

BOOK REVIEWS

Graham Stanton, *Studies in Matthew and Early Christianity* (edited by Markus Bockmuehl and David Lincicum), *Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament* 309, Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2013, 483 p., ISBN 978-3-16-152583-8

This volume is a collection of short writings on the Gospel of Mathew and Early Christianity written by the late Prof. Graham Stanton (1940-2009) a well-known New Testament scholar who acted as Professor at King's College London and from 1998 as Professor of Divinity at the University of Cambridge. Graham Stanton's international leadership in the field of New Testament research is evidenced in his role as President of the Society for New Testament Studies and as long-term editor of its journal *New Testament Studies* and by the fact that many of his former students are now leading scholars in many universities from Singapore and Australia to Great Britain and the USA. The editors of this volume are also prominent scholars who wished to honour the memory of their mentor by publishing some of his essays.

This volume encapsulates a collection of twenty-six essays by Graham Stanton, all but one of them previously published. The intention of the editors was "to offer a coherent selection of writings on what are perhaps Graham Stanton's most prominent contributions to scholarship: the Gospel of Mathews (part I), other New Testament writings (part II), and early Jewish-Christian encounters with a special focus on Justin Martyr (part III) (p. 2-3)." Part one begins with two critical reviews of the Matthean studies. The first ("The Origin and Purpose of Matthew's Gospel: Matthean Scholarship from 1945 to 1980") is a wide-ranging survey of Matthean studies from that period, being at the same time a guide in the current stage of research on the Gospel of Matthew, and a clear articulation of Stanton's opinion about the origin and purpose and relationship with contemporary Judaism of Matthew's Gospel. The second article reviews

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the same issue fifteen years later in light of the many studies published since Stanton originally wrote the first article. It follows five studies on particular elements of Matthew's Gospel: (1) on the genre of the Gospel; (2-3) on the nature of Matthean community (or communities); (4) on ministry in Matthean Christianity; (5) on early reception of Matthew's Gospel.

Part II collects twelve studies on various New Testament themes: (1-2) are methodological in nature and deal with the role of presupposition in exegesis and address the "stagnant discipline" of form criticism; (3-6) deal with Christological issues: Gospel tradition and Early Christology, Christology of Q, incarnation Christology in the New Testament and Messianism and Christology. The 7th study of this second part is a critical review of R. Bultmann's book *Jesus and the World*. It follows studies on: (8) Luke's portrait of Stephen in Acts 6 and 7; (9) an investigation on the concept on "gospel" elsewhere in Pauline writings; (10-11) two investigations on the "law of Christ": the first one in comparison with the Law of Moses having as its starting point Galatians 3:1-6,2 and the second using Paul's statement about fulfilling the law of Christ in Galatians 6:2; (12) offers a programmatic vision for New Testament studies.

Part III entitled "Justin Martyr and Early Jewish-Christian Encounters" contains seven articles which were written by Stanton in the last years of his life. Five of them were published in preparation of a book on Justin the Martyr in the context of early Christian and Jewish dialogue that he intended to complete. They deal with the following themes: Christ's Parousia by Justin the Martyr and Matthew, the notions of "God-Fearers" and "Proselytes" in Justin the Martyr's *Dialogue with Trypho* (two articles), the Spirit in the writings of Justin Martyr and Martyrdom and Suicide by Justin. The last two chapters research early Christian and Jewish Worship using as its starting points a non-Christian (the work of Pliny) and a Christian (*Kerygma Petrou*) literary reference.

This volume also contains an Appendix with a complete list of Graham Stanton's publications. The main merit of this volume is to provide easy access to a good number of Graham Stanton's studies which were published in several journals and publications over many years. The editors selected a number of studies which deal with a rich area of themes, so that the volume is equally attractive for New Testament scholars, specialists in Early Christianity and Judaism and even for those interested in the history and philosophy of Greek-Roman religion.

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