedly proposed a challenge to philosophical and theological certainties. This is apparent already in early Christianity amongst leading figures during the patristic age. But this raises the question: Why was the theme of tragedy still accepted and deployed throughout the history of Christianity nevertheless? Is this merely an accident or is there something more substantial at play? Can Christian theology take the tragic seriously? Must Christianity ultimately deny the tragic to be coherent, or might it be able to sustain its negativity? Some like George Steiner, David Bentley Hart, and John Milbank have doubts about such a coherency, but others think differently. This book aims to examine this debate, laying out the lines of disagreement and continu- ing tensions. Through a critical examination of the work of Donald MacKinnon and the eminent Christian thinker Rowan Williams, the book aims to show that there is a path for reconciling the claims of Christian orthodoxy and the experience of tragedy, one that is able to maintain a metaphysical foundation for both real transcendence and unfolding historicity, without denying either.

“Khegan Delport is an exciting young South African theological voice. Exemplified in On Tragedy and Transcendence, his work already bears the marks of a mature scholar. Ambitious and erudite, the present work makes a significant contribution not only to contemporary philosophical theology but to the growing nexus between theology and literary studies.”

—Stephen Martin, Professor of Theology, The King’s University

“In On Tragedy and Transcendence Khegan Delport provides an extensive and critical exposition of the thought of Donald MacKinnon and Rowan Williams on the tragic. Central to this inquiry is the question of whether one can take tragedy and historicity seriously without jettisoning classical accounts of transcendence. The result is a richly textured and tightly argued study—one that underscores the author’s claim that the grammar of transcendence and tragedy has transcultural resonance.”

—Robert Vosloo, Professor of Systematic Theology, Stellenbosch University

KHEGAN M. DELPORT is a Research Fellow at the Department of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology, University of Stellenbosch and Department of Historical and Constructive Theology, University of the Free State. He has published his work in Modern Theology, The Heythrop Journal, and The Journal of Anglican Studies, amongst others.
Robert Jenson is commended as one of the greatest American theologians in the twentieth century. This book proposes a critique of Jenson’s narrative Trinitarianism by comparing it with Eberhard Jüngel’s theology. It argues for the importance of the double dimensions of event and communicative-linguistics of the Divine narrative.

“...In this book, Wai Luen Kwok offers a lucid, deeply thoughtful account of modern trinitarian theology, arguing for a rediscovery of the unity of ‘Word’ and ‘Event,’ against the pressures of Enlightenment and post-Enlightenment thought. Here Kwok shows the centrality of Robert Jenson’s ‘Word-Event,’ while exploring a greater emphasis upon its linguistic-communicative rather than temporal-eventful dimension. This is a refreshingly fundamental engagement with questions of revelation and theology and well worth reading.”

—Oliver Davies, Professor emeritus of Christian Doctrine, King’s College London

WAI LUEN KWOK is Associate Professor of Theology at Hong Kong Baptist University.
Kenosis, or self-emptying, poses a fundamental question to any theological discussion about Jesus Christ: “In becoming human, did God empty himself of any divine qualities?” Many variations on kenotic Christology have emerged over the past 200 years, most of them claiming to both preserve and highlight the true humanity and ecclesial significance of Jesus Christ.

While there is much to commend in these efforts, Samuel Youngs contends that nearly all such kenotic attempts have, against their best intentions, fallen into an echo chamber of abstraction and metaphor, rendering their talk about Jesus Christ and analysis of the Gospels fundamentally “unreal” and lacking in material significance for today’s living church. Most fundamentally, many kenotic accounts pay inadequate attention to Christ’s lived accomplishment, his current presence, and the modes of praxis that he makes real in the world.

In dialogue with the important movement known as Transformation Theology, Youngs unfolds a detailed critique of method and discourse in kenotic christologies. Turning then to the vibrant christological thought of Jürgen Moltmann, a different outlook on kenosis is articulated and defended, one that is relational, concrete, and praxiological.

“This is a vitally important new book which tackles some of the most life-giving questions that can arise within Christian theology on transforming and being transformed. Youngs writes with an impressive balance of critique and explanation. He tracks the history of kenoticism and addresses some of the key questions that arise concerning the relation between the sublime freedom of the risen Christ on the one hand and our own—mysterious—freedom on the other.”

—Oliver Davies, King’s College London, emeritus

“Youngs has called modernity on the carpet in its inability to face the kenotic Christ. While giving careful attention to methodology by way of a sweeping knowledge of the scholarly landscape, this book makes a contribution beyond what often comprises scholarship. By decompartmentalizing the tidy boxes that have separated the discipline of theology from the life of the church, Youngs paints a holistic, life-giving picture of the person and meaning of Jesus Christ.”

—Joshua Rice, Richmont Graduate University

“Using modern kenotic Christology as a foil, Youngs convincingly and articulately shows how theology can become unreal when it is abstracted from the concrete realities of the church’s lived experience. If you are hungry for robust theology that is tested against the measures of real human life, look no further. This book accomplishes what it promises . . . to make Christ real.”

—Preston Hill, Richmont Graduate University
Is the difference of male and female to be “completely shaken off” so that men and women are no longer men and women but merely human beings? The great seventh-century saint Maximus the Confessor said yes, but such thinking is difficult if not impossible to reconcile with much else in Christian tradition that obliges men and women to live as either men or women.

Origen’s Revenge contrasts the two main sources of early Christian thinking on male and female: the generally negative view of Greek philosophy, limiting sexual distinction to the body and holding the body in low regard, and the much more positive view of Hebrew Scripture, in which sexual distinction and reproduction are both deemed naturally good and necessary for human existence. These two views account for much of the controversy in early Christianity concerning marriage and monasticism. They also still contribute to current controversies over sex roles, gender identity, and sexual ethics.

Origen’s Revenge also develops the more Hebrew line of early Christian thought to propose a new understanding of male and female with a firmer grounding in scripture, tradition, theology, and philosophy and with profound implications for all human relationships, whether social, political, or spiritual.

“Although much has been written about early Christian views of sexuality, no one has put all the pieces together in the same bold and comprehensive way as in this work. Mitchell describes the tensions that existed in Christian teaching about sexuality from the beginning and offers a positive proposal for how these tensions can be resolved. A fascinating and provocative book.”

—David Bradshaw, University of Kentucky

“Mitchell’s careful analysis of conflicts between Greek philosophy and the Hebrew view of male and female, together with his exploration of sex, sexuality, and the distinctively human way of life that is part of God’s created goodness, is thoughtful, provocative, and well worth reading.”

—Mark J. Cherry, St. Edward’s University

“Drawing on an astonishing array of both primary and secondary sources, Mitchell offers a perspective on early Christian views of sexual difference that can shed a much-needed light on contemporary discussions. Anyone who wishes to engage in these discussions in a genuinely fruitful way needs to read this book.”

—D. C. Schindler, John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family

BRIAN PATRICK MITCHELL, PhD, is a former soldier, journalist, and speechwriter. He is a protodeacon of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad and is the author of six books on politics and religion.
Theological Anthropology at the Beginning of the Third Millennium

THEOLOGY AT THE BEGINNING OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

EDITED BY KEVIN WAGNER, PETER JOHN MCGREGOR, AND M. ISABELL NAUMANN

978-1-6667-0925-4 | 322 p. | $41

Theological Anthropology at the Beginning of the Third Millennium

is the third volume of the Theology at the Beginning of the Third Millennium series. Bringing together Catholic and Orthodox scholars of diverse disciplines, this work sheds new light on the question “what does it mean to be a human person?” Beginning with an overview on the state of the discipline in our time, the book brings theological anthropology into dialogue with epistemology, Christology, science, spiritual theology, and pedagogy. It explores how human persons—who are created in God’s image and likeness—can come to knowledge of the self and the other, such that the individual person can know, love, and be united to the God and Father of Jesus Christ.

“The fruitfulness of Australian Catholic theology continues to inspire. This book stands as an exemplar of what ressourcement in theology is and should be. From the church fathers through Aquinas and the medievals, from East and West, and across a wide swath of more recent theologians, saints, philosophers, and scientists, this book lifts up the most central themes of Christian anthropology and does so in a nuanced, dialogic, and beautifully evangelistic way. Highly recommended!”

—Matthew Levering, Mundelein Seminary

“This collection of essays serves as a broad catalogue of currents in theological anthropology in the contemporary Australian scene. With topics ranging from patristics, personalism, and prayer to embodiment, existentialism, and evolution, the contributors explore the insights of such diverse figures as Augustine and Aquinas, Freud and Foucault, Mascal and Marion. Both historical and systematic in focus, it provides a valuable reference to key points of contact, continuity, and conflict for Christian anthropology in the third millennium.”

—Adam G. Cooper, Catholic Theological College

“A surprisingly versatile collection of essays on Christian anthropology, Theological Anthropology at the Beginning of the Third Millennium comes across as a true interdisciplinary work. Covering a wide range of topics and authors, it still offers a powerfully well integrated, christological view of the human being in the light of faith, hope, and charity, inspired to an important degree in the writings and thought of Saint John Paul II.”

—Paul O’Callaghan, Pontifical University of the Holy Cross

“I have become a question to myself”—more than ever, our age feels the weight of the Augustinian dictum in its search for a renewed understanding of what it means to be human. This volume contains a wonderfully inspiring set of reflections on crucial aspects of an anthropological vision which takes into account the gift character of human existence over against the hubris of a self-contained consumerist, technological milieu. A refreshing read in troubled times.”

—Beáta Tóth, Sapientia College of Theology

KEVIN WAGNER is a lecturer in theology at the University of Notre Dame, Australia—Sydney, specializing in early church history and Scripture.

PETER JOHN MCGREGOR is a lecturer in theology and spirituality at the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

M. ISABELL NAUMANN ISSM is a member of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary (ISSM). She is the president of the Catholic Institute of Sydney (Ecclesiastical Faculty of Theology) and a member of the International Theological Commission.
How does God talk to us? The image of the speaking God offers a profound insight into the nature of communication. The idea of the God’s Word runs like a red thread through the entire Bible. Few theologians, however, have interpreted the concept “Word of God” as a linguistic phenomenon, but Augustine, Luther, and Barth are among those who have. What sets this study apart from others is its emphasis on the aspects of semiotics (Augustine), semantics (Luther), and pragmatics (Barth). Hofmann then places these three theologians in the context of the linguistic analytical philosophy of Ludwig Wittgenstein, Ian Ramsey, and John L. Austin. This work carries forward the dialogue between theology and modern philosophy of language, while at the same time opening up the Word of God for human reality. It also touches on the fields of the doctrine of God and Christology, attempting nothing less than a comprehensive language theory of the Word of God.
Are you a seminarian/scholar who wants to go further from your school’s Barthian tradition? The purpose of this book is to connect cutting-edge post-Barthian trinitarian theological movements all around the world: postliberal theology (Yale school) in the US, radical orthodoxy (Cambridge school) in the UK, German radical hermeneutic theology (Zürich school in the German-speaking world), and the theology of inculturation (Korean Methodist school) in Asia. Although each theological movement had a tremendous impact on the entire area of theology, there has been no work done to connect those twenty-first-century theological trends. The strength of this book is that it connects different theological movements with the author’s own unique view as a Korean theologian. Comparing different Trinitarian theological movements, the author argues for the necessity of a God-focused theology to embrace different human understandings in a world where Christianity is not dominant. The book claims that Christians can pursue a genuine dialectics of differentiation and interdependence when they understand the global phenomenon of Christianity’s inculturation as the work of the Trinity who relates Godself to different worldly cultures.

