

*Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Ed. Joel B. Green, Scot McKnight, and I.H. Marshall. Downers Grove, IL/Leicester, England: IVP, 1992.\*

The new *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels* is a splendid achievement in several respects. First, it draws on the scholarship of many of the finest evangelical minds worldwide. Second, by wisely limiting its scope, it is able to provide in-depth articles on virtually all the significant topics pertaining to Jesus and the Gospels. Third, it fills a major gap for the interested Bible student and for the first time in many years places at his or her fingertips the fruit of first-rate biblical scholarship on Jesus and the Gospels.

Of course, not all contributions are of equal value, but overall there are unusually few weak spots for a dictionary of this scope. Even though the editors note in their foreword that their desire for this dictionary is to be “both evangelical and critical at the same time,” some of the source-or redaction-critical views expressed in various articles will not meet with the agreement of more conservative evangelicals. Furthermore, certain essays reflect the stances of the contributors to an extent that the evenhandedness of the contribution suffers; the same can be said of some bibliographies that seem slanted toward the writings of the contributor. The selection of topics could only marginally be improved; perhaps some overlap between the various entries could be trimmed down by greater editorial effort (though this may not be considered desirable by some).

However, these are comparably minor flaws, if they are such, in the light of the remarkable achievement which this dictionary represents. If you are interested in Jesus and the Gospels and desire to educate yourself further on the subject, go and get this indispensable new reference tool—it rises tall above the many reference resources currently flooding the market.

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