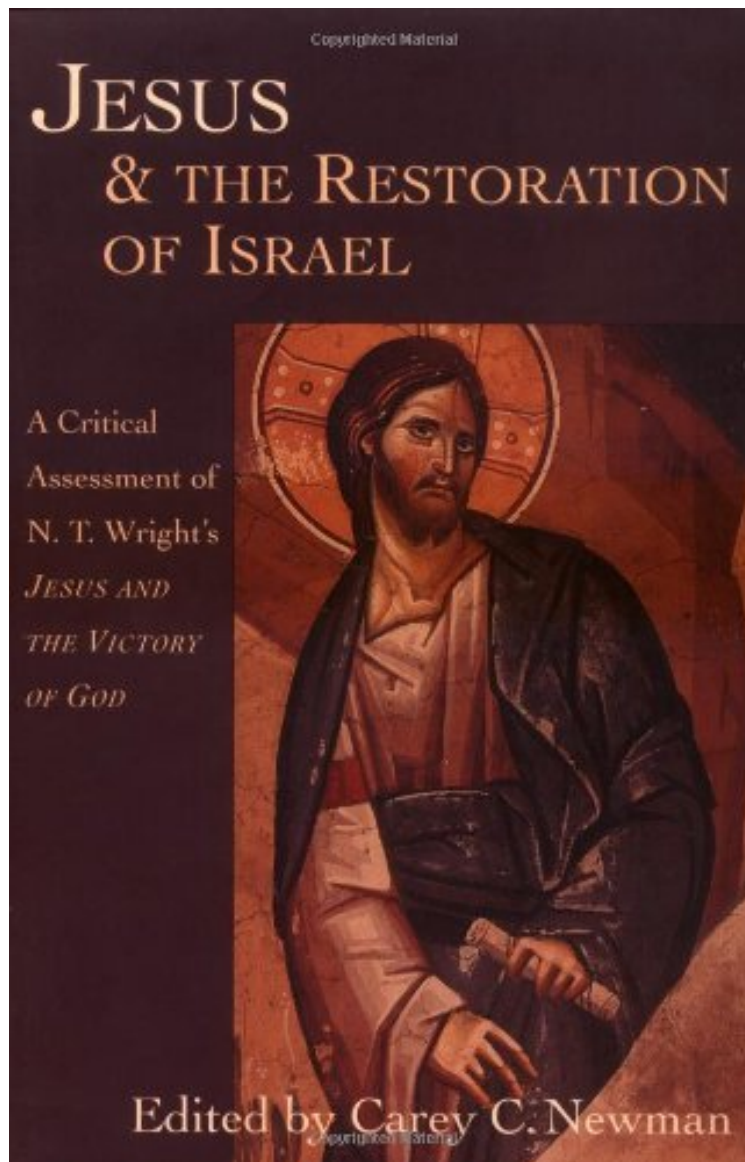


[Ebook free] Jesus the Restoration of Israel: A Critical Assessment of N. T. Wright's Jesus the Victory of God