HEEJUN YANG

TRINITARIAN RESPONSES
to WORLDLINESS
Towards a Trinitarian Theology of Inculturation

978-1-6667-9109-9 | 208 p. | $30

“A veritable theological tour de force, Heejun Yang’s book offers an insightful and nuanced overview of contemporary Western theologies of the Trinity and evaluates them from the perspective of Korean theology. From this theological investigation, Dr. Yang shows that a God-centered understanding of the world will help transform Christianity into a global but nondominating religion. I strongly recommend this book for those interested in the practical dimension of Trinitarian theology.”

—Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University

“To a post-Western Christianity, Heejun Yang has offered a compelling Trinitarian theology of inculturation—one that is admirable in its refusal to romanticize Eastern traditions in the process.”

—Xi Lian, Duke Divinity School

“Yang gives an excellent overview of postliberal theology, radical orthodoxy, and hermeneutic theology. . . . This well-written book offers new perspectives for a globally oriented theology in diverse secular contexts and will constructively inspire future discussion in systematic theology and intercultural theology.”

—Hans-Peter Grosshans, University of Münster

HEEJUN YANG is the pastor of Trenton United Methodist Church in North Carolina. He received his BTh from Methodist Theological University in Seoul, Korea, and holds an MDiv and a ThM from Duke University. He studied under Ingolf Dalferth as his last doctoral student at Claremont Graduate University and the University of Münster, where he earned his PhD from the Faculty of Protestant Theology.
In an increasingly divided and secularized world, in an age of unbelief, we yearn for increased unity, for a sense of the transcendent, for a humanism that does not force one to choose between God and the world. This humanism requires an integration of ancient wisdom with modern learning, or, one might say, faith and reason, religion and science, Christology and cosmology. As the Gospel of Matthew puts it, the sage goes into the storehouse to bring out both something old and something new. To this Christian humanism both Thomas Aquinas and Pierre Teilhard de Chardin have significant contributions to make. One is not forced to choose between them but rather to see in these two visionaries—one medieval, one modern—complementary insights. One philosophically precise, the other scientifically trained, they challenge us to look again at our search for wholeness, for holiness. Can we see something of what they saw? Can we seek something of what they sought?

DONALD J. GOERGEN, OP is a systematic theologian, lecturer, retreat leader, and author. He taught for many years at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. He has served in varied administrative roles for the friars of his Dominican Central Province. He currently resides in Chicago.

“Thomists and Teilhardians do not often cross paths in theological circles, but both will find something in which to delight in this brilliant new contribution of Fr. Donald Goergen. The book not only promises to put Thomas and Teilhard into dialogue with one another but opens a pathway for their disciples to find common ground with one another—drawing on wisdom old and new to address the important questions of our own time.”

—Ann M. Garrido, Aquinas Institute of Theology

“With clarity and erudition, Goergen weaves together the thinking of two great theologians of creation, Aquinas and de Chardin. He shows how philosophical, theological, and spiritual traditions remain a rich resource for appreciating creation and motivating strategies of care in relation to it. The fruit of prayerful contemplation as well as academic study, it is a compelling presentation of a renewed Christian humanism, showing how bridges are built between tradition and modernity, religion and science, spirituality and political engagement.”

—Vivian Boland, Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas—Angelicum
Decolonizing Ecotheology: Indigenous and Subaltern Challenges

Edited by S. Lily Mendoza and George Zachariah

Decolonizing Ecotheology: Indigenous and Subaltern Challenges is a pioneering attempt to contest the politics of conquest, commodification, and homogenization in mainstream ecotheology, informed by the voices of Indigenous and subaltern communities from around the world. The book marshals a robust polyphony of reportage, wonder, analysis, and acumen seeking to open the door to a different prospect for a planet under grave duress and a different self-assessment for our own species in the mix. At the heart of that prospect is an embrace of soils and waters as commons and a privileging of subaltern experience and marginalized witness as the bellwethers of greatest import. Of course, decolonization finds its ultimate test in the actual return of land and waters to precontact Indigenous who yet have feet on the ground or paddles in the waves, and who conjure dignity and vision in the manifold of their relations, in spite of ceaseless onslaught and dismissal. Their courage is the haunt these pages hallow like an Abel never entirely erased from the history. May the moaning stop and the re-creation begin!

S. LILY MENDOZA is Professor of Culture and Communication at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, and Executive Director of the Center for Babaylan Studies, a movement for decolonization and indigenization among diasporic Filipinos. Her publications include Between the Homeland and the Diaspora (2002; Philippine ed., 2006), and Back from the Crocodile’s Belly (coeditor, 2013; Philippine ed., 2015).

GEORGE ZACHARIAH is Wesley Lecturer in Theological Studies at the Trinity Methodist Theological College in Auckland, New Zealand. His publications include The Word Becoming Flesh (2021), Faith-Based Health Justice (coeditor, 2021), and Alternatives Unincorporated (2014).
Has liberation theology reached a dead end? Has the time come to propose another strategy of political resistance, one that considers and takes account of the complexity of power relationships in daily life? How can we explore the deeper meaning of freedom and liberation? This book begins with a reflection on the “failure” of social movements and revolutions and a review of the methodologies of liberation theologies. Offering a brand-new micro-political theology, it attempts to demonstrate how Michel Foucault can help us recognize the limitations of our standard definitions of liberation. Continuing Foucault’s critical engagement with desire, sexuality, and the body, this book opens a fresh dialogue between Althaus-Reid’s indecent theology, Latin American liberation theology, and radical orthodoxy, leading to an exploration of how that dialogue can remind us that spirituality and the transformative practice of the self can themselves be fully political. It also urges prayer as both the radical root of political resistance and its action.

YIN-AN CHEN

is research associate at Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide and lecturer of theology and Anglicanism in Taiwan. He received his MPhil in theology from Kent, an MA in Christian theology from Durham, and an MA in anthropology from National Taiwan University. He is interested in queer theology, political theology, and critical theory.

"Have we expected too much of ‘liberation’ in our pursuit of social justice? Has liberation theology fallen captive to the competition for who can speak for the most oppressed? In the most comprehensive engagement between Michel Foucault and liberation theology to date, the brilliant Yin-An Chen builds on Foucault’s micro-politics of resistance to help us rethink ascetic practice not as the renunciation of sexuality, desire, and the body, but a constant process of self-transformation.”

—Marcus Pound, Durham University

"When Liberation Theology gets indecent then the dualism of freedom and resistance comes to the fore. Toward a Micro-Political Theology introduces the reader to a fresh and non-Western reading of Foucault.”

—Michael Hoelzl, University of Manchester

"Chen’s book brings Foucault into conversations with liberation theologies, showing the ways Foucault’s analyses of power relations, sexuality, and subjectification can correct liberation theologies’ blind spots. Toward a Micro-Political Theology opens new avenues for thinking about social change and everyday resistance. I recommend it enthusiastically.”

—Kwok Pui-Ian, Candler School of Theology

"In this sharp review and analysis, Yin-An Chen separates the Foucauldian wheat from the faux-liberation tares, showing us what genuine resistance entails and how Foucault helps us imagine it. Full of fine distinctions, and the unsparing critiques that come with them, Toward a Micro-Political Theology first clears the ground of so much detritus piling up in Foucault’s wake and then recovers from the ashes something (self)transformative, a political spirituality.”

—Jonathan Tran, Baylor University

"In this highly insightful book, Yin-An Chen offers a rich micro-political theology that poses hard challenges to extant theologies of liberation. He shows that, to become most effective, liberation theologies should reflect on how subject-selves are constructed via spiritual practice, as a mode of resistance to capitalist accounts of subjectivity. Chen’s call for the development of individual yet simultaneously non-privatized subjectivity, through the dual lenses of resistance and desire, is original and compelling.”

—Susannah Cornwall, University of Exeter

YIN-AN CHEN is research associate at Cambridge Centre for Christianity Worldwide and lecturer of theology and Anglicanism in Taiwan. He received his MPhil in theology from Kent, an MA in Christian theology from Durham, and an MA in anthropology from National Taiwan University. He is interested in queer theology, political theology, and critical theory.
Imperial Pilgrims
A Theological Account of Augustine, Empire, and the “Just War on Terror”

SHAWN A. AGHAJAN

978-1-6667-0393-1 | 262 p. | $35

This book is an Augustinian interrogation of contemporary Christian accounts of empire, just war, and terrorism. Though Augustine’s voice has guided much of the Christian discourse in these conjoined arenas, it has not shielded his work from being misappropriated to serve ends that are inimical to his own. The US “war on terror” is the most recent and egregious example of violence that many theologians have unjustly baptized as “Augustinian.” By reading Augustine pastorally rather than merely polemically, this work offers a counter-narrative and an alternative praxis for the American Christian trying to reconcile her baptism with her citizenship.

“Augustine of Hippo thought empires always end up fighting endless wars. Shawn Aghajan, the son of an Iranian immigrant to the United States as well as the Prince of Peace, shows us how devastating it is that American defenders of Augustine’s political theology have ignored this insight. American Christians today must no longer evade asking how Christians come to defend and even love the violence endemic to being the ‘greatest nation on earth.’”

—Brian Brock, University of Aberdeen

“Shawn Aghajan gives us a new, insightful discussion of how to be Christian and also American. He offers new readings of St. Augustine that remind us: God alone is good, so no ‘side’ of American imperialism is going to create the promised land. Rather, Aghajan suggests that we take seriously Augustinian theology and practices that show a way to be Christian even in the midst of an imperial age.”

—Jana M. Bennett, University of Dayton

SHAWN A. AGHAJAN is a perpetual teacher and learner. He is currently honing both skills with his wife and four daughters from a small, industrial backwater within the empire.
Inasmuch as “sex” and “sexuality” are not words often spoken from pulpits and in academic theological circles, a vast number of utterances have been made in the name of so-called “Christian values” and “biblical views” on sex and sexuality. These are often given from moral-ethical perspectives, and seemingly very prescriptive: who should have sex with whom, when sex should take place, which purposes sex should serve—and especially, when sex is wrong. Moreover, often there is little or no recognition of the complexities surrounding human sexuality, resulting in what appears to be a blueprint for sexuality, applicable to all persons. This volume contains fourteen theological and ethical reflections by South African scholars on human sexuality, with the aim of exploring what a sexual reformation within Christian dialogue might entail. Presented in three sections—namely, systematic theological reflections, biblical reflections, and ethical reflections—the essays represent a range of topics from a variety of perspectives: Luther and marriage; sexual abuse in the Catholic Church; body theology and the sexual revolution; reproductive technologies, sexuality and reproduction; reproductive loss; hermeneutical choices and gender reformation in (South) Africa; queer engagements with “bra” Joseph; explorations on Paul and sex; rape culture and violent deities; the church’s moral authority and sexual ethics; practical-theological considerations regarding infertility; empirical research on masculinities in Zambia; and the lived experience of transgender people in African Independent Churches.

“Sexual Reformation? Theological and Ethical Reflections on Human Sexuality

EDITED BY
Manitza Kotzé, Nadia Marais, and Nina Müller van Velden

978-1-6667-0811-0 | 256 p. | $35

“The question mark already suggests the approach—this collection is offered not as answers but as calls to conversation, not as an argument from only one perspective but as different voices from diverse backgrounds and experiences. Together they ask whether these themes, often silent and invisible, are not perhaps more urgent, and these questions, sometimes unmasking, sometimes painful, not more challenging than many may seem to think.”

—Dirk J. Smit, Princeton Theological Seminary

“This volume of essays by a younger generation of South African theologians grapples with issues such as gender violence, reproductive issues, rape culture, queer identities, marriage, social media, the role of faith in public life, and social transformation. The book reflects the complex, multicultural context of the modern South African nation in fascinating ways but contains insights that transcend national and cultural borders. A must-have for the shelf of any ethicist!”

