Contents

Acknowledgements ix
Note to the reader x
Abbreviations xi
Introduction xiii

1 The ancient media situation 1
What is oral tradition? 1
Some characteristics of orality and oral tradition 2
Writing in antiquity 8
Consequences for the oral Jesus tradition 13

2 Form criticism 15
Martin Dibelius 16
Rudolf Bultmann 21
Evaluation 27

3 The rabbinic model 33
Gerhardsson’s thesis 34
Evaluation 39

4 The media contrast model 47
Erhardt Güttgemanns 48
Werner Kelber 51
Evaluation 61

5 Informal controlled oral tradition 66
Kenneth Bailey’s model 66
Bailey’s data 68
Evaluation 79

6 Memory and tradition 86
Individual memory 87
Collective or social memory 91
Memory in oral tradition 99
Tradition and performance 103
## Contents

7 Memory and orality in the Jesus tradition 108  
James Dunn – *Jesus Remembered* 108  
Richard Horsley (and Jonathan Draper) 115  
Rafael Rodriguez – *Structuring Early Christian Memory* 123  
Other contributions 131  
Conclusions 133

8 The role of eyewitnesses 135  
Samuel Byrskog – story and history 135  
Richard Bauckham – *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses* 143

9 Probing the tradition 159  
Mark and Paul 159  
Mark and Josephus 169  
Conclusions 175

10 Conclusion 177  
Stability, change and the role of individuals 178  
Implications for historical Jesus research 181  
Implications for source criticism and Gospel interpretation 183  
Conclusion 184

Bibliography 186  
*Index of ancient and biblical texts* 195  
*Index of modern authors* 197  
*Index of subjects* 201