

The Fourfold Gospel

A Theological Reading of the New Testament Portraits of Jesus

Francis Watson

This groundbreaking approach to the study of the fourfold gospel offers a challenging alternative to prevailing assumptions about the creation of the gospels and the person of Jesus. Interweaving historical, exegetical, and theological perspectives, this book explains that the four gospels were chosen to give a portrait of Jesus. Francis Watson explores the significance of the fourfold gospel's plural form for those who constructed it and for later Christian communities. He focuses on reading the gospels alongside one another rather than in isolation and explains that the fourfold gospel is greater than, and other than, the sum of its individual parts.

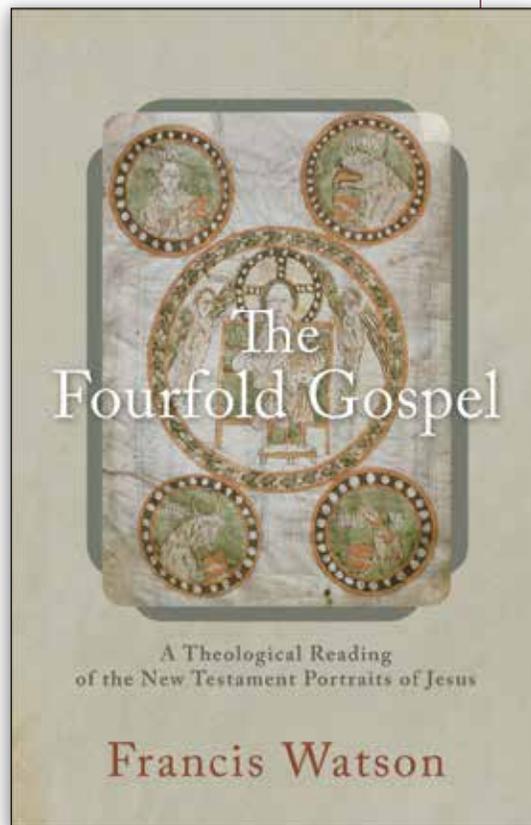
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"*The Fourfold Gospel* displays all the virtues that readers have come to expect from one of the finest biblical interpreters of our day: depth and breadth of learning, exegetical prowess, clarity of argument, and sure theological judgment, all in the service of the truth of the gospel."—**John Webster**, St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews

"What does it mean, theologically speaking, that we have four canonical gospels? Drawing on sources as diverse as Ezekiel's vision and Eusebius's canons, Francis Watson's reflection on this question is as astonishingly fresh as it is deeply grounded in the church's traditions. Not for specialists only, *The Fourfold Gospel* is rich and richly rewarding."—**Beverly Roberts Gaventa**, Baylor University

"The contributions of Francis Watson are always innovative and incisive, and this book, which will win a large readership, is no exception. With his unrivaled ability to combine expert historical knowledge with interpretive acuity, he is like the ideal scribe in Matthew, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."—**Dale C. Allison Jr.**, Princeton Theological Seminary

"The old cliché about John's gospel is that it is like a sea in which a child may paddle or an elephant swim. The same could be said of this marvelous book, which makes an excellent introductory book for students while also brimming with both astute historical detective work and elegant and thoughtful (and sometimes moving) exegesis that is illuminating for the expert."—**Simon Gathercole**, University of Cambridge and Fitzwilliam College



Francis Watson (PhD, University of Oxford) is Research Chair in Biblical Interpretation at Durham University. He previously held the Kirby Laing Chair of New Testament Exegesis at the University of Aberdeen and taught at King's College London. Among his numerous works are the critically acclaimed *Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith*; *Paul, Judaism, and the Gentiles: Beyond the New Perspective*; and *Gospel Writing: A Canonical Perspective*. He is also coauthor of *Reading Scripture with the Church*.

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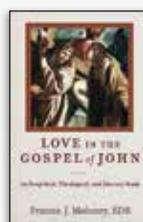
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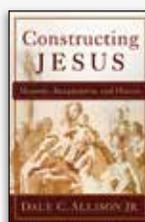
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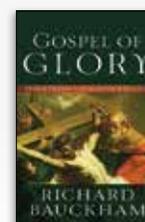
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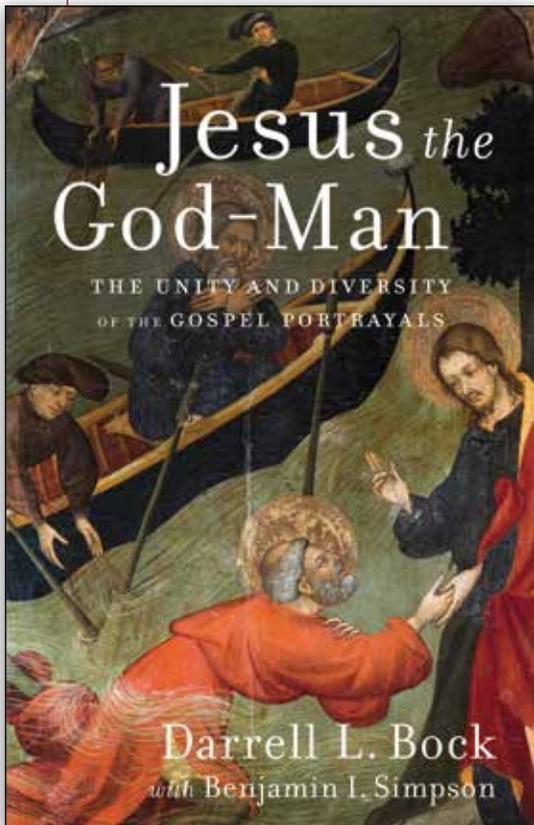
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Jesus the God-Man

The Unity and Diversity of the Gospel Portrayals

Darrell L. Bock with Benjamin I. Simpson

Why four Gospels rather than one? What should we do with the different emphases they present? Given the different ways they present Jesus, how can we put together all that Jesus taught and appreciate how the Gospels show us who Jesus is?

This clear, compact introduction surveys what the Gospels tell us about who Jesus is by exploring his teachings and actions in their contexts. Darrell Bock and Benjamin Simpson treat the Gospels as reliable sources for a plausible portrait of Jesus. They open up fresh ways to appreciate how the Gospels work, explaining that the four Gospels, when taken together, help us to see Jesus with depth. Major Gospel themes are treated as are the distinct emphases in each Gospel, thus demonstrating why four Gospels about Jesus are better than one combined account.

