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KEY=OF - SHARP AVERY

FROM JESUS TO CHRISTIANITY

HOW FOUR GENERATIONS OF VISIONARIES & STORYTELLERS CREATED THE NEW TESTAMENT AND CHRISTIAN FAITH

HarperCollins **L. Michael White**, one of the world's foremost scholars on the origins of Christianity, provides the complete, astonishing story of how Christianity grew from the personal vision of a humble Jewish peasant living in a remote province of the Roman Empire into the largest organized religion in the world. Rather than reading the New Testament straight through in its traditional, or "canonical" order, *From Jesus to Christianity* takes a historical approach. Looking at the individual books chronologically, in the sequence in which they were actually written, readers can see what they divulge about the disagreements, shared values, and unifying mission of the earliest Christian communities. White digs through layers of archaeological excavations, sifts through buried fragments of largely unknown texts, and examines historical sources to discover what we can know of Jesus.

SHAPERS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY

52 BIOGRAPHIES, A.D. 100-400

McFarland In 100 A.D., Christianity was practiced only by a small, oppressed minority. Three hundred years later, Christianity had become one of the world's major religions. But this change did not happen easily. The imperial government of Rome, intellectual tradition and battles within the church itself influenced the transformation. Every viewpoint had its champions and opponents and whether they were "defenders of the faith" or those whom history later labeled heretics, they were part of the early evolution of Christianity. This volume discusses more than 50 figures who played a role in the transformation from primitive Christianity to early Medieval Catholicism. As it examines the lives and influence of imperial rulers such as Constantine, proponents of the intellectual tradition including Gregory of Neocaesaria and Julius Africanus, and early Bible translators such as Tatian, Origen and Jerome, the work provides a fascinating look at Christian history.

PSYCHOLOGICAL ANALYSES AND THE HISTORICAL JESUS

NEW WAYS TO EXPLORE CHRISTIAN ORIGINS

Bloomsbury Publishing Since Albert Schweitzer's monumental work, nearly a century ago, psychology has been banned from Historical Jesus research. But both disciplines have

advanced and it is time to review the contribution that psychology can make. Bas Van Os examines the problems which surround both the historical and the psychological study of Jesus, such as the fact that we can only work with the surviving traditions that some of his early followers left us. Following this, Van Os proposes a theoretical framework that combines sound psychological theories and critical biblical scholarship to explain how Jesus' life and religious experience impacted the beliefs of his friends and family after his death.

THE FOUR GOSPELS ON SUNDAY

THE NEW TESTAMENT AND THE REFORM OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

[Fortress Press](#) Premier liturgical theologian Gordon Lathrop argues that far too often liturgy, preaching, and liturgical theology are informed by naive and outdated exegesis. In another fully original and deeply reflective work, Lathrop partners with newer biblical studies to see the Gospels anew. He treats the gospels as early witnesses to the meaning and import of Christian assembly and forces in the shaping and reshaping of liturgy. His work comports and develops the implications our understandings of early Christianity as a meal fellowship.

FROM JESUS TO CHRIST

THE ORIGINS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT IMAGES OF JESUS (SECOND EDITION)

[Yale University Press](#) "Magisterial. . . . A learned, brilliant and enjoyable study."—Géza Vermès, *Times Literary Supplement* In this exciting book, Paula Fredriksen explains the variety of New Testament images of Jesus by exploring the ways that the new Christian communities interpreted his mission and message in light of the delay of the Kingdom he had preached. This edition includes an introduction reviews the most recent scholarship on Jesus and its implications for both history and theology. "Brilliant and lucidly written, full of original and fascinating insights."—Reginald H. Fuller, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* "This is a first-rate work of a first-rate historian."—James D. Tabor, *Journal of Religion* "Fredriksen confronts her documents—principally the writings of the New Testament—as an archaeologist would an especially rich complex site. With great care she distinguishes the literary images from historical fact. As she does so, she explains the images of Jesus in terms of the strategies and purposes of the writers Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John."—Thomas D'Evelyn, *Christian Science Monitor*

