

Mythologizing Jesus From Jewish Teacher To Epic H

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The Ring and the Cross Paul E. Kerry 2011 The influence of J.R.R Tolkien's Christianity on his writing has sparked intense discussion and debate. What has been lacking is a forum for a civilized discussion about the topic, as well as a chronological overview of the major arguments and themes that have engaged scholars about the impact of Christianity on Tolkein's oeuvre, with particular reference to The Lord of the Rings. The Ring and the Cross addresses these two needs.

A History of the Quests for the Historical Jesus, Volume 1 Colin Brown 2022-11-08 Understand the Quests Origins and Ongoing Influence on Today's Biblical Studies and Theology Jesus of Nazareth ranks among the most important figures in history. Yet, in contemporary scholarship, there is no common agreement about his identity. It is generally accepted that there were three quests for the historical Jesus. The first was characterized by Albert Schweitzer and came to be called the "Old Quest," while the second was conceived of as the "New Quest" of the 1950s. The interval between the Old and New Quests was facetiously called the "No Quest." This three-quest history in fact came about more due to the ingenuity of publishers than to the scholars engaged in the enterprise. But in the 1970s and 1980s, there emerged yet another quest, which was often informally referred to as the "Third Quest." This quest was largely driven by scholars in search of the historical, social, and religious setting of Jesus and his followers. The Dead Sea Scrolls, archaeological findings, papyri, and other material remains came to play an important part in this newer research. A History of the Quests for the Historical Jesus is an extensive two-volume reassessment of the situation, beginning with the evolution of orthodoxy and quests before Schweitzer's, through the Nazi attempt to make Jesus an Aryan critic of Judaism, and to today's ongoing questions about criteria, methods, and specific issues. The late Colin Brown brings his scholarly prowess in both theology and biblical

studies to bear on the subject of the quests, assessing not only the historical, exegetical, critical nuts and bolts of the debate but also its philosophical and theological underpinnings. Instead of seeking a bedrock of "facts," Brown stresses the role of hermeneutics in formulating questions and seeking answers. Whether we realize it or not, "facts" themselves are shaped by our hermeneutics and belief systems. Sophisticated in both its philosophical-theological and historical-exegetical dimensions, this new survey and analysis of the quests for the historical Jesus makes a landmark contribution to this important topic in biblical studies. Colin Brown was almost finished with the manuscript at the time of his passing in 2019. Brought to its final form by Craig A. Evans, this book promises to become the definitive history and assessment of the quests for the historical Jesus. Volume One covers the period from the beginnings of Christianity to the end of World War II. Volume Two (sold separately) covers the period from the post-War era through contemporary debates.

Violencia Contra las Mujeres Mexicanas José Alfonso López Rendón La violencia siempre ha sido, y es actualmente, la principal causa de conflictos y sufrimiento en todo el mundo. Una de cada tres mujeres ha sufrido algún tipo de violencia en el mundo, las mujeres tienen muchos problemas claro está, pero el problema de la violencia en su contra sin duda es el de más peso, ya que no solo afecta su economía, sino también sus creencias, tradiciones, su integridad física y psicológica. Dividido en cuatro capítulos, la obra analiza de forma exhaustiva y robusta la violencia en contra de las mujeres.

Blaise Pascal Charles Sherrard MacKenzie 2008 This book focuses on Blaise Pascal's *Pensées*, an apology for Christianity, which is regarded as Pascal's crowning achievement. Professor Charles Sherrard MacKenzie maintains that the lens best enabling us to understand *Pensées* is his fragment on the three orders of life: mental, material, and spiritual. This analysis also highlights the frustrations Pascal encountered while making scientific discoveries, as part of his quest for certainty in his and others' faith.

Questioning the Historicity of Jesus Raphael Lataster 2019-07-01 This volume explains the inadequacy of the sources and methods used to establish Jesus' historicity, and how agnosticism can reasonably be upgraded to theorising about ahistoricity when reconsidering Christian origins.

