

The Library of New Testament Studies (LNTS) is a premier book series that offers cutting-edge work for a readership of scholars, teachers in the field of New Testament studies, postgraduate students and advanced undergraduates. All the many and diverse aspects of New Testament study are represented and promoted, including innovative work from historical perspectives, studies using social-scientific and literary theory, and developing theological, cultural and contextual approaches.



REVELATION'S HYMNS

Strategically placed throughout Revelation's story are short hymns or acclamations of praise. These hymnic pericopes need to be heard against the larger background of the on-going narrative. *Revelation's Hymns* examines seven of these pericopes in the light of the cosmic conflict theme, a motif that is integral to the development of Revelation's plot. Recognizing that critical studies give interpretative primacy to the political realities that existed at the time of Revelation's composition, Grabiner explores new ground by examining the hymns from a narratival perspective.

Previous examinations of the hymns have largely considered them as parody of Roman liturgy, examples of God's unquestioned sovereignty, or expressions of thematic overtones found throughout the storyline. While these approaches make a contribution to a greater understanding of the hymns, their relation to the ever-present conflict has been underexposed. This cosmic conflict is at the centre of the book's concerns. Grabiner allows the hymnic sections to engage with the larger narrative issue as to who is the rightful sovereign of the universe.

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