JESUS

A BRIEF HISTORY

[John Wiley & Sons](#) Drawing on examples from literature, art, and popular culture, as well as theology, this engaging book reveals the importance of the question, "whose was he?" in fully understanding the life and legacy of Jesus. A concise, accessible and engaging exploration of Jesus's life and enduring influence Charts the changing global status and influence of Jesus, a Galilean Jew born when the ancient Roman Empire ruled the Mediterranean world, and how he has come to be honored as the Christ and recognized by billions of people around the world Traces the reception history of Jesus and his story over the past two millennia, through art, literature, and culture, as well as theology Draws on a fascinating range of materials - from ancient texts, creeds, and theological treatises, to the visual and dramatic arts, including books like *The Da Vinci Code* and films such as *The Passion of the Christ*

REPUBLICAN JESUS

HOW THE RIGHT HAS REWRITTEN THE GOSPELS

[Univ of California Press](#) The complete guide to debunking right-wing misinterpretations of the Bible--from economics and immigration to gender and sexuality. Jesus loves borders, guns, unborn babies, and economic prosperity and hates homosexuality, taxes, welfare, and universal healthcare--or so say many Republican politicians, pundits, and preachers. Through outrageous misreadings of the New Testament gospels that started almost a century ago, conservative influencers have conjured a version of Jesus that speaks to their fears, desires, and resentments. In *Republican Jesus*, Tony Keddie explains not only where this right-wing Christ came from and what he stands for but also why this version of Jesus is a fraud. By restoring Republicans' cherry-picked gospel texts to their original literary and historical contexts, Keddie dismantles the biblical basis for Republican positions on hot-

button issues like Big Government, taxation, abortion, immigration, and climate change. At the same time, he introduces readers to an ancient Jesus whose life experiences and ethics were totally unlike those of modern Americans, conservatives and liberals alike.

TAKING CAESAR OUT OF JESUS

UNCOVERING THE LOST RELEVANCE OF JESUS

Xlibris Corporation **Jesus is the center of Christian faith and the Bible is its holy book, its sacred scriptures. For hundreds of years, this meant that Jesus was divine and the Bible was a divine product. This remains the primary perspective for many Christians today. However, it has mutated appreciably for others. It is not that Jesus is no longer thought of as the center of Christian faith or the Bible as Christianity's sacred scriptures. Those remain true for everyone. However, studies in biblical criticism and the historical Jesus suggest Jesus was a Palestinian Jew a human being -- not different in that respect from you and me. Divinity was bestowed upon him by his followers, and eventually took the form of imperial divinity after the example of Caesar. This presents a conundrum for Christianity. What, for instance, is Christianity to do with a human being at its center? How has Christianity accommodated imperial rule? What do we do with those imperial titles by which he is known Lord, Savior, Redeemer, and Son of God? Taking Caesar out of Jesus presents a new portrait of Jesus based on solid historical evidence assembled from the works of hundreds of critical biblical scholars. As the subtitle proclaims, Jesus emerges from this book as a new figure, relevant to the 21st century. Some will say this new perspective destroys Christianity. Others will find Jesus to be far more believable and compelling. Anyone will find this progressive approach to uncovering the historical Jesus thought-provoking. This book, however, goes beyond biblical criticism and a new portrait of the historical Jesus. It confronts the Christian proclamation that Jesus is humanity's savior including the notion that it needs a savior. It suggests that the historical Jesus never embraced the well-known notion of divine salvation. To the contrary, Jesus embraced Judaism's wisdom tradition. In the wisdom tradition, a person deals with the exigencies of life by developing a new vision of reality, and by acting differently. Jesus did not provide an instruction manual for living; rather, he pointed us in the direction of self-management. As described in this book, this new way of living, taken from Jesus's parables and aphorisms, will startle some, and stir others toward greater maturity and responsibility for their own lives.**

BECOMING CHRISTIAN

THE DEMISE OF THE JESUS MOVEMENT

Wipf and Stock Publishers **The evolution of Christianity as it is known today began in Antioch, but as Becoming Christian reveals, it had once been quite different. While most histories gloss over the earliest period of Christianity to begin with the Christian establishment, this book uncovers the little-known history within the "gap" between 31 and 70 CE, when the Jesus Movement was headquartered in Jerusalem under the authority of James bar Joseph, the brother of Jesus, and the apostles served as missionaries carrying the teachings of Jesus throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. By the year 66 CE, James and most of the apostles had died, along with much of their teaching. Paul's spiritual Jesus had gained a foothold among Gentiles in Antioch and throughout the West, including Rome, where it finally blossomed into a powerful political hierarchy. No longer was Jesus' humanity important to the church. With the death of James, the original movement fell into disarray and split into factions, each developing its own doctrines. Thus, there arose numerous Christianities during the first two centuries, many of which had become heretical. The Jesus Movement had now become irrelevant to the church, and as Becoming Christian reveals, by the third century it would be publicly eradicated for all time.**

