



Sacred Tradition in the New Testament: Tracing Old Testament Themes in the Gospels and Epistles

By Stanley E. Porter



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Leading biblical scholar Stanley Porter critiques the state of research regarding the New Testament's use of the Old Testament and sacred traditions. He provides needed orientation for readers interested in New Testament references to themes such as "son of man" and "suffering servant" as well as the faith of Abraham and the Passover. Porter explains that examining scriptural traditions is fundamental to understanding central ideas in the New Testament regarding Jesus. He sheds light on major themes in New Testament Christology and soteriology, offering fresh, constructive proposals.

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Editorial Review

From the Inside Flap

Tracing Old Testament Themes in the Gospels and Epistles

Leading biblical scholar Stanley Porter critiques the state of research regarding the New Testament's use of the Old Testament and sacred traditions. As a prelude to a new approach to the issues, he begins with a critical examination of the way that the Old Testament in the New Testament is often discussed. He then treats Jesus and sacred tradition--including the Son of Man of Daniel 7:13, the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 42-53, and other language used of Jesus--providing needed orientation for readers. Porter goes on to examine how the Passover theme is developed from Exodus 12, and the passion of Jesus in relation to Psalm 22. The final section examines biblical tradition in the Epistles, including the use of Genesis 15:6 in Paul and James, Esau in Romans and Hebrews, and Paul's treatment of the designation "Jesus Christ."

Porter explains that examining scriptural traditions is fundamental to understanding central ideas in the New Testament regarding Jesus. *Sacred Tradition in the New Testament* sheds light on major themes in New Testament Christology and soteriology, offering fresh, constructive proposals.

From the Back Cover

"This collection of essays engages a perennial issue within the field of New Testament studies: the relationship of the earliest Christian literature to the heritage of its sacred traditions. In critical dialogue with recent scholarship, Porter clarifies the tricky methodological issues of how the New Testament cites, alludes to, and echoes scriptural texts. His insightful but provocative findings about the use of certain traditional texts and images by early Christians and by Jesus himself will no doubt stimulate further significant scholarly debate."

--**Harold W. Attridge**, Sterling Professor of Divinity, Yale Divinity School

"Porter leads us into a fresh and stimulating understanding of the New Testament's appropriation of the sacred traditions of Israel's Scriptures. This is more than just another book on the New Testament's use of the Old. Porter's decision to focus on the titles of Jesus and broad themes makes the book practically a miniature New Testament theology, with the great virtue of helping us perceive the rich unity of the Bible. This is a book that deserves, and will reward, a thoughtful reading."

--**Donald A. Hagner**, George Eldon Ladd Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Fuller Theological Seminary

"Porter's *Sacred Tradition in the New Testament* brings much-needed nuance and definition to a very important phenomenon in New Testament literature, especially with reference to the popular but often ill-defined term *intertextuality*. Porter not only clarifies the relevant vocabulary and methods, but he also discusses several important texts and themes that relate to Jesus, his self-understanding, and the Christology that comes to expression in the New Testament. Anyone interested in the topic will want to engage this carefully researched and well-written book."

--**Craig A. Evans**, John Bisagno Distinguished Professor of Christian Origins, Houston Baptist University

"Ranging more widely than traditional treatments of the Old Testament in the New, Porter's study illustrates the broad role such traditions played in shaping the way Jesus was understood by New Testament authors and in shaping Jesus's own self-understanding. This is a significant contribution on much-debated issues."

--**Stephen Westerholm**, professor of early Christianity, McMaster University

About the Author

Stanley E. Porter (PhD, University of Sheffield) is president, dean, professor of New Testament, and Roy A. Hope Chair in Christian Worldview at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario. He has authored or edited dozens of books, including *How We Got the New Testament* and *Linguistic Analysis of the Greek New Testament*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Lockwood:

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