

# Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity

Edited by Wayne Coppins and Simon Gathercole

Mohr Siebeck and Baylor University Press (Waco, Texas, USA) continued a landmark, international collaboration in Christian scholarship with the *Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity* series. In this series, editors Wayne Coppins (University of Georgia, USA) and Simon Gathercole (Cambridge, UK) selected, translated, and edited major works from senior German scholars on early Christianity's relationships to Second Temple Judaism and Hellenistic religious movements from the first years of the Common Era. Titles in *Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity* appear for the first time in English and make accessible the highest level of German scholarship for the anglophone world. The series published one volume per year over a period of a decade.

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Konradt, Matthias

## Christology, Torah, and Ethics in the Gospel of Matthew

Transl. by Wayne Coppins

2022. 256 pages.

ISBN 9783161614521  
cloth 54,00 €

The tenth and final volume in the Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity series, brings together seven of Matthias Konradt's most important essays on the Gospel of Matthew. Together they highlight key themes of this major early Christian text and demonstrate its formative role in shaping both the identity and theology of the growing Christian movement. Matthias Konradt presents the main points of controversy in recent scholarship on the relationship of the Matthean community to Judaism, identifies the interpretive problems that underlie the disagreements, and deals with central aspects of Matthean Christology. The author works out his sophisticated understanding of Matthew's Torah hermeneutic, giving special attention to the interpretation of the antitheses in the Sermon on the Mount and to Matthew's reception and interpretation of the decalogue.

Published in North America by Baylor University Press, Waco.

Wischmeyer, Oda

## Love as Agape

The Early Christian Concept and Modern Discourse

Translated by Wayne Coppins

2021. 340 pages.

ISBN 9783161609084  
cloth 64,00 €

In our fraught global environment, when political and ideological lines are drawn ever sharper and old allegiances are increasingly strained, love for neighbor as both individual and societal obligation needs to be thematized and justified anew. At the same time, the New Testament call to love one's enemies forms a sharp point of contrast to the current non-culture of hatred for all things different and foreign.

Oda Wischmeyer aims to bring the New Testament concept of love into conversation with the current discussion about love. She investigates the commandment tradition of love for God and for neighbor, the ways in which the Septuagint and Plutarch speak of love, and the innovative concepts of love developed by Paul and John. She also presents an exegetically informed construction of the New Testament concept of love that is sharpened through a penetrating comparison with counter-, parallel, and alternative concepts from the ancient world. The book brings this holistic biblical vision forward into critical and constructive dialogue with key contemporary visions of love, including those of Julia Kristeva, Martha Nussbaum, Pope Benedict XVI, and Simon May. The tension that emerges stresses the need for fresh conceptualizations of ancient Jewish-Christian understandings, giving rise to the concluding question of the profile, limits, and impulses of the agape ἀγάπη concept for present challenges.

Through this academically rigorous and pastorally sensitive exploration, Oda Wischmeyer points to the great love story between God and humanity, which realizes itself in the figure of Jesus Christ. This divine romance places love as the most intense, affirming, and life-creating relationship in God's own self, a relationship into which human beings are drawn and by which they obtain special dignity when God's love becomes their life.

Becker, Eve-Marie

## Paul on Humility

Transl. by Wayne Coppins

2020. 211 pages.

ISBN 9783161596506  
cloth 44,00 €

Translated from German into English for the first time, this monograph seeks to reclaim the original sense of humility as an ethical mindset that is of community-building value. This exploration of humility begins with a consideration of how the concept plays into current cultural crises before considering its linguistic and philosophical history in Western culture. In turning to the roots of Christian humility, Eve-Marie Becker focuses on Philippians 2, a passage in which Paul appeals to the lowliness of Christ to encourage his fellow Christians to persevere. She shows that humility both formed the basis of the ethic Paul instilled in Christ-believing communities and acted as a mimetic device centered on Jesus' example that was molded into the earliest Christian identity and community.

Hengel, Martin / Schwemer, Anna Maria

## Jesus and Judaism

Transl. by Wayne Coppins

2019. 820 pages.

