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### SACRA PAGINA: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

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*Liturgical Press* Now available in paperback! No other book of the New Testament has attracted as much attention from commentators as the Fourth Gospel. It has stirred minds, hearts, and imaginations from Christianity's earliest days. In *The Gospel of John*, Francis Moloney unfolds the identifiable "point of view" of this unique Gospel narrative and offers readers, heirs to its rich and widely varied interpretative traditions, relevance for their lives today. Includes an updated bibliography as an appendix. Francis J. Moloney, SDB, is Foundation Professor of Theology at Australian Catholic University, Melbourne. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and a Member of the Order of Australia. He is the author of numerous books including *The Gospel of the Lord*, *Beginning the Good News*, and *A Hard Saying: The Gospel and Culture* published by Liturgical Press. "

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### THE JESUS YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW

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### REDISCOVERING THE TEACHING MINISTRY OF JESUS

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* The problem with too much Christianity today is that we replace the person of Jesus with a doctrine of grace. Living in denial of Jesus' teaching on judgment and holiness, too many Christians take refuge from the sayings of Jesus in doctrines of forgiveness that they hope will bolster up their sense of self-worth before God. Andy Angel tackles this dysfunctional spirituality head-on, opening up the journey of learning and love into which the living Lord Jesus invites us all. Unpacking the Gospel of Matthew, he encourages us to rediscover the teaching ministry of Jesus in our own lives, and in doing so, to recover the riches and freshness of the gospel message and to rediscover the depths of love Jesus has for each one of us.

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### WHAT ARE BIBLICAL VALUES?

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### WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ON KEY ETHICAL ISSUES

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*Yale University Press* What does the Bible actually say about many of today's most contentious moral issues? "For drawing attention to the relevant scriptures and for guidance in recognizing what are and aren't valid interpretations of them, Collins' pertinent brief is beyond praiseworthy."--*Booklist* (starred review) "Collins pours a lifetime of scholarship into this study of what the Bible says about controversial ethical topics. It's highly readable, and it's honest."--*Jane McBride, Christian Century* Many people today claim that their positions on various issues are grounded in biblical values, and they use scriptural passages to support their claims. But the Bible was written over the course of several hundred years and contains contradictory positions on many issues. The Bible seldom provides simple answers; it more often shows the complexity of moral problems. Can we really speak of "biblical values"? In this eye-opening book, one of the world's leading biblical scholars argues that when we read the Bible with care, we are often surprised by what we find. Examining what the Bible actually says on a number of key themes, John Collins covers a vast array of topics, including the right to life, gender, the role of women, the environment, slavery and liberation, violence and zeal, and social justice. With clarity and authority, he invites us to dramatically reimagine the basis for biblical ethics in the world today.

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### ANGELS

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### ANCIENT WHISPERS OF ANOTHER WORLD

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* If you think you know all about angels, think again! Although the modern Western world claims to have left angels behind as mythical creatures, they are back in popular culture. And much of what people are thinking, exploring, and believing about them finds its roots in ancient Jewish and Christian beliefs. Andrew Angel opens up the surprising world of angels to interested enquirers through an examination of the ancient Jewish and Christian texts in which they are found. He asks questions about what angels have to do with religious ecstasy, surviving suffering, and politics, among other things--finding surprising and sometimes controversial answers. Informed by the latest scholarship yet accessible to all, this book provides a well-researched and thought-provoking introduction to angels.

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## THE ONCE AND FUTURE BIBLE

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### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE FOR RELIGIOUS PROGRESSIVES

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* This book offers a way to engage with the Bible as a set of sacred texts that can serve as a song sheet for believers in exile—those people Bishop John Shelby Spong calls the "church alumni association." This includes those internally displaced persons of faith who have not yet become spiritual refugees but who feel the pressure to conform to traditional expressions of faith that no longer serve as springs of living water for the journey of life. These ancient texts come from another world and another time, but they can serve as maps for the journey of life. They can best do this when the sacred wisdom of the Bible is accepted as permission to voice the new questions we face today in the confidence that authentic faith has always required such boldness. Religious progressives are people who live the questions, not dodge them. Our task is not to guard a set of traditional answers, but to live life boldly, taking risks for God's sake and our own. One of the hallmarks of this book is that the problems posed by the Bible are acknowledged. In particular, the contributions of recent critical scholarship are embraced, rather than being ignored or neutralized by pious ambivalence. The intended reader of this book is not a traditional believer, secure in her assumptions about God and salvation, but someone struggling to live with integrity in a time when traditional religion seems increasingly irrelevant. The goal is not to persuade the reader that the Bible is credible but—more modestly—to offer an account of the Bible that may encourage religious progressives to reclaim the Bible as a valued part of our spiritual baggage.

