

DENNIS R. MACDONALD, *The Dionysian Gospel: The Fourth Gospel and Euripides* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017, \$79) xviii and 250 pp., 3 halftones. Bibliography. Indexed. ISBN: 978-1-5064-2345-6.

Starting from the assumption that the Fourth Gospel is the result of a three-stage compositional development, this study contends that its most primitive edition displays evidence that a Johannine author supplemented the Synoptics to portray Jesus as a rival to Dionysus. After a four-page introduction, it discusses the beginning of the Johannine tradition with particular attention to Papias. Then it offers an intertextual commentary on the earliest stratum of the Fourth Gospel and Euripides' *Bacchae* in light of seven criteria of mimesis criticism. Next it considers the rewriting of the earliest Johannine Gospel (the second stage, which especially reflects the Johannine epistles). Then it treats the final redaction of the Fourth Gospel and the emergence of a Johannine corpus. The three appendixes provide a conjectural Greek reconstruction of the "Dionysian Gospel," an overview of Euripides' *Bacchae*, and a discussion of the sinful woman (Jn 7:53–8:11). MacDonald, professor of NT and Christian origins at Claremont School of Theology and the author of *The Gospels and Homer* (2015) and *Luke and Vergil* (2015), observes that because the imitations of the *Bacchae* are limited to the earliest stratum of the Fourth Gospel, the influence of Euripides remains undetectable to the vast majority of modern interpreters.

JOEL MARCUS, *Jesus and the Holocaust: Reflections on Suffering and Hope* (Grand Rapids—Cambridge, UK: Eerdmans, 2017, paper \$18/£12.99) xxiii and 129 pp., frontispiece, 8 halftones. LCN: 96-48352. ISBN: 978-0-8028-7435-1.

Originally published in 1997 by Doubleday, this book presents poetry and short narratives about the Holocaust alongside seven reflections on Bible passages by Marcus, professor of NT and Christian origins at Duke Divinity School, based on sermons he gave on Good Friday in 1995. The topics treated are the Suffering Servant (Isa 53:1-12); "you are being dehumanized" (Mk 15:22-27); an atheist in five minutes (Mk 15:29-32); "Father, forgive them" (Lk 23:33-34a, 39-43); the dying of the light (Mk 15:33-38); it is finished (Jn 19:25-30); and the earthquake (Mt 27:51-54). Marcus considers the portrait of Jesus' suffering and death in each piece, and explores the links between that one Jewish death and the six million Jewish deaths in the Holocaust. Also included are a four-page foreword by E. T. Charry, the three-page preface from the original edition, and a new six-page preface for the current edition.

GEORGE MARTIN, *Bringing the Gospel of John to Life: Insight and Inspiration*, Opening the Scriptures (Huntington, IN: Our Sunday Visitor, 2016, paper \$24.95) xvii and 605 pp., 2 maps. Bibliography. Indexed. LCN: 2016948370. ISBN: 978-1-61278-992-7.

This book provides a verse-by-verse exposition of the Gospel of John with a focus on the meaning of John's Gospel at the time of its writing as well as its meaning for today. For individual pericopes it provides a literary analysis (orientation), the text according to the New American Bible revised edition, verse-by-verse comments, background information, questions for reflection, cross-references, and so forth. Martin, founding editor of *God's Word Today* magazine and author of *Bringing the Gospel of Luke to Life* (2011), adopts the view that the Gospel of John was completed around the end of the 1st century, possibly in Ephesus, and that whether or not John had copies of the other Gospels in front of him when he wrote, he was well acquainted with the traditions contained in them. A six-page appendix discusses the writing and interpretation of the Gospel of John.

XAVIER MATOSES, "*Quien tenga oídos...*": *Estudio teológico-narrativo del "escuchar" en el evangelio de Marcos*, Col·lectània Sant Pacià 117 (Barcelona: Edicions de la Facultat de Teologia de Catalunya, 2016, paper €22) 386 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. ISBN: 978-84-944840-8-7.

Based on a doctoral dissertation supervised by A. Borrell and accepted by the Facultat de Teologia de Catalunya in 2012, this study addresses the term "hearing" and its semantic field in the Gospel of Mark, aiming to identify the communicative function of the various elements in their context. After an eight-page introduction, it discusses the human and theological value of hearing; hearing at the beginning of the Gospel of Mark; hearing in the parables discourse;

The notice of the highlighted book appeared in *NTA* 61/2 in September 2017 (© Boston College). A corresponding record will appear in *NTA Online* (see www.ebscohost.com). The editors appreciate the cooperation of the publisher in making the review copy available.

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