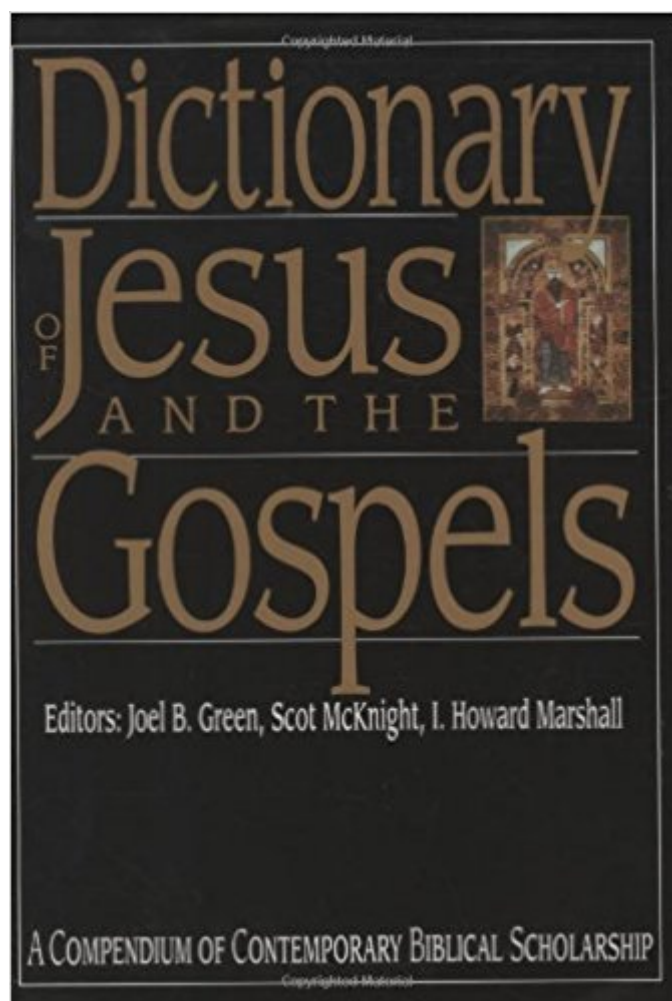


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Dictionary Of Jesus And The Gospels (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series)



Synopsis

Recipient of a Christianity Today 1993 Critics Choice Award! Third Place Winner of Christianity Today's Book of the Year list award! The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels is unique among reference books on the Bible, the first volume of its kind since James Hastings published his Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels in 1909. In the more than eight decades since Hastings our understanding of Jesus, the Evangelists and their world has grown remarkably. New interpretive methods have illumined the text, the ever-changing profile of modern culture has put new questions to the Gospels, and our understanding of the Judaism of Jesus' day has advanced in ways that could not have been predicted in Hasting's day. But for many readers of the Gospels the new outlook on the Gospels remains hidden within technical journals and academic monographs. The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels bridges the gap between scholars and those pastors, teachers, students and lay people desiring in-depth treatment of select topics in an accessible and summary format. The topics range from cross-sectional themes (such as faith, law, Sabbath) to methods of interpretation (such as form criticism, redaction criticism, and death of Jesus) to each of the four Gospels as a whole. Some articles--such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, rabbinic traditions and revolutionary movements at the time of Jesus--provide significant background information to the Gospels. Others reflect recent and less familiar issues in Jesus and Gospel studies, such as divine man, ancient rhetoric and the chreiai (aphorisms). Contemporary concerns of general interest are discussed in articles covering such topics as healing, the demonic and the historical reliability of the Gospels. And for those entrusted with communicating the message of the Gospels, there is an extensive article on preaching from the Gospels. The Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels presents the fruit of evangelical New Testament scholarship at the end of the twentieth century--committed to the authority of Scripture, utilizing the best of critical methods, and maintaining dialog with contemporary scholarship and challenges facing the church.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Green (B.S., M.Th., Ph.D.) is dean of academic affairs, dean of the School of Theology and professor of New Testament interpretation at Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky. Prior to his appointment at Asbury in 1997, he was associate professor of New Testament at the American Baptist Seminary of the West/Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. His recent titles include *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology* (coauthored with Paul Achtemeier and Marianne Meye Thompson, 2001), *Beginning with Jesus: Christ in Scripture, the Church and Discipleship* (2000), *Recovering the Scandal of the Cross: Atonement in New Testament and Contemporary Contexts* (coauthored with Mark Baker, 2000), *Between Two Horizons: Spanning New Testament Studies and Systematic Theology* (coedited with Max Turner, 2000) and *The Gospel of Luke in the New International Commentary on the New Testament* (1997). Green has for more than twenty years been editor of *Catalyst*, a journal providing evangelical resources and perspectives to some 5,000 United Methodist seminarians. An ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, he has pastored churches in Texas, Scotland and Northern California. He has also served on the boards of Berkeley Emergency Food and Housing Project and *RADIX* magazine. McKnight (Ph. D.) is assistant professor of New Testament at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He is general editor of *Guides to New Testament Exegesis* and wrote *Interpreting the Synoptic Gospels* in that series. Howard Marshall is Honorary Research Professor of New Testament at the University of Aberdeen in Aberdeen, Scotland. Among his numerous publications on the New Testament are his commentaries on the Gospel of Luke, Acts, 1-2 Thessalonians, the Pastoral Epistles, 1 Peter and 1-3 John. He is coauthor of *Exploring the New Testament: A Guide to the Letters and Revelation*.

