

# Contents

Maps and Illustrations	vii
Preface	xi
1. What Are We Reading and Why Does It Matter?	1
2. Telling Stories about Jesus Prior to the Written Gospels	25
3. The Tale Mark Tells	49
4. Mark: Roman Social Upheavals, Propaganda, and Urban Misery	75
5. The Tale Matthew Tells	99
6. Matthew: Editing and Retelling Stories about Jesus	123
7. The Tale Luke Tells	151
8. Luke: The Kingdom of God	179
9. The Tale John Tells	213
10. John's Gospel: The Presentation of Jesus as Wisdom	239
11. Conclusion	261

Glossary

283

Index

289