The Dionysian Gospel Dennis R. MacDonald 2017-04-01 "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." Dennis R. MacDonald offers a provocative explanation of those scandalous words of Christ from the Fourth Gospel—an explanation that he argues would hardly have surprised some of the Gospel's early readers. John sounds themes that would have instantly been recognized as proper to the Greek god Dionysos (the Roman Bacchus), not least as he was depicted in Euripides's play *The Bacchae*. A divine figure, the offspring of a divine father and human mother, takes on flesh to live among mortals, but is rejected by his own. He miraculously provides wine and offers it as a sacred gift to his devotees, women prominent among them, dies a violent

death—and returns to life. Yet John takes his drama in a dramatically different direction: while Euripides's Dionysos exacts vengeance on the Theban throne, the Johannine Christ offers life to his followers. MacDonald employs mimesis criticism to argue that the earliest Evangelist not only imitated Euripides but expected his readers to recognize Jesus as greater than Dionysos.

Through a Glass Darkly Donald L. Berry 2006 The origin, basic texts, central affirmations, and life-policy proposals of the Christian tradition are more ambiguous than either Christianity's critics or advocates often acknowledge. *Through a Glass Darkly* considers how one might grant authority to the biblical texts without regarding them as inerrant or infallibly true.

The Gospels and Homer Dennis R. MacDonald 2014-11-05 These two volumes of *The New Testament and Greek Literature* are the magnum opus of biblical scholar Dennis R. MacDonald, outlining the profound connections between the New Testament and classical Greek poetry. MacDonald argues that the Gospel writers borrowed from established literary sources to create stories about Jesus that readers of the day would find convincing. In *The Gospels and Homer* MacDonald leads readers through Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, highlighting models that the authors of the Gospel of Mark and Luke-Acts may have imitated for their portrayals of Jesus and his earliest followers such as Paul. The book applies mimesis criticism to show the popularity of the targets being imitated, the distinctiveness in the Gospels, and evidence that ancient readers recognized these similarities. Using side-by-side comparisons, the book provides English translations of Byzantine poetry that shows how Christian writers used lines from Homer to retell the life of Jesus. The potential imitations include adventures and shipwrecks, savages living in cages, meals for thousands, transfigurations, visits from the dead, blind seers, and more. MacDonald makes a compelling case that the Gospel writers successfully imitated the epics to provide their readers with heroes and an authoritative foundation for Christianity.

From Around the Globe Seodial Frank Hubert Deena 2007 *From Around the Globe* features twenty-six essays from international scholars across various disciplines who explore a broad range of contemporary and cutting-edge connections between the Bible and global literature. The scholars' fields of study range from classical western literature to multicultural tracts, including a broad variety of literary genres. The scholars use their treatments of literature, criticism, and the Bible to analyze connections among them from a global perspective. Many writers from industrialized nations and the developing world have employed the Bible as an analogue, or have drawn allusions from it to compose their prose, poetry, drama, and other documents. Most often, these authors draw clear references to biblical matter. Other authors are more guarded and camouflaged. Some non-western writers might even be unaware of the allusions they generate, and western writers, while delving into allegorical shadows, may unwittingly layer in biblical references to their works. This collection engages in a reassessment of authors' biblical references, intentional or unintentional.

Exploring Intertextuality B. J. Oropeza 2016-09-20 This book aims to provide advanced students of biblical studies, seminarians, and academicians with a variety of intertextual strategies to New Testament interpretation. Each chapter is written by a New Testament scholar who provides an established or avant-garde strategy in which: 1) The authors in their respective chapters start with an explanation of the particular intertextual approach they use. Important terms and concepts relevant to the approach are defined, and scholarly proponents or precursors are discussed. 2) The authors use their respective intertextual strategy on a sample text or texts from the New Testament, whether from the Gospels, Acts, Pauline epistles, Disputed Pauline epistles, General epistles, or Revelation. 3) The authors show how their approach enlightens or otherwise brings the text into sharper relief. 4) They end with recommended readings for further study on the respective intertextual approach. This book is unique in providing a variety of strategies related to biblical interpretation through the lens of intertextuality.

