The Johannine Question

In recent years, the disciplines of biblical studies and systematic theology have grown apart and largely lost the means of effective communication with one another. Unfortunately, this relational disconnect affects more than just these particular fields of study; it impacts the life of the church as a whole. The first St. Andrews Conference on Scripture and Theology brought leading biblical scholars and systematic theologians together in conversation, seeking to bridge the biblical-theological gap.

Biblical Interpretation in Early Christian Gospels

The magnificent series of biblical commentaries known as Black's New Testament Commentaries (BNTC) under the General Editorship of Professor Morna Hooker has had a gap for far too long—it has lacked an up-to-date commentary on the Fourth Gospel. Professor Andrew Lincoln now fills this gap with his excellent new commentary on the Fourth Gospel. Scholarly questions are thoroughly answered, and the use of historical traditions and sources, relationship to the Synoptics, authorship, setting, first readers and the historical and theological issues are examined within the commentary itself. For example, one problem is that Chapters 15 and 16 seem in early versions to have preceded Chapter 14. Chapter 21 must have been a later addition. The purpose of the Gospel as stated in Chapter 20 v 31 is to strengthen the reader's faith in Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God. But even the celebrated prologue has given rise to much speculation, whereas most commentators believe it is the key to the Gospel as a whole. These issues are meat and drink to scholars but in Professor Lincoln’s expert hands they are extremely interesting and highly pertinent to our contemporary understanding of the Gospel.

Testimony is True A groundbreaking work in New Testament studies expanded and updated Winner of the 2007 Christianity Today Book Award in Biblical Studies, this momentous volume argues that the Four Gospels are closely based on the eyewitness testimony of those who personally knew Jesus. Noted New Testament scholar Richard Bauckham challenges the prevailing assumption that the Jesus accounts circulated as “anonymous community traditions,” asserting instead that they were transmitted in the names of the original eyewitnesses. In this expanded second edition Bauckham is adding a new preface, three substantial new chapters that respond to critics and clarify key points of his argument, and a comprehensive new bibliography.

Jesus and the Eyewitnesses

In this book, Sunny Kuan-Hui Wang explores the relationship between sense perception and testimony in the Gospel of John. While Johannine scholars tend to focus on one or the other, she shows that sense perception and testimony are both significant and are used together with the intention of drawing readers into the narrative so that they become witnesses in an emotionally engaged way. It is argued that John’s use of sense perception together with testimony is rooted in Jewish literature. Yet John also employs a Graeco-Roman rhetorical technique, anagoraga, which appeals to the persuasive power of sense perception to make his narrative vivid. John does not downplay sense perception. Rather, he uses it in the context of testimony as a means of persuasion to draw the readers, in their imagination, into the experience of the first disciples and thus deeper into faith and witness.

Theology of the New Testament

The Fourth Gospel has mostly been observed as a Spiritual Commentary that has little factual history within its pages. Dr. Gagne seeks to observe this gospel as an authentic account of Jesus as seen through the eyes of an early disciple that was driven from Jerusalem shortly after the death of Stephen in Acts 8:1. This “beloved disciple” uses only a few incidents from the life of Christ, teachings that may be grouped together and the passion narrative as a testimony of their claim as His followers. The role of the temple incident, and Jesus’s crucifixion is examined in the context of his death. The message of Stephen, Phillip, and eventually Paul’s convictions of the law and centrality of the meaning of the gospel as depicted in I Corinthians 15. The separation of the Johannine Community from both the Temple Adherents and James Jewish-Christians are the decisive issues in what is now seen by scholars as the separation from the synagogue. Gagne’s observations are that the high Christological view of Paul and the Beloved Disciple link them with the Johannine Community, and an early example of the failure to think of faith and death in the Jewish Temple. A daring probe into the meaning of the Gospel of the Second Isaiah’s Suffering Servant and the Fourth Gospel and Christ being ‘lifted up’.

