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JESUS AND YHWH-TEXTS IN THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

Scott Brazil examines the frequent practice of applying Old Testament YHWH-texts to Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels, arguing that this YHWH-text phenomenon evidences a high Christology in the primitive church that traces back to Jesus himself. Brazil finds in this Synoptic practice a stinging contradiction of the modern critical theory that a high Christology took many decades to develop in the early church and exists only in John among the canonical Gospels.

This volume thus surveys the Synoptic Gospels in canonical order, exploring dozens of passages in which OT texts originally referring to YHWH are either clearly or most probably applied to Jesus. Brazil observes the frequency, diversity, and ubiquity of the practice, as well as its wide range of OT source material and its parallel to the New Testament practice of applying OT messianic texts to Jesus. From this data Brazil offers several conclusions, including the early deliberate employment of YHWH-texts to Jesus, the likelihood that Jesus is the source of the practice, the high Christology of the Synoptics, and the redemptive-historical metanarrative that Jesus is the divine interpreter and central figure of the Jewish Scriptures. Ultimately, Brazil argues that understanding the prolific application of OT YHWH-texts to Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels cannot be neglected without truncating genuine NT Christology.

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