Book Highlights While this reference work is named a dictionary by Intervarsity Press, it really is so much more than that. For one thing each article is longer than a typical Bible dictionary entry. Also, each article is more extensively researched and is focused on how a particular topic is treated or mentioned in the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The scholarship is conservative in

its approach. The quality of the scholarship for each article is top notch. Some of the contributors include Richard J. Bauckham, Craig L. Blomberg, Darrell I. Bock, F. F. Bruce, James D. G. Dunn, Craig A. Evans, Gordon D. Fee, Joel B. Green, William R. Herzog, Scot McKnight, I. Howard Marshall, Douglas J. Moo, Leon Morris, Klyne R. Snodgrass, Max Turner, Ben Witherington III, and many others. The cover uses the phrase, "A Compendium of Biblical Scholarship", and it certainly is that. At 896 pages, it certainly does not lack depth. The articles which are the longest treat such subjects as "Gospel of Mark", "Gospel of Matthew", etc. It also treats subjects such as "Archeology and Geography", "Quest of the Historical Jesus", and "Old Testament in the Gospels" quite extensively. In all, there are 176 articles. So all in all, this reference volume is both deep and wide. Scholars will appreciate the hard work of the editors Joel B. Green, Scot McKnight and I. Howard Marshall. Some features include "How to Use This dictionary", "Abbreviations", "Transliteration", "List of Contributors", "Gospel Reference Index", "Subject Index", and the "Articles Index". One may find information very easily which makes this dictionary very accessible. Evaluation I would give this dictionary very high marks. I found the articles very educational and I found that I gained a much deeper understanding of many nuances overlooked in typical Bible studies focused on the gospels. In many respects, I think that this reference work functions as a scholarly theological journal. Published in 1992, the "Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels" will be relevant for years to come. Recommendation I would recommend this resource to pastor and lay person alike. This dictionary would be helpful in both sermon preparation and Bible study. In total, there are 8 reference dictionaries in this series. Four cover the New Testament and four cover the Old Testament. If this volume is any indication, the subsequent volumes should be excellent as well. I would recommend purchasing this volume from [ivp.com](#) or [christianbook.com](#) for the best price. It runs about \$35.00.

I have purchased all four of the IVP Dictionaries for the New Testament: two in print version (Dictionary of New Testament Background (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series) and Dictionary of the Later New Testament & Its Developments (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series)), and two in Kindle version (Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series) and Dictionary of Paul and His Letters (The IVP Bible Dictionary Series)). I am thoroughly pleased with the content in all four books. However, the Kindle versions are a big disappointment. I've purchased Kindle books in the past and have been very pleased with them. I love the search function and I thought it might be particularly helpful for reference books like these. However, it's a little nightmarish. I'll try to spell the problems out in a list:

1. There are hardly any hyperlinks in the text. The Table of Contents will

only take you to the first article under "A" or to the list of article entries. The list of article entries is not hyperlinked.² To find a given article, therefore you need to use the search function, but in book with this many words, the search lists come back too long. For example, if I want to look up the article on "Christology" I enter it as a search term, I get back a list of 100 items which I then have to dig through to find the one for the article. That is, every article that has the word "Christology" in it comes back with no easy way to sort them out from the one article on "Christology."³ The Kindle search function is not intelligent. If I want to qualify my search by entering more than one word, it will only find two contiguous words. It won't find anything that has both words in the same sentence or on the same page.⁴ There are hyphenated words in the middle of text which I assume means that they were originally hyphenated in the print version because they came at the end of a line. But in the conversion from print to Kindle, the words moved elsewhere but the hyphens were not removed. In a two-column reference works like these there are lots of hyphenated words. The search function thinks "combined" and "com-bined" are two different words so I have to search twice. The combination of these four factors make the Kindle version much harder to navigate than a print version. This has never been a problem with any of the other Kindle books I've bought. I suppose this is something that applies only to large dictionaries like this, and I didn't anticipate it. It's very frustrating. Moreover, the discounted price for the Kindle edition is very slight. I thought the smaller discount meant that to have a Kindle version would be more valuable than usual. To think I could have had two print versions instead of these two Kindle versions for almost the same price is just very disappointing. You're forewarned.

I saw this book in the church library and was so impressed I had to get my own copy. The material is fairly scholarly, but too technical for a college educated reader. Articles are also in depth and provide a lot of background and history of the first century, Judaism, and Greco-Roman philosophy. I would highly recommend this book to anyone wanted a more in depth understanding of the Gospels, the background, and the people of the first century.

Do not buy this book in the Kindle version. I don't know what the people who made this kindle book were thinking but this is a research book and there are no links. There is no way of searching through the book efficiently. Complete waste of time and money. Buy the physical version, it is a excellent resource, it is a shame that Kindle did such a poor job of creating a kindle version of it.

I appreciate most these Dictionaries' abundant cross reference indexes; Bible book index, Subject

index and Article index. I can continue referring from item to item as long as time permits. These are really COMPENDIA OF CONTEMPORARY BIBLICAL SCHOLARSHIP. Contributors are broad and diverse, generally conservative, scholarly and academic. Contents include theology, hermeneutics, psychology, archeology, criticism and so on. They serve as research reference as well as commentary books. I recommend these Dics for anyone who wants to have in depth understanding of the Bible in this 2nd decade of 21st century.

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