Luke and the Politics of Homeric Imitation Dennis R. MacDonald 2019-01-15 In this book MacDonald guides his reader through Luke-Acts from beginning to end to identify and interpret the author's imitations of classical Greek poetry, arguing that Luke's two-volume work was a prose epic to provide his readers with a foundation myth for the new social reality that the Christian Church had become.

The Mythology of America's Seasonal Holidays Arthur George 2020-07-30 Every year we celebrate a cycle of seasonal holidays. The ancient Greeks called this cycle "The Dance of the Horae," after the mythical divinities who represented the seasons. What myths sit at the foundation of our own holiday celebrations? This interdisciplinary book explores the myths and symbols that underlie our major seasonal holidays and give them their meaning. Arthur George also shows how America's own mythmaking has shaped some holidays. This mythological approach reveals how and why holidays arose in the first place, how and why they have changed over the centuries, why they have remained important, and finally how we can celebrate them today in a more meaningful manner that can enrich our lives and better our society. George devotes particular attention to the depth psychological aspects of holidays and their corresponding myths, as well as to the insights of modern biblical scholarship for key holidays such as Easter and Christmas.

Jesus Deus M. David Litwa 2014 What does it mean for Jesus to be deified in early Christian literature? Early Christians did not simply assert Jesus divinity; in their literature, they depicted Jesus with the specific and widely recognized traits of Mediterranean deities. Relying on the methods of the history of religions and ranging judiciously across Hellenistic literature, M. David Litwa shows that at each stage in their depiction of Jesus life and ministry, early Christian writings from the beginning relied on categories drawn not from Judaism alone, but on a wide, pan-Mediterranean understanding of deity.

Holy Monsters, Sacred Grotesques Michael E. Heyes 2018-08-10 This book explores the intersection of religion and monstrosity. The first section contains fresh research on the Middle Ages and Early Modern period, and the second explores the topic of religion and monstrosity from the Early Modern to Modern period.

Varieties of Religious Invention Patrick Gray 2015-09-01 At the origins of the major religious traditions one typically finds a seminal figure. Names such as Jesus, Muhammad, Confucius, and Moses are well known, yet their status as "founders" has not gone uncontested. Does Paul deserve the credit for founding Christianity? Is Laozi the father of Daoism, or should that title belong to Zhuangzi? What is at stake, if anything, in debates about the historical Buddha? What assumptions are implicit in the claim that Hinduism is a religion without a founder? The essays in *Varieties of Religious Invention* do not attempt to settle these perennial arguments. Rather, they consider the subtexts of such debates as an exercise in comparative religion: Who engages in them? To whom do they matter, and when? To what extent are origins thought to define the essence of a religion? When is development in a religious tradition perceived as deviation from its roots? In what ways do arguments about founders serve as proxies for broader cultural, theological, political, or ideological questions? What do they reveal about the ways in which the past is remembered and authority negotiated? Surveying the landscape shaped by these questions within each tradition, the authors provide insights and novel perspectives about the individual religions, and about the study of world religions more generally.

Bart Ehrman Interpreted Robert M. Price 2018-04-24 Arguably no scholar in the 21st century has had more of an impact on public discussion and debate over the historical Jesus and the development of early Christianity than distinguished professor of religious studies, Bart D. Ehrman. He has introduced many new readers to crucial questions of biblical criticism in a series of bestselling books. In *Bart Ehrman Interpreted*, theologian and writer Robert M. Price evaluates Ehrman's body of work. Taking a collegial approach and rejecting polemics, Price defends Ehrman's writing against conservative attacks but also suggests a number of points at which Ehrman may be insufficiently or inconsistently critical. No matter one's views toward Ehrman, *Bart Ehrman Interpreted* will prompt much fruitful and positive discussion of his important work and of the popular and scholarly debates that surround it.

Transforming Interreligious Relations Lefebure, Leo D. 2020-11-18 "This book focuses on recent Roman Catholic engagement with other religious traditions in the United States, and the significance of this experience of religious pluralism for Christian theology"--

Drama of the Divine Economy Paul M. Blowers 2012-10-11 An introduction to the multiplex relation between Creator and creation as an object both of theological construction and religious devotion in the early church. The book argues that patristic commentators were motivated less by cosmological concerns than the desire to depict creation as the enduring creative and redemptive strategy of the Trinity.