ISBN 9783161589201  
cloth 84,00 €

The debate over the extent of Jewish influence upon early Christianity rages on. At the heart of this argument lies the question of Jesus: how does the fate of a first-century Galilean Jew inspire and determine the nature, shape, and practices of a distinct religious movement? Vital to this first question is another equally challenging one: can the four Gospels be used to reconstruct the historical Jesus? In this work, Martin Hengel and Anna Maria Schwemer seek to untangle the complex relationships among Jesus, Judaism, and the Gospels in the earliest Christian movement.

*Jesus and Judaism*, the first in a four-volume series, focuses on the person of Jesus in the context of Judaism. Beginning with his Galilean origin, the volume analyzes Jesus' relationship with John the Baptist and the Jewish context of Jesus' life and work.

The authors argue that there never was a nonmessianic Jesus. Rather, his messianic claim finds expression in his relationship to the Baptist, his preaching in authority, his deeds of power, and his crucifixion as king of the Jews, and in the emergence of the earliest Christology. As Martin Hengel and Anna Maria Schwemer reveal, Jesus was not only a devout Jew, nor merely a miracle worker, but the essential part of the earliest form of Christianity.

The authors insist that Jesus belongs *within* the history of early Christianity, rather than as its presupposition. Christianity did not begin after Jesus' death; Christianity began as soon as a Jew from Galilee started to preach the word of God.

Wolter, Michael

## The Gospel According to Luke

Volume II (Luke 9:51 – 24)

Translated by Wayne Coppins and Christoph Heilig

2017. X, 660 pages.

ISBN 9783161556005  
cloth 69,00 €

In this fifth volume of the Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity series, Michael Wolter provides a detailed, verse-by-verse interpretation of the Third Evangelist's Gospel (Luke 9:51–24). His approach to a sustained reading of Luke's Gospel is comprehensive. He carefully places Luke's narrative of Jesus in its cultural context, paying close attention to the relationship of the Gospel with its Jewish and Greco-Roman environment and performs form-critical and narrative analysis of the specific stories; however, he also emphasizes Luke as a theologian and his Gospel as a work of theology. Michael Wolter's commentary shows that Luke succeeds in preserving the history of Jesus and its theological impact and that this history stands on equal footing with the history of early Christianity.

Published in the US by Baylor University Press, Waco.

Wolter, Michael

## The Gospel According to Luke

Volume I (Luke 1–9:50)

Translated by Wayne Coppins and Christoph Heilig

2016. XX, 500 pages.

ISBN 9783161549328  
cloth 64,00 €

In this fourth volume of the Baylor-Mohr Siebeck Studies in Early Christianity, Michael Wolter provides a detailed, verse-by-verse interpretation of the Third Evangelist. His commentary shows that Luke succeeds in preserving the history of Jesus and its theological impact and that this history stands on equal footing with the history of early Christianity. Wolter's thorough, careful reading follows Luke as the Evangelist seeks to explain how the fulfillment of the Old Testament promises of God for Israel results in a parting of the ways between the Christian church on the one side and Judaism on the other. Scholars and students alike will benefit from access to new German scholarship now available to English-language audiences.

Published in the US by Baylor University Press, Waco.

Konradt, Matthias

## Israel, Church, and the Gentiles in the Gospel of Matthew

Translated by Kathleen Ess

2014. XIII, 485 pages.

ISBN 9783161536083  
cloth 59,00 €

Matthias Konradt explores a problem central to the theological conception of the Gospel of Matthew: What is the cause for the transition from the Israel-centered activities of Jesus and his disciples previous to Easter to the universal mission after Easter, and how is the formation of the church related to Israel's role as God's chosen nation in Matthew's concept? In conjunction with a detailed scrutiny of the traditional interpretation that Matthew propagates the replacement of Israel by the church and – in keeping with this – of the mission to Israel by the universal mission, the author maintains that the Israel-centered and the universal dimension of salvation are positively interconnected in the narrative conception, in which Matthew develops Jesus' messianic identity as the Son of David and the Son of God. Published in North America by Baylor University Press, Waco.