

Introduction to a New Testament Book (TMM1597)

Common Awards



Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum

Books



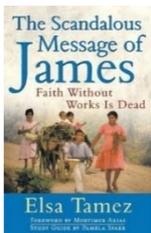
Oakes, Peter and Boakye, Andrew K. (2021) *Rethinking Galatians: Paul's Vision of Oneness in the Living Christ*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Content:

This collaborative book on Galatians foregrounds Black British New Testament scholarship as Boakye writes 4 out of the 7 book chapters (Chapter 3: 'Scripture and Promise', Chapter 4: 'Death, Life and Righteousness', Chapter 5: 'Law and the Spirit' and Chapter 7: 'Conclusion'). In an in-depth exploration of Galatians, framed around the different real-life issues that the church in Galatia would have faced, both Oakes and Boakye seek to offer unique insights into how the book of Galatians would have been initially received, interpreted and applied in the original First Century Greco-Roman context.

Authors:

Andrew K. Boakye is a Black British NT scholar; Peter Oakes is a White British NT scholar. They are both based at the University of Manchester in the UK.



Támez, Elsa (2018) *The Scandalous Message of James: Faith Without Works Is Dead*. New York, NY: Crossroad Publishing Company.

Content:

This book provides an excellent exploration of the book of James from a Latin American perspective. Chapter 1 lays the foundation for this work by highlighting current debates around the authorship

and dating of the book of James, and then briefly outlining the main themes contained within each biblical chapter. In the rest of the book Tamez then explores James through the Latin American hermeneutical lenses of oppression/suffering, hope and praxis.

Author:

Elsa Támez is a Mexican liberation theologian and biblical scholar.



Wan, Sze-kar (2020) *Romans: An Introduction and Study Guide: Empire and Resistance*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.

Content:

This short book, consisting of just 5 chapters, seeks to introduce students to the Book of Romans through the lens of empire and resistance. Wan does this by first providing a brief overview of the author's anti-imperial approach to Romans in Chapter 1: 'How to Read Romans'. Chapter 2: 'Reading Romans' Wan then provides an overview of all 15 chapters of the book of Romans in 2–3-chapter chunks in a way that students will find easy to follow. Students will also specifically benefit from Chapter 3: 'Theological Themes' in Romans in which Wan highlights the 6x key theological themes found within the book of Romans: (1) Good News; (2) Justice/Righteousness of God; (3) Faith/Belief/Trust; (4) Works of the Law; (5) Eschatology and (6) Collection for the Poor among the Saints.

Author:

Sze-kar Wan is a Chinese-American New Testament scholar based in the US.

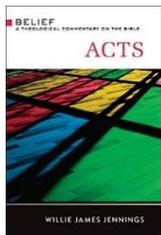
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Jennings, Willie J. (2017) *Acts: A Theological Commentary on the Bible*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press.

Content:

This commentary, published as part of the 'Belief: A Theological Commentary on the Bible' series explores the book of Acts through the lens of diaspora, empire, faith and Spirit. In the Introduction particularly, Jennings outlines the overall theme and story of the book of Acts, which is for God's powerful Spirit to unite people and end the multiple segregations that we see in our society. This book provides fresh theological insights into the book of Acts that will help students to see how Luke's ancient writings can inspire unity amongst 'strangers' in our modern-day society and churches.

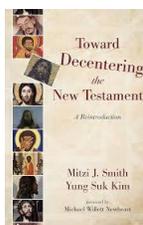
Author:

Willie James Jennings is an African- American Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies at Yale Divinity School, US.

main scholarly discussions surrounding the authorship and dating of these books. In the subsequent chapters, Mbuvi systematically walks students verse by verse through the books of Jude and 2 Peter, whilst simultaneously interweaving his African postcolonial insights.

Author:

Andrew M. Mbuvi is a Kenyan biblical scholar based in the US.



Smith, Mitzi J. and Kim, Yung Suk (2018) *Toward Decentering the New Testament: A Reintroduction*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.