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## THE WAY OF ABUNDANCE

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### ECONOMIC JUSTICE IN SCRIPTURE AND SOCIETY

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*Fortress Press* Justice, even divine justice, is concrete. It addresses flesh-and-blood persons and the systems, structures, and conditions under which they live. God's vision of abundant human living is not restricted to the spiritual realm but extends even to our material circumstances. But in today's complex economy, what specific changes to public policies and institutions could lead to a just economy? In *The Way of Abundance*, economist and minister Edith Rasell examines Old and New Testament teachings on economic justice in the context of the ancient economic systems and circumstances they addressed. Drawing on the biblical narrative and on research from the social sciences, Rasell examines three eras—the ancient Israelites' settlements in Canaan, the time of the monarchies, and first-century Palestine—and describes the transition from a non-monetized, subsistence-based economy to a commercial one with wage labor, product markets, and a surplus that benefited a tiny elite. But across this vast expanse of time and economic transition, the Bible called for a just economy. And its vision of economic justice can be a vision for justice seekers today. The book concludes with specific public policy proposals and personal practices that would move contemporary society closer to the Bible's economic vision.

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## HISTORICAL DICTIONARY OF CATHOLICISM

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*Rowman & Littlefield* *Historical Dictionary of Catholicism, Third Edition* contains a chronology, an introduction, a bibliography, the dictionary has more than 500 cross-referenced entries on themes such as baptism, contraception, labor, church architecture, the sexual abuse crisis, doctrine and theology, spirituality and worship, and church structure.

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## A MARGINAL JEW: RETHINKING THE HISTORICAL JESUS, VOLUME IV

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### LAW AND LOVE

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*Yale University Press* John Meier's previous volumes in the acclaimed series *A Marginal Jew* are founded upon the notion that while solid historical information about Jesus is quite limited, people of different faiths can nevertheless arrive at a consensus on fundamental historical facts of his life. In this eagerly anticipated fourth volume in the series, Meier approaches a fresh topic—the teachings of the historical Jesus concerning Mosaic Law and morality—with the same rigor, thoroughness, accuracy, and insightfulness on display in his earlier works.

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## PAUL

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### THE PAGANS' APOSTLE

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*Yale University Press* A groundbreaking new portrait of the apostle Paul, from one of today's leading historians of antiquity. Often seen as the author of timeless Christian theology, Paul himself heatedly maintained that he lived and worked in history's closing hours. His letters propel his readers into two ancient worlds, one Jewish, one pagan. The first was incandescent with apocalyptic hopes, expecting God through his messiah to fulfill his ancient promises of redemption to Israel. The second teemed with ancient actors, not only human but also divine: angry superhuman forces, jealous demons, and hostile cosmic gods. Both worlds are Paul's, and his convictions about the first shaped his actions in the second. Only by situating Paul within this charged social context of gods and humans, pagans and Jews, cities, synagogues, and competing Christ-following assemblies can we begin to understand his mission and message. This original and provocative book offers a dramatically new perspective on one of history's seminal figures.

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## DEUTERONOMY AND THE PENTATEUCH

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*Yale University Press* This indispensable monograph synthesizes current debates and offers a new historical and literary analysis of the book of Deuteronomy. "In this exciting addition to the Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library, Stackert offers something genuinely new: he brilliantly weaves together biblical scholarship, cuneiform literature, and contemporary literary theory. This clearly written and engaging volume examines how the concept of scripture shaped ancient readers' understanding of Deuteronomy."—Bernard M. Levinson, University of Minnesota The book of Deuteronomy introduces and develops many of the essential ideas, events, and texts of

both Judaism and Christianity, and it has thus been a resource—and in some instances even a starting point—for investigations of themes and concepts beyond it. In this volume, Jeffrey Stackert deftly guides the reader through major topics in the interpretation of Deuteronomy and its relationship to the other four pentateuchal books. Considering subjects such as the relationship between law and narrative, the role of Deuteronomy in Israel's history, its composition and reception history, the influence of cuneiform legal and treaty traditions, textual and archaeological evidence from the Levant and Mesopotamia, and the status of Deuteronomy within the larger biblical canon, this book introduces ongoing debates surrounding the book of Deuteronomy and offers a contemporary evaluation of the latest textual and material evidence.

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## **ABIDE AND GO**

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### **MISSIONAL THEOSIS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

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Wipf and Stock Publishers *The Gospel of John* would seem to be both the "spiritual Gospel" and a Gospel that promotes Christian mission. Some interpreters, however, have found John to be the product of a sectarian community that promotes a very narrow view of Christian mission and advocates neither love of neighbor nor love of enemy. In this book for both the academy and the church, Michael Gorman argues that John has a profound spirituality that is robustly missional, and that it can be summarized in the paradoxical phrase "Abide and go," from John 15. Disciples participate in the divine love and life, and therefore in the life-giving mission of God manifested in the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. As God's children, disciples become more and more like this missional God as they become like his Son by the work of the Spirit. This spirituality, argues Gorman, can be called missional theosis.

