



The Routledge Encyclopedia of the Historical Jesus

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This *Encyclopedia* brings together the vast array of historical research into the reality of the man, the teachings, the acts, and the events ascribed to him that have served as the foundational story of one of the world's central religions. This kind of historiography is not biography. The historical study of the Jesus stories and the transmission of these stories through time have been of seminal importance to historians of religion. Critical historical examination has provided a way for scholars of Christianity for centuries to analyze the roots of legend and religion in a way that allows scholars an escape from the confines of dogma, belief, and theological interpretation. In recent years, historical Jesus studies have opened up important discussions concerning anti-Semitism and early Christianity and the political and ideological filtering of the Jesus story of early Christianity through the Roman empire and beyond.

Entries will cover the classical studies that initiated the new historiography, the theoretical discussions about authenticating the historical record, the examination of sources that have led to the western understanding of Jesus' teachings and disseminated myth of the events concerning Jesus' birth and death.

Subject areas include:

- the history of the historical study of the New Testament: major contributors and their works
- theoretical issues and concepts
- methodologies and criteria
- historical genres and rhetorical styles in the story of Jesus
- historical and rhetorical context of martyrdom and messianism
- historical teachings of Jesus
- teachings within historical context of ethics
- titles of Jesus
- historical events in the life of Jesus
- historical figures in the life of Jesus
- historical use of Biblical figures referenced in the Gospels
- places and regions
- institutions

- the history of the New Testament within the culture, politics, and law of the Roman Empire.

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Editorial Review

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Over the centuries, much of the writing, whether scholarly, popular, or devotional, about Jesus of Nazareth has been Christological rather than historical, the latter defined as an attempt to reconstruct the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth by critical historical methods in contrast to understanding the Christ of faith. A new scholarly quest for the Jesus of history has been gaining momentum of late. In this encyclopedia, some 227 entries address “all of the areas involved in the study of the historical Jesus.” The discussion Divorce and remarriage serves as a good illustration of what this reference work seeks to accomplish. Three of the four canonical Gospels report a firm stance on the part of Jesus against divorce, a prohibition by and large reflected in Christian theology and canon law to this day. Historical analysis, however, shows this uncompromising position was out of step with Jewish and Greco-Roman culture at the time. By examining Jesus’ teaching in this context, scholars are now offering new possible interpretations of Jesus’ intentions and meaning. Other entries include such topics as literary genres and rhetorical styles of the period (e.g., Miracle story); institutions important in the lives of the Jewish people (e.g., Households, Jewish); geographic places associated with Jesus (e.g., Bethlehem); and the types and methods of historical criticism employed by scholars in this field (e.g., Authenticity criteria). The entries were written by a group of international scholars and conclude with supplemental bibliographies. What distinguishes this encyclopedia from other biblical and theological reference works is its focus on the Jesus of history. Every entry must be viewed through that lens. Although the content of this encyclopedia is unique, it is also advanced and specialized. Appropriate for theological libraries and research collections. --Christopher McConnell

Review

'Evans and the contributors offer an excellent resource for scholars and students alike. They have produced a well-informed, readable, and reliable guide to the historical Jesus for years to come. The entries give a fine summary of current research and offer well informed orientation.' – *Christopher Stenschke, University of South Africa, Review of Biblical Literature*

About the Author

New Testament scholar, Craig Evans, is the Payzant Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Acadia Divinity College of Acadia University, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, Canada. A graduate of Claremont McKenna College, he received his M.Div. from Western Baptist Seminary in Portland, Oregon, and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from Claremont Graduate University in southern California. He has also been awarded the D.Habil. by the Karoli Gaspard Reformed University in Budapest. A well-known evangelical scholar throughout the world, he is an elected member of the prestigious SNTS, a society dedicated to New Testament studies.

After teaching one year at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, Evans taught at Trinity Western University in British Columbia for twenty-one years, where he directed the graduate program in Biblical Studies and founded the Dead Sea Scrolls Institute. He was also a Visiting Fellow at Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, New Jersey.

Author and editor of more than sixty books and hundreds of articles and reviews, Professor Evans has given lectures at Cambridge, Oxford, Durham, Yale and other universities, colleges, seminaries and museums, such as the Field Museum in Chicago, the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa and the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. He also regularly lectures and gives talks at popular conferences and retreats on the

Jesus, Archaeology, the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible.

Along with countless interviews on radio networks across Canada and the US, Evans has been seen on Dateline NBC, CBC, CTV, Day of Discovery, and many documentaries aired on BBC, The Discovery Channel, History Channel, History Television and others. He also has served as a consultant for the National Geographic Society.

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