

JORDAN J. RYAN, *The Role of the Synagogue in the Aims of Jesus* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017, \$79) xiv and 396 pp., 18 halftones, table. Bibliography. Indexed. ISBN: 978-1-5064-2811-6.

Based on a doctoral dissertation supervised by A. Runesson and accepted by McMaster University in Ontario, this book draws together the threads of historical Jesus research and synagogue scholarship in order to apply the findings of recent synagogue scholarship to the study of Jesus' historical actions, aims, and words. After a nineteen-page introduction, it discusses early synagogues: synagogue origins and development in recent research; the public synagogue as Jesus knew it—functions, people, and architecture; and how “the synagogue” has impacted the study of Jesus in previous research. Then it considers the historical Jesus and the synagogue: kingdom and synagogue—the synagogue and Jesus' program; the incident in the synagogue at Nazareth (Lk 4:16-30; Mk 6:2-6; Mt 13:54-58); healings and exorcisms in synagogue settings (Mt 12:9-14; Mk 3:1-6; Lk 6:6-11/Mk 1:21-28; Lk 4:31-37); the teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum (Jn 6:25-71); and to Jerusalem—the *apostynagōgos* passages (Jn 9:22; 12:42; 16:2) and the relationship between the Temple and the synagogue (Jn 18:20). An excursus on early post-Second Temple period synagogues and three appendixes are included. Ryan, assistant professor of NT at the University of Dubuque in Iowa, concludes that the public synagogue played a key role in Jesus' mission and that it was intrinsic to his aim of restoring or regathering Israel and its people.

JENS SCHRÖTER AND CHRISTINE JACOBI (EDS.), *Jesus Handbuch* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2017, paper €49) xiii and 685 pp., 11 halftones, table. Bibliographies. Indexed. ISBN: 978-3-16-153853-7.

This handbook provides an overview on the interpretation of Jesus in Christian history from the beginnings until the early 21st century with attention to the most important areas of his activity and teaching as well as their reception in early Christianity. After the editors' fourteen-page introduction, the contributions are divided into four sections, each with its own introduction by the editors: the history of historical-critical Jesus research, the historical material, the life and work of Jesus, and early traces of the effects and receptions of Jesus. The topics covered include the earthly Jesus in ancient, medieval, and Reformation piety and theology (M. Ohst); the 18th century as the context for the emergence of critical theology (A. Beutel); the critical historical scholarship of the late 18th and 19th centuries and its impact on Jesus research (E. D. Schmidt); the introduction of the concept of myth into Jesus research and the origin of the Two Source theory (J. S. Kloppenborg); the “kingdom of God” as an eschatological concept—J. Weiß and A. Schweitzer (J. Carleton Paget); the historical Jesus and the kerygmatic Christ (R. von Bendemann); the literary designs of the Gospels and their relationship to the historical Jesus (C. Breytenbach); the Gospels as “kerygmatic narratives” about Jesus and “criteria” in Jesus research (C. Keith); the “third quest” for the historical Jesus (D. du Toit); the “remembered Jesus”—memory as the historical-hermeneutical paradigm of Jesus research (Schröter); literary evidence (Kloppenborg, J. Frey, Jacobi, S. Gathercole, S. Mason); nonliterary evidence (J. K. Zangenberg); political conditions and religious context (D. R. Schwartz, L. Doering); biographical aspects (S. Hultgren, Doering, Zangenberg); public activity (K. Backhaus, J. G. Crossley, J. Verheyden, H. Löhr, A. Weissenfieder, B. Kollmann, C. Zimmermann, D. I. Bock, Schröter, Y. Furstenberg, M. Böhm, C. Gerber, C. Evans, J. J. Johnston, R. Zimmermann, M. Wolter, K.-H. Ostmeyer, T. Kazen, M. Ebner, F. W. Horn, M. Labahn, M. Tiwald, H. Löhr, S.-O. Back); resurrection, appearances, and instructions of the Risen One (Jacobi); early creeds (S. Vollenweider); christological titles (du Toit); the formation of structures—the Twelve, itinerant charismatics, the primitive Jerusalem community and apostles (M. Öhler); Jesus in 2nd- and 3rd-century extracanonical texts (T. Nicklas); visual representations of Jesus until about 500 C.E. (K. Heyden, R. Schär); and ethics—the Sermon on the Mount (U. Volp). Schröter and Jacobi were assisted by L. Nogosseck in the production of the volume.