—Rachel S. Baard, Union Presbyterian Seminary

—Dion A. Forster, Stellenbosch University

MANITZA KOTZÉ is Associate Professor in Dogmatology, Unit for Reformed Theology and the Development of the South African Society at the Faculty of Theology, North-West University.

NADIA MARAIS is Senior Lecturer in Systematic Theology, Department of Systematic Theology and Ecclesiology at the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University.

NINA MÜLLER VAN VELDEN is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. Her research focus area is Ancient Texts at the Faculty of Theology, North-West University.
The COVID-19 era will be remembered not only for the tragic global public health crisis, but also for the continued police violence against persons of color, the courageous activism that continues to rise up to confront racialized violence in all its forms, and the perpetuation of white nationalist rhetoric from the highest government elected offices. Everywhere we look, we find trauma and pain, and we find resilience and resolve. This volume, featuring leading theological scholars and religious leaders, is rich in analysis of the plagues we are facing and equally rich in the resources, practices, and inspirations that will carry our efforts to build a more just world.


“Zachary Moon has gathered an intercultural assembly of scholars-practitioners to reflect on the most significant health crisis affecting the planet in the last one hundred years. This is a crisis of unmeasurable grief due to the loss of life and quality of life. Because violence is a common response to threat, people around the globe need better ways of understanding and coping with the uncertainties of the future. These scholars agree: theological reflection on life’s meaning is the way forward.”

—Lee H. Butler Jr., Phillips Theological Seminary
This anthology seeks to theorize a method of a radical, decolonial spiritual-care paradigm that can chart a new course in defining—or reframing—what is “spiritual,” what is theological, and what is “care.” Postcolonial Practices of Care presents voices of educators, chaplains, students, human-rights and disability activists, and other professionals to highlight the problems of disciplinary divides and binaries—such as pastoral/spiritual or ordinary/sacred. In focusing on the practices of care during the pandemic, the editors see their book as contributing to ongoing paradigm shifts and the importance of decoloniality as a method in the field of pastoral care.

The praxis of spiritual care addresses—and interrogates—the history of spiritual violence and its imbrication with modernity/coloniality, colonialism, racial capitalism, neoliberalism, and (conscious and unconscious) white Christian supremacy that constructed not only the pastoral and the spiritual but also its divide: the pastoral/spiritual. Such a framework focuses on “religious” difference without probing or critiquing how those differences have reified hierarchies of superiority or sustained ideologies of Euro-centric monocultural ethnocentrism. We want to emphasize the shared practices that bring us together as human beings on Earth rather than to prove we are better, or more unique, than one another.

“An aptly named project of togetherness during COVID-19 and racial violence, Postcolonial Practices of Care is a tour de force of examples of liberative spiritual practices of care. The essays argue that liberation is itself a spiritual practice; decolonizing spiritual care arises from collaborations and alliances in and through the margins imposed upon and in spite of Euro-American views of pastoral and spiritual care.”

—Susan Abraham, Pacific School of Religion

“Building on their earlier compilation, Moon and Lartey surpass their stated goals in this text by not only providing powerful, diverse examples of spiritual care but also caring through their transformative critique for the broken systems where those practices are so deeply needed.”

—Trace Haythorn, executive director, ACPE: The Standard for Spiritual Care and Education

HELENA MOON is part-time Assistant Professor at Kennesaw State University in the Interdisciplinary Studies Department. She is the co-editor of Postcolonial Images of Spiritual Care: Challenges of Care in a Neoliberal Age.

EMMANUEL Y. LARTEY is Charles Howard Candler Professor of Pastoral Theology and Spiritual Care at the Candler School of Theology and the Graduate Division of Religion at Emory University. He is the author of six books, including In Living Color: An Intercultural Approach to Pastoral Care and Counseling.
Moving into the Ecumenical Future
Foundations of a Paradigm for Christian Ethics
JOHN W. CROSSIN, OSFS

978-1-6667-3753-0 | Forthcoming

Moving into the Ecumenical Future identifies some necessary “foundations” of any paradigm for Ecumenical Ethics. It emphasizes the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the teaching and example of Jesus, biblical foundations, and pastoral relationships in developing paradigms for Ecumenical Ethics. The book suggests that virtue ethics is an important paradigm that includes these elements. The text explores how the Faith and Order “Tool,” Receptive Ecumenism, Differentiated Consensus, Internal Polarities, and Spiritual Discernment can be used to move toward moral consensus. The author calls for a national or international task force to explore these foundations in greater depth.

JOHN W. CROSSIN, OSFS is the former executive director, Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. His publications include four books related to virtue ethics.
Writing his Habilitationsschrift as a young man in the late 1950s, future Pontiff Joseph Ratzinger argues that, when St. Bonaventure composed his Collationes in Hexaëmeron in the spring of 1273, not since St. Augustine’s De Civitate Dei contra Paganos had the world seen such a ground-breaking work on the logos of history. Indeed, for Ratzinger’s Bonaventure, history is “first philosophy.” The thirteenth-century Franciscan rails against the widespread assumption, rooted the newly “rediscovered” Aristotle, of history’s unintelligibility. For Bonaventure, mythos mediates the difference between science and history, yielding a non-positivistic approach to the latter. Building on the dynamics of Plato’s Line, Boulter show that the days of creation, narrated by Bonaventure, structure both history and thought. Because, like a story, it has beginning and end, history as a whole can be grasped. Hence, eschatological knowledge of the end of the world is possible. Yet this work also shows how the false “progress myths” of modernity are counterfeit versions of true, spiritual advancement of the kind embodied by saints such as Francis and Bonaventure himself. What is the logos of history? It turns out that it is mythos.
It is widely recognized that Immanuel Kant was one of Karl Barth's most important intellectual influences, but how and to what extent this is the case remains an open question. In *Presupposing God*, Robert Hand demonstrates a deep consistency between Kant's and Barth's theological epistemologies, with this issue in mind. After arguing for a number of positive emphases in Kant's critical philosophy and religious epistemology in conversation with modern Kant scholarship, *Presupposing God* demonstrates how these emphases were obscured in Kant's reception in the decades between Kant and Barth, and then explores the intellectual conditions under which Barth first encountered Kant. The argument proceeds to show how Barth wrestled with these varying interpretations and continued to utilize Kant with increased sophistication as his thought developed across the Romans commentaries, *Anselm*, and the *Church Dogmatics*. *Presupposing God* suggests that Kant can be an asset to theology, rather than the liability he is often taken to be, and that Barth is one of the better available examples of this in practice.

"Among his readers, it has long been a truism that Barth was motivated by a desire to free theology from the epistemic straitjacket in which Kant had left it. Others have talked about Barth's relationship to Kant, but no one has confronted the question as directly, as clearly, and as convincingly as Robert Hand does here. This book is needed reading for anyone who wants to understand how Barth's theology developed and why he ended up where he did."

—Bruce Marshall, Southern Methodist University

"In this highly stimulating and original work, Hand makes a fresh contribution not only to Barth studies but also to our understanding of Kantian philosophical theology. With a deceptively light touch, he takes us through a thicket of diverging Kant interpretations before reaching his astonishing argument that Barth and Kant share many substantial elements of convergence. I expect this book to become a standard point of reference for any future discussion of Barth on the vexed question of our knowledge of God."

—George Hunsinger, Princeton Theological Seminary

"Robert Hand is convinced that Kant, with his 'robust, positive Christian theism,' was and still can be a positive influence for Christian thought, especially in the field of theological epistemology. Hand shows convincingly how Barth never completely let go of certain key traits of Kant's epistemology, even as he moved past Kant in his massive treatment on the knowledge of God and its utter dependence on God's own self-manifestation."

—Christophe Chalamet, University of Geneva

"This book brings together two unlikely bedfellows: Kant and Barth. Rather than pit them against one another, Hand suggests we rethink the relationship between these weighty figures, building a solid case for several distinctly Kantian epistemological themes that Barth continues to develop and use throughout his various works. Hand does a masterful job of analyzing a massive amount of literature, enhancing the scholarship on the theological thinking of these two prominent men."

—Mary L. Vanden Berg, Calvin Theological Seminary

Robert A. Hand teaches philosophy, ethics, and theology at LeTourneau University. He has also taught the history of Christianity and given guest lectures in philosophy at The University of Texas at Tyler. He is the author of *Since You Have Been Raised: Sermons and Addresses*.
Research in youth ministry has excelled and developed rapidly over the last four decades. Youth ministry is not just a church practice, but has become an emerging academic discipline, with a variety of methodological, theoretical, and contextual approaches. This academic handbook offers an assessment of contemporary youth ministry research to assist students doing bachelor, master, and doctoral research, and youth ministry scholars, in their studies of youth ministry. By examining youth ministry research through the lens of the following five fundamental questions, the reader is challenged to engage with state-of-the-art theory, methods, and findings from current youth ministry research:

- Who are the youth in youth ministry?
- Where is God in youth ministry?
- What is the purpose of youth ministry?
- Who is the youth minister in youth ministry?
- How to research practices in youth ministry?

The academic handbook is a must-read for everyone who is interested in systematic reflection on youth ministry and youth ministry research.

“The five questions posed in this ‘practice-orientated yet research-based handbook’ are a relevant and timely reminder to many varying contexts. It highlights that children too should be included in our youth ministry research. It reflects on scholarship within the REA, IAPT, and IASYM over two decades, making it an indispensable resource to those involved in youth ministry.”

—Shantelle Weber, president, International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry

Jos De Kock is Professor of Practical Theology at and Rector of Evangelische Theologische Faculteit (ETF), Leuven. He also coordinates the ETF Leuven Institute for the Study of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (ISREYM). His specializations are in the fields of Children & Youth, Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Empirical Research, Practical Theology, and Theological Education. From 2013-2019 he served as chief editor of Journal of Youth and Theology.

Bård Norheim is Professor of Theology at NLA University College in Bergen, Norway. From 2014-2022 he served as President of the Executive Committee of IASYM – the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry. He is the author of Practicing Baptism: Christian Practices and the Presence of Christ (2014) and The Four Speeches Every Leader Has to Know (2020, with Joar Haga).
This first volume in the proposed series will address some preliminary issues that are typical of a 'prolegomena' in any systematic theology. It will focus on the following question: 'How does the story of who the Triune God is and what this God does relate to the story of life on Earth?' Or: 'Is the Christian story part of the earth's story or is the earth's story part of God's story, from creation to consummation?' This raises many issues on the relatedness of religion and theology, the place of theology in multi-disciplinary collaboration, the notion of revelation, the possibility of knowledge of God, the interplay between convictions and narrative accounts, hermeneutics, the difference between natural theology and a theology of nature, and the role of science vis-à-vis indigenous worldviews.

ERNST M. CONRADIE is a senior professor in the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa. He works in the intersection between Christian ecotheology, systematic theology and ecumenical theology and comes from the Reformed tradition.