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## **TRANSFORMING INTERRELIGIOUS RELATIONS**

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### **CATHOLIC RESPONSES TO RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN THE UNITED STATES**

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Orbis Books "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"--

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## **PURITY**

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### **ESSAYS IN BIBLE AND THEOLOGY**

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Wipf and Stock Publishers *In ancient religion and societies the concept of purity was of central importance; in many modern societies it is either irrelevant or, when it is used, attached to extremely conservative agendas. This suggests an interesting story to be told within the history of ideas and, at the same time, raises questions about the place, meaning, and use of purity in religious traditions. What does purity mean in different scriptural contexts? Is it synonymous with holiness or different? How has it been used within various strands of theology? What should we make of it today? Have we moderns, by discarding purity as an organizing social form, lost something essential or made a significant moral advance? Or both? This volume begins to address these questions in essays on biblical genres and books, and different theological traditions. Accessibly written and incisive in its scholarship, it will be of interest to both specialists and non-specialists alike.*

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## **KINSHIP BY COVENANT**

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### **A CANONICAL APPROACH TO THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S SAVING PROMISES**

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Yale University Press *While the canonical scriptures were produced over many centuries and represent a diverse library of texts, they are unified by stories of divine covenants and their implications for God's people. In this book, Scott Hahn shows how covenant, as an overarching theme, makes possible a coherent reading of the diverse traditions found within the canonical scriptures. Biblical covenants, though varied in form and content, all serve the purpose of extending sacred bonds of kinship, Hahn explains. Specifically, divine covenants form and shape a father-son bond between God and the chosen people. Biblical narratives turn on that fact, and biblical theology depends upon it. The author demonstrates how divine sonship represents a covenant relationship with God that has been consistent throughout salvation history. --From publisher's description.*

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## **ISSUES OF IMPURITY IN EARLY JUDAISM**

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BoD - Books on Demand *While Jesus and Purity (2002, corrected reprint 2010, 2021) aimed to present an unfolding argument, this volume does not aspire at such coherence. It consists of articles and papers on various issues of impurity in early Judaism. A few of these have been previously published, the rest not. Some chapters develop and further expand on topics discussed in Jesus and Purity and much focus lies on questions of the impurity of discharges and the practice of hand-washing before meals. Both literary and historical methods are used, as well as approaches based on cognitive science. The analysis covers texts from the Pentateuch, Qumran, the New Testament, and some Jewish Hellenistic authors. By bringing these articles together, they are made available and can be easily found by potential readers. Together with the recently published collection Impurity and Purification in Early Judaism and the Jesus Tradition (SBL Press, 2021), Issues of Impurity represents Kazen's continuous work on purity issues through two decades. The reader of both volumes will see how the author's views have gradually evolved through the years.*

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## **NAHUM**

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### **A NEW TRANSLATION WITH INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY**

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Yale University Press "The Anchor Yale Bible is a fresh approach to the world's greatest classic. Its object is to make the Bible accessible to the modern reader; its method is to arrive at the meaning of biblical literature through exact translation and extended

exposition, and to reconstruct the ancient setting of the biblical story, as well as the circumstances of its transcription and the characteristics of its transcribers ... [It] is a project of international and interfaith scope: Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish scholars from many countries contribute individual volumes ... [and] is an effort to make available all the significant historical and linguistic knowledge which bears on the interpretation of the biblical record ... [It] is aimed at the general reader with no special formal training in biblical studies, yet it is written with the most exacting standards of scholarship, reflecting the highest technical accomplishment"--Vol. 1, p. [ii].

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## **THE SCRIPTURES OF ISRAEL IN JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

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### **ESSAYS IN HONOUR OF MAARTEN J. J. MENKEN.**

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*BRILL* *The Scriptures of Israel in Jewish and Christian Tradition* is a collection of studies in honour of Professor Maarten J.J. Menken (Tilburg) and addresses questions of textual form, Jewish and Christian hermeneutics and notions of authority and inspiration.

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## **THE BIBLICAL "ONE FLESH" THEOLOGY OF MARRIAGE AS CONSTITUTED IN GENESIS 2:24**

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### **AN EXEGETICAL STUDY OF THIS HUMAN-DIVINE COVENANT PATTERN, ITS NEW TESTAMENT ECHOES, AND ITS RECEPTION HISTORY THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE FOCUSING ON THE SPIRITUAL IMPACT OF SEXUALITY**