Jesus the Epic Hero Karl Olav Sandnes 2022-08-29 What happens to Jesus when his story and ministry are told in narratives and lines lifted from Homer's epics? Empress Eudocia told the Jesus Story in this way, and provided through this a genuinely interesting, prolific, and special piece of theological work.

Does the New Testament Imitate Homer? Dennis R. MacDonald 2008-10-01 div In this provocative challenge to prevailing views of New Testament sources, Dennis R. MacDonald argues that the origins of passages in the book of Acts are to be found not in early Christian legends but in the epics of Homer. MacDonald focuses on four passages in the book of Acts, examines their potential parallels in the Iliad, and concludes that the author of Acts composed them using famous scenes in Homer's work as a model. Tracing the influence of passages from the Iliad on subsequent ancient literature, MacDonald shows how the story generated a vibrant, mimetic literary tradition long before Luke composed the Acts. Luke could have expected educated readers to recognize his transformation of these tales and to see that the Christian God and heroes were superior to Homeric gods and heroes. Building upon and extending the analytic methods of his earlier book, *The Homeric Epics and the Gospel of Mark*, MacDonald opens an original and promising appreciation not only of Acts but also of the composition of early Christian narrative in general. /DIV

The Dionysian Gospel Dennis R. MacDonald 2017-03-01 MacDonald observes that the Fourth Gospel sounds themes proper to the Greek god Dionysos (the Roman Bacchus), not least as he was depicted in Euripides' play *The Bacchae*. A divine figure, offspring of a divine father and human mother, takes on flesh to live among mortals, but is rejected by his own; miraculously provides wine; includes women as his close devotees; dies a violent death and returns to life. The Johannine Evangelist not only imitated Euripides but expected his readers to recognize Jesus as greater than Dionysos.

[A Stranger in Jerusalem](#) Trevan G. Hatch 2019-06-26 In *A Stranger in Jerusalem*, Trevan Hatch attempts to situate the stories about Jesus within their Jewish context. Jesus was a Jew, his friends were Jews, his first followers were Jews, he studied the Hebrew Scriptures (either orally or from texts), he worshiped in the synagogue, and he occasionally traveled to Jerusalem to observe the Israelite festivals. Hatch illustrates that Jesus does not seem to have rejected Judaism or acted as a radical outsider in relation to his Jewish peers, but rather he worked within a Jewish framework. The overarching questions addressed in this book are (1) how can an understanding of early Judaism illuminate our understanding of the Jesus traditions, (2) how did Jesus relate to his Jewish world and vice versa, (3) why did the Gospel writers portray Jesus and his Jewish peers the way they did, and (4) how would Jews in the first and second centuries have interpreted the Jesus traditions upon hearing or reading them? Hatch explores several topics, including childhood and family life in first-century Galilee; Jewish notions of baptism and purity; Jewish prophets and miracle workers; Jewish ideas about the messiah; and Jesus' relationship with Judas, the Pharisees, the priestly establishment in Jerusalem, the Jewish populace, and his own disciples.

Religion, Culture, and the Monstrous Joseph P. Laycock 2021-02-15 Religion, Culture, and the Monstrous: Of Gods and Monsters explores the intersection of the emerging field of “monster theory” within religious studies. With case studies from ancient Mesopotamia to contemporary valleys of the Himalayas to ghost tours in Savannah, Georgia, the volume examines the variegated nature of the monstrous as well as the cultural functions of monsters in shaping how we see the world and ourselves. In this, the authors constructively assess the state of the two fields of monster theory and religious studies, and propose new directions in how these fields can inform each other. The case studies included illuminate the ways in which monsters reinforce the categories through which a given culture sees the world. At the same time, the volume points to how monsters appear to question, disrupt, or challenge those categories, creating an ‘unsettling’ or surplus of meaning.

From the Earliest Gospel (Q+) to the Gospel of Mark Dennis R. MacDonald 2019-10-15 In this book, Dennis R. MacDonald argues that the intertextuality of the Synoptic Gospels is best explained not as the redaction of sources but more flexibly as the imitation of literary texts, such as the Iliad and the Odyssey.

