

Simon J. Joseph, *The Nonviolent Messiah. Jesus, Q, and the Enochic Tradition.*
Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2014. Pages, xiv + 352.
Paper, \$39.00.

This ambitious and erudite work by Simon Joseph of California Lutheran University includes several previously published and now revised essays to make the case that the historical Jesus was consistently nonviolent. Jesus' messianic identity, Joseph claims, drew not so much on the Davidic warrior tradition that foresaw the defeat of Israel's enemies but on a vision of the future that anticipated the restoration of creation as anticipated in chapters 2 and 3 of Genesis and in the vision of a reconciled world found in Isaiah 11. As the post-Easter New Testament traditions developed, this original view of Jesus would be woven together with other types of messianic expectations.