

The New Testament and Related Topics

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Paul N. Anderson, Felix Just, SJ, and Tom Thatcher, eds., *John, Jesus, and History. Volume 3. Glimpses of Jesus through the Johannine Lens.* Atlanta: SBL Press (www.sbl-site.org/publications), 2016. Pages, xxiii + 636. Paper, \$87.95.

This substantial collection of essays is the fruit of a series of collaborative, interdisciplinary study groups sponsored by the Society of Biblical Literature. The unifying focus of this volume is the much-debated question about the historical traditions behind John's gospel. An older prevailing opinion believed that the Fourth Gospel was primarily a theological text with little or no value for discovering the historical circumstances of Jesus' life and ministry. The essays in this volume take a very different tack—open to the idea that John's gospel had some interaction with the Synoptic tradition and itself reflects in its own way historical traditions rooted in the circumstances of Jesus' own life and times. (Truth in advertising—I contributed one of the essays in this volume, considering the historical underpinning of the high priest's strategy in John 11:43-53.)

William Baird, *History of New Testament Research. Volume Three. From C. H. Dodd to Hans Dieter Betz.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2013. Pages, xix + 775. Cloth, \$70.00.

This massive volume by William Baird, professor emeritus of New Testament at Brite Divinity School, provides a richly informative and extensive summary and evaluation of the work of prominent biblical scholars spanning the latter half of the twentieth century. What began for the author as a proposal to write a 500-page history of New Testament research in a single volume developed into a three-volume work (this volume alone has 775 pages!). The reader benefits from this abundance. Baird provides detailed and fair-minded expositions of selected key authors' works and gives the reader a good sense of the method, style, and contribution of each. There is also a section on Catholic scholars in this period; Baird has selected the works of Rudolf Schnackenburg, Raymond Brown, and John Meier—three truly respected and excellent Catholic representatives. This is a resource that deserves to be in any good theological library.

John M. G. Barclay, *Pauline Churches and Diaspora Jews.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans (www.eerdmans.com), 2016. Pages, xv + 454. Paper, \$48.00.

The author of this superb book is professor of divinity at the University of Durham. The volume is composed of the author's own essays written over a twenty-year period, most of them already published and now slightly updated (mainly in their bibliographies) for this volume. The substantial introductory essay is new and is