

Laura J. Hunt

Jesus Caesar

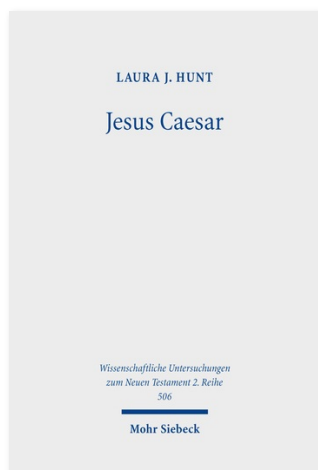
A Roman Reading of the Johannine Trial Narrative

[Jesus Caesar. Das Lesen der johanneischen Prozesserzählung aus römischer Sicht.]

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In this work, Laura J. Hunt looks at Latin use in Ephesus, Antioch, and Alexandria. The evidence of intersections between Roman and Greek languages in those cities suggests that the Roman cultural encyclopaedia could shed light on the Gospel of John, particularly the trial narrative. Words that intersect with important Roman concepts include *πραιτώριον*, βασιλεύς, υἱὸς θεοῦ and ἐξουσία. The phrase Ἰδοὺ ὁ ἄνθρωπος in John 19:5 approximates *hic vir, hic est* from Vergil's *Aeneid* (6.791), marking it as a literary allusion. A semiotic analysis of John 18:28–19:22 reveals a Jesus depicted with the words and images of a Caesar. The Roman Pilate tests the loyalty of both Jesus and 'the Jews' to Caesar, emerging as weak only in relation to Caesar. Although other scholars have looked at empire in the Gospel of John, this study offers a sustained Roman reading of the Johannine trial narrative.

Laura J. Hunt Born 1961; 2009 Masters in Theological Studies from Michigan Theological Seminary; 2017 PhD in New Testament from the University of Wales, Trinity St. David; currently an adjunct for several academic institutions including Ashland Theological Seminary in Detroit, MI, and Spring Arbor University, in Toledo, OH.



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