Content:

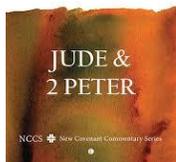
This book, specifically written with students training for ministry in mind, frames New Testament biblical interpretation as a 'dialogue' between different perspectives. This book raises unique questions about the presence of slavery, refugees and water in the New Testament. It also contains an accessible summary of the themes contained within each of the New Testament chapters.

Authors:

Yung Suk Kim is South New Testament scholar at Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University. Mitzi J. Smith is an African American biblical scholar based in the US.

Andrew M. Mbuvi

Mbuvi, Andrew M. (2016) *Jude and 2 Peter: A New Covenant Commentary*. Cambridge: The Lutterworth Press.



Content:

This book, published as part of The New Covenant Commentary Series (NCCS), introduces students to Jude and 2 Peter in a way that fully engages Mbuvi's postcolonial African perspective. In the first section entitled The Introduction to Jude and 2 Peter, Mbuvi situates these biblical texts within the First Century Greco-Roman context and explores the

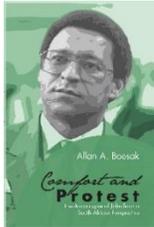
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Boesak, Allan A. (2015) *Comfort and Protest: The Apocalypse of John from a South African Perspective*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers.

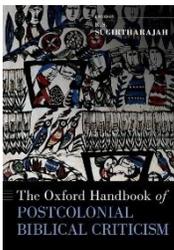
Content:

Written during apartheid South Africa, Boesak writes a short but powerful commentary on the book of Revelation that allies with the oppressed and the persecuted church's cry for freedom. In the Introduction: Underground Letters to a Persecuted Church, Boesak parallels the book of Revelation with the modern-day oppressions that people face today, ultimately drawing hope from the fact that one day there will be "the destruction of evil and the victory of the Lamb" (39). Using his real-life experience of living in apartheid South Africa, in subsequent chapters Boesak takes students on a rich journey through the book of Revelation.

Author:

Allan A. Boesak is a South African Dutch Reformed Church cleric, politician and anti-apartheid activist.

Book Chapters



Choi, Jin Young (2023) 'John's Writings and Empire: Empire Studies and Postcolonial Criticism.' In Sugirtharajah Rasiah S. (ed.) *The Oxford Handbook of Postcolonial Biblical Criticism*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Content:

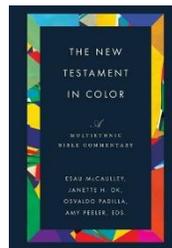
In this chapter Choi explores what it looks like to read and interpret the book of John through the lens of empire. Whilst this chapter in its entirety may be better suited for Level 5 students and above (as Choi begins

with a complex literature review of previous scholarship on Johannine Empire Studies), the latter section of the article entitled Postcolonial Criticism of John, and the Empire is suited for Level 4 students. In this section Choi introduces students to a range of Johannine biblical scholars (such as Musa Dube and Tat-siong Benny Liew) who aim to situate the book of John within its ancient Roman imperial context. This section of the book will help students to understand the importance of considering questions of empire and power when interpreting and reading the New Testament.

Author:

Jin Young Choi is Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in the US.

Edited Volumes



McCaulley, Esau, Ok, Janette H., Padilla, Osvaldo and Peeler, Amy (2024) *The New Testament in Color: A Multiethnic Bible Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Content:

This edited volume contains introductory essays on every New Testament book in the Bible. With contributions from multiple Global Majority Heritage New Testament scholars from across the US. This volume demonstrates the inextricable link between cultural context and biblical interpretation. Whilst the first chapters contain accessible introductions to a range of different hermeneutical approaches such as Africa, Asian-American, Hispanic etc., most of the volume explores each individual book of the New Testament

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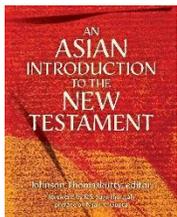
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from a specific cultural context (exploring its author, date, setting, major themes, outline of the book and then a detailed commentary).

Editors:

Amy Peeler is White American New Testament scholar at Wheaton College; Esau McCaulley is an African-American NT scholar at Wheaton College; Janette H. Ok is an Asian-American New Testament scholar at Fuller Theological Seminary; Osvaldo Padilla is a Dominican New Testament scholar and teaches at Samford University, US.