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* *This book provides a thorough study of the sole biblical foundation of marriage as given in the short description of Genesis 2:24: "For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh." All the other biblical texts dealing with marriage are traced back to this basis that was declared as the original ideal by Jesus even in the times of the New Testament and the emerging Christian church. Thoughts about crucial questions concerning marriage, divorce, remarriage, and even what we might expect of marriage in the world to come are thus presented in the light shining forth from the first pages of the Scriptures. The intriguing connections to the biblical plan of redemption, conversion, and baptism are also investigated, developing a deeper understanding of the human-divine covenant that is exemplified by this beautiful Edenic marriage pattern.*

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### **A COMPLICATED LOVE STORY**

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#### **FOCUS ON THE FOURTH GOSPEL**

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* *The Fourth Gospel, otherwise known as the gospel of the beloved disciple of Jesus, has captivated the imagination of myriads of people worldwide. Echoing one of its major themes, namely water, this gospel has been described as one in which a child can wade and an elephant can swim. Of the four gospels in the New Testament, this one stands out from the other three at several levels. In the Fourth Gospel the extraordinary acts of Jesus are labeled consistently as signs, not miracles. In the second major part, however, the signs give way to reality found uniquely in the life and death of Jesus on behalf of benighted humanity. He is the true light that enlightens every one and every thing. There are no parables in the Fourth Gospel. A parable is something that is literally thrown alongside the ordinary world of the day. The Fourth Evangelist focuses on truth, one of its major themes. There are puzzling pieces mixed in with the good news, which serves to make this gospel captivating to the reader. Through all of the complex twists and turns in this gospel the theme of love shines forth brilliantly, especially so in the second half.*

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## **JESUS, PAUL AND MATTHEW, VOLUME TWO**

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### **TO AND FROM JERUSALEM**

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*Cambridge Scholars Publishing* *This book is the second of two volumes which reflect on the trend in biblical scholarship that contrasts the vision of the historical Jesus with that of the apostle Paul, on the one hand, and the vision of Paul with that of the evangelist Matthew, on the other. It argues that Jesus replaced the concept of 'politics of holiness' with that of 'politics of compassion'. This means that the church as a community of Jesus-followers forms a fictive family, replacing a soteriology grounded in the biological family. God's adoption of people as 'God's children' is based on the potential of people to absorb the divine into their humanity. This truism is to be found in the visions shared by the peasant Jesus, the apostle Paul and the rabbi Matthew, as well as in creedal Christianity. The book concludes with autobiographical reflective notes, analogous to the parabolic story of the travellers to Emmaus from Jerusalem (Luke 24) and that of the African eunuch (Acts 8) on his way back from Jerusalem to Africa. The notes serve to consolidate the two volumes on Jesus, Paul and Matthew and their messages of God's wisdom, justice and mercy.*

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### **FOR US, BUT NOT TO US**

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## **ESSAYS ON CREATION, COVENANT, AND CONTEXT IN HONOR OF JOHN H. WALTON**

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* *John H. Walton is a significant voice in Old Testament studies, who has influenced many scholars in this field as well as others. This volume is an acknowledgment from his students of Walton's role as a teacher, scholar, and mentor. Each essay is offered by scholars (and former students) working in a range of fields--from Old and New Testament studies to archaeology and theology. They are offered as a testimony and tribute to Walton's prolific career."*

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## **STUDIES ON JEWS AND CHRISTIANS IN THE FIRST AND SECOND CENTURIES**

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*Mohr Siebeck* *The present volume gathers up studies by Peter J. Tomson, written over thirty-odd years, that deal with ancient Jewish law and identity, the teachings of Jesus, the letters of Paul, and the historiography of early Jews and Christians. Notable subject areas are Jewish purity laws, divorce law, and the use of the name 'Jews'. The author also examines Jesus' teachings as understood in their primary and secondary contexts, the various situations Paul's highly differentiated rhetoric may have addressed, and the causes*

contributing to the growing tension between Jews and Christians and the so-called parting of the ways.

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### THEMELIOS, VOLUME 35, ISSUE 3

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Wipf and Stock Publishers Themelios is an international, evangelical, peer-reviewed theological journal that expounds and defends the historic Christian faith. Themelios is published three times a year online at The Gospel Coalition (<http://thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/>) and in print by Wipf and Stock. Its primary audience is theological students and pastors, though scholars read it as well. Themelios began in 1975 and was operated by RTSF/UCCF in the UK, and it became a digital journal operated by The Gospel Coalition in 2008. The editorial team draws participants from across the globe as editors, essayists, and reviewers. General Editor: D. A. Carson, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Managing Editor: Brian Tabb, Bethlehem College and Seminary Consulting Editor: Michael J. Ovey, Oak Hill Theological College Administrator: Andrew David Naselli, Bethlehem College and Seminary Book Review Editors: Jerry Hwang, Singapore Bible College; Alan Thompson, Sydney Missionary & Bible College; Nathan A. Finn, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Hans Madueme, Covenant College; Dane Ortlund, Crossway; Jason Sexton, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary Editorial Board: Gerald Bray, Beeson Divinity School Lee Gatiss, Wales Evangelical School of Theology Paul Helseth, University of Northwestern, St. Paul Paul House, Beeson Divinity School Ken Magnuson, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Jonathan Pennington, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary James Robson, Wycliffe Hall Mark D. Thompson, Moore Theological College Paul Williamson, Moore Theological College Stephen Witmer, Pepperell Christian Fellowship Robert Yarbrough, Covenant Seminary

