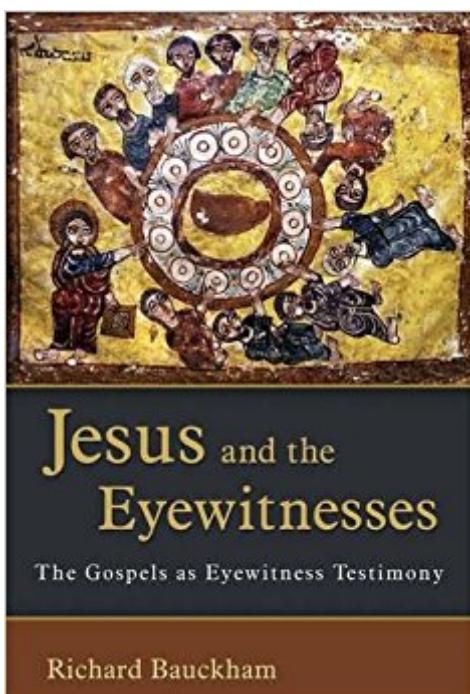


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Jesus And The Eyewitnesses: The Gospels As Eyewitness Testimony



Synopsis

‘Jesus and the Eyewitnesses’ argues that the four Gospels are closely based on the eyewitness testimony of those who knew Jesus. The author challenges the assumption that the accounts of Jesus circulated as ‘anonymous community traditions’, asserting instead that they were transmitted in the name of the original eyewitnesses. To drive home this controversial point, Bauckham draws on internal literary evidence, the use of personal names in first-century Jewish Palestine, and recent developments in the understanding of oral tradition. ‘Jesus and the Eyewitnesses’ also taps into the rich resources of modern study of memory, especially in cognitive psychology, refuting the conclusions of the form critics and calling New Testament scholarship to make a clean break with this long-dominant tradition. Finally, Bauckham challenges readers to end the classic division between the ‘historical Jesus’ and the ‘Christ of faith’, proposing instead the ‘Jesus of testimony’ as presented by the Gospels. Sure to ignite heated debate on the precise character of the testimony about Jesus, ‘Jesus and the Eyewitnesses’ is a groundbreaking work that will be valued by scholars, students, and all who seek to understand the origins of the Gospels.

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Customer Reviews

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Prize, A Winner A (2009) First Things "Bauckham's proposal is both path-breaking and a tour de force." Trinity Journal "As in all of his works, Bauckham has ransacked obscure secondary

literature for little-known but immensely helpful information. He has thought creatively about time-worn problems and uncovered possible interpretations of subtle features of ancient testimony — both in the Gospels and about them — with the shrewdness of a good detective." Westminster Theological Journal "Bauckham has delivered a remarkable and insightful volume that is sure to offer a much-needed challenge to the status quo in modern gospel studies."

This momentous book argues that the four Gospels are closely based on the eyewitness testimony of those who personally knew Jesus. Noted New Testament scholar Richard Bauckham challenges the prevailing assumption that the accounts of Jesus circulated as anonymous community traditions, asserting instead that they were transmitted in the names of the original eyewitness. To drive home this controversial point, Bauckham draws on internal literary evidence, the use of personal names in first-century Jewish Palestine, and recent developments in the understanding of oral tradition. "Jesus and the Eyewitnesses" also taps into the rich resources of modern study of memory, especially in cognitive psychology, refuting the conclusions of the form critics and calling New Testament scholarship to make a clean break with this long-dominant tradition. Finally, Bauckham challenges readers to end the classic division between the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith, proposing instead the Jesus of testimony as presented by the Gospels. Sure to ignite heated debate on the precise character of the testimony about Jesus, "Jesus and the Eyewitnesses" is a groundbreaking work that will be valued by scholars, students, and all who seek to understand the origins of the Gospels.

In his book "Jesus and the Eyewitnesses" Richard Bauckman successfully casts aside the form critical belief that the Gospels are essentially folklore. Bauckman believes and I think proves that the Gospel narratives are essentially eyewitness testimony. The book goes into detail overkill and at times becomes tedious. Bauckman makes a case that the Gospel of John was not written by the Beloved Disciple but instead the John the Elder. In this instance I did not buy his premise at all. For the serious student only.

This is a very detailed book. I have found it a bit heady for me as I am a casual reader more than an academic. But the detail of this book is incredible. Highly recommended for anyone interested in this important topic.

As with any of Dr. Bauckham's books, this is a fine piece of writing. He is exhaustive with his

detailed analysis of first century eyewitness accounts and thorough with his analysis of first century history recording process. For anyone doing any work on history (secular or theological), this really is a must read!!!!

Our Pastor used this book as a reference in an outstanding sermon, so I wanted to know myself. It is a well-written tome, scholarly in nature, full of interesting information. Thanks. It arrived promptly and well packaged.

Arrived speedily, in good condition. Haven't finished reading it yet, but so far, it's REALLY good!

Bought this for my husband as a gift. He is plodding through it along with some other reference material and has found it very enlightening.

Bauckham tends to get involved in agreeing or not agreeing with other authors and his writing gets convoluted. Otherwise, interesting.

Insightful

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