Condensing years of extensive study on the topic, this handy, readable textbook presents fresh ways to understand the Gospels, especially the Synoptics in comparison with John. Professors and students in courses on Jesus and the Gospels as well as pastors and church leaders will value this work.

ENDORSEMENT

“*Jesus the God-Man* provides readers with an excellent entry into the ins and outs of critical study of the historical Jesus. Darrell Bock and Benjamin Simpson cover all the major points of importance and debate. They do so judiciously, fairly, and with clarity and precision. I am pleased to recommend it.”—**Craig A. Evans**, Houston Baptist University

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Introduction

1. Preparation: Birth, John the Baptist, and the Temptations
 2. Jesus’s Central Message: The Kingdom of God
 3. The Nature of the Kingdom: Presence, Realm, Ethics, Messiah, and the Father
 4. Jesus’s Titles: Who Is Jesus?
 5. Jesus’s Teaching and Actions: Showing Who He Is
 6. Jesus’s Community of the New Era: The Calling of Those Who Respond
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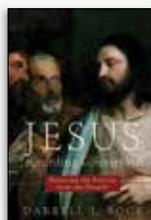
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Darrell L. Bock (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is executive director for cultural engagement at the Hendricks Center at Dallas Theological Seminary, where he also serves as senior research professor of New Testament studies. He speaks and teaches around the world and has authored or edited numerous books, including *Jesus according to Scripture*, *Studying the Historical Jesus*, and major commentaries on Luke and Acts.

Benjamin I. Simpson (PhD, Dallas Theological Seminary) is associate dean and assistant professor of New Testament studies at the Houston campus of Dallas Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Recent Research on the Historical Jesus*.

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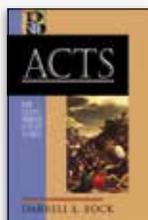
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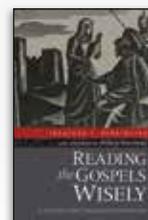
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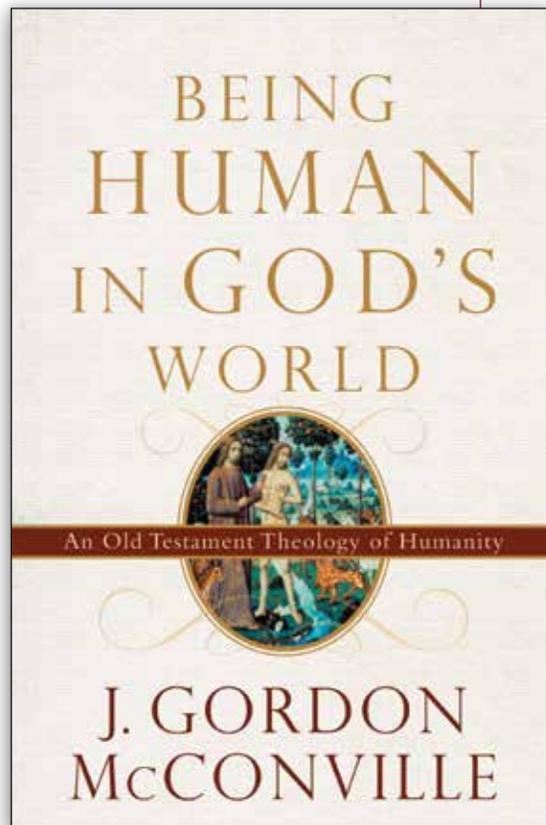
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"McConville offers a richly textured account of our humanity as the Hebrew Bible portrays it. His 'spiritual' reading is both scholarly and engaging for a diverse audience, as he explores variously the material, political, gendered and sexual, as well as prayerful dimensions of human living 'in the image of God.'"—**Ellen F. Davis**, Duke Divinity School

"What does it mean to be human? Gordon McConville explores God's revelation in the Old Testament in response to this question. With insight and profundity, he illuminates our understanding, but more importantly he shows how the Old Testament invites us to spiritual transformation centered on worship. I recommend this book to all who want to understand themselves better and to grow as human beings created in the image of God."—**Tremper Longman III**, Westmont College

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- 6. Embodiments: Place and Memory
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- 8. Male and Female
- 9. Work and Creativity
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- Indexes



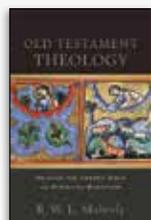
J. Gordon McConville (PhD, Queen's University, Belfast) is professor of Old Testament theology at the University of Gloucestershire, where he has taught for more than twenty years. Prior to coming to Gloucestershire, he held positions at Tyndale House, Trinity College Bristol, and Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University. He has authored or edited many books, including the *Dictionary of the Old Testament: Prophets* and commentaries on Deuteronomy, Joshua, 1 and 2 Chronicles, and Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. McConville is the general editor of the Exploring the Old Testament series and coauthored the Prophets and Historical Books volumes in the series.

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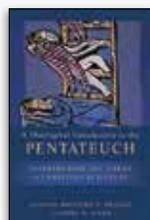
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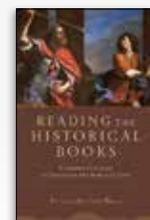
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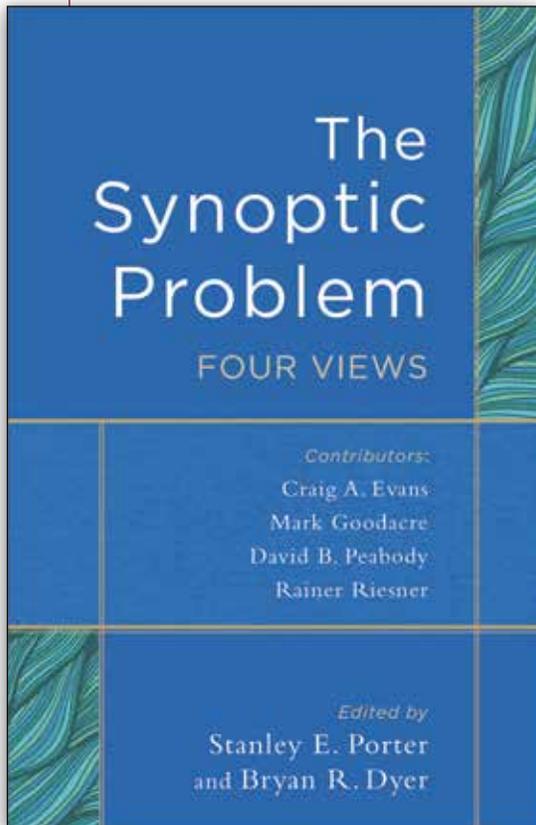
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The Synoptic Problem

Four Views

Stanley E. Porter and Bryan R. Dyer, editors

The relationship between Matthew, Mark, and Luke is one of the most contested topics in Gospel studies. How do we account for the close similarities—and differences—in the Synoptic Gospels?

