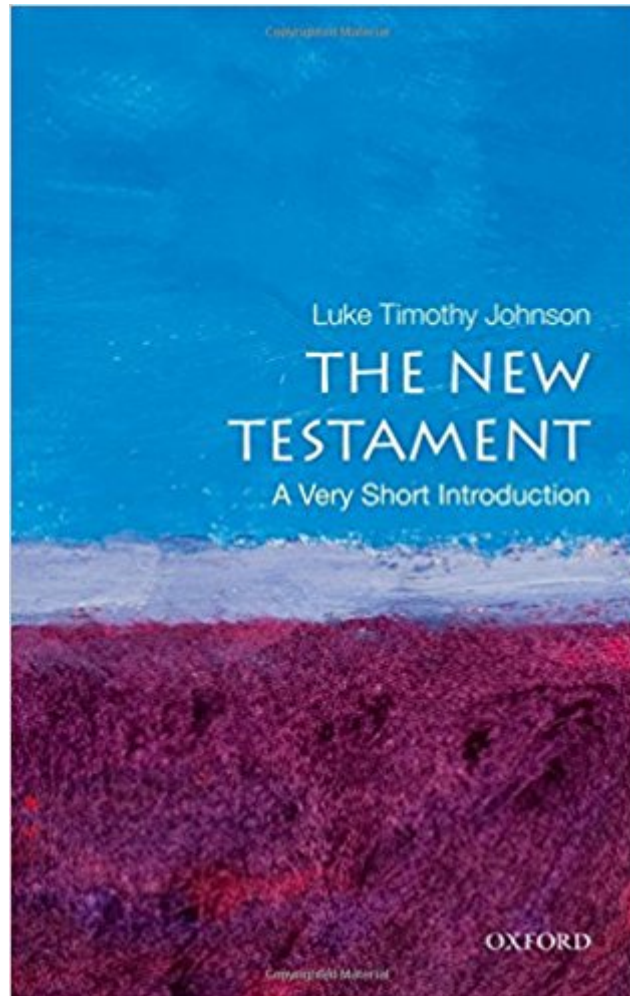




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The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

As ancient literature and a cornerstone of the Christian faith, the New Testament has exerted a powerful religious and cultural impact. But how much do we really know about its origins? Who were the people who actually wrote the sacred texts that became part of the Christian Bible? The New Testament: A Very Short Introduction authoritatively addresses these questions, offering a fresh perspective on the underpinnings of this profoundly influential collection of writings. In this concise, engaging book, noted New Testament scholar Luke Timothy Johnson takes readers on a journey back to the time of the early Roman Empire, when the New Testament was written in ordinary Greek (koine) by the first Christians. The author explains how the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, and Revelation evolved into the canon of sacred writings for the Christian religion, and how they reflect a reinterpretation of the symbolic world and societal forces of first-century Greco-Roman and Jewish life. Equally important, readers will find both a positive and critical reading of the New Testament--one that looks beyond its theological orientation to reveal an often-surprising diversity of viewpoints. This one-of-a-kind introduction engages four distinct dimensions of the earliest Christian writings--anthropological, historical, religious, and literary--to provide readers with a broad conceptual and factual framework. In addition, the book takes an in-depth look at compositions that have proven to be particularly relevant over the centuries, including Paul's letters to the Corinthians and Romans and the Gospels of John, Mark, Matthew, and Luke. Ideal for general readers and students alike, this fascinating resource characterizes the writing of the New Testament not as an unknowable abstraction or the product of divine intervention, but as an act of human creativity by people whose real experiences, convictions, and narratives shaped modern Christianity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Luke Timothy Johnson, a former Benedictine monk, is currently the Robert W. Woodruff Distinguished Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at the Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

Very worthwhile book(bought it on Kindle). it is a consideration of the development of Christianity for a historical approach, not theological, or faith based. Many, many historical approaches to Jesus and the influences of the Jewish "sacred writings" are available but this introduction avoids excessive discussions and cut through to what wanted. Recommend it to the "open minded" folks looking for some reasonable or probable "facts" of the way it was 2000 years ago.

I stand in awe of Johnson's ability to write so concisely and clearly and to do so with inspiration and enthusiasm. While we have the usual territory to be covered in a NT Introduction, there are some pleasant surprises, e.g., his superb treatment of Hebrews and the Letter of James. Of the discussions of the Gospels I appreciated most what he had to say about apocalyptic Mark. Because this is 'a very short introduction,' he didn't get into as much depth with Paul as I would have liked. Thankfully, though, he did not ride his special hobby horse on the authenticity of 1-2 Timothy and Titus, but stuck with positions generally accepted by the majority of NT scholars. What is the audience for this tiny book? Clergy needing a quick review. Interested lay people who want a general overview before plunging into one or the other NT books in some detail.

I love to read Luke's book and this is quite a useful guide. It will be nice for students just getting familiar with NT materials.

Found this book as it was on a class reading list. Now I'm aware of the whole series. What a great way to get an overview... kind of like poetry... no mincing of words but lots of content. Highly recommend!

Mr Johnson brings the facts to the table in a very clear and readable format.

Excellent book for those wanting more.

Excellent

Listened in the car two days before my exam in nt. very good to repeat essentials. This book (audiobook) is recommended

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