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### VSHAMRU

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New Paradigm Matrix The Torah has two basic components: a long, complex narrative that serves as the backstory to the covenant and its literary frame, and the specific commandments that serve as the terms of that covenant. The narrative itself—the long, complex narratives relating to the creation of the world, the great flood, the adventures of the patriarchs and matriarchs of Israel, the descent into slavery in Egypt, the exodus from Egypt, the events at Mount Sinai, and the subsequent journey to the edge of the Land of Israel, where the people are camped when the Torah narrative concludes with Moses' death—is relatively well-known even in the secular Western world. And some of the commandments too are well known to the general public in Western lands—some because they were eventually adopted by Christian theologians and made tenets of Christianity, others because they are so overtly characteristic of Jewish life that they have become easily recognizable to anyone who has even casual contact with the Jewish community, and others because they have come to serve as the most basic moral planks in Western ethics even for people who do not self-define as Jews or Christians. But however well known the commandments may be as regards their general content, the Hebrew text of the Torah that preserves the commandments in their literary guise can prove surprisingly difficult. For one thing, Biblical Hebrew is an ancient language in which words do not necessarily mean what they eventually came to mean after millennia of linguistic development. Moreover, classical Hebrew authors regularly presuppose information on the part of their readers and listeners, much of which non-specialist moderns simply do not possess. (For example, Scripture references all sorts of public officials and military officers by their ranks and titles without explaining them because the reader is simply assumed to be familiar with the terminology, somewhat in the same way a contemporary American journalist might refer to someone as a senator from Oklahoma without feeling any need to pause and explain what a senator is. Or what Oklahoma is!) And then there is the question of grammar to consider. For all that modern scholars have analyzed the language of the Bible and attempted to describe its grammatical rules, there are still many passages that feel inconsonant with those rules. These passages likely do not constitute errors of usage on the part of their ancient authors, however, but rather indicate that our understanding of biblical grammar simply does not reflect the nuanced, dynamic way ancient Hebrew was actually spoken in antiquity as a living, vibrant language. And, finally, there is the vexing question of the specific way Hebrew words are related to each other. Classical Hebrew, like all Semitic languages, is built on three-letter combinations of consonants called “roots,” and most of the words that constitute the language's vocabulary are built on those roots. Yet some words that appear to be built on the same root seem entirely unrelated in meaning. And still others, mysterious in their own right, do not appear to have triliteral roots at all. Any study of the commandments that carefully considers such concerns will naturally lead to meaningful insight, and this is precisely the kind of examination that underlies this volume, the tenth and final volume in the Mesorah Matrix series. Like its predecessors in the series, this volume is devoted to the reasoned, thoughtful, and preface-inspiring analysis of specific Jewish ideas, practices, and beliefs. In fact, all of the present essays focus on a single word that lies at the intersection of law, linguistics, spirituality, faith, and modern Jewish practice: *v'shamru*. And although the word will be familiar to most from its liturgical use in the version of the Kiddush prayer recited on Shabbat that cites Exodus 31:16–17, the word appears in other contexts as well and several of the essays in this volume consider those uses. The key passage that connects that word with Shabbat observance, Exodus 31:16–17, reads as follows, with the English words that correspond to the Hebrew *v'shamru* printed in bold: And so shall the Israelites keep the Sabbath, safeguarding its observance throughout all their generations as evidence of the eternal covenant that binds Me and the Israelites, for the Sabbath is that covenant's eternal sign in that the Eternal made the heavens and the earth in six days and then paused for rest and repose on the seventh day. It is the specific question of what *v'shamru* means in this context to which our authors who have chosen to write about Shabbat turn their attention. As noted, the word is not used exclusively with respect to Shabbat observance and it appears elsewhere in the Torah text to designate what Israelites are commanded to “do” with respect to the commandments, or some specific commandment. But it is the Shabbat connection that interests most of our authors, possibly because Moses himself is cited (at Deuteronomy 5:12) as recalling the fourth of the Ten Commandments as beginning with an imperative built on that very root of *shin-mem-resh*, even though the “actual” text presented in Exodus begins with a different word entirely. Words built on the three-letter root *shin-mem-resh* generally have something to do with guarding, protecting, or keeping safe, but what it is exactly about these specific contexts, and the Shabbat context foremost among them, that requires so much guarding or protecting is left unsaid. Is there some specific fragility that inheres in the observance of that specific commandment which makes reasonable the use of some version of a word based on *shin-mem-resh* to qualify its observance? Or is Shabbat simply of such cardinal importance that Scripture uses that specific verb to describe its observance solely to say that that nation must exert itself maximally to guarantee its careful and