In the last few decades, the standard answers to the typical questions regarding the Synoptic Problem have come under fire, while new approaches have surfaced. This up-to-date introduction, ideal for classroom use and individual study, articulates and debates the four major views. Following an overview of the issues, leading proponents of each view set forth their positions and respond to each of the other views. A concluding chapter summarizes the discussion and charts a direction for further study.

This work will be of interest to professors, students, scholars, and other readers interested in the Synoptic Problem.

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1. The Synoptic Problem: An Introduction to Its Key Terms, Concepts, Figures, and Hypotheses *Stanley E. Porter and Bryan R. Dyer*
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 9. Orality and Memory Hypothesis Response *Rainer Riesner*
 10. What Have We Learned regarding the Synoptic Problem, and What Do We Still Need to Learn? *Stanley E. Porter and Bryan R. Dyer*
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Stanley E. Porter (PhD, University of Sheffield) is president, dean, professor of New Testament, and Roy A. Hope Chair in Christian Worldview at McMaster Divinity College. A prolific author, he has authored or edited dozens of books, including *Sacred Tradition in the New Testament*, *Linguistic Analysis of the Greek New Testament*, *How We Got the New Testament*, and *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*.

Bryan R. Dyer (PhD, McMaster Divinity College) is acquisitions editor for Baker Academic. He is the coeditor of *Paul and Ancient Rhetoric* and *The Bible and Social Justice*.

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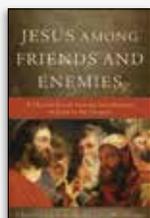
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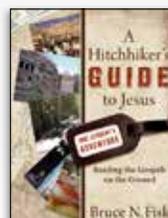
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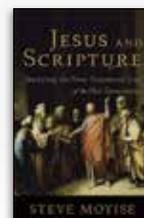
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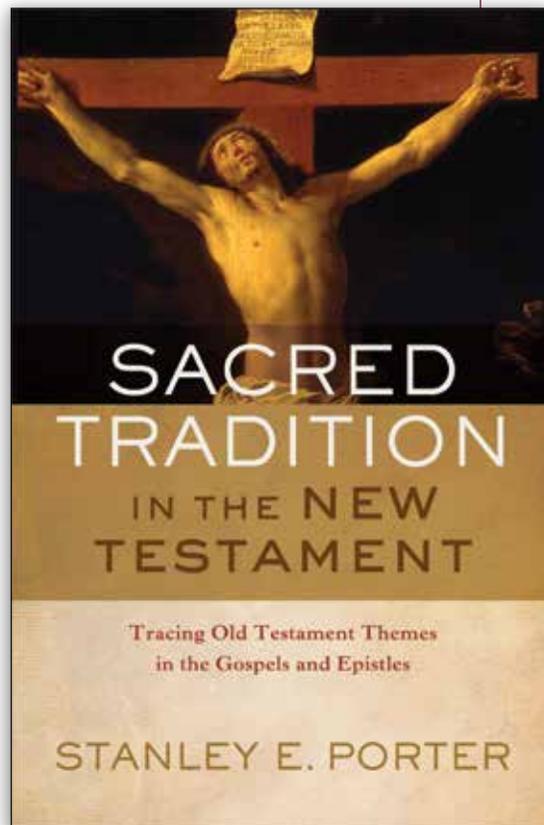
Stanley E. Porter

“This collection of essays engages a perennial issue within the field of New Testament studies: the relationship of the earliest Christian literature to the heritage of its sacred traditions. In critical dialogue with recent scholarship, Porter clarifies the tricky methodological issues of how the New Testament cites, alludes to, and echoes scriptural texts. His insightful but provocative findings about the use of certain traditional texts and images by early Christians and by Jesus himself will no doubt stimulate further significant scholarly debate.”—**Harold W. Attridge**, Yale Divinity School

“Porter leads us into a fresh and stimulating understanding of the New Testament’s appropriation of the sacred traditions of Israel’s Scriptures. This is more than just another book on the New Testament’s use of the Old. Porter’s decision to focus on the titles of Jesus and broad themes makes the book practically a miniature New Testament theology, with the great virtue of helping us perceive the rich unity of the Bible. This is a book that deserves, and will reward, a thoughtful reading.”—**Donald A. Hagner**, Fuller Theological Seminary

“Stanley Porter’s *Sacred Tradition in the New Testament* brings much-needed nuance and definition to a very important phenomenon in New Testament literature, especially with reference to the popular but often ill-defined term *intertextuality*. Porter not only clarifies the relevant vocabulary and methods, but he also discusses several important texts and themes that relate to Jesus, his self-understanding, and the Christology that comes to expression in the New Testament. Anyone interested in the topic will want to engage this carefully researched and well-written book.”—**Craig A. Evans**, Houston Baptist University

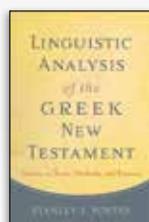
“Ranging more widely than traditional treatments of the Old Testament in the New, Porter’s study illustrates the broad role such traditions played in shaping the way Jesus was understood by New Testament authors and in shaping Jesus’s own self-understanding. This is a significant contribution on much-debated issues.”—**Stephen Westerholm**, McMaster University



Stanley E. Porter (PhD, University of Sheffield) is president, dean, professor of New Testament, and Roy A. Hope Chair in Christian Worldview at McMaster Divinity College. A prolific author, he has authored or edited dozens of books, including *The Synoptic Problem*, *Linguistic Analysis of the Greek New Testament*, *How We Got the New Testament*, and *Fundamentals of New Testament Greek*.