Two Shipwrecked Gospels Dennis R. MacDonald 2012-06-29 With characteristic boldness and careful reassessment of the evidence, MacDonald offers an alternative reconstruction of Q and an alternative solution to the Synoptic Problem: the Q+/Papias Hypothesis. To do so, he reconstructs and interprets two lost books about Jesus: the earliest Gospel, which was used as a source by the authors of Mark, Matthew, and Luke; and the earliest commentary on the Gospels, by Papias of Hierapolis, who apparently knew Mark, Matthew, and the lost Gospel, which he considered to be an alternative Greek translation of a Semitic Matthew. MacDonald also explores how these two texts, well known into the fourth century, shipwrecked with the canonization of the New Testament and the embarrassment at outmoded eschatologies in both the lost Gospel and Papias’s Exposition.

Reading and Teaching Ancient Fiction Sara R. Johnson 2018-03-23 The third volume of research on ancient fiction This volume includes essays presented in the Ancient Fiction and Early Christian and Jewish Narrative section of the Society of Biblical Literature. Contributors explore facets of ongoing research into the interplay of history, fiction, and narrative in ancient Greco-Roman, Jewish, and Christian texts. The essays examine the ways in which ancient authors in a variety of genre and cultural settings employed a range of narrative strategies to reflect on pressing contemporary issues, to shape community identity, or to provide moral and educational guidance for their readers. Not content merely to offer new insights, this volume also highlights strategies for integrating the fruits of this research into the university classroom and beyond. Features Insight into the latest developments in ancient Mediterranean narrative Exploration of how to use ancient texts to encourage students to examine assumptions about ancient gender and sexuality or to view familiar texts from a new perspective Close readings of classical authors as well as canonical and noncanonical Jewish and Christian texts

The Fourth Gospel and the Manufacture of Minds in Ancient Historiography, Biography, Romance, and Drama Tyler Smith 2019-03-27 In *The Fourth Gospel and the Manufacture of Minds*, Tyler Smith offers an account of how conventions for representing minds in ancient historiography, biography, romance, and drama illuminate the cognitive dimension of the Fourth Gospel.

A Thematic Access-Oriented Bibliography of Jesus's Resurrection Michael J. Alter 2019-12-31 The keystone of Christianity is Jesus's physical, bodily resurrection. Present-day scholars can be significantly challenged as they forage through voluminous documents on the resurrection of Jesus. The literature measures well over seven thousand sources in English-language books alone. This makes finding specific sources that are most relevant for specific scholarly purposes an arduous task. Even when a specific book is relevant, finding the parts of the book that are most relevant to the resurrection rather than other topics often requires additional effort. *A Thematic Access-Oriented Bibliography of Jesus's Resurrection* addresses these challenges in several ways. First, the bibliography organizes more than seven thousand English sources into twelve main categories and then thirty-four subcategories, which are designed to help you find the most relevant literature quickly and efficiently. Embedded are pro and con arguments which support efficient access through brief annotations and then annotate the diversity and complexity of the field of religion by including sources that represent a diverse range of views: theistic (e.g., Christian, Jewish, Muslim, etc.), agnostic, and nontheistic. The objective of this bibliography is to provide convenient access to relevant sources from a variety of perspectives, allowing you to browse or find the one source accurately and with ease.

The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours Gregory Nagy 2020-01-10 The ancient Greeks' concept of "the hero" was very different from what we understand by the term today. In 24 installments, based on the Harvard course Nagy has taught and refined since the 1970s, *The Ancient Greek Hero in 24 Hours* explores civilization's roots in Classical literature—a lineage that continues to challenge and inspire us.

Pro Ecclesia Vol 24-N2 Joseph Mangina, Associate Professor of Theology & Director of Advanced Degree Studies, Wycliffe College, Toronto 2015-05-08 *Pro Ecclesia* is a quarterly journal of theology published by the Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology.