According to John the theme of the New Exodus (NE) in John’s Gospel has been largely unexplored in recent scholarship. Now, however, by careful intertextual exegetes of John 5–10, Paul Cook has compellingly argued that not only is the NE key to interpreting the Fourth Gospel, but also to unlocking the mysteries of the Johannine “puzzle” itself. Anyone who is interested in searching the riches of this marvelous Gospel will want to explore the NE in John in these pages.

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The Christology of the Fourth Gospel 'Jesus and the Eyewitnesses' argues that the four Gospels are closely based on the eyewitness testimony of those who knew Jesus. The author challenges the assumption that the accounts of Jesus circulated as 'anonymous community traditions', asserting instead that they were transmitted in the name of the original eyewitnesses. To drive home this controversial point, Bauckham draws on internal literary evidence, the use of personal names in first-century Jewish Palestine, and recent developments in the understanding of oral tradition. Jesus and the Eyewitnesses also taps into the rich resources of modern study of memory, especially in cognitive psychology, refuting the conclusions of the form critics and calling New Testament scholarship to make a clean break with this less-dominant tradition. Finally, Bauckham challenges readers to end the classic division between the 'historical Jesus' and the 'Christ of faith', proposing instead the 'Jesus of testimony' as presented by the Gospels. Sure to ignite heated debate on the precise character of the testimony about Jesus, Jesus and the Eyewitnesses is a groundbreaking work that will be valued by scholars, students, and all who seek to understand the origins of the Gospels.

Character Studies in the Fourth Gospel "This study in Johannine ecclesiology reconstructs the history of one Christian community in the first century -- a community whose life from its inception to its last hour is reflected in the Gospel and Epistles of John. It was a community that struggled with the world, with the Jews, and with other Christians. Eventually the spread of Christianity forced them to flee and split, dividing along lines of mercenary and religious loyalty. Eventually the struggle spread even to its own ranks. It was, in short, it community not unlike the Church of today. This book offers a different view of the traditional Johannine eagle. In the Gospel the eagle soars above the earth, but with talons bared for the fray. In the Epistles we discover the eaglets tearing at each other for possession of the nest" -- Back cover.

1, 2, and 3 John In Her Testimony is True, the Gospel of John is analysed as a rhetorical work that uses the metaphor of a trial in order to persuade readers that the Messiah is Jesus. John’s presentation of women as witnesses in that trial is examined within the framework of Jewish law and custom regarding women as witnesses. Maccini concludes that the role of women as witnesses follows no stereotypical pattern, that the women as witnesses, like the men, are treated as individuals, not as a class; and that in no case do any of the women bear witness in a way that breaches Jewish law and the custom of the contemporary culture.

John the Beloved The Oxford Handbook of Christology brings together 40 authoritative essays considering the theological study of the nature and role of Jesus Christ. This collection offers dynamic perspectives within the study of Christology and provides rigorous discussion of inter-confessional theology, which would not have been possible even 60 years ago. The first of the seven parts considers Jesus Christ in the Bible. Rather than focusing solely on the New Testament, this section begins with discussion of the modes of God’s self-communication to us and suggests that Christ’s most important incarnation is in the language of the Hebrew Bible. The second section considers Patristic Christology. These essays explore the formation of the doctrines of the person of Christ and the atonement between the First Council of Nicaea in 325 and the eve of the Second Council of Nicaea. The next section looks at Medieval theology and tackles the development of the understanding of who Christ was and of his atoning work. The section on "Reformation and Christology" traces the path of the Reformation from Luther to Bultmann. The fifth section tackles the new developments in thinking about Christ which have emerged in the modern and the postmodern eras, and the sixth section explains how beliefs about Jesus have affected music, poetry, and the arts. The final part concludes by locating Christology within systematic theology, asking how it relates to Christian belief as a whole. This comprehensive volume provides an invaluable resource and reference for scholars, students, and general readers interested in the study of Christology.