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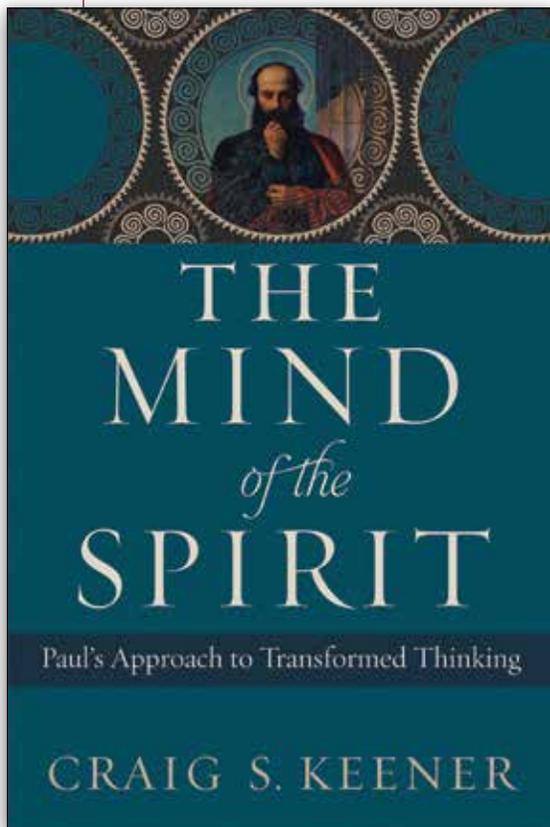


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Paul's Approach to Transformed Thinking

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"In Romans, Paul interacts more fully with the thought world of his day than in any of his other letters. Only someone who is wholly familiar with the richness of Jewish scripture and tradition, with the ancient philosophies of Stoics, Platonists, Epicureans, and others, and with the reality of human experience can fully appreciate why Paul argues as he does and the effectiveness of his argument. Craig Keener is one such scholar, and his rich exposition of key passages in Romans—as well as in 1–2 Corinthians, Philippians, and Colossians—brings out the point and force of Paul's argument for his own time again and again, and in a way that reinvigorates Paul's argument for a very different time."

—James D. G. Dunn, Durham University

"Craig Keener has filled a significant gap in Pauline studies as only he could do: with thousands of references to ancient sources to help us understand Paul's perspectives in context. The result is a work full of exegetical, theological, and even pastoral insight into the human mind according to Paul—especially the mind transformed in Christ."

—Michael J. Gorman, St. Mary's Seminary & University, Baltimore

"Only a scholar with Craig Keener's *nous* could write the most authoritative work to date on Paul's belief in the transformation of a person's mind from godless reasoning to possessing the mind of Christ. Keener describes the Pauline vision of the believing mind as one immersed in the Jesus story, freed by the Spirit's power, bathed in divine wisdom, and oriented toward heaven. This book will, quite literally, open your mind to Paul's theology of the mind."—Michael Bird, Ridley College, Melbourne, Australia

Craig S. Keener (PhD, Duke University) is F. M. and Ada Thompson Professor of Biblical Studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. He is the author of many books, including *Miracles: The Credibility of the New Testament Accounts*, *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*, *The Historical Jesus of the Gospels*, *Gift and Giver*, and commentaries on Acts, Matthew, John, Romans, 1–2 Corinthians, and Revelation.

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7. A Christlike Mind (Phil. 2:1–5; 3:19–21; 4:6–8)
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Conclusion

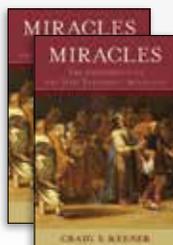
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Appendix A: The Soul in Ancient Mediterranean Thought

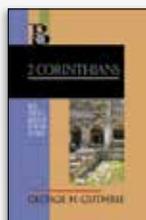
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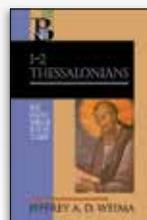
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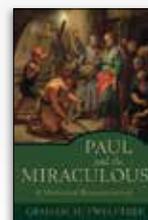
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The Apostle and His Critics through the Centuries

Patrick Gray

The apostle Paul has influenced and inspired countless individuals and institutions. But for some, he holds a controversial place in Christianity. This engaging book brings intellectual and cultural history into conversation with study of the New Testament, exploring why many people have been wary of Paul and what their criticisms reveal about the church and the broader culture.

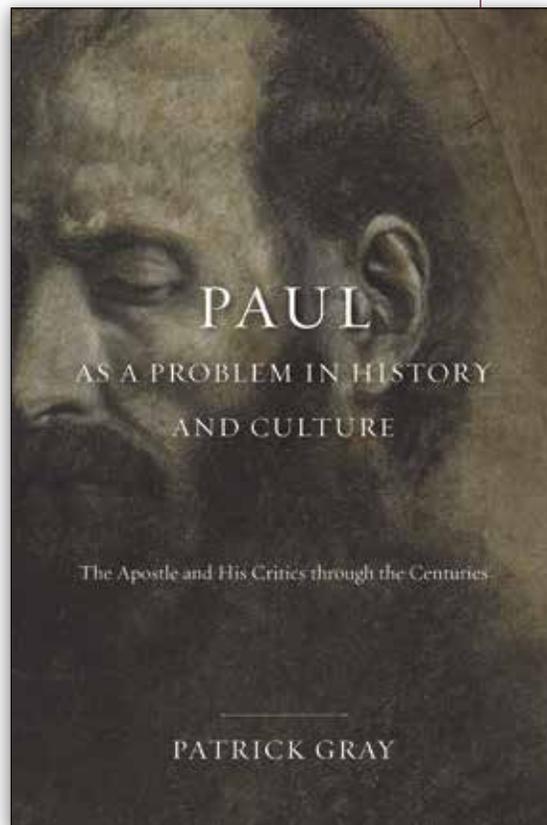
ENDORSEMENTS

“Many scholars write only for other scholars, and some experts are adept at writing for more general audiences, but only a few can write well with both audiences in mind. Patrick Gray is one of those rare scholars, and his book on reactions to Paul through the centuries is a gem that merits the attention of all readers interested in early Christianity’s most controversial apostle.”—**John T. Fitzgerald**, University of Notre Dame

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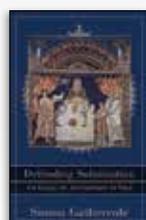