FROM JESUS TO THE INTERNET

A HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY AND MEDIA

John Wiley & Sons **From Jesus to the Internet examines Christianity as a mediated phenomenon, paying particular attention to how various forms of media have influenced and developed the Christian tradition over the centuries. It is the first systematic survey of this topic and the author provides those studying or interested in the intersection of religion and media with a lively and engaging chronological narrative. With insights into some of Christianity's most hotly debated contemporary issues, this book provides a much-needed historical basis for this interdisciplinary field.**

THE ANCIENT WORLD

Routledge Designed to meet the curriculum needs of students from grades 7-12, this five-volume encyclopedia explores the history and civilizations of the ancient world from prehistory to approximately 1000 CE. Organized alphabetically within geographical volumes on Africa, Europe, the Americas, Southwest Asia, and Asia and the Pacific, entries cover the social, political, scientific and technological, economic, and cultural events and developments that shaped the ancient world in all areas of the globe. Each volume explores significant civilizations, personalities, cultural and social developments, and scientific achievements in its geographical area. Boxed features include Link in Time, Link in Place, Ancient Weapons, Turning Points, and Great Lives. Each volume also includes maps, timelines and illustrations; and a glossary, bibliography and indexes complete the set.

EXPLAINING JESUS

AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION OF A PHENOMENON

Rowman & Littlefield While countless books have been written on Jesus, Explaining Jesus integrates insights from across the disciplines, including social and natural sciences. This book explores the possibilities of a secular, interdisciplinary, scientifically-based explanation for the phenomenon of Jesus.

THE GREAT BETRAYAL

CHRISTIANS AND JEWS IN THE FIRST FOUR CENTURIES

Wipf and Stock Publishers In the view of many contemporary scholars, both Jesus and Judaism have been misrepresented by the church for the past two thousand years. Their main point is that Judaism was not a superficial, rigid, and outdated religion, and Jesus did not reject it. In fact, along with his disciples, he remained a Law-abiding Jew his entire life. However, as Christianity developed from a Jewish sect in the first century AD to the official religion of the Roman Empire in the fourth century, the church was transformed, Jesus was redefined, and both Jews and their religion were repudiated and marginalized. In short, both Christians and Jews were deeply affected by what many scholars now call the de-Judaization of Jesus. This book is an attempt to correct the traditional theological and scholarly misinterpretations of Jesus and Judaism that emerged over the first four centuries of the life of the church.

CHURCH, SOCIETY, AND THE CHRISTIAN COMMON GOOD

ESSAYS IN CONVERSATION WITH PHILIP TURNER

Wipf and Stock Publishers Philip Turner's contributions as a leader and thinker in Christian missions and social ethics are here engaged by an array of friends and colleagues. Turner's scholarly and clerical career spans a key era of transition in American and world Christianity, and his thinking and teaching about the intersection between ecclesial and civil life have encouraged several generations of Christian theologians and ministers. The essays in this collection touch on key topics in which Turner has been involved: cross-cultural missions, social relations in terms of family and procreation, ecclesiology, scriptural interpretation, the nature of the public good, and the character of a human life before God. Turner has been a pioneer, within the Anglican world especially, in promoting what has been called a "generous orthodoxy," and these essays by prominent theologians from America and the United Kingdom extend his witness in lively and fruitful ways.

JESUS FOR MOST PEOPLE

Xlibris Corporation "Jesus for Most People" is for people who believe God used the Big Bang to create the universe, used evolution to create people, and sent Jesus to teach. The book updates the Enlightenment outlook. It summarizes scholarly work on Jesus and the early Church. It explains the biological evolution of morality and it looks there for clues about God. Some ideas here about Jesus and about the evolution of morality are new but not silly. The book builds a solid base for reasonable belief, so people can avoid religious and secular wackiness.

ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

A FORTRESS INTRODUCTION

Fortress Press Olson's clear and concise overview roots contemporary questions firmly in Christian responses to the Enlightenment. He discusses the range of contemporary opinions, their rationales, and what's at stake. Olson illustrates these alternate frameworks as they play out in central concerns over the being of God in relation to the universe, how to understand the figure of Christ today, and the distinctively new notions of being human. Specifically geared to the novice theologian in college or seminary settings, Olson's text includes Reflection/Research Questions, Suggestions for Further Reading, and a Glossary.

IRAQ

A HISTORY

Simon and Schuster Cities, scripts, literature, the rule of law - all were born in Iraq. That so many see this ancient land as nothing more than a violent backwater steeped in chaos is a travesty. This is the place where, for the first 5,000 years of human history, all innovations of worth emerged. It was the cradle of civilization. In this unrivalled study, John Robertson details the greatness and grandeur of Iraq's achievements, the brutality and magnificence of its ancient empires and its extraordinary contributions to the world. The only work in the English language to explore the history of the land of two rivers in its entirety, it takes readers from the seminal advances of its Neolithic inhabitants to the aftermath of the American and British-led invasion, the rise of Islamic State and Iraq today. A fascinating and thought-provoking analysis, it is sure to be greatly appreciated by historians, students and all those with an interest in this diverse and enigmatic country. This paperback edition features a new epilogue, bringing the work up to date and looking ahead to Iraq's future.

THE MAN OF LIGHT

WHERE CAN I FIND THE REAL JESUS?

iUniverse Stanley A. Fry, pastor and scholar, has thoroughly documented his own search for the historical Jesus. His search, however, takes a new twist, one that requires him to set forth a highly personal vision of how Jesus can become real, not in history, but in today's ever-changing world. Why have we so long ignored the first twenty years of the Jesus movement? Why has the church been built upon the stories of the death and resurrection of Jesus instead of upon his teachings? Why has the search for the historical Jesus produced so little solid information? Is there any historical justification for belief in the "real" Jesus? Is there a spiritual foundation for commitment to the "real" Jesus? Where can the "real" Jesus be found? What impact will this view of Jesus have on the Christian faith and the church? The bottom line is that Fry has produced an original and cogent case for a new vision of Jesus, the "real" Jesus who can shine a bright light on your future.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

ISD LLC This second edition of An Introduction to the New Testament provides readers with pertinent material and a helpful framework that will guide them in their understanding of the New Testament texts. Many new and diverse cultural, historical, social-scientific, sociorhetorical, narrative, textual, and contextual studies have been examined since the publication of the first edition, which was in print for twenty years. The authors retain the original tripartite arrangement on 1) The world of the New Testament, 2) Interpreting the New Testament, and 3) Jesus and early Christianity. An appropriate book for anyone who seeks to better understand what is involved in the exegesis of New Testaments texts today.

UNCHRISTIAN

WHAT A NEW GENERATION REALLY THINKS ABOUT CHRISTIANITY...AND WHY IT MATTERS

Baker Books Based on groundbreaking Barna Group research, unChristian uncovers the negative perceptions young people have of Christianity and explores what can be done to reverse them.

JEWISH CHRISTIANITY

THE MAKING OF THE CHRISTIANITY-JUDAISM DIVIDE

[Yale University Press](#) **A fresh exploration of the category Jewish Christianity, from its invention in the Enlightenment to contemporary debates** For hundreds of years, historians have been asking fundamental questions about the separation of Christianity from Judaism in antiquity. Matt Jackson-McCabe argues provocatively that the concept “Jewish Christianity,” which has been central to scholarly reconstructions, represents an enduring legacy of Christian apologetics. Freethinkers of the English Enlightenment created this category as a means of isolating a distinctly Christian religion from what otherwise appeared to be the Jewish culture of Jesus and the apostles. Tracing the development of this patently modern concept of a Jewish Christianity from its origins to early twenty-first-century scholarship, Jackson-McCabe shows how a category that began as a way to reimagine the apologetic notion of an authoritative “original Christianity” continues to cause problems in the contemporary study of Jewish and Christian antiquity. He draws on promising new approaches to Christianity and Judaism as socially constructed terms of identity to argue that historians would do better to leave the concept of Jewish Christianity behind.