The Encyclopedia of Christian Literature George Thomas Kurian 2010-04-16 Covering 2,000 years, this two-volume set is the first encyclopedia devoted to Christian writers and books. In addition to an overview of the Christian literature, this encyclopedia includes more than 40 essays on the principal genres of Christian literature and more than 400 bio-bibliographical essays describing the principal writers and their works.

The Homeric Epics and the Gospel of Mark Dennis Ronald MacDonald 2000-01-01 In this groundbreaking book, Dennis R. MacDonald offers an entirely new view of

the New Testament gospel of Mark. The author of the earliest gospel was not writing history, nor was he merely recording tradition, MacDonald argues. Close reading and careful analysis show that Mark borrowed extensively from the Odyssey and the Iliad and that he wanted his readers to recognize the Homeric antecedents in Mark's story of Jesus. Mark was composing a prose anti-epic, MacDonald says, presenting Jesus as a suffering hero modeled after but far superior to traditional Greek heroes. Much like Odysseus, Mark's Jesus sails the seas with uncomprehending companions, encounters preternatural opponents, and suffers many things before confronting rivals who have made his house a den of thieves. In his death and burial, Jesus emulates Hector, although unlike Hector Jesus leaves his tomb empty. Mark's minor characters, too, recall Homeric predecessors: Bartimaeus emulates Tiresias; Joseph of Arimathea, Priam; and the women at the tomb, Helen, Hecuba, and Andromache. And, entire episodes in Mark mirror Homeric episodes, including stilling the sea, walking on water, feeding the multitudes, the Triumphal E

Nightmares with the Bible Steve A Wiggins 2020-11 "Demons, as viewed through popular culture and history, are nightmares. This book considers demonic possession both historically and through the lenses of several popular movies that focus on exorcism"--

Hidden in Plain View Lydia McGrew 2017-03-01 *Hidden in Plain View: Undesigned Coincidences in the Gospels and Acts* revives an argument for the historical reliability of the New Testament that has been largely neglected for more than a hundred years. An undesigned coincidence is an apparently casual, yet puzzle-like -fit- between two or more texts, and its best explanation is that the authors knew the truth about the events they describe or allude to. Connections of this kind among passages in the Gospels, as well as between Acts and the Pauline epistles, give us reason to believe that these documents came from honest eyewitness sources, people -in the know- about the events they relate. Supported by careful research yet accessibly written, *Hidden in Plain View* provides solid evidence that all Christians can use to defend the Scriptures and the truth of Christianity.

How the Gospels Became History M. David Litwa 2019-08-06 A compelling comparison of the gospels and Greco-Roman mythology which shows that the gospels were not perceived as myths, but as historical records Did the early Christians believe their myths? Like most ancient--and modern--people, early Christians made efforts to present their myths in the most believable ways. In this eye-opening work, M. David Litwa explores how and why what later became the four canonical gospels take on a historical cast that remains vitally important for many Christians today. Offering an in-depth comparison with other Greco-Roman stories that have been shaped to seem like history, Litwa shows how the evangelists responded to the pressures of Greco-Roman literary culture by using well-known historiographical tropes such as the mention of famous rulers and kings, geographical notices, the introduction of eyewitnesses, vivid presentation, alternative reports, and so on. In this way, the evangelists deliberately shaped myths about Jesus into historical discourse to maximize

their believability for ancient audiences.

Jesus and Myth Peter John Barber 2021-02-15 Is Jesus mythological? And is he a mere product of his cultural milieu? Through narratological and social-scientific analysis of the gospel account, Barber systematically demonstrates that there are two opposing patterns structuring the gospel. The first is the pattern of this world, which is the combat myth, with a typical sequence of motifs having mythological meanings. It is lived out by everyone else in the accounts except Jesus, because this pattern of the world is the pattern of myth-culture, which is the pattern of the old Adam and sin nature. The pattern of Jesus is the pattern intended for Adam to walk in, and is the unique pattern of the new Adam, Jesus Christ. Jesus's pattern inverts the sequence and subverts the significance of each and every motif and episode of the myth-culture's pattern. Barber shows that Jesus's "failure" to conform to this world's mythological pattern establishes that he is not mythological, and not a product of his culture. As the apostle Peter states, ". . . we did not follow cleverly devised tales [myths] when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Pet 1:16).

