

Anders Runesson, *Divine Wrath and Salvation in Matthew. The Narrative World of the First Gospel.* Minneapolis: Fortress Press
(www.augsburgfortress.org), 2016. Pages, xxxii + 513. Cloth, \$99.00.

This thorough and innovative study of Matthew's gospel by Anders Runesson, professor of New Testament at the University of Oslo, Norway, takes its place alongside a number of recent interpretations that situate Matthew's gospel in an intra-Jewish rather than a Gentile-Jewish context. That is, Matthew's community considered itself as thoroughly and essentially Jewish, with its belief in Jesus as the Messiah the culmination of its Jewish faith and identity. Runesson's focus is on the characteristic passages in Matthew dealing with divine judgment and related condemnation of the Jewish authorities. It is Matthew's intra-Jewish conflict with these authorities, rather than a Jewish-Gentile polarity, that best explains this motif in the gospel. The ultimate criterion for judgment, both of Israel and in the post-resurrection age for Gentiles, is obedience to the Torah as taught by Jesus. Not all will agree with some aspects of Runesson's interpretation, but it remains an instructive and significant reading of Matthew in its original Second Temple Jewish context.