OUTCASTS AND HERETICS

PROFILES IN INDEPENDENT THOUGHT AND COURAGE

[Lexington Books](#) **Outcasts and Heretics is a historical survey of independent thought in action. Divided into two sections, 'Modern Outcasts' and 'The Legacy of Religious Heresy and Dissent', professor emeritus Donald K. Sharpes traces common themes between courageous historical individuals. Often looking at individuals in the context of religion, Sharpes paints profiles of individuals who stood up against oppressing forces and overwhelming odds. Offering numerous profiles of varying lengths, the selection ranges from such well-known 20th century figures as Gandhi to esoteric historical figures, such as John Leo. Outcasts and Heretics is an inspiring book for all readers.**

SHORT STORIES AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

POWER, PROSE, AND PERSUASION

[Lexington Books](#) **This book examines the intersection of fictional narratives and political philosophy, focusing specifically on the use of short stories to teach the classic works of political philosophy. It is a resource for scholars and teachers of politics, philosophy, and literature.**

HELP MY UNBELIEF!

DOUBT, FAITH, AND THE GOSPEL OF MARK

[Wipf and Stock Publishers](#) **Help My Unbelief! is for a small but growing number of Christians who are asking critical questions about their faith, their church's history, and the Bible. Around the 60s CE doubts arose as tensions within Judaism escalated, questions about Jesus and his delayed return were voiced, and Roman persecutions intensified. Jesus was one of a number of itinerant preachers, miracle-workers, and insurrectionaries. What set him apart from others? Using the Gospel of Mark the author demonstrates that doubts existed within the early Christian community. Doubting Christians can take comfort that Mark addressed these issues then and thus provides a guide for living in today's ever-questioning world of faith.**

ASSEMBLING EARLY CHRISTIANITY

TRADE, NETWORKS, AND THE LETTERS OF DIONYSIOS OF CORINTH

[Cambridge University Press](#) **The story of a forgotten early Christian bishop and his emergent network of churches along ancient Mediterranean trade routes.**

CAN CHRISTIANS PROVE THE RESURRECTION?

A REPLY TO THE APOLOGISTS

Trafford Publishing Christian apologists like Josh McDowell, Norman Geisler, and William Lane Craig have claimed that the Resurrection of Jesus is the best-proved fact of history. As they tell the story, the original eyewitnesses of the risen Jesus sacrificed their lives for their faith, and people who knew Jesus during his lifetime would have challenged any errors in their testimony. Allegedly, these and many other lines of historical evidence prove the Resurrection beyond a reasonable doubt. In *Can Christians Prove the Resurrection?*, the traditional Christian arguments for the Resurrection are analyzed and critiqued. In reality, we do not know how most of the apostles met their fates, and religious sects like the Kimbanguists and Hasidic Jews have likewise proclaimed miracles and produced martyrs within the lifetimes of eyewitnesses who should have been able to set the record straight. These and many other lines of evidence raise copious reasonable doubts regarding the claims of the apologists, as this book demonstrates. Once all the relevant evidence is examined, it becomes clear that there is little likelihood that Jesus of Nazareth arose from the dead or that the Resurrection ever took place.

RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE AND ASIAN AMERICAN HYBRIDITY

Springer In this book, Julius-Kei Kato lets the theories and experiences of Asian American hybridity converse with and bear upon some aspects of Christian biblical and theological language. Hybridity has become a key feature of today's globalized world and is, of course, a key concept in postcolonial thought. However, despite its crucial importance, hybridity is rarely used as a paradigm through which to analyze and evaluate the influential concepts and teachings that make up religious language. This book fills a lacuna by discussing what the concept of hybridity challenges and resists, what over-simplifications it has the power to complicate, and what forgotten or overlooked strands in religious tradition it endeavors to recover and reemphasize. Shifting seamlessly between biblical, theological, and modern, real-world case studies, Kato shows how hybridity permeates and can illuminate religious phenomena as lived and believed. The ultimate goal of the move toward an embrace of hybridity is a further dissolution of the thick wall separating ideas of "us" and "them." In this book, Kato suggests the possibility of a world in which what one typically considers the "other" is increasingly recognized within oneself.