Mythologizing Jesus Dennis R. MacDonald 2015-05-07 Our culture is well-populated with superheroes: Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, and more. Superheroes are not a modern invention; in fact, they are prehistoric. The gods and goddesses of the Greeks, for example, walked on water, flew, visited the land of the dead, and lived forever. Ancient Christians told similar stories about Jesus, their primary superhero—he possessed incredible powers of healing, walked on water, rose from the dead, and more. Dennis R. MacDonald shows how the stories told in the Gospels parallel many in Greek and Roman epics with the aim of compelling their readers into life-changing decisions to follow Jesus. MacDonald doesn't call into question the existence of Jesus but rather asks readers to examine the biblical stories about him through a new, mythological lens.

Christobiography Craig S. Keener 2019-08-27 Demonstrates the reliability of the canonical gospels by exploring the genre of ancient biography The canonical gospels are ancient biographies, narratives of Jesus's life. The authors of these gospels were intentional in how they handled historical information and sources. Building on recent work in the study of ancient biographies, Craig Keener argues that the writers of the canonical gospels followed the literary practices of other biographers in their day. In *Christobiography* he explores the character of ancient biography and urges students and scholars to appreciate the gospel writers' method and degree of accuracy in recounting the ministry of Jesus. Keener's *Christobiography* has far-reaching implications for the study of the canonical gospels and historical-Jesus research. Table of Contents: Introduction Part 1. Biographies about Jesus 2. Not a Novel Proposal 3. Examples and Development of Ancient Biography 4. What Sort of Biographies Are the Gospels? 5. What Did First-Century Audiences Expect of Biographies? Part 2 Biographies and History 6. Biographies and Historical Information 7.

What Historical Interests Meant in Antiquity 8. Luke-Acts as Biohistory 9. Sources Close to the Events Part 3. Testing the Range of Deviation 10. Case Studies: Biographies of Recent Characters Use Prior Information 11. Flex Room: Literary Techniques in Ancient Biographies Part 4. Two Objections to Gospels as Historical Biographies 12. What about Miracles? 13. What about John? Part 5. Memories about Jesus: Memories before Memoirs 14. Memory Studies 15. Jesus Was a Teacher 16. Oral Tradition, Oral History 17. The Implications of This Study

Searching for Jesus Robert J. Hutchinson 2015-10-27 For more than a century, Bible scholars and university researchers have been systematically debunking what ordinary Christians believed about Jesus of Nazareth. But what if the most recent Biblical scholarship actually affirmed the New Testament? What if Jesus was not a Zealot revolutionary, or a Greek Cynic philosopher, or a proto-feminist Gnostic, but precisely what he claimed to be: the divine Son of Man prophesied in the Book of Daniel who gave his life as a ransom for many? What if everything the Gospels say about Jesus of Nazareth—his words, his deeds, his plans—turned out to be true? Searching for Jesus changes “what if?” to “what is,” debunking the debunkers and showing how the latest scholarship supports orthodox Christian belief.

Miracles: A Very Short Introduction Yujin Nagasawa 2017-11-16 Jesus turned water into wine, Mohammad split the moon into two, and Buddha walked and spoke immediately upon birth. According to recent statistics, even in the present age of advanced science and technology, most people believe in miracles. In fact, newspapers and television regularly report alleged miracles, such as recoveries from incurable diseases, extremely unlikely coincidences, and religious signs and messages on unexpected objects. In this book the award-winning author and philosopher Yujin Nagasawa addresses some of our most fundamental questions concerning miracles. What exactly is a miracle? What types of miracles are believed in the world's great religions? What do recent scientific findings tell us about miracles? Can we rationally believe that miracles have really taken place? Can there be acts that are more religiously significant than miracles? Drawing on a vast variety of fascinating examples from across the major religions, Nagasawa discusses the lively debate on miracles that ranges from reported miracles in ancient scriptures in the East and West to cutting-edge scientific research on belief formation. Throughout, he drives us to ask ourselves if and how we can still believe in miracles in the twenty-first century. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.