

‘The importance of the influence exercised by “apocryphal” writings in both early Judaism (especially Ben Sira) and early Christianity (especially the Odes of Solomon and the Thomasine literature) is brought out clearly and in intriguing detail in this valuable collection of essays.’

**James D.G. Dunn, Durham University, UK**

‘This remarkable collection of essays focuses on a theme which contemporary Jewish and Christian communities can never completely shake: canon. While the authors of the contributions are aware that the questions of “canon” and “reception history” are distinct, their careful surveys of the wide range of works such as 1 Enoch, Book of Giants, Ben Sira, Odes of Solomon, Gospel of Thomas, Acts of Thomas, the Protoevangelium James, and the Gospel of Peter demonstrate on the whole that authentic forms of religious identity need not be thus reductionistically defined. Readers who engage with this book’s contents will profit significantly.’

**Loren T. Stuckenbruck, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany**

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