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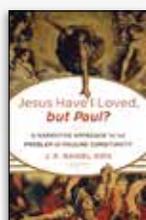
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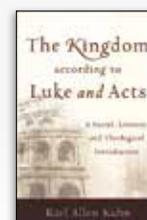
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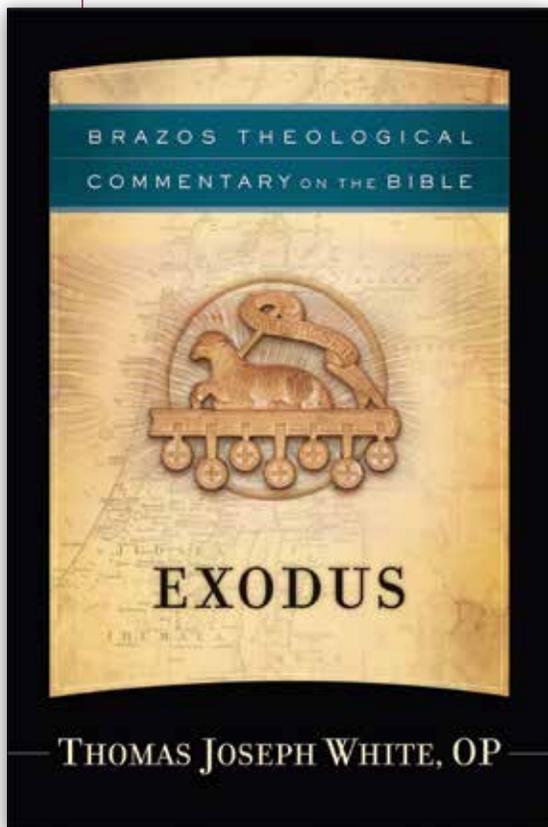
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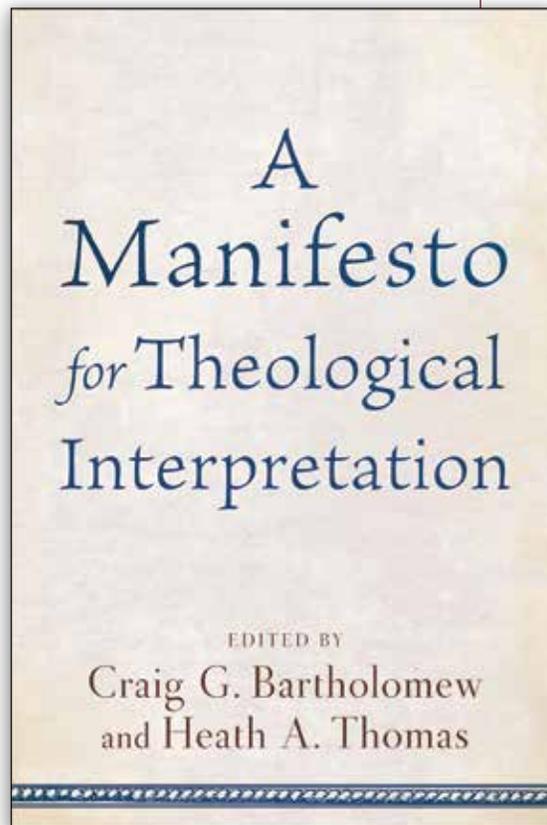
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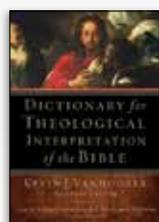
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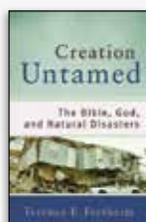
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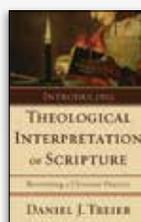
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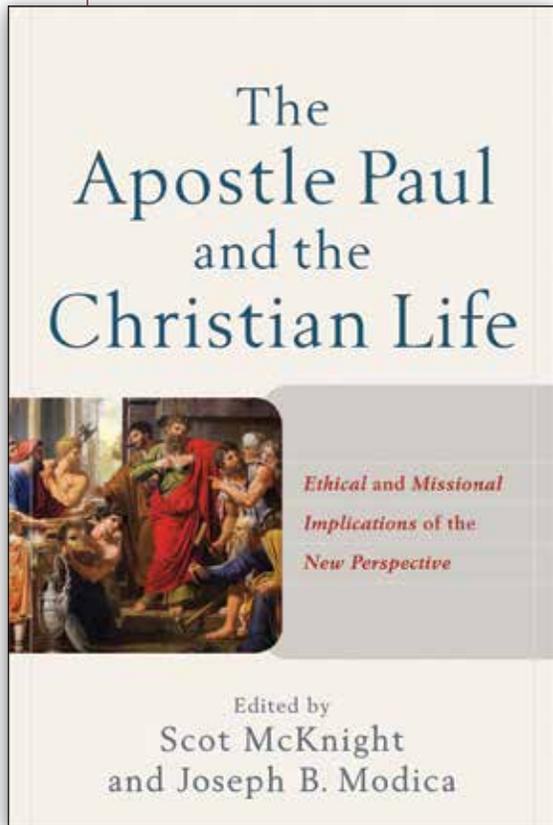
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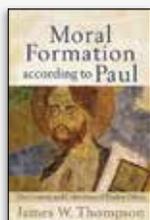
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Joseph B. Modica (PhD, Drew University) is university chaplain and associate professor of biblical studies at Eastern University. He is the coeditor, with Scot McKnight, of *Jesus Is Lord, Caesar Is Not: Evaluating Empire in New Testament Studies*.

