

ESSENTIAL READING IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST

Aland, K. *Synopsis of the Four Gospels* UBS, 1972. (A harmony of the Gospels with Greek and English on facing pages.)

Brown, R. E. *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narrative*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1977. (A massive and valuable scholarly work from a liberal Catholic perspective.)

---. *The Death of the Messiah: From Gethsemane to the Grave: A Commentary on the Passion Narrative in the Four Gospels*. New York: Doubleday, 1994. (A massive and valuable scholarly work from a liberal Catholic perspective.)

Bruce, F. F. *The Hard Sayings of Jesus*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 1983. (He gives great clarity with brief comments to the more difficult sayings of Jesus.)

Bultmann, R. *History of the Synoptic Tradition*, Tr. John Marsh. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1963. (This is the classic form-critical analysis of the gospel texts. Brilliant compilation and categorization of source material from a very liberal perspective. Conclusions are overdrawn).

Edersheim, Alfred. *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*. Mclean, VI: Macdonald, 1883. (Old classic on the harmony of Jesus' life from a converted Jew. An immense amount of dated, but still somewhat valuable information from Jewish literature pertaining to the gospels).

Evans, Craig & Porter, Stanley (Eds.). *Dictionary of New Testament Backgrounds*. Downer's Grove, IL: IVP, 2000. (This is an invaluable collection of encyclopedic essays on cultural and historical backgrounds, essential for understanding the first century world of Jesus).

Ferguson, E. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1987. (This is not primarily a work on the Gospels but provides an immense wealth of historical information on the 1st century era.)

Ford, David & Mike Higon (Eds.). *Jesus*. Oxford: Oxford, 2002. (This is a reader on Jesus, with historic quotations under a variety of topics from throughout church history. Magnificent reading).

Foster, R. C. *Studies in the Life of Christ*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1995. (This is a commentary on the harmony of the Life of Christ. Done primarily in the 40's, it wrestles with the liberalism of its day, particularly source, form and redaction criticism. An invaluable resource).

Green Joel B.; McKnight, Scot; and Marshall, I. H. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1992. (This is a gold mine of conservative scholarship on a wide variety of issues from the Gospels).

Linnemann, Eta. *Is There a Synoptic Problem?* Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992. (As a former disciple of Bultmann, this German scholar argues persuasively with page after page of primary data, that there is no literary evidence of significant textual borrowing among the synoptics).

Manning, Brennan. *The Signature of Jesus*. Portland, OR: Multnomah, 1992. (This devotional work from a Catholic perspective analyzes the core value of Jesus — abandonment through cross-bearing and what that looks like in Christians today.)

- Moore, Mark. *The Chronological Life of Christ (2 Vols)*. Joplin, MO: College Press, 1996. (A contemporary commentary on the Harmony of Jesus' life from one really swell fellow!).
- Neyrey, Jerome H. *The Social World of Luke-Acts: Models for Interpretation*. Peabody, Mass: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991. (This is not a commentary but an analysis of the social structures of the Mediterranean culture of Jesus' day. This is a very helpful guide to issues such as shame-honor and patron-client, locating Jesus' teaching in his broader culture.)
- Sanders, E. P. *Jesus and Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1985. (While he minimizes the tension between Jesus and the Pharisees, Sanders correctly locates Jesus and his aims within his own Jewish milieu).
- Shepard, J. W. *The Christ of the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1939. (A dated but classic work on the Harmony of Jesus' Life).
- Strobel, Lee. *A Case for Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998. (A user friendly guide to an apologetic of Jesus).
- Thomas & Gundry. *A Harmony of the Gospels*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1978. (A workable harmony in English with helpful articles in the back on critical issues. Comes in NASB and NIV).
- Wenham, J. *Easter Enigma*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1984. (He shows reasonable explanations to the critics' accusation that the resurrection accounts are irreconcilable).
- Wilkins, M. & Moreland, J. *Jesus Under Fire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995. (A scholarly response to the Jesus Seminar).
- Witherington, Ben. *The Many Faces of the Christ: The Christologies of the New Testament and Beyond*. New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1998. (He traces the development of Christology through the gospels and the rest of the N.T.)
- Wright, N.T. *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1996. (A careful argument for the political aims of Jesus, located within his Jewish. For a brief popular version, see *The Original Jesus*, also Eerdmans, 1996).
- . *The Resurrection of the Son of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003. (A massive and critically important analysis of the resurrection of Jesus.)
- Yancey, Philip. *The Jesus I Never Knew*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995. (From an evangelical perspective, Yancey tries to paint a portrait of Jesus that he would agree with and say, "Yes, that truly is who I am.")