SCOFFING AT SCRIPTURE

A COMMONER READS THE WORLD'S HOLY WRIT AND REJECTS TRADITIONAL RELIGION

Dog Ear Publishing A former Roman Catholic, Frank Bolger Kelly has long wondered why thinking humans as a whole in the 21st century have not yet been able to disenthral themselves from the demonstrable falsehoods and sectarian nonsense of organized religion. A few years ago, Kelly decided to sit down with the "sacred" scriptures of several of the world's major religions, the alleged bedrocks of these various creeds, in a last-ditch effort to achieve holy inspiration. Instead, he became wholly disenchanted, and *Scoffing at Scripture: A Commoner Reads the World's Holy Writ and Rejects Traditional Religion* is the result. Far from representing that all-elusive "Word of God," creedal scripture the world over, it seems to Kelly, merely cloaks the tribal agendas and cultural designs of the world's priestly (and virtually allmale) elites. With the general reader in mind, the author has grouped together a series of compact discussions of religion and scripture for cross-cultural comparative reference. Kelly's intent is to facilitate critical analysis of the world's holy writ and, in particular, to encourage younger, skeptical readers of a secular mind to confront the doctrinal, scriptural, and ritual absurdities of those faiths into which they were born and continue to be indoctrinated. Frank Bolger Kelly grew up in an Irish Catholic family in the Bronx, New York, matriculated to a noted Jesuit college in New England, and subsequently did time at a prestigious non-sectarian institution of higher learning in the Midwest. It was during his enlightening time at the latter that Kelly first began seriously to question not only his own religious upbringing but the scriptural bases of all the world's major religions. Kelly was quickly convinced that the vast majority of "the faithful" the world over, commoners like himself, just might reconsider their religious roots and motivations in a new light if they actually bothered to immerse themselves for a time in their own "sacred scriptures," rather than merely fake familiarity with them. Actually to read scripture in all its antiquated, tendentious, sectarian absurdity, Kelly reasoned, is to take a first, giant step in renouncing irrational creeds of all kinds. Thus was born *Scoffing at Scripture: A Commoner Reads the World's Holy Writ and Rejects Traditional Religion*, a book from which the author hopes the open-minded reader will draw a secularly pure, spiritual sustenance.

FROM JESUS TO THE CHURCH

THE FIRST CHRISTIAN GENERATION

Westminster John Knox Press This study traces the tumultuous history of the very first followers of Jesus. Specifically, author Craig A. Evans looks at how a chain of events from 3-7 CE--beginning with Jesus's entry into Jerusalem and subsequent crucifixion and ending with the destruction of the temple--led to the separation between the followers of Jesus and other Jews. Topics include the following: 1) whether Jesus actually intended to found the Christian Church; 2) the ways in which Jesus's proclamation of the "Kingdom of God" relate to the Christian Church; 3) the role of James, brother of Jesus, in the new movement in Jerusalem; 4) the tension between James and Paul in the matter of law and works; 5) the conflict between the families and followers of Jesus and those of the high priest Annas before the destruction of the temple; and 6) the aftermath of the Jewish rebellion, whereby the Church moved away from its Jewish roots. An appendix further explores the reasons behind the rift between the Jesus movement and the synagogue.

THE LOST APOSTLE

SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT JUNIA

John Wiley & Sons In *The Lost Apostle* award-winning journalist Rena Pederson investigates a little known subject in early Christian history--the life and times of the female apostle Junia. Junia was an early convert and leading missionary whose story was "lost" when her name was masculinized to Junias in later centuries. *The Lost Apostle* unfolds like a well-written detective story, presenting Pederson's lively search for insight and information about a woman some say was the first female apostle.

AND JACOB DIGGERED A WELL

FAITH IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

iUniverse The subject of Christology has been a struggle for the church from the very beginning. It has resulted in divisions, crusades, inquisitions, persecutions, and a wide range of creeds. Each group claims it possesses the trutha truth revealed to them, a particular turn on belief they alone rightly proclaim. In *And Jacob Diggered a Well*, author Pastor Theodore M. Snider provides a commentary on religionwhere its been, where its headed, and how it fits in the modern world. He seeks to answer this question: why do we believe what we believe? Snider discusses how scientific and technological discoveries have changed not only our worldviews but also our Godviews and how consciousness and brain research are altering the way we understand each other and how beliefs are formed. He compiles a diverse amount of information on topics relevant to both secular and religious audiences, including creationism, evolution, intelligent design, and artificial intelligence through historical, scientific, cognitive, and psychological avenues. *And Jacob Diggered a Well* reminds us that natural may not be as clear as we once thought. Faith in the twenty-first century needs to look quite different from the past century.