PAN-CHIU LAI is a professor in the Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. His research interests include interreligious dialogue, Christianity and Chinese culture, modern Christian thought, and environmental ethics.
Questions relating to (im)migration are among the most heated topics on both sides of the Atlantic. Western societies have changed dramatically because of large-scale immigration in the last decades. Christians are also engaged in the discussion, attempting to find direction from the biblical texts. Overwhelmingly, persons in leading positions (both in the secular world and in churches and faith-based organizations) support the concept of “welcoming the stranger.” The Bible is seen by them as urging us to open the borders as wide as we can. In the broader population, however, reservations remain. This book, written by a Bible professor who has witnessed mass-migration first-hand, both in Europe and in the U.S., and who has been a migrant himself for over twenty years, attempts to step back and look at the whole of the complex biblical witness, instead of cherry-picking passages that further a specific agenda. It also looks at the salient data on the ground, in the fields of psychology, demography, economy, and security—data that can no longer be ignored when trying to apply the Bible in a responsible way. The book demonstrates the shortcomings of the vast majority of biblical and theological publications on the issue of (im)migration and presents a comprehensive argument for the use of wisdom and caution, and against short-sighted and emotionally driven policies supporting open borders.

“Few issues in contemporary, especially Western, society engender as much impassioned debate as immigration. In this biblically assessed and nuanced accounting, Markus Zehnder provides a needed corrective to all one-sided and overly generalized treatments of the foreign ‘other.’ His analysis is clarifying, courageous, and contrarian. Readers appreciative of an alternative point of view will find this book comprehensive in scope, compelling in force, and circumspect in application.”

—David L. Matson, Hope International University

“Markus Zehnder is a cherished colleague, a top-tier, careful scholar, and a biblically faithful, fair-minded exegete. It is hard to overestimate the importance of his new book, The Bible and Immigration. It is never healthy for discussion of a significant cultural issue, especially one that engages God’s people, to be dominated by one side. So it is especially important for a person of Zehnder’s stature to provide a rigorous case for a position that is underrepresented. After reading this book, it is hard not to agree with Zehnder’s case. But for those who hold the dominant position, intellectual integrity now demands that they interact with Zehnder’s case. I highly recommend this work.”

—J. P. Moreland, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University

MARKUS ZEHNDER is Professor of Old Testament and Semitics at Talbot School of Theology, Professor of Old Testament at ETF Leuven (Belgium), and Professor of Biblical Studies at Ansgar Theological Seminary (Norway). He is the author of many publications on migration and on a vast range of other biblical and ethical topics.
The common misconception is that first came the church and then came the sacraments. The reality is that first came God’s grace and then came the church and then the church found visible ways to see the invisible grace God bestows. The resulting perspective shift puts Christ where Paul would have us put him, as the head of the church and author or our salvation. This book invites us to see and write about the sacraments not as mere band aids to the problems we face but as lenses for examining our church. Some of the authors delve deep into intellectual conceptions while others make plain what has always seemed so extravagant. The thread they all hold onto however is the desire to help the reader see sacramentality as something wonderful rather than archaic; and to find deep value for sacramentality and the visible signs of God’s invisible grace.

“This compelling volume asks and answers profound questions about both God’s sacramental nature and how that same sacramentality is the only abiding, Christian way to experience creation. In the process, these dynamic essays challenge us to fulfil our original responsibilities to God’s kingdom by living and believing sacramentally. It is hard to think of a better collection of essays centered upon these urgent issues facing today’s church.”

—Gareth Jones, Charles Sturt University

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—Ryan Nicholas Danker, director, The John Wesley Institute

Markham and Means-Koss are to be commended for putting together this broad-ranging, ecumenical volume on the real-life repercussions of sacramental faith; exploring from new angles and with new eyes what it means for life and practice that the Word continues to dwell among us. Sometimes provocative. Always thoughtful. Highly recommended.”

—Frank T. Griswold, former presiding bishop, Episcopal Church

“The authors of this challenging and provocative collection of essays, coming from different traditions and perspectives, offer a multidimensional understanding of sacrament and sacramentality which serves as a critique and a summons to a new consciousness and way of being in a sacramental world. There is so much in these pages to ‘mark, learn, and inwardly digest,’ and I hope they will be widely read and produce much fruit.”

—Frank T. Griswold, former presiding bishop, Episcopal Church

THE VERY REV IAN S. MARKHAM is the dean of Virginia Theological Seminary and professor of theology and ethics. He is a priest associate at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Alexandria, VA.

JEREMY MEANS-KOSS is the Priest-in-Charge of St. Peter’s and St. James’ Episcopal Churches in southwestern Vermont. He holds degrees from Wesley Theological Seminary, King’s College London and American University and earned his Certificate of Anglican Studies from Virginia Theological Seminary. He has also held numerous roles in students affairs/higher education.
Cosmology, anthropology, and Christology are deeply interrelated. This implies that one cannot talk about the structure of the world without human presence in it, as well as it is impossible to produce any reasonable understanding of humanity without positioning it in the universe. In the same fashion, in order to comprehend where the human capacity of predicating the universe comes from, one needs to appeal to humanity’s Divine Image, that is, to its archetype in the incarnate Christ. Whereas Christians traditionally believe that the human phenomenon is unique as created in the Divine Image, such scientific disciplines as evolutionary biology, palaeoanthropology, the sciences of artificial intelligence, psychology, and others, challenge the vision of humanity as a unique formation thus challenging the doctrine of Imago Dei. All these disciplines place humans in a mediocre position in the world accompanied by the feeling of anxiety, insecurity, and non-attunement to the universe. Theology needs to respond to these challenges by incorporating into its scope the data from the sciences in order to neutralize such anxieties. The resulting dialogue of theology with science provides a hermeneutics of the human condition with no objective to change the latter. Then the sense of the universe is disclosed from within the Divine Image reflecting the predicaments of the human created condition.

According to hybrid physicist and theologian Alexei Nesteruk, the dialogue between science and theology is an expected expression of human existential consciousness. That consciousness, in its depth, derives from the hypostatic union in Jesus Christ. Yes, our cosmos is Christ centered, whether we can see this fact through telescopes or not. Nesteruk’s treatment takes twists and turns that are as exciting as they are unpredictable.”

—Ted Peters, Coeditor, Theology and Science

“Interestingly, it is extremely hard to find writings on science and theology that have an explicitly detectable theological value. Nesteruk’s The Universe in the Image of Imago Dei is a valuable exception. Anyone following the work of Alexei Nesteruk will recognize the signs of a genuine theological work which represents the highest point of his lifelong dedication to this topic.”

—Stoyan Tanev, Carleton University

ALEXEI V. NESTERUK is a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Portsmouth (UK) and a Leading Research Scientist at St Petersburg State Marine Technical University (Russia). He holds a PhD in physics and mathematics, as well as a DSc in philosophy. He is the author of Light from the East (2003), The Universe as Communion (2008), and The Sense of the Universe (2015).
The Autism of Gxd: An Atheological Love Story
RUTH M. DUNSTER

978-1-7252-6835-7 | 424 p. | $49

The Autism of Gxd: An Atheological Love Story is truly a love story—the story of Ruth Dunster’s autistic search for an authentic, personal, and theological “Gxd.” In this, it resembles Augustine’s Confessions, as a theological autobiography. It becomes atheological, however, as Dunster reckons with what Denys Turner terms “The Darkness of God.” This awareness leads her through the poetry of Medieval mystics to the mythic “death of God” theology of Thomas J. J. Altizer. The search for faith is nonetheless very real in this strange territory. Dunster hears her autistic Gxd speaking in art, poetry, novels, and music; and this further leads her into the territory of Literature, Theology, and the Arts, where, in Blanchot’s words, “the answer is the poem’s absence.” Indeed, Dunster calls the book “a strange poem, or even a hymn.” Weaving an autistic mythology out of a rigorous survey of clinical autism, this book abounds in challenge and paradox. It offers a fascinating view into how an autistic poet becomes a theologian; and what more mainstream theologies might learn from this “disabled Gxd.”

“This book is about two great mysteries—God and that human condition which we call autism—and how they are linked. As we read this extraordinary work, our narrow band of social normality and comprehension is expanded and we are called to be attentive to new, broader, and more profound ways of seeing and knowing.”
—David Jasper, University of Glasgow

“This book is a leading light within the growing area of theology and autism. This book is fascinating, deep, challenging, and revealing. When you put it down, you see both theology and autism in a different light. That is no small gift. This work is an important addition to the field.”
—John Swinton, King’s College University of Aberdeen

RUTH M. DUNSTER, a poet, teacher, and theologian, was diagnosed with autism in her forties. Her theological journey has been, firstly, to liberate herself from theologies which have failed her, and secondly, to make sense of the hidden autism in her own work. She continues to research autism, theology, and the poetics of theology, and to suggest ways in which mainstream theologies can learn from marginal spaces. She is most comfortable describing herself as an atheologian. She lives in the Highlands of Scotland.
Artificial intelligence is rapidly and radically changing our lives and world. This book is a multidisciplinary engagement with the present and future impacts of AI from the standpoint of Christian faith. It provides technological, philosophical, and theological foundations for thinking about AI, as well as a series of reflections on the impact of AI on relationships, behavior, education, work, and moral action. The book serves as an accessible introduction to AI as well as a guide to wise consideration, design, and use of AI by examining foundational understandings and beliefs from a Christian perspective.

MICHAEL J. PAULUS JR. is Dean of the Library, Assistant Provost for Educational Technology, and Associate Professor of Information Studies at Seattle Pacific University.

MICHAEL D. LANGFORD is Professor of Theology, Discipleship, and Ministry at Seattle Pacific University and Seattle Pacific Seminary.
Imagination in an Age of Crisis
Soundings from the Arts and Theology
EDITED BY JASON GORONCY AND ROD PATTENDEN

978-1-6667-0688-8 | 372 p. | $52

This book explores the vital role of the imagination in today’s complex climates—cultural, environmental, political, racial, religious, spiritual, intellectual, etc. It asks: What contribution do the arts make in a world facing the impacts of globalism, climate change, pandemics, and losses of culture? What wisdom and insight, and orientation for birthing hope and action in the world, do the arts offer to religious faith and to theological reflection?

These essays, poems, and short reflections—written by art practitioners and academics from a diversity of cultures and religious traditions—demonstrate the complex cross-cultural nature of this conversation, examining critical questions in dialogue with various art forms and practices, and offering a way of understanding how the human imagination is formed, sustained, employed, and expanded. Marked by beauty and wonder, as well as incisive critique, it is a unique collection that brings unexpected voices into a global conversation about imagining human futures.

“This is an extraordinarily energetic—and imaginative!—collection of essays and artistic initiatives. It is, in multiple senses, a collection ‘for our time,’ and opens up a range of fresh futures for the ever-growing interchange between theology and the arts.”

—Jeremy Begbie, Duke University

“This remarkable collection of pieces succeeds in showing how imagination can create alternative modes of living and being at a time of crisis. Jason Goroncy’s opening contribution, claiming a place for revelation, or ‘fresh vision,’ in both art and theology, impressively sets the tone for what follows, where the editors skillfully bring together practitioners and theorists to demonstrate convincingly how imagination is formed and offers hope for our future.”

—Paul Fiddes, University of Oxford

“Goroncy and Pattenden have assembled a remarkable collection of reflections on the power of the imagination to instill hope and meaning in disturbing times. . . . This volume is a breath of fresh air. It will leave the reader with an abiding sense of what it means to be a human being in a world beloved of God.”

—Stephen Pickard, Charles Sturt University

“This is an extraordinarily energetic—and imaginative!—collection of essays and artistic initiatives. It is, in multiple senses, a collection ‘for our time,’ and opens up a range of fresh futures for the ever-growing interchange between theology and the arts.”

—Jane Foulcher, Charles Sturt University

“This impressive collection ranges widely in its offering of imaginative responses to threat and suffering. Some deeply affecting presentations of poetry and visual art are set alongside more conventional theological reflection on figures as diverse as Samuel Beckett and Ai Weiwei, or Aboriginal art and African American folk religion. Best digested gradually, it provides a rich feast of insights along the way.”

