

Robert S. Kinney

Hellenistic Dimensions of the Gospel of Matthew

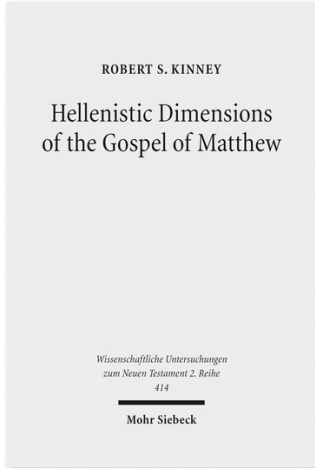
Background and Rhetoric

[Hellenistische Dimensionen des Matthäusevangeliums. Hintergrund und Rhetorik.]

Published in English.

In the search for Matthean theology, scholars overwhelmingly approach the Gospel of Matthew as »the most Jewish Gospel«. Studies of its *Sitz im Leben* focus on its relationship to Judaism, whether arguing from the perspective that Matthew wrote from a cloistered Jewish community or as the leader of a Gentile rebellion against such a Jewish community. While this is undoubtedly an important and necessary discussion for understanding the Gospel, it often assumes too much about the relationship between Judaism and Hellenism (via Martin Hengel). Scholars who so sharply focus on this question tend to neglect Matthew's provenance in a thoroughly Greek culture and first-century Judaism's thorough Hellenization. Robert S. Kinney argues for a hybridized perspective in which Matthew's attention to Jewish sources and ideas is not denied, but in which echoes of Greek and Roman sources can be observed, focusing on identifying Matthew's use of rhetoric and its possible echoes of Greco-Roman philosophical disciple-gathering teachers.

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2016. XV, 338 pages. WUNT II 414

ISBN 978-3-16-154523-8
sewn paper 104,00 €

ISBN 978-3-16-154524-5
eBook PDF 104,00 €

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