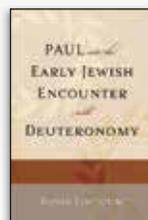
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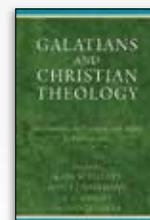
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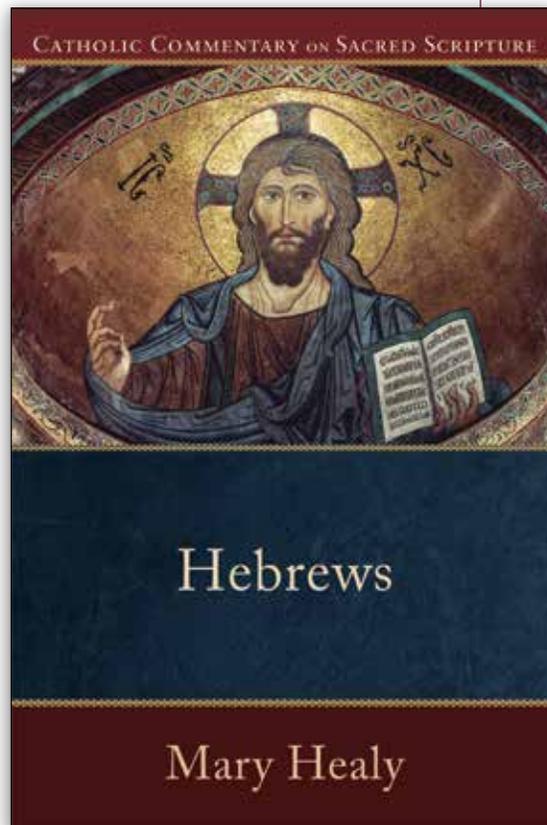
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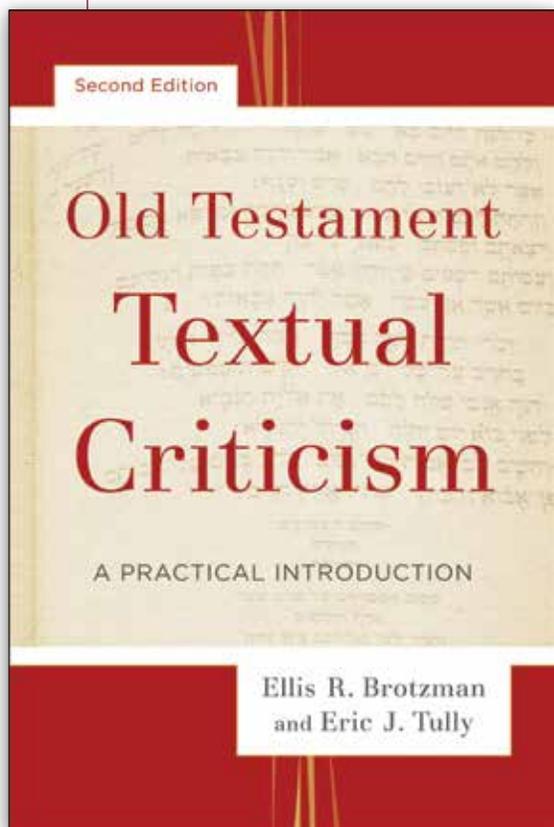
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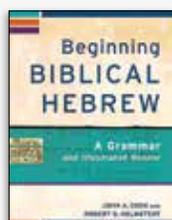
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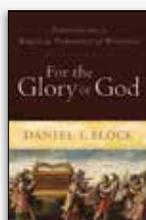
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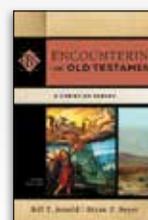
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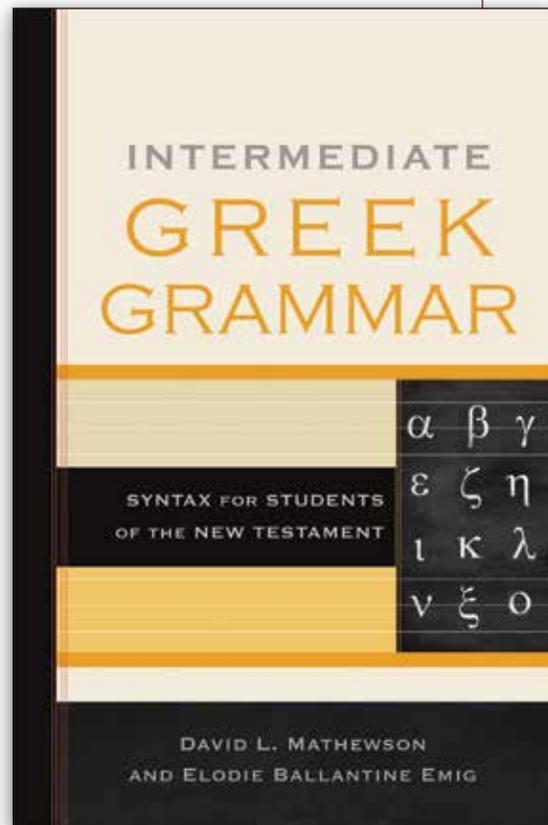
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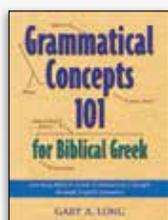
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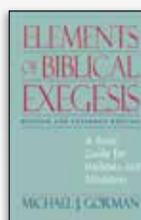
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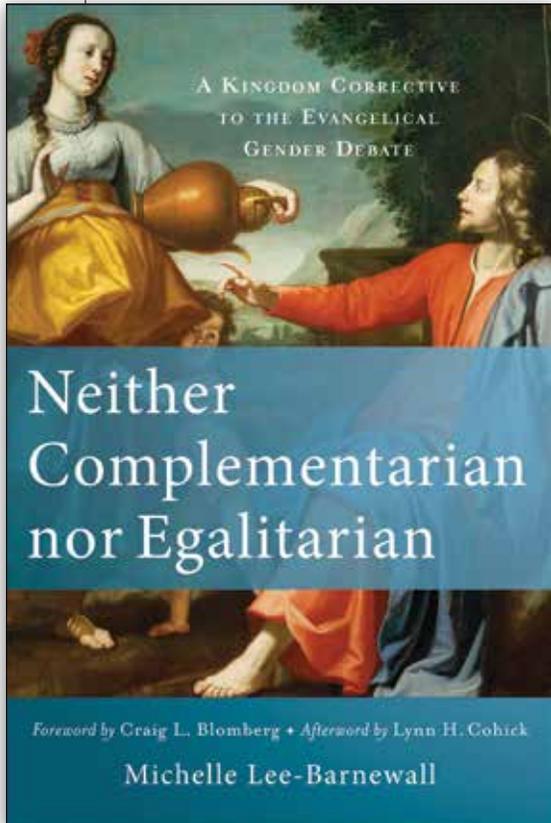
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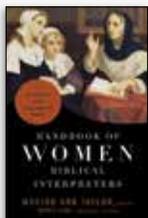
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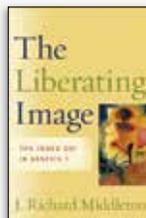
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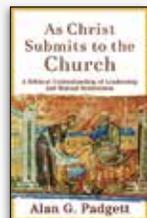
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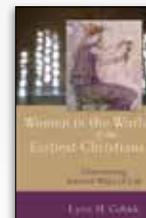
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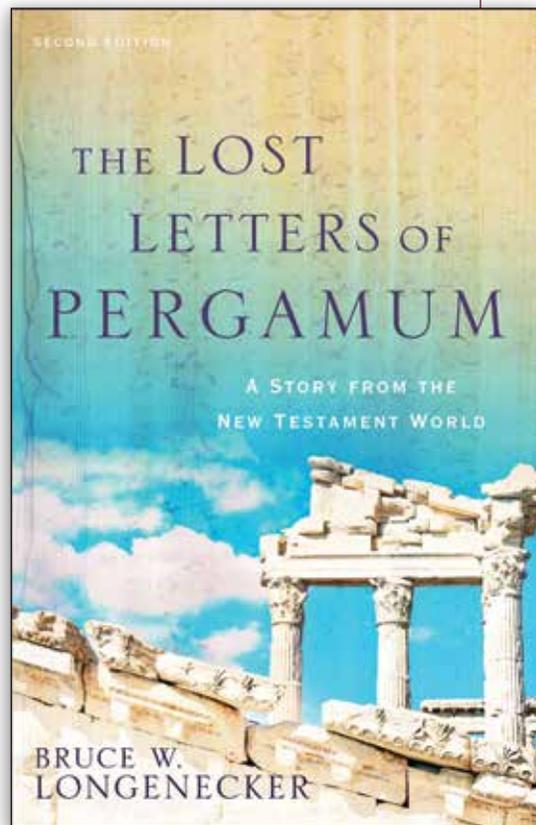
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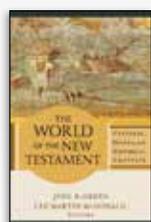