—David Brown, University of St Andrews

JASON GORONCY is associate professor of theology in the University of Divinity, Australia.

ROD PATTENDEN is an adjunct fellow with the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture.
Theologies are constructed in and from lived contexts, and contexts are shaped by borders. While borders are barriers, they are also steppingstones for crossing over and invitations for moving further. This book offers theological and cultural reflections from the intersections of borders (real and imagined), bodies (physical, cultural, religious, ideological, political), and voices (that endorse as well as talk back). With and in the interests of natives and migrants, the authors of this book embrace bordered bodies and stir bothered voices.

The essays are divided into four overlapping clusters that express the shared drives between the authors—Noble borders: some borders are not experienced as constricting because they are seen as noble; Negotiating bodies: bodies constantly negotiate and relocate borders; Troubling voices: bothered voices cannot be muted or silenced; Riotous bodies: embracing the wisdom in and of rejected and wounded bodies is a riot that this book invites. The authors engage their subjects out of their experiences as migrants and natives. This book is thus a step toward—and an invitation for more work on—migrant and native theologies.

““This book is not your usual meaningless theological waffle but contains real lived theologies from world-class migrant and indigenous theologians plying their trade mainly in White Australia to articulate borders and barriers faced by their communities in daily life. They have spoken, and this indigenous theologian recommends that you listen.”
—Wayne Te Kaawa, University of Otago

“The creative title and thought-provoking cover of this book draw us into the immersive question of borders, bodies, and voices in theological space. Prepare to be challenged by words, images, word pictures, and glimpses of the divine waters as the talaamo'a unfolds and theology is called to account.”
—Anna Kasafi Perkins, University of the West Indies

“We owe Jione Havea a huge debt for bringing together the voices of Polynesian theologians, too long silenced and marginalized, to help us interrogate, cross, negotiate, or erase all kinds of borders that separate humans. I strongly recommend this book to those who wish to hear theological voices spoken from distant places and unfamiliar cultures.”
—Peter C. Phan, Georgetown University

““These imaginative essays interrogate our borders and boundaries, challenging some while affirming others. This is a book for those who engage theology in and for the liminal spaces. A book for those who look for expanding theological circles rather than controlling boxes. A book for theology that wants to breathe.”
—Peter Walker, United Theological College, Charles Sturt University

“This timely book unravels our usual understanding of bodies and borders by exploring the interstitial space between migrants and natives, cultural myths and biblical narratives, Christianity and colonialism, and memory and dreams. Weaving many voices from various contexts, this text showcases exciting theological explorations, especially from the South Pacific. I enthusiastically recommend it.”
—Kwok Pui-lan, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

JIONE HAVEA is a migrant to the unceded Wurundjeri land and waters, a native pastor (Methodist Church in Tonga), and a research fellow with Trinity Theological College (Aotearoa) and with Centre for Public and Contextual Theology (Charles Sturt University, Australia). Jione authored Losing Ground: Reading Ruth in the Pacific (2021) and edited MEDIAting Theology (2021), Doing Theology in the New Normal (2021), and Theologies from the Pacific (2021).
Motown Evangelization
Sharing the Gospel of Jesus in a Detroit Style

EDITED BY JOHN C. CAVADINI AND DONALD WALLENFANG

978-1-6667-0781-6 | 212 p. | $30

What happens when “the rubber meets the road” for Catholic evangelization? Motown evangelization—an evangelization with wheels, an evangelization on the go, an evangelization with soul! Featuring contributions by several of the leading scholars on Catholic evangelization in the twenty-first century, Motown Evangelization: Sharing the Gospel of Jesus in a Detroit Style invites the reader to contemplate the meaning of the New Evangelization within the disorienting context of the postmodern and post-pandemic world of today. Numerous central themes are treated throughout the book’s potent chapters: the charity of Christ, the urgency of evangelization, redemptive suffering, liturgical sacrifice, the Black Catholic experience, parish life, the communion of saints, contemplative prayer, and practical suggestions for sharing the gospel of Jesus with friends and strangers alike. Tracing the contours of evangelization as at once merciful, urgent, sacrificial, diverse, and sanctifying, this book opens to the world with hope and healing. While oftentimes evangelization can stagnate in wishful thinking with little follow-through, Motown Evangelization encourages the reader to press on toward the finish line of faith wherein the end is the beginning, and the beginning is the end. It is because of the paradoxical twists that flood the life and teachings of Jesus that evangelization is ever old and ever new. Motown Evangelization will help to empower its reader to share the gospel of Jesus with renewed vigor and vitality.

JOHN C. CAVADINI is the McGrath-Cavadini Director of the Institute for Church Life and Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He is the author and editor of several books, including Gift to the Church and World (Pickwick, 2021), Visioning Augustine (Wiley-Blackwell, 2019), Pope Francis and the Event of Encounter (Pickwick, 2018), Mary on the Eve of the Second Vatican Council (Notre Dame, 2017), and Explorations in the Theology of Benedict XVI (Notre Dame, 2012).

DONALD WALLENFANG, OCDS, Emmanuel Mary of the Cross, is Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. He is the author and editor of several books, including Shoeless: Carmelite Spirituality in a Disquieted World (Wipf & Stock, 2021), Phenomenology: A Basic Introduction in the Light of Jesus Christ (Cascade, 2019), Metaphysics: A Basic Introduction in a Christian Key (Cascade, 2019), Human and Divine Being: A Study on the Theological Anthropology of Edith Stein (Cascade, 2017), and Dialectical Anatomy of the Eucharist: An Étude in Phenomenology (Cascade, 2017).
The recognition of the intersection of faith and culture has become a significant trend in contemporary theology. Cultures are locations of divine activity. The Sacramental Theology of Elochukwu Uzukwu in Light of Vatican II and Its Application in African Context brings freshness to the dominant Catholic sacramental thinking by offering an African appropriation of the Christian faith through African cultures. It demonstrates the historical interaction of the Christian faith with multiple anthropologies that resonates with different peoples to celebrate rituals that convey divine activity. This work engages the theology of Elochukwu Uzukwu, a recent African sacramental/liturgical theologian whose work reflects the elements of sacramental and liturgical renewal of the Second Vatican Council, especially in its openness to a plurality of cultures. This book retrieves resources from the African universe to offer a contextual appropriation of the interface between faith and African cultures. It highlights the African view of the body in its expressive worship and significance of relationality as an undergirding existential philosophy of life.

Consequently, it offers a flexible theological methodology that avoids polarities. It provides an additional resource to the philosophical and theological approach to the perennial problem of duality and theologies constructed on this template. This study moves beyond monocultural sacramental expression to engage symbols and indigenous resources to articulate an African sacramental theology.

“Faith and Culture
Elochukwu Uzukwu and the Making of an African Sacramental Theology
AFRICAN CHRISTIAN STUDIES SERIES
EMMANUEL OSIGWE
978-1-6667-1000-7 | Forthcoming

“His careful treatment of Uzukwu’s insights invites the reader to understand the capaciousness of African theology. . . . Scholars working in the areas of pneumatology, sacramentology, liturgy, and ecclesiology will no doubt find a challenging rethinking of the human encounter with the divine.”
—Rufus Burnett Jr., Fordham University

“Emmanuel Osigwe has made a decisive case for the need to critically engage Elochukwu Uzukwu’s work on the inculturation of Catholicism in Africa. He demonstrates with compassionate zeal why African theological perspectives matter in current efforts to institutionalize inculturation. . . . This is a refreshing contribution on the intersection of anthropology and theology.”
—Jude Fokwang, Regis University

REVEREND EMMANUEL OSIGWE obtained a PhD in Systematic Theology from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He serves at Sacred Heart of Mary and Saint Martin de Porres Church in Boulder. He also serves as an adjunct lecturer at Saint John Vianney Seminary, Denver.
Tolkien is one of our most beloved fantasy writers. Such was the power of his imagination that much has been written on his invented world, languages, and myth. This book is an invitation to tread the paths of Tolkien’s realm, exploring three regions of his work: language, myth, and imagination. We will be looking for a path leading to a summit from where we can view Tolkien’s whole realm. Yannick Imbert argues that we can gain such a view only if we understand Tolkien’s philosophical theology, his Thomism. To attain this vantage point and better understand the genius of his Middle Earth, readers journey with Tolkien through his academic, personal, and theological milieu, which together formed his Thomistic imagination.

“Imbert’s excellent book is one of the most thoroughgoing studies of the depth and breadth of Tolkien’s philosophy of myth and the theological underpinnings of poiesis that I’ve ever read. It’s a must-read for any serious scholar of Tolkien’s work.”
—Joseph Pearce, author of Tolkien: Man and Myth

“This loving treatment of Tolkien’s unifying theological vision is desperately needed. . . . I hope Imbert’s book is widely read and enjoyed. His work on Tolkien’s theory of language is especially needed in today’s academy. For Imbert, and for Tolkien, of course, the true power of words is their ability to cast good spells that can imaginatively enchant us with realities that are true, good, and beautiful.”
—C. R. Wiley, author of In the House of Tom Bombadil
Why do many popular songs positively reference God if our culture is widely viewed as secular? Why is it a challenge to tell the Christian story when many say they are spiritual and believe in God? Why do we draw so much meaning from the popular songs we listen to? And might a deeper understanding of popular-music culture help us to explore the bigger stories we listen to throughout our lives, such as the Christian story? Primarily using Zygmunt Bauman’s understanding of “liquid modernity” we look at the social forces that shape Western society and consider why, while many are looking for “authentic,” ontologically based stories to understand their life experiences, historic providers of the big stories that shape our lives, such as the church, favor a different, epistemological way of telling them. How do these different approaches to storytelling affect their reception and what insight might we draw from that? Whilst this book is written primarily with those in Christian ministry in mind, it will be of interest, too, to those who use music to explore life experiences through their work, who are interested in the social forces that shape society, or who simply enjoy listening to popular music.

“Why is it a challenge to tell the Christian story when many say they are spiritual and believe in God?”

—Christopher Partridge, Professor of Religious Studies, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

“This is an enjoyable, thought-provoking, intelligent, and lucid analysis of the significance of popular music in everyday life. As such, it is not simply another book about Christianity and contemporary culture. Rather, Restless is an important contribution to applied theology, popular music studies, and the sociology of religion. Of particular value is the engaging analysis of the relationship between popular music and identity construction. This is a fine study that deserves a wide readership.”

—Jonny Baker, Director of Mission Education, Church Mission Society

**DAVID J. GILLARD** has been a vicar in the Church of England for over twenty years, is involved in theological education, and has a strong interest in both the missiology of the church and the importance of valuing our popular cultures.
This volume represents a significant advance of the philosophical and theological conversation surrounding Molinism. It opens by arguing that Molinism constitutes the best explanation of the scriptural data on divine sovereignty, human freedom, predestination, grace, and God’s salvific will. The alleged biblical prooftexts for open theism are better explained, according to Kirk MacGregor, by Molinism. Responding to philosophical critics of Molinism, MacGregor offers a novel solution to the well-known grounding objection and a robust critique of arguments from explanatory priority. He also presents a Molinist interpretation of branching time models as heuristic illustrations of the relationship between possibility and feasibility. Seeking to push Molinism into new territories, MacGregor furnishes a Molinist account of sacred music, according to which music plays a powerful apologetic function. Finally, regarding the nature of hell, MacGregor contends that Molinism is compatible with both eternalism and eventual universalism.

