

Richard Bauckham. *The Jewish World around the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010. ISBN-978-0-8010-3903-4. \$59.99 paperback.

This volume contains twenty-four essays on various topics related to the Jewish world surrounding the New Testament. It was originally published in 2008 in Germany by Mohr-Siebeck and is now available in this less expensive paperback edition (though still a bit pricy at \$59.99). The essays are put in their original order of publication (except for chapter 3); appendices are added to chapters 2 and 20. Essay topics include “The Martyrdom of Enoch and Elijah: Jewish or Christian?,” “Enoch and Elijah in the Coptic Apocalypse of Elijah,” “The Rise of Apocalyptic,” “The Delay of the Parousia,” “A Note on a Problem in the Greek Version of 1 Enoch 1.9,” “The Son of Man: ‘A Man in my Position’ or ‘Someone’?,” “The Apocalypses in the New Pseudepigrapha,” “Pseudo-Apostolic Letters,” “Kainam the Son of Arpachshad in Luke’s Genealogy,” “The List of the Tribes of Israel in Revelation 7,” “The Parting of the Ways: What Happened and Why,” “The Messianic Interpretation of Isaiah 10:34,” “The Relevance of Extra-Canonical Jewish Texts to New Testament Study,” “Josephus’ Account of the Temple in *Contra Apionem* 2.102–109,” “Life, Death, and the Afterlife in Second Temple Judaism,” “What if Paul had Travelled East rather than West?,” “Covenant, Law and Salvation in the Jewish Apocalypses,” “The Restoration of Israel in Luke-Acts,” “Paul and Other Jews with Latin Names in the New Testament,” “The Horarium of Adam and the Chronology of the Passion,” “The Spirit of God in us Loathes Envy (James 4:5),” “Tobit as a Parable for the Exiles of Northern Israel,” and “The Continuing Quest for the Provenance of Old Testament Pseudepigrapha.”

The above list indicates the considerable scope of these essays and makes clear that some topics are of broader relevance than others. The author notes in the preface that the essays were written over a period of thirty years and acknowledges that the topics are rather diverse but notes that all the essays share a “basic perspective on the historical place of the New Testament writings within late Second Temple Judaism.” Indeed, Bauckham insists that “The NT student and scholar must use the Jewish literature in the first place to understand Judaism. Only someone who understands early Judaism for its own sake will be able to use Jewish texts appropriately and accurately in the interpretation of the NT” (p. 1). The various essays in this book serve as case studies demonstrating the validity of Bauckham’s thesis, even though their relevance to the study of the New Testament varies. The quality of the contributions, as one has come to expect from this scholar, is consistently high and even stellar. Clearly, Bauckham has established himself as one of the leading New Testament scholars of our day, and this collection further showcases the enormous scope of Bauckham’s scholarship.

While few will read this volume cover to cover, students of the New Testament are certainly advised to consult a given essay in this volume if it impinges on their research interest. I will definitely recommend essay #14 on the relevance of extra-canonical Jewish texts to New Testament study to my students, as well as a number of other broader essays (such as those on the rise of apocalyptic, the delay of the parousia, and on life, death, and the afterlife in Second Temple Judaism). That said, given the price of the volume, I cannot necessarily recommend the purchase of this volume to students on a limited book-buying budget. In most cases, there will be only be one or two essays on one’s immediate topic of interest, and it will be more economical to use a library copy to do one’s research rather than to spend \$60 on buying a book with as many diverse essays as this one.

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