punctilious observance? Or does this usage hint instead at some specific danger that might be lurking within the details of Shabbat observance, some plausible ideational, doctrinal, dogmatic, or even physical peril against which the people must be commanded scrupulously to guard themselves? To none of these questions does Scripture nod even in passing. Yet the essays in this volume that focus on Shabbat are all attempts, one way or another, to address those specific questions and others that derive from them directly. I hope our readers will find all our authors' efforts both intriguing and uplifting. The authors who have contributed to this volume are a varied lot drawn from across the spectrum of organized Jewish life—Israeli and diasporan types, rabbis and academics, men and women, older and younger scholars, seasoned authors and relative newcomers to the world of publishing. Some have contributed to other volumes in our series and one, the indefatigable Reuven Bulka, has contributed essays to all ten; others present their sole contribution to the series in this one volume. All, however, are united by their common belief in the power of the well-written word and the sense that, even in the digital age, the well-structured, convincingly argued essay retains its ability not just to inform but also to influence and to inspire. Unless otherwise indicated, all translations here are the authors' own work. Biblical citations referenced to the NJPS derive from the complete translation of Scripture published under the title *Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures* by the Jewish Publication Society in Philadelphia in 1985. As we prepare to publish this, the tenth and final volume in the *Mesorah Matrix* series, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the other senior editors of the *Mesorah Matrix* series, David Birnbaum and Benjamin Blech, as well as Saul J. Berman, our associate editor. And I would also like to add a personal note at this juncture regarding the larger operation. This project has brought together a large number of authors in an almost unprecedented effort to unite people across the spectrum of Jewish affiliation for the sake of k'lalyisrael. And despite the way that Jewish people from different parts of the Jewish world are regularly supposed not ever to get along, much less to wish to work together on anything at all of consequence, all of our authors have shown themselves willing to participate in the noble effort that underlies the *Mesorah Matrix* project: to revitalize the essay form and to make of it a successful vehicle for inspiring Jewish readers to take their Judaism and their Jewishness to an even higher level, to feel ennobled by their membership in the House of Israel, and potentially to feel themselves called upon to embrace a more personal role in the pursuit of Jewish destiny. It has been my privilege and pleasure to work with them all. As always, I must also express my gratitude to the men and women, and particularly to the lay leadership, of the synagogue I serve as rabbi: the Shelter Rock Jewish Center in Roslyn, New York. Possessed of the unwavering conviction that their rabbi's literary projects are part and parcel of his service to them (and, through them, to the larger community of those interested in learning about Judaism), they are remarkably supportive of my literary efforts as author and editor. I am in their debt and am pleased to acknowledge that debt formally here and whenever I publish my own work or the work of others. I couldn't be me if they weren't them.

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## **THE SCANDAL OF DIVINE LOVE**

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### **A STUDY ON BIBLICAL CHRISTOLOGY FOR SKEPTICS, SEEKERS, AND SURVIVORS**

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*Wipf and Stock Publishers* There is no more important topic for inquiry today than the meaning and message of Jesus, for in this quest lies the solution to human discontent and despair. Examining an array of titles for Jesus found in the New Testament, expressions ranging from rabbi and messiah to Wisdom of God, Word of God, and Lord, this study explores why Christology is not simply the study of Jesus Christ but also of the highest and best in us all. Who is Jesus Christ, and what is his significance for today? Was he fully human, the perfect human, God in disguise, or somehow all of these simultaneously? The key is to begin where the first Christians began, with their experience of Jesus, and then to press forward with the development of that understanding in our experience of Christ. While *The Scandal of Divine Love* is designed for Christian believers (survivors), it embraces skeptics and seekers alike, mindful that within each of us are multiple voices, sometimes affirming, sometimes questioning, occasionally even denying. Whether you consider yourself primarily as skeptic, seeker, or believer, this study encourages you to listen, appreciate, and cultivate each voice. This volume, ideal for individual and group study, will help you discover anew the magnificence of the life and person known to us as Jesus of Nazareth, as guide, exemplar, and Lord.

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## **PAUL AND THE GENTILE PROBLEM**

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*Oxford University Press* Matthew Thiessen provides a new explanation for the apostle Paul's statements about the Jewish law in his letters to the Romans and Galatians. The argument of this book is that Paul believes that God had made certain promises to Abraham that only those who are his seed could enjoy and that these promises can be summarised as being empowered to live a moral life, inheriting the cosmos, and having the hope of an indestructible life.