## Jesus the Restoration of Israel: A Critical Assessment of N. T. Wright's Jesus the Victory of God

Von IVP Academic

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2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING!  
Von Ein Kunde  
The idea for this book was a very good one: Wright has written a book to be reckoned with so let's see what the scholars are saying about his work. Hopefully, their reactions will provide more clarification and help us gain greater understanding of Jesus. But, two things went badly wrong. While there is some good material contained in the book, for the MOST part the reviews were shallow and picky. At times, you wondered whether the reviewer had really read Wright's book, or, at least, really tried to come to grips with it. Most of the responses were obviously emotional reactions to Wright's reading of apocalyptic, which was, in turn, read by the "conservative" reviewers as a direct threat to their affirmation of the "Second Coming" of Christ. This in spite of the fact that Wright affirms a future consummation-- only he does not think that many of the passages in Scripture that have traditionally been used to support that fact actually refer to it. In general, there was very little substantive provided by way of "working through" Wright's ideas. This was clearly an opportunity for many of these more "evangelical" scholars to gain respect for their scholarship, but, sadly, they showed just how their dominant theological view can be and how it can inhibit scholarly objective research. Part of the fault of the book must lie with the format of the book itself. Basically, Wright's book is a historical work with direct relevance to Christological study, which includes a treatment of the synoptic materials. Yet, reviewers covering the full range of N.T. theology (e.g., ethics) were chosen to participate. It seems it would have gone very differently if some of the top scholars had been chosen to review his work (e.g., Sanders, Witherington), and the subject areas limited to those actually dealt with by Wright. Several of the reviewers actually stated that it was a bit unfair of them to review his work when he did not actually deal with the topic of their critique! This project thus began on the wrong foot and hobbled along the entire course. This is why, in his response to his reviewers, Wright had more than a few hard words for them.  
1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING ARGUMENT  
Von Terry B. Cullom  
In his response to the various appraisals of his book, in a concluding chapter, Wright makes it clear that he thinks many of the reviewers have not thoroughly read or understood his position. At times, he explicitly communicates his impatience and is clearly irritated by their failure to understand his points. Most of the criticisms of Wright focus on two key issues--several reviewers think: 1) that Wright is guilty of a "realized eschatology," and reduces Jesus' eschatology to a renewal of a this-worldly order, thereby denying the destruction of this time/space continuum; and, in this same vein, 2) that Wright is guilty of affirming a "physical" resurrection of the body, rather than a new "spiritual" body; and some seem unsure Wright even affirms a real resurrection of Jesus. Basically, Wright's response to these criticisms is: 1) that he is focusing only on Jesus' view based on the synoptic texts, and against the background of the 1st century Jewish worldview, and that his own view is best captured by the phrase "inaugurated eschatology"; and 2) that he does not deny a "real" resurrection of Jesus, but Jesus does not expound this topic himself; and he will deal with it in the next volume. I shared Wright's reaction. While a couple of the reviewers specifically noted they had struggled to see things from within the new perspective offered by Wright, and had changed some of their views, still, most of the criticisms stood firm within the older perspective and really did not offer arguments to refute Wright's position--this is what caused Wright's response to be so sharp.  
0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Invigorating and Vital Debate  
Von Customer  
Jesus and the Victory of God (JVG) is Wright's brilliant treatment of Jesus (pre-Easter). In his critique of Crossan he writes that it is difficult to disengage from the superb rhetoric in which Crossan expresses himself. The same may be said of Wright. For this reason it is helpful to have a collection of responses to Wright's work (which is still in progress). A number of other reviewers have expressed impatience with the essayists. Typical is the comment that they seem to be operating within "the old paradigm". In my view this is unfair for two reasons. The first is the fact that it is not wholly accurate. For example, Craig Evans staunchly defends Wright's controversial view that Jews of the Second Temple period thought of themselves as still in exile. Marcus Borg certainly does not fit within the stereotype of conservative scholarship feeling threatened that some would like to paint, nor does Luke Timothy Johnson (for whom Wright reserves his most damning criticism). Moreover, however convincing I have found Wright (and I most definitely found his reading of the evidence persuasive) it simply will not do to consider the whole thing settled. That sounds more like an older generation speaking of "the assured results of historical criticism". That is uncritical thinking (something of which Wright is appropriately damning). I do think at times that Wright's impatience with his reviewers was justified. That, however, must be qualified: there were times Wright could have been clearer. This is most so on the crucial issue of the continuing exile. It was not until I had reread JVG several times that I grasped the point Wright makes in response to McGrath: namely that the return from exile is not a "pattern" or a motif, but an understanding of the course of salvation history. I remember writing an essay in which I myself made the same error as McGrath, thinking that this was an image that was overplayed. However, in contrast to some of the other reviewers, I do think that there were issues raised to which Wright has yet to respond properly. In this category there falls, unsurprisingly, the issue of Jesus' eschatology. Wright is absolutely correct in arguing that, for example, Mark 13 is not about the second coming but the destruction of Jerusalem and Jesus' use of Daniel 7 refers to his vindication and exaltation. Yet there are portions of the Jesus tradition that do not seem to fit with this. Under this heading we might list talk of the (general) resurrection. Another reviewer has said that it would have been good to have had responses from other scholars such as Witherington. Certainly. It might also have been good to have had responses from those

who are operating within the same paradigm as Wright yet disagree with him on some important issues. Crispin Fletcher-Louis would be an example. That said it is important not to expect too much from one book.

