

Jesus and Temple: Textual and Archaeological Explorations

James H. Charlesworth, ed.

Minneapolis: Fortress, 2014, 978-1-4514-8036-8, \$25.99, xv + 282 pb

This book brings together papers presented at a symposium in Florida in 2011. A good part of the introduction and chapters 1 and 2 by Leen Rittmeyer and Dan Bahat focus on the archaeological and historical evidence relating to the Herodian temple. Later in the volume Mordechai Aviam looks at the archaeology of Galilee, emphasizing its 'spiritual and emotional connection to Jerusalem and the temple'. Lawrence Schiffman usefully explores the practical and hugely symbolic significance of the temple in ancient Judaism. Gary Rendsburg takes us into the OT and argues for temple singing of psalms as originating in the Northern kingdom. Chapters 6–9 come on to Jesus, with two chapters by Charlesworth arguing that 'Jesus and his apostles loved and honoured the temple' – in a way often not recognized by Christians. This love did not exclude criticism of how the cult was conducted, but did not simply cease as the idea of Jesus and the community as embodying the temple came to the fore. Harold Attridge looks at the temple and Jesus as high priest, notably in John's Gospel and Hebrews, finding 'a tense relationship between followers of Jesus and the realities at the centre of Jewish ritual life before 70 CE' (p. 237). Finally George Zervos argues for the importance of the apocryphal *Protoevangelium of James* and a reconstructed source which he calls *Genesis Marias*.

This volume, like most symposia, is a mixed bag, with the archaeologists' contributions being especially informative and interesting, helped by their black and white plates. The 'biblical' chapters vary between the rather speculative (Rendsburg and Zervos) and the usefully reflective, including those by Attridge and Charlesworth himself.

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