Bruce W. Longenecker (PhD, University of Durham) is professor of religion and W. W. Melton Chair of Religion at Baylor University. He previously taught at the University of St. Andrews, the University of Cambridge, and Durham University. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books, including *Thinking through Paul: A Survey of His Life, Letters, and Theology*; *The Cross before Constantine: The Early Life of a Christian Symbol*; and *Philippians and Philemon* in the Paideia commentary series.

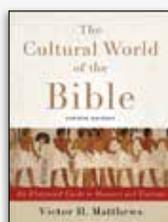
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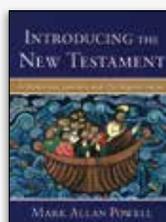
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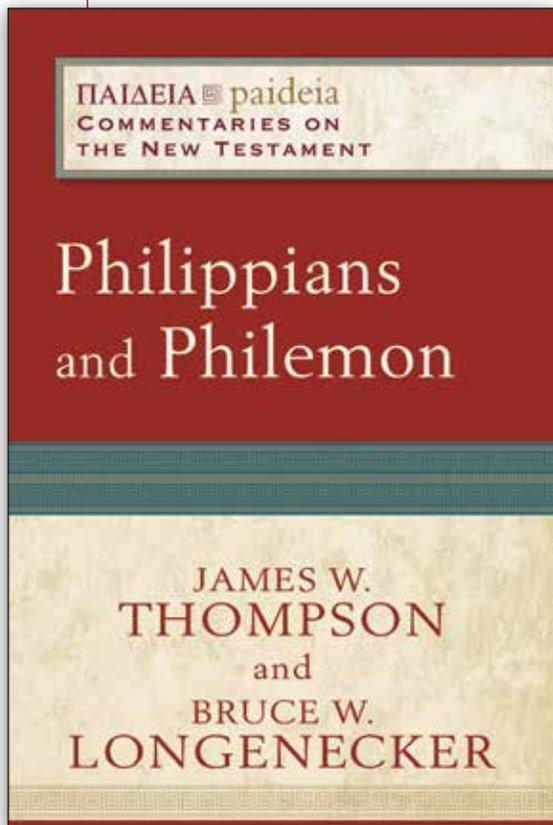
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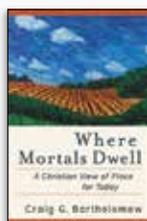
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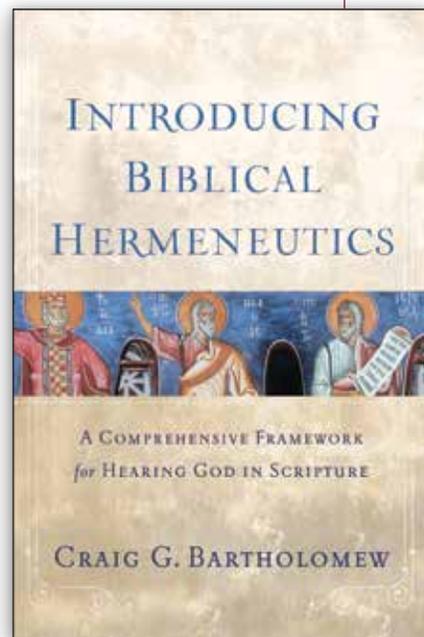
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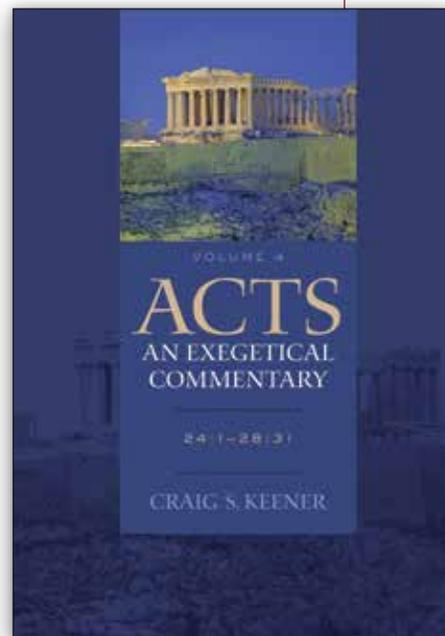
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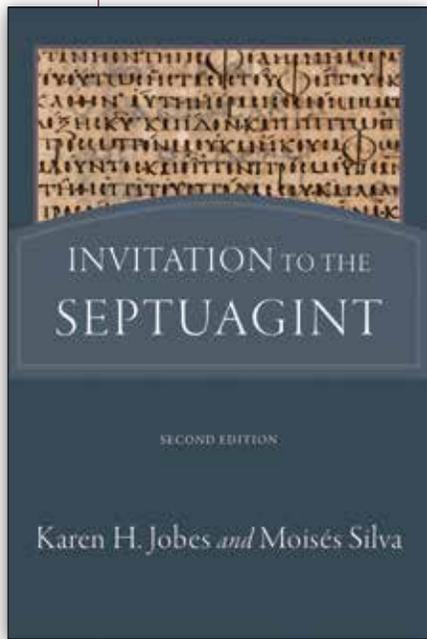
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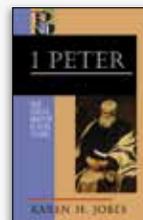
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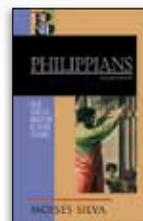
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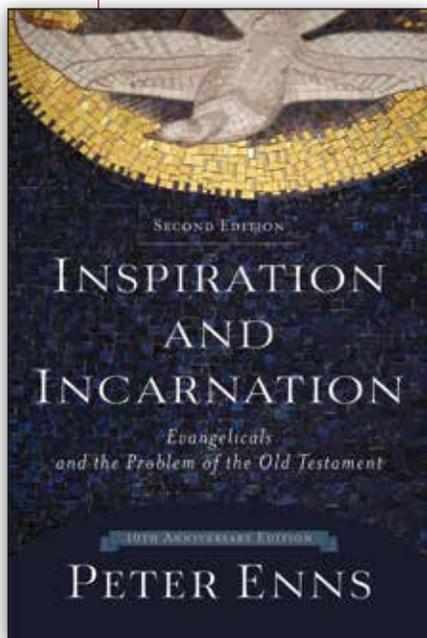
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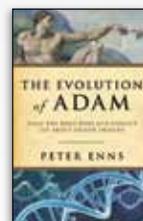
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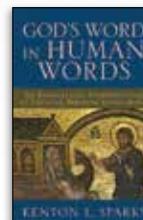
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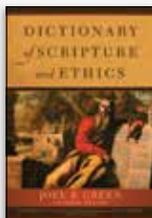
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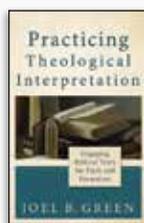
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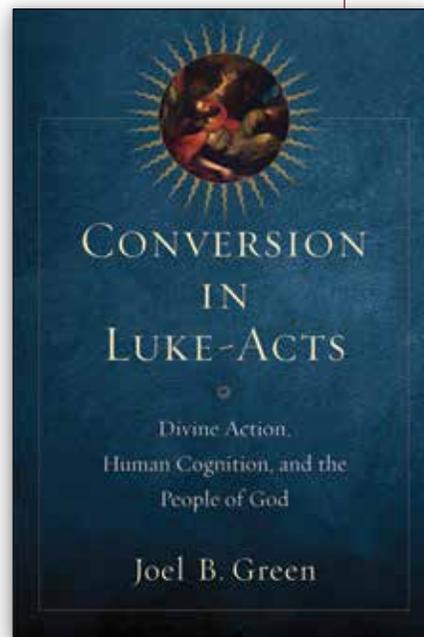
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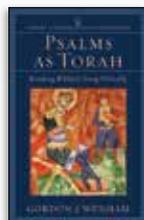