KIRK R. MACGREGOR is associate professor of philosophy and religion and department chair at McPherson College. He is the author of Luis de Molina: The Life and Theology of the Founder of Middle Knowledge (2015) and A Molinist-Anabaptist Systematic Theology (2007), and he is co-editor of Calvinism and Middle Knowledge: A Conversation (2019).
This book presents a third way to envision the Creatorship of the Triune God who is both compassionate and eschatologically redemptive in providential presence, rather than biasedly gravitating toward the openness of a self-limiting God or God’s all-determining sovereignty. Not only is God in, with, and under creation, God’s kenotic presence invites creatures to participate in the self-giving love of God through both general and special divine action in a top-down-through-bottom-up mode. Creatio continua is God’s own journey of fulfilling the eschatological promise for creation. This redemptive presence of God in creation is a Trinitarian co-protesting against the power of death, sin, and evil, considering the cosmic dimensions of the eschatological hope promised in the resurrection of Jesus. The new creation is the ultimate fulfillment of creaturely freedom and contingency divinely granted in creatio ex nihilo. In arguing this, Shin engages in a comparative and critical study of natural and cosmic theodicy advanced by Catherine Keller, Arthur Peacocke, Wolfhart Pannenberg, and Robert Russell.

“In this profound and engaging work, Jongseock Shin makes a significant and fresh contribution to our understanding of God’s action and relationship to the world, especially in light of contemporary science and leading theological voices. The scope of his research, and Shin’s familiarity with the literature, is profound and even stunning. If you want to encounter the cutting edge of scientifically informed theology, read this book.”
—Greg Cootsona, California State University

“It’s high time the kenotic creationist theologians undergo a critical analysis and are met by a constructive emendation. Jongseock Shin describes a God of pathetic pain-sharing immanence. God does not withdraw redemptive power. Rather, God’s power fulfills the eschatological promise through a soteriological process.”
—Ted Peters, coeditor, Theology and Science

Jongseock James Shin earned his PhD in systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2020. He has published peer-reviewed articles in scholarly journals, such as Pneuma, Die Zeitschrift für Systematische Theologie und Religionsphilosophie, and The Evangelical Review of Theology and Politics. In the writings, he discussed the subjects of reconstructing the doctrine of creation in an age of science and the church’s public roles in society. He has also authored a chapter on cosmic pneumatology and the problem of suffering for T&T Clark Handbook of the Problem of Suffering (forthcoming). He is currently serving as an Assistant Director of Academics at AEU, located in Gardena, California. He is also an adjunct professor of systematic theology at Fuller Theological Seminary.
The most crucial task facing Christian theology today is the furtherance of dialogue with the religious traditions of the world great and small and with the scientific worldview. The starting premise of this book is that the two dialogues need to be carried on simultaneously and equiprimordially, despite the risk of undermining the traditional foundations of the Christian faith. The author argues that such a crisis can be averted by breaking through its core and opening faith to an experience of nothingness. He draws on the Buddhist philosophy of the Kyoto School philosopher Nishitani Keiji to propose new paths toward a theology of religious pluralism grounded in a Huayan Buddhist vision of reality.

SEUNG CHUL KIM received his Dr.Theol. from the University of Basel in 1989 and taught in Korea and Japan for twenty years before joining the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture in Nagoya, Japan, where he has been Director since 2016. In addition to over twenty volumes of translations on inter-religious dialogue, literature, and the natural sciences, he has published numerous works in Japanese and Korean. A recent work, Endō Shūsaku and the Detective Novel (in Japanese), received the 2020 award of the Japan Society of Mystery Writers.

“Professor Kim, in this serene and seasoned book, offers prolegomena to any future theology. Knocking on the doors of confessional bunkers, he urges that theology, if it wants to have a future, must open its horizons still more widely. . . Writing in the broad liberal tradition of Ernst Troeltsch and Paul Tillich, Professor Kim reveals the attractive modern face of Asian Christianity.”
—Joseph S. O’Leary, Sophia University

“This book calls into question the historical Christian approach to the relation between religion and science. Other religious traditions are considered inferior to the way that science supports the belief system of Christianity. Why not try the non-dual approach to world religions where each needs the other to be authentically itself?”
—Joseph A. Bracken, SJ, Xavier University, emeritus
Marilyn McCord Adams (1943–2017) was a world-renowned philosopher, a theologian who forever changed conversations about God and evil, a compelling preacher, and a fierce advocate for the full belonging of LGBTQ+ people, especially in churches. Over the course of her career, she mentored philosophers, theologians, pastors, and activists. In this book, authors from each of these fields engage and expand upon McCord Adams's work. Chapters address theodicy and the Holocaust, the nature and limits of human free will, sexual violence, Trinitarian relations, beatific vision, friendship, climate change, and how to protest heterosexism with truth, humor, and cookies. Examples of McCord Adams's revised Episcopal liturgies—previously unpublished—are used to affirm the expansive love of God. Accessible and varied, these essays attest to McCord Adams's vocational integration, as she claimed and proclaimed God's goodness in her different professional roles.
Global challenges fill the news today. It’s not always easy to balance fear with hope. That’s why this book points to resources for optimism and action. A diverse group of scholars draw on Jewish, Christian, Islamic, and Māori traditions to describe challenges and hopes. They recognize the ruptures of militarism, trauma, colonialism, religious nationalism, climate change, and more. But they also describe the healing power of communal action, spiritual practices, biblical literature, and the arts.

LAURA DUHAN-KAPLAN is director of inter-religious studies and professor of Jewish studies at Vancouver School of Theology. She is author of Mouth of the Donkey: Re-imagining Biblical Animals (2021).

ANNE-MARIE ELLITHORPE is research associate at Vancouver School of Theology and co-chair of the Religious Reflections on Friendship unit of the American Academy of Religion. She is author of Towards Friendship-Shaped Communities: A Practical Theology of Friendship (2022).

HARRY O. MAIER is professor of New Testament and early Christian studies at Vancouver School of Theology, and research fellow at the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies at the University of Erfurt, Germany. He is author of Apocalypse Recalled: The Book of Revelation after Christendom (2004).

“Step right up and marvel at the kaleidoscopic range of approaches to ‘the end’ found in this book! From ancient prophecy to the music of Metallica, from Western urban intellectuals to indigenous visionaries, this fabulous collection invites readers of all kinds to be intrigued and even inspired by the ways ‘the end’ generates art and ideas that challenge the status quo in many times and places. Highly recommended!”

—Wes Howard-Brook, co-author, Unveiling Empire: Reading Revelation Then and Now

“The essays in this book invite the reader into diverse visions of end times. They show that we are not the first to face overwhelming challenge, and so offer us the company of the past. And more importantly, they show how others have found hope and inspiration in the midst of chaos, and suggest ways that we too may act with hope in our own time of crisis.”

—Mari Joerstad, Vancouver School of Theology

“Dedicated ‘To a hopeful future,’ this anthology brings together art, music, interreligious insights, biblical theology, and more, to help us embrace the future. Countering negative end-times visions so prevalent in our culture, these interdisciplinary scholars show the spiritual power of apocalyptic urgency and imaginative hope for life on Earth. This is a wonderful book!”

—Barbara Rossing, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
The assortment of political views held by Baptists was as diverse as any other denomination in the early United States, but they were bound together by a fundamental belief in the inviolability of the individual conscience in matters of faith. In a nation where civil government and religion were inextricable, and in states where citizens were still born into the local parish church, the doctrine of believer’s baptism was an inescapably political idea. As a result, historians have long acknowledged that Baptists in the early republic were driven by their pursuit of religious liberty, even partnering with those who did not share their beliefs. However, what has not been as well documented is the complexity and conflict with which Baptists carried out their Jeffersonian project. Just as they disagreed on seemingly everything else, Baptists did not always define religious liberty in quite the same way.

Let Men Be Free offers the first comprehensive look into Baptist politics in the early United States, examining how different groups and different generations attempted to separate church from state and how this determined the future of the denomination and indeed the nation itself.

“Baptists are (in)famous for their participation in American politics, but exploration of their variegated political views is relatively thin. Obbie Tyler Todd addresses this gap in his latest book, Let Men Be Free. This is an important work for understanding the philosophies and theologies that led Baptists to champion particular political solutions for the young republic.”
—Matthew Y. Emerson, Oklahoma Baptist University

“This fascinating book shows how religious freedom shaped both Baptist churchmanship and Baptist citizenship during the early years of the republic. Deeply researched and well written, Let Men Be Free is a superb contribution to Baptist history and American studies. Enthusiastically recommended!”
—Timothy George, Samford University

“Let Men Be Free is an impressive work of historical scholarship. Obbie Tyler Todd ably demonstrates how the historic Baptist commitment to soul freedom animated Baptist political engagement during the early republic. Along the way, white Baptists moved from the periphery of persecuted dissenters to center of antebellum American evangelicalism. This is the sort of monograph that will inspire a flurry of scholarly articles and doctoral dissertations. Highly recommended.”
—Nathan A. Finn, North Greenville University

“Obbie Tyler Todd effectively documents both the central concerns of Baptist politics in the early American republic and the diversity within the movement. I particularly appreciated his treatment of the Baptist Federalists. This is an important book for understanding not just Baptist history but American history, as Baptists did much to shape the nation from its founding through the nineteenth century.”
—Jonathan Den Hartog, Samford University

“Working within the long tradition of scholar-pastors, Obie Tyler Todd shows in this well-researched and elegantly written book that from the earliest decades of US history, Baptists have been all over the place politically. There were patriots and loyalists, elitists and populists, (Jeffersonian) Republicans and Federalists, supporters of slavery and abolitionists, Christian nationalists and dissenting prophets, outsiders, insiders, and everything in between. This is a good read and a welcome contribution to Baptist history.”
—Barry Hankins, Baylor University

OBbie Tyler Todd is pastor of Third Baptist Church of Marion, Illinois and adjunct professor of theology at Luther Rice College & Seminary in Lithonia, Georgia.
Given the consistent challenge of Islamist acute violence, particularly in Nigeria, this monograph attempts to respond to the question: How can Jesus’s followers pattern response to violence after Jesus’s model demonstrated in his triumph over death, evil, sin, and violence through staurocentric pathways? And how can Jesus’s followers in Nigeria adopt the same staurocentric model in order to not only overcome acute violence within the country but also to extend hands, heads, hearts, and homes of staurocentric forgiveness, hospitality, and other practices toward Muslims? In this study, I posit that peacebuilding contextual theology be grounded on the mystery of the cross (σταυρός—stauros)—a theologico-theoretical framework that the church in Nigeria should espouse in order to position herself to extend hands, heads, hearts, and homes of staurocentric practices, whose appropriation must be undertaken through constructive and critical integration of the God-given African peacebuilding concepts autochthonous to Africa’s mosaic cultural contexts. The pivotal thesis is that the staurocentric model remains the triune God’s instrument for triumphing over violence, and thus should be espoused by Jesus’s followers in every era and context for peacebuilding in contexts of violence through a triadic constructive and critical integration of indigenous peacebuilding concepts.

