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Annotated Bibliography Part 2

David Ochabski

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Annotated Bibliography Part 2

Abstract

Beale, Gregory Kimball. *Union with the Resurrected Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. 576 pages. \$49.99. ISBN-13: 978-1540960429

Cessario, Romanus. *The Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. 304 pages. \$32.99. ISBN-13: 978-1540962546

Hernández, Dominick S. *Engaging the Old Testament: How to Read Biblical Narrative, Poetry, and Prophecy Well*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. 320 pages. \$21.99. ISBN-13: 978-1540962836

Laird, Benjamin P. *Creating the Canon: Composition, Controversy, and the Authority of the New Testament*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023. 272 pages. \$30.00. ISBN-13: 978-1514001103

Marsden, George Mish. *An Infinite Fountain of Light: Jonathan Edwards for the Twenty-First Century*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023. 176 pages. \$26.00. ISBN-13: 978-1514006627

Keywords

Baker Academic, InterVarsity Press

Cover Page Footnote

PhD Theology and Apologetics (Liberty University)

Beale, Gregory Kimball. *Union with the Resurrected Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. 576 pages. \$49.99. ISBN-13: 978-1540960429

G. K. Beale received his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge in 1981, is professor of New Testament and Biblical Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary and is author of *A New Testament Biblical Theology: The Unfolding of the Old Testament in the New*. The thesis of this book, Beale writes, "is that Christ's resurrection and ascension place him as the beginning of the eschatological fulfillment of the new-creational kingdom" (1). The main point of the book is to expound on the idea that we are united to Christ in circumcision-death and resurrection through everything that has, is, and will happen to us (5). The book functions as a systematic and biblical theology of this resurrection union. Part 1 of the book, "The Biblical-Theological Storyline Related to Resurrection, New Creation, and Union with Christ," provides the foundation. Part 2 of the book, "The Reality and Benefits of Fulfillment in Christ's Life, Death, and Especially Resurrection as the Beginning of the Eschatological New-Creational Kingdom," is the main contributory content. He concludes the book by quoting Calvin and stating that the benefits the Father bestowed on Christ were not for his own private use but to enrich our lives (514). The target audience is serious Christian readers, whether they be graduate students, teachers, or church laity.

Cessario, Romanus. *The Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. 304 pages. \$32.99. ISBN-13: 978-1540962546

Romanus Cessario received his S.T.D. from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and presently serves as Adam Cardinal Maida Chair of Theology at Ave Maria University. In this work, Cessario introduces the theology that undergirds the sacraments of the Catholic Church. The goal is not apologetic but rather descriptive, seeking to explicate the formation and present understanding of the sacraments according to the Catholic perspective. To that end, the book is divided into two sections, one that explains Catholic sacramental theology in general and one that unpacks each of the seven sacraments, their ecclesial history, and their contemporary practice. Notably, attention is devoted to fresh perspectives on sacramental theology as well as their role within liturgy and the economy of salvation. Ultimately, the book is written in hopes that those who study the sacraments may come to a deeper appreciation of Catholic faith and practice. It is recommended for academics or theologically minded laymen who are seeking to grow in their understanding of Catholic Christianity.

Hernández, Dominick S. *Engaging the Old Testament: How to Read Biblical Narrative, Poetry, and Prophecy Well.* Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2023. 320 pages. \$21.99. ISBN-13: 978-1540962836

Dominick Hernández received his PhD in Hebrew Bible from Bar-Ilan University and is professor of Old Testament and Semitic Languages at Biola's Talbot School of Theology. The aim of this work is to be a resource that promotes the hearing of the Scriptures and "project a 'draught of systematization'...to encourage Bible student to persevere in their reading" (278). Hernández does this through using classical literature references at the beginning of each chapter and throughout the book. The book is broken down into nineteen digestible chunks, spending the first six by introducing the reader to his approach and the Old Testament as a whole. The rest focus on the interwoven and contextualized genres (law, history, poetry, prophets). He concludes by calling on the work of *Moby-Dick* to describe the richness of the Old Testament and to curb our tendency to seek omniscience in seeking a comprehensive hermeneutic approach before hearing God through the Scriptures. The book is aimed at literary enthusiasts who desire to improve their reading of the Old Testament. To that aim, we recommend this literary contribution to the field of biblical studies.

Laird, Benjamin P. *Creating the Canon: Composition, Controversy, and the Authority of the New Testament.* Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023. 272 pages. \$30.00. ISBN-13: 978-1514001103

Benjamin P. Laird completed a PhD at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland and teaches biblical studies and Greek at Liberty University. His latest work tells the story of the New Testament canon: namely, the process by which the writings of the New Testament came to be regarded as the inspired Word of God. Applying an evangelical, historical-critical approach, Laird answers a variety of questions on the subject of the New Testament canon. How were the books of the New Testament composed? What controversies led to the formation of an inspired and authoritative canon of writings in the early church? How does apostolic authority factor into the discussion? Laird tackles these issues with a practiced hand and an approachable tone. Readers who are new to the conversation will find little difficulty following his argumentation. Much confusion exists in classrooms, pulpits, and pews regarding canonicity, and it is the author's intention that the book serves as "an accessible guide" for navigating these conversations (4). It is strongly recommended to both students and veteran scholars alike.

Marsden, George Mish. *An Infinite Fountain of Light: Jonathan Edwards for the Twenty-First Century*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023. 176 pages. \$26.00. ISBN-13: 978-1514006627

George Marsden received his Ph.D. in American history from Yale University, is professor emeritus of history at the University of Notre Dame and is author of *Jonathan Edwards: A Life*. The work here focuses more specifically on the historical context of Edwards, giving a comparative analysis between him, Benjamin Franklin and George Whitefield. Edwards presents God as full of beauty and love which Christians use to guide, transform, and orient lesser loves. In the appendix, included is Jonathan Edwards's sermon, "A Divine and Supernatural Light." Although those in the Reformed tradition will find this reading interesting and insightful, Marsden states that the audience is of the transdenominational heritage which C. S. Lewis referred to as "mere Christianity" (7). Somewhat an homage to the writing style of Edwards, Marsden's writing style is pious, pithy, and quotable. The book is recommended to the broader church, laity with more practical and existential concerns.