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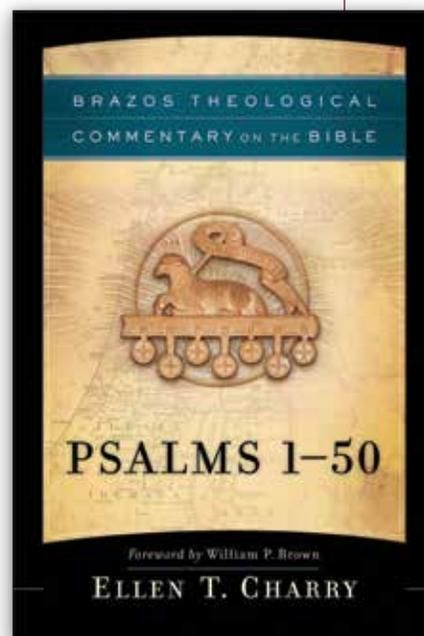
Foreword by William P. Brown

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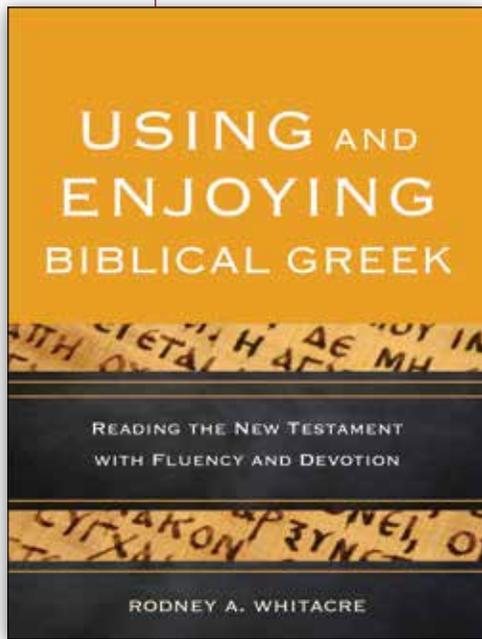
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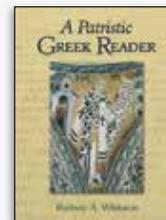
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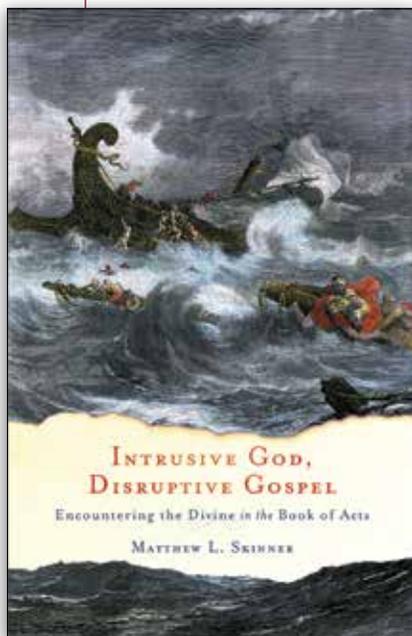
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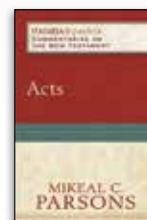
Matthew L. Skinner (PhD, Princeton Theological Seminary) is professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary. He frequently contributes to popular Christian magazines and blogs and is a featured writer for *ON Scripture* (a weekly column carried by *Odyssey Networks*), the *Huffington Post*, and other online outlets.

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