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## **RECONCEIVING INFERTILITY**

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### **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES ON PROCREATION AND CHILDLESSNESS**

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*Princeton University Press* In the Book of Genesis, the first words God speaks to humanity are "Be fruitful and multiply." From ancient times to today, these words have been understood as a divine command to procreate. Fertility is viewed as a sign of blessedness and moral uprightness, while infertility is associated with sin and moral failing. *Reconceiving Infertility* explores traditional interpretations such as these, providing a more complete picture of how procreation and childlessness are depicted in the Bible. Closely examining texts and themes from both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, Candida Moss and Joel Baden offer vital new perspectives on infertility and the social experiences of the infertile in the biblical tradition. They begin with perhaps the most famous stories of infertility in the Bible—those of the matriarchs Sarah, Rebekah, and Rachel—and show how the divine injunction in Genesis is both a blessing and a curse. Moss and Baden go on to discuss the metaphorical treatments of Israel as a "barren mother," the conception of Jesus, Paul's writings on family and reproduction, and more. They reveal how biblical views on procreation and infertility, and the ancient contexts from which they emerged, were more diverse than we think. *Reconceiving Infertility* demonstrates that the Bible speaks in many voices about infertility, and lays a biblical foundation for a more supportive religious environment for those suffering from infertility today.

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## LETTER & SPIRIT, VOL. 9: CHRIST AND THE UNITY OF SCRIPTURE

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Emmaus Road Publishing The St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology and Dr. Scott Hahn present the ninth annual edition of Letter & Spirit with the theme "Christ and the unity of Scripture". The seven highly-readable articles explore, from the Gospels of Matthew and John, to the letters of St. Paul, how the seemingly disparate themes and images are unified - and therefore properly understood - in Christ. The articles, while academic in nature, are easily accessible to the average reader and can be read with great profit, both spiritually and in coming to learn the truths of the Catholic faith more deeply.

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## SONG OF SONGS

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### A NEW TRANSLATION WITH INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY

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The Song of Songs has been compared to a lock for which the key was lost. Traditionally ascribed to King Solomon, the book has a sensuous imagery that has been the subject of various allegorical interpretations, chiefly as relating to Yahweh's love for Israel or Christ's love for the Church. Marvin H. Pope suggests that the poem is what it seems, an unabashed celebration of sexual love, both human and divine, rooted in the fertility religions of the ancient Near East, the sacred marriage rite, and the funeral feast. A distinctive feature of his interpretation is the correlation between Love and Death. Also discussed are parallel literatures, possible Indian influences, and the significance of the Song for women's liberation. Samples of traditional Jewish and Christian allegorical interpretations are cited for each verse. Numerous photographs and drawings of ancient Near East origin illustrate and authenticate this provocative and controversial interpretation of Solomon's sublime song.

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## THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS AND THE DEVELOPMENTAL COMPOSITION OF THE BIBLE

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BRILL Ulrich presents in *The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Developmental Composition of the Bible* the parade of surprises the scrolls provide regarding the scriptures' development through history. A sequel to *The Biblical Qumran Scrolls*, this volume explores the scrolls' significance.

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## ROSE GUIDE TO THE FEASTS, FESTIVALS AND FASTS OF THE BIBLE

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Rose Publishing God commanded Moses and the children of Israel to observe feasts and holy days as memorials to the great things that he had done in their lives. Understanding these times of celebration are important to help us better see God's complete picture and plan of redemption. In *Rose Guide to the Feasts, Festivals and Fasts of the Bible*: Dr. Paul Wright explores the celebrations, festivals, observances, and feasts kept by ancient Israel in the time of the Old Testament—including their historical and biblical background and how they developed during biblical times. Rabbi Moshe Silberschein looks at the ways the festivals and holy days of ancient Israel were celebrated during the intertestamental, Second Temple, and early Rabbinic Periods, including the ways that Jesus and the writers of the Gospels celebrated. Educator Ophir Yarden describes ways Jews keep the biblical feasts today, focusing on traditions most common in North America and Israel. Pastor Steven Lancaster looks at how and why the festivals and holy days of ancient Israel and early Judaism are celebrated by the variety of Messianic believers today. Rev. Heidi Kinner presents ways the early Church interpreted the feasts of the Bible to inform Christian celebrations about the life and work of Jesus.

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## BECOMING THE GOSPEL

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### PAUL, PARTICIPATION, AND MISSION

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Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing

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## THE BOOK OF PROVERBS AND VIRTUE ETHICS

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### INTEGRATING THE BIBLICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL TRADITIONS

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Cambridge University Press This book offers a new interpretation of the book of Proverbs from the standpoint of virtue ethics.