The Mystery of the Beloved Disciple Two billion people today identify as Christians, with the implication that Jesus is the focus of their relationship with God, and their way of living in the world. Such followers of Jesus are now more numerous and make up a greater proportion of the world’s population than ever before. Despite its decline in the West, Christianity is rapidly increasing in areas such as Africa and China. Richard Bauckham explores the historical figure of Jesus, evaluating the sources and concluding that they provide us with good historical evidence for his life and teaching. In order to place Jesus in his proper historical context, as a Jew from Galilee in the early first century of our era, Bauckham looks at Jewish religion and society in the land of Israel under Roman rule. He explores Jesus’ symbolic practices as well as his teachings, looks at his public career and emphasises how his actions, such as healing and his association with notorious sinners, were just as important as his words. Bauckham shows that Jesus was devoted to the God of Israel, with a special focus on God’s fatherly love and compassion, and like every Jewish teacher he expounded the Torah, but did so in his own distinctive way. With a discussion about the way Jesus understood himself and what finally led to his death as a criminal on a Roman cross, he concludes by considering the significance Jesus has come to have for Christian faith worldwide. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.


Gospel Women

Revelation Father Montague revisits many of the most familiar passages from the Gospel of John and with rare and surprising insights helps us to see in depth much of what is hidden under the surface of these popular texts.

Understanding the Fourth Gospel This volume is the fourth in a set of volumes, which together explore current approaches to the study of scripture in the Gospels. Thomas R. Hattina’s latest edited collection begins with an introduction surveying methodological approaches used in the study of how scriptural allusions, quotations, and references function in John, with subsequent essays grouped into four categories that represent the breadth of current interpretive interests. The contributors begin with historical-critical approaches, before moving to rhetorical and linguistic approaches, and on to hermeneutical approaches. Each study therefore provides a deep and wide-ranging search on the function of scripture in John, but also an explanation of the approach taken, making the collection an ideal resource for both scholars and students who are interested in the complexities of interpretation in John’s context as well as our own.

Living with Other Creatures The publication of the King James version of the Bible, translated between 1603 and 1611,
coincided with an extraordinary flowering of English literature and is universally acknowledged as the greatest influence on English-language literature in history. Now, world-class literary writers introduce the book of the King James Bible in a series of beautifully designed, small-format volumes. The introducers' passionate, provocative, and personal engagements with the spirituality and the language of the text make the Bible come alive as a stunning work of literature and remind us of its overwhelming contemporary relevance.

The Christian World around the New Testament A fully revised new edition of a pioneering study of John's gospel. John Ashton argues first that the thought-world of the gospel is Jewish, not Greek, and secondly that the text is many-layered, not simple, and composed over an extended period as the evangelist responded to the changing situation of the community he was addressing.

A Better Bible Study Method, Book One - The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved This volume, a part of the New Testament Library series, surveys the scholarly work that has been done concerning the book of John. J. Louis Martyn also provides his own reading of the forth Gospel. The New Testament Library offers authoritative commentary on every book and major aspect of the New Testament, as well as classic volumes of scholarship. The commentaries in this series provide fresh translations based on the latest scholarship, and are available in convenient volume. The book contains thirty-one studies that have been published over Bauckham's distinguished career.

The Vision of the Beloved Disciple The volume offers fresh, often innovative approaches to a wide range of the issues that arise in relating the Bible and Christian theology to the ecological concerns of our contemporary world. It aims to show that the Bible has far more of relevance to say on the subject than is commonly supposed. While focusing especially on biblical material, it also engages Francis of Assisi, modern nature poetry, Matthew Fox and the history of interpretation.

The Gospel of John and Christian Theology This unique approach reveals that there is much more to be known about biblical women than previous studies have assumed. Employing historical and literary readings of the biblical texts, Bauckham successfully captures the particularity of each woman he studies.