“Anyanwu’s innovative and bold investigation into the conditions and promise of peace and reconciliation between people of different faith traditions in his beloved native land of Nigeria is a groundbreaking contribution to missiology and theology. Drawing from interdisciplinary and interfaith resources combined with an astute pastoral and missional experience, this cross-directed discussion will inform and inspire both academicians and practitioners in our fractured and conflict-laden world.”
—Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Fuller Theological Seminary

“In this outstanding dissertation and worthy publication, Anyanwu combines his practical experience in Northern Nigeria with local cultural resources and reflection on both the Bible and the Qu’ran to build a convincing model for the Christian peacebuilding that is so urgently needed there.”
—Kirsteen Kim, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Responses of Christians in coercive polities are often painfully emotional. It is especially noteworthy, therefore, when exceptions appear proposing peace. This is one such work by a Nigerian author. It draws readers’ attention to ideas native to the diverse ethnolinguistic context of Nigeria and applies them to christological pathways toward peace building. Its value is not just in contrib-
uting to the theoretical domain of theology but also to Christian practice and witness in violent contexts.”
—David Emmanuel Singh, Oxford Centre for Mission Studies

“Anyanwu’s detailed exposition of staurocentric theology is a splendid examination of the wonders and workings of contextual theology, especially for engaging a context that is rife with conflicts and chaos. . . . His analysis is interdisciplinary, thorough, and rigorous. I warmly recommend it to scholars and students that are interested in the future of the Nigerian state. The book masterfully demonstrates that the Spirit transcends the rigid strictures of dogma and redundancy.”
—Akintunde E. Akinade, Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University in Qatar

UCHENNA D. ANYANWU is a missiologist and an ordained Anglican minister. One of his peer-reviewed articles, "Pneumatological Considerations for Christian-Muslim Peacebuilding Engagement," appeared in Pneuma 40.3 (2018).
The Ascent to God
Divine Theosis Revealed and Realized in the Teaching of John Paul II
THOMAS P. KUFFEL AND NANCY CAROL JAMES

Called as pope, St. John Paul II emerged onto St. Peter’s balcony proclaiming, “Do not be afraid!” What theology and mystery inspired this surprising proclamation? John Paul II’s quest for holiness was grounded in the mystical insight that we participate in God. We seek the Beatific Vision, the Face of God, through which we are transformed in theosis or divinization. This infusion of grace perfects and unites us.

In this book readers will find engaging theology intermixed with spiritual direction and lectio divina meditations. Utilizing Aquinas’ method of scriptural interpretation, we are offered ways of seeking spiritual fulfillment to behold the Beatific Vision.

Fr. Tom Kuffel shares personal experiences from his time studying and working in Rome, Nebraska, and Alaska. Reflecting on his own priesthood, his fascinating narratives encourage our own spiritual growth. Readers find fresh ways of engaging Scripture through St. John Paul II’s New Pentecost, encouraging new interpretations of Vatican II.

“Father Thomas Kuffel (and Nancy Carol James) expertly weaves together insights from the patriarchs, sacred Scripture, writings of the saints, and his own personal experience, bringing to the forefront God’s endless pursuit of humanity through goodness, beauty, and truth…. Father Kuffel calls us to live lives of love and holiness, not alone but in community—the great communio personarum with God and man.”

—Cecilia Ann Rezac, MS, Vicar General of the Marian Sisters

“God’s divine life dwells within us from the first moment of our conception, but we are constantly tempted to forget this and to grasp for godliness on our own. Father Kuffel reminds us that God’s life is already within us, and it is our task to open ourselves each day to realize what a wonderful gift we have already been given. He helps us not to be grasping, but through the exercise of mindful gratitude to live the joy of realizing the blessing of such an awesome gift.”

—Larry Silva, Bishop of Honolulu

THOMAS P. KUFFEL served in New Mexico, Rome, Grenada, Nebraska, and Alaska. He has given retreats to the Missionaries of Charity and the sisters living at the Carmel of Holy Trinity, Hawaii, overlooking Mount Olomana, the inspiration of this book.

NANCY CAROL JAMES has published eleven books on mysticism, an internationally recognized expert on French Catholic mystic Madame Jeanne Guyon.
Philosophy has sometimes been described as the discipline in which you can never be wrong, as the reserve of absentminded professors, aloof academics and purveyors of obscure ideas or interesting opinions. Quite the contrary. Philosophy answers the hard questions: Does everything happen by chance? Is there anything more than matter in the universe? Are humans in the same class as animals? Is there a God? Can we know the correct answer to these questions? The answers to these questions matter. We are all philosophers even though we are not aware of the fact. We each have a set of ultimate priorities and principles, answers to these questions, a big picture that determines our everyday thoughts, decisions, and actions. In this book Brian Cronin uses the ideas of Bernard Lonergan's *Insight: A Study of Human Understanding*, to argue methodically towards a correct, critical, comprehensive worldview, an answer to those big questions which is the precise task of first philosophy. This book is an accessible and readable presentation of Lonergan's metaphysics, a somewhat neglected topic. Science and philosophy are complementary. Scientists answer the concrete, detailed questions about everything around us: the parts. Philosophy integrates all these into a correct worldview of the whole: of everything.

“Cronin has carefully reconstructed and developed further the cognitive theory of Lonergan into a well-structured and profoundly readable volume not only for seasoned scholars of Lonergan but also for anyone ready to follow his amazing philosophical journey pursuing questions about thinking, knowing, science, life, the universe, and ultimately, God.”
—James Swindal, Duquesne University

“A Worldview of Everything provides an in-depth analysis of Lonergan’s metaphysics. Cronin offers a brilliant reassessment of metaphysics as wisdom in the best tradition of Aristotle and Aquinas, while at the same time conducting the more current task of mediating between common sense and scientific worldviews.”
—Francisco V. Galán, Ibero-American University

“Whether your question is ‘Who am I?’ or ‘What is the world?’ or ‘Is there more than meets the eye?’ or ‘Is there a way out of the mess we’re in?’ Cronin’s book provides a personal and engaging entrée into answering such questions. The answers will speak to both the mind and heart. I could not recommend *A Worldview of Everything* more highly.”
—Richard M. Liddy, Seton Hall University, emeritus

“A Worldview of Everything offers a clear and very helpful guide to some of Lonergan’s most difficult and neglected of writings. . . . Building upon his previous books, Cronin shows how Lonergan offers not a system or set of fixed answers but guidance for seeking answers to some of the most important questions about what is true, good, real, ethical, and knowable. It is very readable, and its style engages the reader.”
—Patrick H. Byrne, Boston College

**BRIAN CRONIN** is a retired professor of philosophy from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. He did his doctorate at Boston College and was later awarded four post-doctoral Lonergan Fellowships. He has worked as a missionary in Kenya and Tanzania and has been teaching philosophy since 1980. He has authored two books, *Value Ethics* (2006) and *Phenomenology of Human Understanding* (2006).
Globalization and Human Subjectivity argues that Hegelian subjectivity could serve as a philosophical basis for a new conception of human subjectivity for the age of globalization. Why, then, does globalization demand a new conception of human subjectivity at all? What constitutes the Hegelian subjectivity such that it is not only relevant and but also necessary to the contemporary, postmodern context of globalization? This book largely addresses these two questions.

Capitalist globalization, the context in which we find ourselves today, strategically leads to the “death of the subject,” in the sense that it reduces human beings merely to consumers who, without critical subjectivity, simply succumb to the imperialism of a globalizing market. In this context, we are impelled to envision a new conception of human subjectivity for the age of globalization. This book explores Hegel’s view on human subjectivity as spiritual subjectivity, particularly presented in his *Phenomenology of Spirit*, which could function as a new anthropological vision about what it means to be authentically human in a globalizing world, that is, a sort of cosmopolitan citizen who is constantly universalizing oneself through self-transcending, self-determined ethico-political actions in solidarity with others to create a global community of co-existence and co-prosperity for all.

“Yun Kwon Yoo convincingly shows how postmodern thought and global consumer capitalism are mutually dependent and reinforcing. Both deconstruct and empty the notion of a responsible subject. This undermines an important resource for resisting the destructive and dehumanizing effects of the globalizing economy and culture of the West. Yun Kwon Yoo sees in Hegel’s idea of a spiritual subjectivity a pioneering approach to correcting this trend. His important work deserves wide attention.”

—Ingolf U. Dalferth, Danforth Professor emeritus of Philosophy of Religion, Claremont Graduate University

**Globalization and Human Subjectivity** Insights from Hegel’s *Phenomenology of Spirit*

**YUN KWON YOO**

978-1-7252-9709-8 | 248 p. | $34

**YUN KWON YOO** is a scholar who specializes in philosophy of religion, Hegel’s philosophy, and religious/theological anthropology. He received his PhD and MA in religion from Claremont Graduate University in 2020. He holds an MDiv (2001) from Unification Theological Seminary and a BA in philosophy from Yonsei University (1994). He is currently working on publishing various articles on a wide range of topics from Hegel and Rahner to religious cosmopolitanism and interreligious dialogue.
Brayton Polka’s book, *On Poetry and Philosophy: Thinking Metaphorically with Wordsworth and Kant*, is unique in bringing poetry and philosophy together in a single study. The poet and the philosopher whom he makes central to his project are both revolutionary founders of modernity, Wordsworth of romantic poetry and Kant of critical philosophy. Both the poet and the philosopher, as the author makes clear in his study, found their principles, at once poetically metaphorical and philosophically critical, on the religious values that are central to the Bible—that all human beings are equal before God.

“In his trenchant readings of the poetry of Wordsworth and the philosophy of Kant, Brayton Polka deconstructs the traditional opposition between poetry and philosophy by demonstrating that human existence is metaphorical, not reducible to false idols that appear natural or literal in meaning. True poetry and philosophy arise out of the biblical imperative that human beings must interpret each other as moral subjects, not as natural objects, in accord with the love of God and humanity.”

—Grant Havers, Trinity Western University

“In this erudite, yet accessible, study of the deeper relationship between poetry, philosophy, and religion, Brayton Polka demonstrates once again why he is a master of interdisciplinary scholarship. By way of a brilliant analysis of two important pioneers of modernity, Immanuel Kant and William Wordsworth, Polka shows how the language of philosophy and poetry are ultimately metaphorical in nature, as they both transport readers from the finite natural world to the infinite world of spirit.”

—Bernard Lightman, York University

**BRAYTON POLKA** is Professor of Humanities Emeritus and Senior Scholar at York University (in Toronto, Canada) and the author of numerous studies in philosophy, religion, literature, and music.
Contemporary hermeneutics is an unavoidable, but deeply troubled, discipline. At the root of the problem is the classic epistemological question, “What makes an interpretation justifiable?” Since the beginning of Modernity, interpreters have offered multiplied answers to this question. Historicity, linguistics, social constructs, and contemporary flashes of revelation are but a few of the proposed solutions, but if the question is ultimately epistemological, it follows that the answer may emerge from this same place. Current research in the field of virtue epistemology has awakened interest in a new path forward for hermeneutics by looking to a time before the emergence of unstable modern frameworks. In *Virtue Hermeneutics*, a justified understanding of Scripture that engages all of the participants in the interpretive dialogue (author, text, reader, and reading community) is discovered in the interpretive character of the wise reader. From this starting point, hermeneutics is able to move forward in a way that is responsive to contemporary challenges to discerning literary meaning. Ultimately, a justified understanding is one that virtuously engages the author, the text, and all reading communities. The illuminating work of the Holy Spirit in hermeneutics takes on a refreshing and meaning-filled place when readers readmit intellectual virtues into the discussion.

“When it comes to biblical hermeneutics, transferable skills and even methods matter much less than transformed character. Robert Eby’s *Virtue Hermeneutics* heads to the top of the class of books that recognize the importance of forming interpreters into the sort of persons best suited to understand texts rightly: right-minded and right-hearted persons of hermeneutical virtue. I particularly appreciated his list of ten interpretive virtues and his recognition of the Spirit’s role in forming them.”

—Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School

“Eby makes important contributions to the fields of hermeneutics and analytic theology by showing how themes from contemporary virtue epistemology offer resources for charting a middle course between the Scylla of postmodern relativism and the Charybdis of naïve Enlightenment rationalism.”