Kurzbeschreibung N. T. Wright's *Jesus and the Victory of God* is widely heralded as one of the most significant and brilliantly argued works in the current "third quest" of the historical Jesus. In this second volume of his multivolume investigation entitled *Christian Origins and the Question of God*, Wright uncovers a Jesus that most historians and believers have never met. Rooted and engaged in the soil of Israel's history, its first-century plight and its prophetic hope, Wright's portrait of Jesus has set new terms of discourse and debate. Through Wright's lens, familiar sayings and actions of Jesus have fresh meaning. But in the midst of all that is new, Wright also offers a profile of Jesus that bears striking lines of continuity with the Jesus of Christian belief and worship. This resemblance has captured the attention of confessing Christian biblical scholars and theologians. Wright's work thus far is of such consequence that it seemed timely and strategic to publish a scholarly engagement with his reconstruction of the historical Jesus. Like all works in progress, Wright's proposal is still under construction. But its cornerstone has been laid, the foundation has been formed, the pillars and walls are going up, and even if we cannot yet see how the ceiling, roof and parapets will look, there is quite enough to engage the minds of colleagues, critics and other curious onlookers. For the purposes of this book (and in keeping with IVP's own evangelical identity), editor Carey Newman invited scholars who are committed to Christian belief as it has been classically defined to engage Wright's *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Newman sets the stage with an introduction, and Craig Blomberg offers a critical and appreciative overview of *Jesus and the Victory of God*. Various facets of Wright's proposal are then investigated by contributors: Paul Eddy on Jesus as prophet, Messiah and embodiment of Yahweh; Klyne Snodgrass on the parables; Craig Evans on Israel under continuing exile; Darrell Bock on the trial and death of Jesus; Dale Allison on apocalyptic language; Richard Hays on ethics; Alister McGrath on the implications for evangelical theology; Stephen Evans on methodological naturalism in historical biblical scholarship; Luke Timothy Johnson on Wright's historiography. To these essayists Wright extends his "grateful dialogue." He gives this spirited and illuminating reply to his interlocutors: "The high compliment of having a whole book devoted to the discussion of one's work is finely balanced by the probing, intelligent questions and by the occasional thud of a blunt instrument on the back of one's head. . . . Only once did I look up my lawyer's telephone number." After Wright takes his turn, his good friend and frequent partner in debate Marcus Borg offers his "appreciative disagreement." Newman then concludes the dialogue with his own reflections on moving from Wright's reconstruction of the historical Jesus to the church's Christ. A book assessing a scholar's work is usually an end-of-career event. But in this case interested readers can look forward with eager anticipation to Wright's next volume in *Christian Origins and the Question of God*--this one on the resurrection of Jesus. "Jesus just won't go away," begins the editor of this collection of essays. Devoted to the massive and influential study by the theologian N.T. Wright, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, this current volume assembles a dozen or so leading scholars to assess the importance--and accuracy--of Wright's 600-page study of the historical Jesus. More than a simple tribute to this English scholar, the writers in the volume, who are mainly assembled from the conservative wings of the church (with Marcus Borg representing the more liberal "Jesus Seminar" interpreters), clearly wish to clarify and deepen their own interpretations even while affirming the richness and depth of Wright's approach. As the editor states, readers here will find essays "by historians of Second Temple Judaism, Scripture scholars, systematic theologians and philosophers." As a result, even without reading Wright's own book, this volume can give the reader a very clear snapshot of much of New Testament studies as it (and we) begin a new millennium. --Doug Thorpe

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