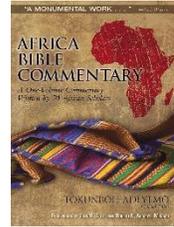
Thomaskutty, Johnson (2022) *An Asian Introduction to the New Testament*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Content:

This edited volume contains short and accessible introductory essays on every New Testament book in the Bible. Written by 23 New Testament scholars from across the continent of Asia, this volume aims to explore the New Testament specifically in relation to “wider Asian realities” (1). All the contributions within this volume (Chapters 3-23) provide detailed introductions to each New Testament book, including a section on the place of writing, authorship, dating, intended audience and purpose.

Editor:

Johnson Thomaskutty is a Professor of New Testament at The United Theological College, Bengaluru, India.



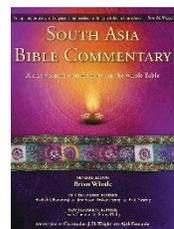
Adegboye, Tokunboh (2006) *Africa Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Content:

This volume, containing contributions from 70 Biblical scholars from across the continent of Africa, explores the Bible specifically through the eyes of African Christians. Referencing the current political, social and economic challenges that are unique to the African continent, this volume draws on African cultural realities and examples to open up the Bible in a way that deeply resonates with the African lived experience. In the latter half of the volume, each contributor provides a succinct introduction to every book of the New Testament in a way that is easily accessible to Level 4 students. These chapters explore the purpose, outline and aims of each New Testament book, written specifically with the context of Africa in mind.

Editor:

Adegboye Tokunboh was a Nigerian scholar who served as the General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa.



Wintle, Brian et al. (2015) *South Asia Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Content:

In the latter half of this volume, New Testament biblical scholars from the continent of South Asia provide an accessible introduction to each New Testament book.

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Each chapter begins with a short summary of the author, purpose, main themes and outline of the New Testament book, also highlighting its application to a variety of South Asian contexts.

Editors:

Brian Wintle was a British born theologian who lived most of his life in India and taught at the Faculty of the Union Biblical Seminary; Havilah Dharamraj is an Indian scholar based in Bangalore; Jeyaraj Jesudason B. is an Indian scholar based in Kerala.

Podcasts

[The Book of Ephesians with Dr. Esau McCaulley](#)
(09:36)



Content:

Using his experience of teaching at Wheaton College, McCaulley offers a short but deeply theological reflection of Ephesians 2 that students can listen to on the go.

Speaker:

Esau McCaulley is an African-American Professor of New Testament at Wheaton College in Wheaton, US.

Journal Articles

[Casas-Ramírez, Juan Alberto \(2024\) 'The Narrative Construction of Peter in the Gospel of Mark in Light of the Reports of Displacement and Exile Due to the Armed Conflict in Colombia.'](#) *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* 47(1): 49-62.



Content:

Written within a Colombian context of displacement and exile due to armed conflict, Casas-Ramírez offers a new

insight into the character of Peter (mentioned 26 times within the Gospel of Mark) that sheds new light on his character. Casas-Ramírez highlights the analogues themes of victimization, conflict, trauma, betrayal and flight that exist between the modern Colombian context and the ancient sociopolitical context behind Peter's ministry.

Author:

Juan Alberto Casas Ramírez is a Latinx scholar and associate professor at Pontifical Javeriana University in Bogotá, Colombia.

[Obamakin, Olabisi \(2023\) 'Don't touch my hair: a feminist Nigerian/British reading of the woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair in Luke 7:36-50.'](#) *Practical Theology*, 16(2), 180-191.



Content:

In this article Obamakin offers a Nigerian/British interpretation of the 'woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair' in Luke 7:36-50 through the epistemological lens of an Afropean woman. By reading this biblical character in conversation with Emma Dabiri's book *Don't Touch My Hair* (2019), the woman in Luke 7 is read in a fresh way that considers the Black British female experience and emphasizes her prophetic gifting and ability.

Author:

Olabisi Obamakin is a Black British New Testament scholar based in Durham, UK.