—Kenneth Boyce, University of Missouri

Robert M. Eby

*Virtue Hermeneutics*

New Horizons in Textual Understanding

ROBERT M. EBY

978-1-6667-1279-7 | 228 p. | $32
On the Arbitrary Nature of Things
An Agnostic Reading of Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit
ANDREW LEE BRIDGES
978-1-6667-1405-0 | 172 p. | $26

On the Arbitrary Nature of Things approaches Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit through a paradigm of agnosticism developed from Hegel’s own critique of systems of knowledge. This work traces Hegel’s descriptions of the movements of Spirit with equal measures of charity and skepticism. It provokes one to question the level of agnosticism that should be taken toward our various systems of human understanding, both in Hegel’s Phenomenology and in our contemporary world. With respect to our contemporary world, Bridges questions whether the nature of things is ultimately arbitrary and finds that phenomena such as the placebo effect and the use of sensoriums in phenomenological anthropology add credence to the position of agnosticism toward the arbitrary nature of things.

“Hegel’s Phenomenology of Spirit can be read from many points of view. Bridges chooses not just a skeptical approach but an agnostic one. He . . . calls into question not only Hegel’s solution but also the way he poses the problem. It is hard to imagine a more provocative examination of the Phenomenology of Spirit.”
—Ingolf U. Dalferth, Claremont Graduate University, emeritus

“This short but carefully crafted volume . . . focuses on Hegel and our inability to know (agnostic) the difference between external objects and the subjective concepts by which we understand them (arbitrary vs. nonarbitrary). Bridges delves beyond a mere historical investigation of philosophy to include anthropological studies on perception, and reflects on the assumptions of the double-blind randomized clinical trial (placebo).”
—T. L. Brink, Crafton Hills College

“Andrew Lee Bridges’s investigation into the history of mind—be it cosmic, human, or divine—with skeptical discoveries in Hegel’s work of its arbitrariness in relation to any universal direction or purpose and the agnosticism that follows . . . is an important study in universal relativism.”
—Roland Faber, Claremont School of Theology

ANDREW LEE BRIDGES received his PhD in Religion and his MA in Philosophy from Claremont Graduate University. He also received his MA in Theology from Claremont School of Theology. Bridges teaches philosophy and religious studies in Southern California.
Why do Koreans search for shamans? Confrontation with jarring reality, magnified in the context of immigration, pulls them to look for cultural roots in moral solidarity with their ancestors. Ancestral spirits travel by carrying culturally engrained remedial power to the “othered” life of the Korean immigrant community in the country of Protestantism.

Korean shamans mediate the present with the past, life with death, the living with the ancestral spirits, and Confucian moral virtue with Protestant belief, and fill the geographical and collective mental gap in a life of transition. This book introduces Korean shamanism within the Protestant context of immigration in the United States, including an ethnography of Korean shamans in order to observe this landscape of not only conflictive but also ambivalent episodes through rituals and narratives of participants.

“An amazing account of intensive and innovative fieldwork with several immigrant Korean shamans. Dr. Hong provides a captivating description and analysis of this popular divination process, featuring the diviners and the wide-ranging petitioners seeking ‘good luck’ and guidance.”
—Herbert B. Huffmon, Drew University, emeritus

“Very few scholars have researched the topic of Korean shamanism in a global context. This study offers a new perspective on Korean shamanism in a comparative, global, and diasporic context practiced in the Korean immigrant community. . . . I would highly recommend this book for those interested in Korean shamanism, the Korean immigrant community, and Korean immigrant Christianity.”
—Young Chan Ro, George Mason University

“The retentions and modifications of immigrant religions, especially involving women, are too little studied. After years of intensive fieldwork with Korean shamans and clients in the northeastern US, Dr. Hong has produced a valuable account which enlightens outsiders about these critical life-affirming rituals and their practitioners. She reveals, with much sensitivity, the complexities faced by those who are, in effect, caught between cultures. A very important work for comparative research as well as for Koreans themselves.”
—Philip Peek, Bowling Green State University

HELEN HONG is currently an independent researcher and acupuncturist, having previously taught in community colleges as an adjunct professor in New Jersey.
Using a similar method to Kennard’s biblical theology of Jesus, Hebrews, Isaiah, and Peter, Kennard’s Petrine Studies fills out background issues, narrative biographical theology and practical life concerns from Mark. The companion volume, Petrine Theology, makes contributions to Peter’s theology, including: Peter’s Jewish heritage, bridging from Jesus to Paul, expressing compatible sovereignty and free will, high Christology, missional Trinity, Hebraic anthropology, Jewish atonement, redemption and new exodus, gospel as allegiance to Christ, contextual sociological ecclesiology, suffering and spiritual warfare in a narrow virtuous way to kingdom, and nuanced consistent eschatology. Following a combination of Mark, Peter’s sermons in Acts and Petrine epistles, Gene Green claims that Petrine Theology makes unique contributions to Christian theology. Pheme Perkins concurs, “Peter is the universal ‘foundation’ for all the churches… There is no figure who compasses more of that diversity than Peter.” F. J. Foakes-Jackson concluded, “the very fact that Peter was singled out by the unanimous voice of the writers of the NT for pre-eminence is sufficient reason why he should demand our serious attention.” James Dunn celebrated, “Peter was probably in fact and effect the bridge-man (pontifex maximus!) who did more than any other to hold together the diversity of first-century Christianity.”

“We have in Douglas Kennard’s latest study a welcome contribution to the ongoing Petrine renaissance. Until relatively recently, modern scholarship has tended to neglect study of Peter, the foremost of the disciples of Jesus. But things have begun to change and studies such as what we have in Petrine Theology are bringing about this change. Kennard’s book is timely.”

—Craig A. Evans, Houston Baptist University

"Peter is one of the most important figures in early Christianity, yet few know him as more than a bumbling disciple. In Petrine Theology, Kennard shows how deficient this view is by deftly exploring the rich theological contribution Peter makes to New Testament theology. Too easily ignored, Kennard helps us appreciate Peter’s unique voice, which sometimes sings the melody and other times harmony with the rest of the NT."

—Ben C. Blackwell, Houston Theological Seminary

"Kennard, with full knowledge of the critical history, difficulty, and other issues in Petrine literature, has produced a scholarly, well-documented, and creative synthesis of the main theological themes in the two Petrine letters. It is thoughtful and as comprehensive as one can get with such disputed letters. I recommend this as a helpful dialogue partner as one reads and tries to decipher the letters’ text itself."

—Peter Davids, chaplain, Our Lady of Guadalupe Priory

Using a similar method to Kennard’s biblical theology of Jesus, Hebrews, and Isaiah, Kennard’s *Petrine Theology* makes contributions to Peter’s theology, including: Peter’s Jewish heritage, bridging from Jesus to Paul, expressing compatible sovereignty and free will, high Christology, missional Trinity, Hebraic anthropology, Jewish atonement, redemption and new exodus, gospel as allegiance to Christ, contextual sociological ecclesiology, suffering and spiritual warfare in a narrow virtuous way to kingdom, and nuanced consistent eschatology. The companion volume, *Petrine Studies*, fills out background issues, narrative biographical theology, and practical life concerns from Mark. Following a combination of Mark, Peter’s sermons in Acts and Petrine epistles, Gene Green claims that Petrine theology makes unique contributions to Christian theology. Pheme Perkins concurs, “Peter is the universal ‘foundation’ for all the churches . . . There is no figure who compasses more of that diversity than Peter.” F. J. Foakes-Jackson concluded, “the very fact that Peter was singled out by the unanimous voice of the writers of the NT for pre-eminence is sufficient reason why he should demand our serious attention.” James Dunn celebrated, “Peter was probably in fact and effect the bridge-man (*pontifex maximus*) who did more than any other to hold together the diversity of first-century Christianity.”
In the twenty-first century, amid globalized violence, rising demagogues, and the climate emergency, contemporary philosophers and theologians have begun to debate a fundamental question: Is our reality the result of the overflowing, ever-present creativity of Love, or the symptom of a traumatic rupture at the heart of all things? Drawing on decades of research in postmodern philosophy and experience as a psychotherapist, James H. Olthuis wades into this discussion to propose a radical ontology of Love without metaphysics. In dialogue with philosophers like John D. Caputo, Slavoj Žižek, Luce Irigaray, and others, Olthuis explores issues from divine sovereignty and the problem of evil to trauma and social ethics. Experience in therapeutic work informs these investigations, rooting them in journeys with individuals on the path to healing.

Olthuis makes the bold claim that while trauma, pain, and suffering are significant parts of our human lives, nevertheless Love is with us to the very end. Creation is a gift that comes with a call to make something of it ourselves, a risky task we must take on with the promise that Love will win. We are all dancing in the wild spaces of Love: **ex amore, cum amore, ad amorem.**

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**“The sheer attractive force of this meditation on the love at the heart of everything draws biblical hermeneutics, Derrida and Irigaray, trauma theory, and social ethics into an irresistible theopoetics. In this wild dance of a text, Olthuis may be loving theology itself back to life.”**

—Catherine Keller, author of *Facing Apocalypse: Climate, Democracy and Other Last Chances*

**“Dancing in the Wild Spaces of Love is everything we have come to expect from Jim Olthuis—a beautifully written, carefully argued, wide-ranging analysis of the centrality of love in our lives, a veritable philosophical hymn to love. Olthuis is a bright light in these dark days, a balm for an age of anger, rage, and divisiveness in which love is an increasingly scarce commodity. We have never needed him more than now.”**

—John D. Caputo, Villanova University, emeritus

**“In every sense possible, Olthuis lives up to the subtitle of this remarkable book. This is indeed a theopoetics and must be engaged as such. . . . Having walked the path of trauma and profound brokenness, together with healing and hope, Olthuis embodies a wisdom born of tears. But tears can turn to dancing. So put on your dancing shoes when you read this book.”**

—Brian J. Walsh, coauthor of *Romans Disarmed: Resisting Empire, Demanding Justice*
The intention of this biography is—on the one hand—to describe what happened as Peder Borgen (b. 1928) grew up and tried to establish himself as a theologian and a New Testament scholar in his Norwegian and Lutheran state–church context. On the other hand, it also describes how his development and life as a student of the New Testament and Philo of Alexandria were influenced by his minority background and the borders he had to cross to achieve his goals.

Crossing Borders is thus a description of the life and work of a Norwegian Methodist, scholar, church politician, ecumenist, and an internationally acclaimed writer on the Gospel of John and Philo of Alexandria. Students of both the New Testament and Philo of Alexandria should feel enlightened by this volume of how context may influence both a person and his scholarly achievements.

“In this impressively researched account, Torrey Seland illuminates the personal and professional challenges faced by world-renowned New Testament and Philonic scholar Peder Borgen. Borgen’s status as a ‘dissenter’ in Norway because of his Methodist affiliation greatly impacted his life and work and led him to cross borders between nations, denominations, religions, academic disciplines, and other aspects of society and culture. As Seland shows, though, Borgen is more than a border-crosser; he’s also a bridge-builder!”

—Ellen Birnbaum, author of The Place of Judaism in Philo’s Thought

"Peder Borgen has been an inspiration as a New Testament and Philonic scholar, a Methodist churchman, and a committed ecumenist. Torrey Seland’s informed account of his long and rich life provides readers with countless insights, enabling them to understand how he could cross many borders and in so doing inspire many others. I enjoyed the book very much and warmly recommend it.”

—David Runia, editor of The Studia Philonica Annual

TORREY SELAND is professor emeritus in New Testament studies at VID Specialized University, Stavanger, Norway. He has published several studies on 1 Peter and Philo of Alexandria. He is the editor of Reading Philo: A Handbook to Philo of Alexandria (2014) and the author of a Norwegian biography of Peder Borgen (2020).
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