JOSÉ L. SICRE, *Satana contro gli evangelisti. Un dibattito in cielo*, Studi biblici (Bologna: Dehoniane, 2017, paper €27.50) 232 pp. ISBN: 978-88-10-41035-6.

This book presents an imaginative heavenly trial scene in which Satan and his supporters stand as accusers of the Gospel writers and list all of the errors, inconsistencies, differences, and

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obscurities that emerge in the individual Gospels and in comparisons between the four texts. The dispute takes place before God the Father with the Son and the Holy Spirit as assistants, and Joseph and Mary as witnesses. Thus the book offers a response to problematic aspects and passages of the Gospel accounts around the accusation that the authors wrote such botched and contradictory texts that the reading of the Gospels causes loss of faith. Sicre is professor emeritus of the faculty of theology in Granada, Spain, and visiting professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome. The book appeared first in Spanish in 2015.

MATTHEW L. SKINNER, *A Companion to the New Testament: The Gospels and Acts* (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2017, paper \$39.95) x and 274 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. ISBN: 978-1-4813-0000-1.

This book and its two partner volumes [see *NTA* pp. 153-154] accompany readers—especially seminarians, graduate students, and advanced undergraduates—who want to pay special attention to the theological character of the NT. They tend to the theological, literary, and historical aspects of the NT, focusing on the OT, the Roman empire, women in the early church's life and theology, apocalyptic theology, and the NT's ongoing theological relevance. This volume explores the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles. After an eighteen-page introduction, it discusses the "library" of the NT (the formation of Christian identity and the formation of the NT), the NT world, the Gospels, Jesus of Nazareth, the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel of Mark, the Gospel of John, the Gospel of Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles. A twelve-page list of recommended resources for ongoing exploration of the NT is included. Skinner, professor of NT at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, observes that the four Gospels are theological documents, meaning that their principal concern is to communicate something about who God is, how God interacts or will interact with humanity and all creation, what God desires, and what the human condition is and should be.

KLYNE SNODGRASS, *Stories with Intent: A Comprehensive Guide to the Parables of Jesus* (2nd ed.; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2018, \$58) xx and 892 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. LCN: 2017039967. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7569-3.

This edition [see *NTA* 52, p. 593] of Snodgrass's guide to the parables of Jesus includes a new two-page preface and an additional chapter that summarizes contributions on parables in the last ten years. After a 35-page introduction to the parables of Jesus, it discusses parables in the ancient world; parables about grace and responsibility; parables of lostness; the parable of the sower and the purpose of parables (Mt 13:3-23; Mk 4:3-20; Lk 8:5-15); parables of the present kingdom in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 13; parables specifically about Israel; parables about discipleship; parables about money; parables concerning God and prayer; parables of future eschatology; and recent contributions to parable interpretation. Snodgrass is professor emeritus of NT at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago.

JOHANNES N. TISCHLER, *Diener des höchsten Gottes: Paulus und die Heiden in der Apostelgeschichte*, Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft 225 (Berlin—Boston: de Gruyter, 2017, €99.95/\$114.99) xiii and 323 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. LCN: 2016517042. ISBN: 978-3-11-045401-7.

The revised version of a doctoral dissertation supervised by M. Wolter and accepted by the University of Bonn in 2014, this volume examines episodes in Acts that narrate encounters between Paul and Gentiles in order to clarify the Lukan Paul's position on the Gentiles. After a five-page introduction, it discusses Acts in the context of ancient historiography, formal elements, content as a guide to thematic priority; the Lystra episode in Acts 14:8-20 (form and focus, the characterization of the Lystrans, intervention of the servants of the God of Israel, etc.); an exorcism in Philippi and its consequences in 16:16-22 (form and construction, cultural influences, the image of disobedient Gentiles, etc.); the gospel of the Athenian philosophers in 17:16-34 (form, cultural setting, the perspective of the philosophers, etc.); the word of God in Ephesus in 19:23-40 (form and construction, local color, etc.); and Paul and the humane barbarians of Malta in 28:1-6 (structure and form, local color, etc.). Tischler concludes that analysis of the individual episodes shows that Paul's characterization is consistent: he is and

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