HEBREWS, THE GENERAL LETTERS, AND REVELATION

AN INTRODUCTION

Wipf and Stock Publishers Most New Testament (NT) introductions, because of page limitations and other reasons, tend to minimize their treatment of the last nine books of the Christian Bible (from Hebrews to Revelation). The focus in these introductions is often on the four Gospels and the Letters of Paul. As important as these books are, one should not neglect, with only a brief survey, the treatment of Hebrews, the General Letters, and the book of Revelation. The title given later to the collection--Catholic Epistles or General Letters--is a reminder of its general appeal to the whole church, despite its slow "canonical" recognition and authorship issues. Nevertheless, these writings from Hebrews to Revelation continue to capture our attention and ignite our imagination. My purpose for this book is to supplement my NT introduction and others like it with a focus on specific questions about each book from Hebrews to Revelation: -When and why was each book written? -By whom and to whom was each book written? -What are some special features of each book? -How soon (or late) was each book included in the NT collection? Answers to many of these questions are tentative. The "assured results of scholarship" are in continual need of reevaluation. Since the 1980s a host of diverse studies have emerged, and I have endeavored to include them when they are relevant to the discussion.

HELLENISTIC AND BIBLICAL GREEK

A GRADUATED READER

[Cambridge University Press](#) This Hellenistic Greek reader is designed for students who have completed one or more years of Greek and wish to improve their reading ability and gain a better appreciation for the diversity of the language. The seventy passages in this reader reflect different styles, genres, provenances and purposes, and are arranged into eight parts according to their level of difficulty. Grammatical support and vocabulary lists accompany each passage, and a cumulative glossary offers further assistance with translation. Students are led to a deeper understanding of Hellenistic Greek, and a greater facility with the language. • Includes canonical and non-canonical Christian texts, Septuagint (prose and poetry), Jewish Pseudepigrapha, inscriptions, and Jewish and Hellenistic literary Greek • Includes a web component with more than thirty additional readings for classroom and independent use • Passages offer a glimpse into the everyday life of Hellenistic Greeks, with themes such as sexuality, slavery, magic, apocalypticism, and Hellenistic philosophy.

THE MISSING GOSPELS

UNEARTHING THE TRUTH BEHIND ALTERNATIVE CHRISTIANITIES

[Thomas Nelson](#) IS JESUS WHO YOU THINK HE IS? Perhaps you've heard the recent buzz about "alternative Christianities" and "new gospels." Speculations have shown up in magazines, documentaries, popular fiction, and even on the big screen. Much of the controversy stems from a library of ancient texts found at Nag Hammadi, Egypt. Now revolutionary questions about the Christian faith are being raised as a result of these findings: Is Jesus truly a divine Savior or just a teacher of wisdom? Is orthodoxy a by-product of third-century or fourth-century theologians? Did Judas betray Jesus because of evil intent or a request by Jesus? Does salvation include the physical body or just the soul? Darrell L. Bock takes you on a tour of the new claims as well as the controversial writings, examining their origins and comparing them with traditional sources. With discussion questions for group or individual study at the end of each chapter, The Missing Gospels will help you understand the messages of all of these writings so you can form your own opinion. This provocative work could even change what you believe!

MOCKERY AND SECRETISM IN THE SOCIAL WORLD OF MARK'S GOSPEL

[Bloomsbury Publishing](#) Having established the context of mockery and shame in Ancient Mediterranean cultures, Dietmar Neufeld shows how Mark presented Jesus as a person with a sense of honour and with a sense of shame, willing to accept the danger of being visible and the mockery it attracted. Neufeld also considers the social functions of ridicule/mockery more broadly as strategies of social sanction, leading to a better understanding of how social, religious, and political practices and discourse variously succeeded or failed in Mark. Finally, Neufeld investigates the author of Mark's preoccupation with 'secrecy', showing that his disposition to secrecy in his narrative heightened when the dangers of scorn and ridicule from crowds or persons became pressing concerns. In a fiercely competitive literary environment where mocking and being mocked were ever present dangers, Mark, in his pursuit of authority gains it by establishing a reputation of possessing authentic, secret knowledge. In short, the so-called secrecy motif is shown to be deployed for specific, strategic reasons that differ from those that have been traditionally advanced.

NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY AND LITERATURE

[Yale University Press](#) In this engaging introduction to the New Testament, Professor Dale B. Martin presents a historical study of the origins of Christianity by analyzing the literature of the earliest Christian movements. Focusing mainly on the New Testament, he also considers nonbiblical Christian writings of the era. Martin begins by making a powerful case for the study of the New Testament. He next sets the Greco-Roman world in historical context and explains the place of Judaism within it. In the discussion of each New Testament book that follows, the author addresses theological themes, then emphasizes the significance of the writings as ancient literature and as sources for historical study. Throughout the volume, Martin introduces various early Christian groups and highlights the surprising variations among their versions of Christianity.

THE LOST APOSTLE, PAPERBACK REPRINT

SEARCHING FOR THE TRUTH ABOUT JUNIA

[John Wiley & Sons](#)

ECCLESIOLOGY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Abingdon Press The earliest Christians thought of themselves in communal terms. They did not simply make individual commitments to Jesus as God's messiah; they constituted themselves as communities shaped by the in-breaking of God's realm. They likely learned to do so from Jesus himself. When he summoned an inner circle of his followers and numbered them twelve, he signaled that his ministry had the character of a reform movement within Israel. In his work of preaching, healing, exorcism, and prophetic sign actions, Jesus shaped his followers into what would eventually become the church. By transgressing contemporary religious and social boundaries in his ministry, he planted the seeds of the church's later inclusion of non-Jews. This book will investigate New Testament texts about the church from a comparative standpoint. That is, the various authors adopt different metaphors for their communities—family, assembly, nation, priesthood, and so on—to make varying claims about how they ought to live together and how they ought to live among their neighbors. In their descriptions of themselves as the church, Christians implicitly and explicitly describe their theology but also the Roman empire, the Jerusalem temple, the synagogue, popular philosophical circles, and first-century domestic order.

ANATOMY OF SPIRITUALITY: PORTRAIT OF THE SOUL

FriesenPress The domain of spirituality, separated from its theological overburden, believes in the existence of a spiritual self, presumed to be distinctly separate from the psychological self. The spiritual eternal self, also known as the soul or spirit (sometimes supported by an overarching Spirit), is asserted to be operating behind the ephemeral self. This book takes a contrarian stance; it argues that the premise of the soul concept is obtained through the magic of language, maintained through the marvel of the brain's biochemistry, and sustained through the mirage of the psychological juggernauts of the brain. The magic, the marvel and the mirage, together, bring about subtle shifts as the linguistic brain suppresses many psychological details, habitually applies mental templates such as inversions and dichotomies, and enhances its language by coining religious and spiritual metaphors. The consequence of these changes is that the usual flickering self begins to be impressed by itself, believing it is buttressed by something transcendental and eternal within: the soul or the spirit. The self, although indoctrinated during its formative years, also begins to assimilate and accept the opinion that the overwhelming weight of religious doctrines and dogmas, the overburden, signifies as the legitimate proof for the eternal soul.

READING LUKE

INTERPRETATION, REFLECTION, FORMATION

Zondervan Academic A rich and comprehensive volume—essential reading for all those interested in how to read Luke as relevant for today. In this sixth volume, the Scripture and Hermeneutics Seminar brings its past six years of work on biblical hermeneutics to bear on the gospel according to Luke. In his introduction, Anthony Thiselton, world authority on biblical hermeneutics, sets the context for a wideranging exploration of how to read Luke for God's address today. Traditional and more contemporary approaches are brought into dialogue with each other as several top Lukan scholars reflect on how best to read Luke as Scripture. Topics covered include the purpose of Luke-Acts, biblical theology and Luke, narrative and Luke, reception history and Luke, the parables in Luke, a missional reading of Luke, and theological interpretation of Luke. Since prayer is a major theme in Luke, this volume explores not only the role of prayer in Luke, but also the relationship between prayer and exegesis.