



Jesus of Nazareth: An Independent Historian's Account of his Life and Teaching

By Maurice Casey

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Labor History has recently undergone something of a renaissance that has yet to be documented. The book chronicles this rejuvenation with contributions from new scholars as well as established names. Rethinking U.S. Labor History focuses particularly on those issues of pressing interest for today's labor historians: the relationship of class and culture; the link between worker's experience and the changing political economy; the role that gender and race have played in America's labor history; and finally, the transnational turn.

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Editorial Review

Review

'In several important respects this lively book goes against the grain of recent scholarship, both conservative and radical. But it is a needed and challenging reminder of the fragility of much that passes as the 'assured results' of scholarship. The detailed attention to the relevance of the Aramaic language for constructing Jesus is particularly noteworthy and consistently provocative.' - Dale C. Allison, Jr., Errett M. Grable Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, PA, USA.

(Dale C. Allison)

'Only a handful of New Testament scholars can deal with Hebrew and above all Aramaic sources as well as Maurice Casey. After an extensive career concentrating on the life and teaching of Jesus, and at the pinnacle of his intellectual prowess after writing a number of specialized studies, he now generously shares his deep and manifold insights with a larger audience. With neither ecclesiastical nor atheistic baggage to weigh him down, Casey caustically comments first on those who do not take Jesus' Jewishness seriously, especially his native tongue Aramaic. This criticism of older and the most recent secondary literature is - unfortunately - well-deserved. Yet the following chapters with positive analyses by far prevail, making this volume a must read for all those seeking a balanced, yet deeply scholarly view of the life of Jesus by an independent historian. Casey candidly points out what we can reasonably know about Jesus, but just as importantly, what we cannot know. This fascinating volume deserves close reading and a very wide audience.' - The Rev. Dr. Roger David Aus, Berlin, Germany (Roger David Aus)

'This learned and comprehensive book should prove to be the major historical Jesus publication of the decade. While we all know that much has been written on the historical Jesus, Casey still manages to provide a distinctive slant, most notably with his reader-friendly use of Aramaic reconstructions of Jesus' words and actions. The review of scholarship, which combines savage humour with scholarly insights, hits hard at numerous approaches to the quest for the historical Jesus, from famous historical Jesus scholars to 'mythicist' and conspiratorial theories in popular culture. This book should reinvigorate a tired scholarly quest and raise the bar in the learning required to do serious historical Jesus work.' — James G. Crossley, University of Sheffield, UK. (James G. Crossley)

'Maurice Casey has devoted himself to the study of Aramaic... and now puts this knowledge to use in his heavy tome on the Historical Jesus.' (The Pastoral Review)

'this book is in many respects an impressive achievement.' (The Rev Dr Petor Ensor *Methodist Recorder*)

'The book is an admirable, fascinating, and stimulating study of Jesus against the background of a Judaism shaped by Aramaic speakers, and, as such, it is well worth reading.' (The Church Times)

Reviewed in Contemporary Review

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... offers the safest route toward a nuanced and sophisticated understanding of Jesus. (Sanford Lakoff)

From the Back Cover

Professor Maurice Casey provides a sophisticated and engaging historical reconstruction of Jesus' life tackling controversial issues such as the Virgin Birth and the Resurrection. Casey's masterful treatment of the Aramaic sources and background to the Gospels make this volume unique in that no other life of Jesus has been written by a scholar with such expertise in the language which Jesus spoke, as a result Casey is able to draw us closer to the historical Jesus than ever before.

Casey provides an up-to-date overview of the historical Jesus debate, covering the Jewishness of Jesus' teaching, the foundation of early groups of his followers, and the location of Jesus within his wider context. He also gives a bold ideological critique of the very discipline of historical Jesus research, discussing the possibility that anti-Jewish views have skewed research in the past. This major contribution will be of interest to anyone interested in the historical figure of Jesus and the roots of Christianity.

About the Author

Maurice Casey is Professor of New Testament Languages and Literature at the University of Nottingham, UK. He has published extensively on the Son of Man problem, and more generally on reconstructing Aramaic traditions about Jesus from the Greek Gospels.

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