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## THE ANCHOR BIBLE DICTIONARY

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### A NEW TRANSLATION WITH INTRODUCTION AND COMMENTARY

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Anchor Bible A modern translation of this Old Testament book is accompanied by historical, descriptive, and critical commentaries

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## THE TRIUMPH OF GRACE

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### LITERARY AND THEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN DEUTERONOMY AND DEUTERONOMIC THEMES

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Wipf and Stock Publishers The Apostle Paul's negative statements about the law have deafened the ears of many to the grace that Moses proclaims in Deuteronomy. Most Christians have a dim view of this book, which they consider to be primarily a book of laws. However, when we read or hear it read orally without prejudice, we discover that rather than casting Moses as a legislator, he appears as Israel's first pastor, whose congregation has gathered before him to hear him preach his final sermons. Accordingly, Deuteronomy represents prophetic preaching at its finest, as Moses seeks to inspire the people of God to a life of faith and godliness in response to God's repeated demonstrations of grace. Deuteronomy is a dead book for many, because we have not recognized this gospel; we

have heard only law. The essays in this collection arise from a larger project driven by a passion to recover for Christians the life-giving message of the Hebrew Scriptures in general, and to open their ears to God's amazing grace in Deuteronomy in particular. The wide-ranging "meditations" in this volume do not all focus equally on the topic of God's grace, but this theme undergirds them all.

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## **HELL HATH NO FURY**

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## **GENDER, DISABILITY, AND THE INVENTION OF DAMNED BODIES IN EARLY CHRISTIAN LITERATURE**

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*Yale University Press* The first major book to examine ancient Christian literature on hell through the lenses of gender and disability studies Throughout the Christian tradition, descriptions of hell's fiery torments have shaped contemporary notions of the afterlife, divine justice, and physical suffering. But rarely do we consider the roots of such conceptions, which originate in a group of understudied ancient texts: the early Christian apocalypses. In this pioneering study, Meghan Henning illuminates how the bodies that populate hell in early Christian literature—largely those of women, enslaved persons, and individuals with disabilities—are punished after death in spaces that mirror real carceral spaces, effectually criminalizing those bodies on earth. Contextualizing the apocalypses alongside ancient medical texts, inscriptions, philosophy, and patristic writings, this book demonstrates the ways that Christian depictions of hell intensified and preserved ancient notions of gender and bodily normativity that continue to inform Christian identity.

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## **WOMEN'S DIVINATION IN BIBLICAL LITERATURE**

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## **PROPHECY, NECROMANCY, AND OTHER ARTS OF KNOWLEDGE**

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*Yale University Press* Divination, the use of special talents and techniques to gain divine knowledge, was practiced in many different forms in ancient Israel and throughout the ancient world. The Hebrew Bible reveals a variety of traditions of women associated with divination. This sensitive and incisive book by respected scholar Esther J. Hamori examines the wide scope of women's divinatory activities as portrayed in the Hebrew texts, offering readers a new appreciation of the surprising breadth of women's "arts of knowledge" in biblical times. Unlike earlier approaches to the subject that have viewed prophecy separately from other forms of divination, Hamori's study encompasses the full range of divinatory practices and the personages who performed them, from the female prophets and the medium of En-dor to the matriarch who interprets a birth omen and the "wise women" of Tekoa and Abel and more. In doing so, the author brings into clearer focus the complex, rich, and diverse world of ancient Israelite divination.

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## **RAPE CULTURE, GENDER VIOLENCE, AND RELIGION**

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## **BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES**

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*Springer* This book explores the Bible's ongoing relevance in contemporary discussions around rape culture and gender violence. Each chapter considers the ways that biblical texts and themes engage with various forms of gender violence, including the subjective, physical violence of rape, the symbolic violence of misogynistic and heteronormative discourses, and the structural violence of patriarchal power systems. The authors within this volume attempt to name (and shame) the multiple forms of gender violence present within the biblical traditions, contesting the erasure of this violence within both the biblical texts themselves and their interpretive traditions. They also consider the complex connections between biblical gender violence and the perpetuation and validation of rape culture in contemporary popular culture. This volume invites new and ongoing conversations about the Bible's complicity in rape-supportive cultures and practices, challenging readers to read these texts in light of the global crisis of gender violence.

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## **TOLERANCE, INTOLERANCE, AND RECOGNITION IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY AND EARLY JUDAISM**

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*Amsterdam University Press* This collection of essays investigates signs of toleration, recognition, respect and other positive forms of interaction between and within religious groups of late antiquity. At the same time, it acknowledges that examples of tolerance are significantly fewer in ancient sources than examples of intolerance and are often limited to insiders, while outsiders often met with contempt, or even outright violence. The essays take both perspectives seriously by analysing the complexity pertaining to these encounters. Religious concerns, ethnicity, gender and other social factors central to identity formation were often intertwined and they yielded different ways of drawing the limits of tolerance and intolerance. This book enhances our understanding of the formative centuries of Jewish and Christian religious traditions. It also brings the results of historical inquiry into dialogue with present-day questions of religious tolerance.