The Community of the Beloved Disciple Designed for the pastor and Bible teacher, the Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament brings together commentary features rarely gathered in one volume. Written by notable evangelical scholars, each volume treats the literary context and structure of the passage in the original Greek, and each author provides an original translation based on the literary structure. The series consistently provides the main point, an exegetical outline, verse-by-verse commentary, and theology in application in each section of every commentary. Critical scholarship informs each step but does not dominate the commentary, allowing readers to concentrate on the biblical author's message as it unfolds. While primarily designed for those with a basic knowledge of biblical Greek, all who strive to understand and teach the New Testament will find these books beneficial. The Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament series covers the entire New Testament in twenty volumes; Clinton E. Arnold serves as general editor. 1-3 John In her commentary on John's letters, Karen H. Jobes writes to bridge the distance between academic biblical studies and pastors, students, and laypeople who are looking for an in-depth treatment of the issues raised by these New Testament books. She approaches the three letters of John--excavating the metaphorical world in which the books were created, paying careful attention to their literary design, and present a theologically perceptive exposition of the text.

Jesus: A Very Short Introduction Applying a comprehensive theory of character to the Gospel of John, Cornelis Bannema provides a fresh analysis of the characters and their responses to Jesus. While the majority of scholars view most Johannine characters as "flat," Bannema demonstrates that many are complex, developing, and "round." John's broad array of characters correspond to people and their choices in real life in any culture and time. This book highlights how John's Gospel seeks to challenge its readers about where they stand in relation to Jesus.

The Oxford Handbook of Christology Examines contradictions and discrepancies that come to light when the New Testament...
is studied from a historical perspective, including varying views of Jesus and salvation and forgeries in the names of the apostles.

John, the Son of Zebedee The most thorough study ever on the characters and on characterization in John’s Gospel Using various narrative approaches and methodologies, an inter-national team of forty-four Johannine scholars in this volume offers sixty-four essays related to individual characters and group characters in the Gospel of John. With essays that present fresh perspectives on characters who play a major role in the Gospel -- Peter, Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman, Thomas, and many others -- as well as original studies of characters who have never before been the focus of narrative analysis -- the men of the Samaritan Woman, the boy with the loaves and fishes, Barabbas, and more -- this book sheds new light on how complex and nuanced many of these characters are, even as they stand in the shadow of Jesus. Readers of this volume will be challenged to consider the Gospel of John anew.

The Testimony of the Beloved Disciple This volume explores the distance, historically and theologically, between the historical Jesus and the Gospel of John. Essays on these topics are provided by 27 authors from a variety of backgrounds.

Gospel According to St John The Bible's greatest, most important riddle is solved. The Mystery of the Beloved Disciple: New Evidence, Complete Answer reveals the unnamed eyewitness behind John’s Gospel. The undeniable answer awaits you.

The Testimony of the Fourth Evangelist to the Johannine Community The Gospel of John the Beloved isn't like the other Gospels. John includes stories, details, and symbols not found anywhere else in the Bible, showcasing models of discipleship from unlikely sources: the outcast, the unclean, the unfaithful, and more. While there are many ways to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, in the end, all disciples are united by love for our Savior and willingness to follow Him.

The Disciples in the Fourth Gospel "The Gospel of John intrigues, fascinates and confuses many. It is filled with compelling personalities who move on and off the stage. Each contributes to an overview of the meaning of Jesus and his life, death and resurrection." "The community behind this gospel -- in particular the Beloved Disciple -- has remained in shadows for centuries. New insights into how this community actually expressed their faith opens the gospel to further analysis and deeper appreciation of the life and spirituality of the early church at the end of the first century."--BOOK JACKET.Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America, Inc. All Rights Reserved

The Gospel According to John One of the most important sources of information about the development of Johannine legends as well as one of the most successful efforts to overcome barriers that have traditionally separated New Testament exegesis from the study of church history.

Sense Perception and Testimony in the Gospel According to John

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