

the epistle to romans karl barth

The Epistle to Romans Karl Barth: A Theological Masterpiece Explored

the epistle to romans karl barth stands as one of the most profound theological engagements with Paul's letter in the history of Christian thought. Barth's commentary on Romans is not just an academic exercise; it's a passionate and transformative encounter with scripture that reshaped modern Protestant theology. For anyone interested in biblical exegesis, systematic theology, or the development of 20th-century Christian ideas, understanding Barth's approach to Romans offers invaluable insights.

Karl Barth and His Theological Context

Before diving into the nuances of Barth's interpretation of Romans, it's helpful to understand the man behind the commentary. Karl Barth was a Swiss Reformed theologian whose work emerged in the early 20th century, a period marked by dramatic shifts in philosophy, science, and religion. Reacting against the liberal theology of his time—which often sought to reconcile Christianity with modern culture through human reason—Barth emphasized the sovereignty of God and the centrality of divine revelation.

His commentary on the epistle to Romans, published in 1919, was revolutionary. It broke from the then-dominant historical-critical methods and instead focused on the theological message of Paul's letter as a living word. Barth's Romans commentary helped initiate what came to be known as “neo-orthodoxy,” a theological movement that challenged both liberal optimism and fundamentalist literalism.

The Epistle to Romans Karl Barth: A Fresh Theological Perspective

At the heart of Barth's engagement with Romans is his insistence that the letter is not merely a doctrinal treatise but a dynamic encounter with God's revelation in Christ. Barth reads Romans as a decisive proclamation of God's grace and judgment, centered on the paradox of Christ crucified and risen.

Justification by Faith Reconsidered

One of the most significant themes Barth wrestled with is Paul's doctrine of justification by faith. While traditional Protestant theology often stressed individual salvation and forensic justification, Barth expanded this understanding. He argued that justification is primarily about God's action—God declaring humanity righteous through Jesus Christ—not merely a human response of faith. This shifts the focus from human

works or moral improvement to the gracious initiative of God.

The Role of Sin and Human Condition

Barth's Romans commentary does not downplay human sinfulness. Instead, it confronts it head-on, emphasizing that all humanity stands under sin and judgment. However, this bleak diagnosis is paired with the hope found in God's new creation. Barth sees Romans as a text that reveals the depth of human alienation but simultaneously points to the transformative power of God's grace.

Key Themes in Barth's Commentary on Romans

Several recurring motifs in the epistle to Romans Karl Barth bring richness to his theological exposition:

- **Divine Sovereignty:** Barth underscores God's absolute authority over creation and history, a theme Paul weaves throughout Romans.
- **The Election of Israel:** Barth engages deeply with Paul's discussion of Israel's role and election, balancing God's faithfulness with the mystery of divine judgment.
- **Christ and the Spirit:** The interplay between Christ's redemptive work and the Spirit's sanctifying presence is central to Barth's reading.
- **Newness of Life:** Romans is a call to live a life transformed by grace, not under the law's condemnation but empowered by freedom.

Barth's Use of Dialectic

A distinctive feature of Barth's theology, vividly present in his Romans commentary, is his dialectical method. He embraces tensions and paradoxes rather than resolving them too quickly. For example, the simultaneous reality of sin and grace, judgment and mercy, death and life are held in creative tension, inviting readers into a deeper engagement with the mystery of God.

Impact and Legacy of Barth's Romans Commentary

The epistle to Romans Karl Barth offered a fresh lens through which theologians, pastors, and lay readers could understand Pauline theology. Its impact rippled across various domains:

Shaping Neo-Orthodoxy and Beyond

Barth's work laid the foundation for neo-orthodox theology, which reasserted the authority of scripture and the centrality of Christ in theology. This movement influenced theologians like Emil Brunner, Reinhold Niebuhr, and later, Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Renewed Interest in Pauline Theology

By returning to Romans with theological vigor rather than purely historical inquiry, Barth inspired a renewed appreciation for Paul's letter as a living word. His commentary paved the way for subsequent scholars to explore Romans not only as ancient text but as relevant for contemporary faith and practice.

Practical Theology and Preaching

Barth's dynamic interpretation encouraged preachers to see Romans as a source of hope and challenge for congregations. His emphasis on God's initiative and grace offers pastors rich material to address issues of sin, redemption, and Christian living.

Engaging with The Epistle to Romans Karl Barth Today

For modern readers, Barth's commentary remains a treasure trove, though it requires patient study. Here are some tips for engaging meaningfully with his work:

1. **Approach with Openness:** Barth's style can be dense and at times poetic. Reading slowly and reflectively helps grasp his theological insights.
2. **Contextualize Historically:** Understanding the early 20th-century theological debates illuminates why Barth's approach was so groundbreaking.

3. **Use Supplementary Resources:** Pair Barth's commentary with contemporary biblical scholarship and theological guides to balance historical-critical and theological readings.
4. **Apply Theologically:** Consider how Barth's emphases on grace, election, and new life challenge or enrich your own faith journey.

Why Barth's Romans Commentary Still Matters

In an age where theology can sometimes become overly academic or disconnected from lived faith, Barth's commentary on Romans calls believers back to the heart of the gospel message. It reminds us that theology is not just about ideas but about encountering the living God who acts decisively in Jesus Christ. This encounter transforms understanding and life alike.

For anyone passionate about deepening their grasp of Pauline theology, exploring the epistle to Romans Karl Barth offers a rewarding, challenging, and ultimately enriching experience. It's a reminder that ancient scripture continues to speak with power when approached with reverence, intellect, and faith.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Karl Barth and what is his significance in the study of the Epistle to the Romans?

Karl Barth was a Swiss Reformed theologian renowned for his influential work on Christian theology. His commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, published in 1919, is considered a groundbreaking theological work that revitalized Protestant theology in the 20th century.

What is the main theological contribution of Karl Barth's commentary on the Epistle to the Romans?

Karl Barth's main contribution was emphasizing the sovereignty of God and the revelation of God's grace through Jesus Christ, challenging liberal theology by focusing on divine revelation rather than human reason.

How does Karl Barth interpret the concept of justification in Romans?

Barth interprets justification as a divine act of grace where God declares sinners righteous through faith in Jesus Christ, highlighting it as a central theme that reveals God's free and powerful intervention in human

salvation.

What role does the Epistle to the Romans play in Karl Barth's overall theological framework?

The Epistle to the Romans serves as the foundational text for Barth's theology, shaping his views on revelation, election, sin, and grace, and providing the basis for his dialectical theology approach.

How did Karl Barth's reading of Romans differ from traditional Protestant interpretations?

Unlike traditional Protestant interpretations that often focused on individual salvation, Barth emphasized the cosmic scope of Christ's work and the universal judgment and grace of God, presenting a more dynamic and relational understanding.

What impact did Karl Barth's commentary on Romans have on 20th-century theology?

Barth's commentary challenged the prevailing liberal theology and inspired the neo-orthodox movement, influencing theologians worldwide by re-centering theology on God's revelation and the authority of Scripture.

Are there any criticisms or challenges to Karl Barth's interpretation of the Epistle to the Romans?

Some critics argue that Barth's focus on divine revelation underplays human experience and historical context, and that his dialectical method can be difficult to reconcile with traditional exegesis or systematic theology.

Additional Resources

The Epistle to Romans Karl Barth: An Analytical Review of Theological Innovation

the epistle to romans karl barth stands as a monumental work in twentieth-century theology, marking a pivotal moment in Protestant thought and biblical interpretation. Karl Barth's commentary on the Epistle to the Romans, first published in 1919, is widely recognized not only for its profound theological insights but also for its role in challenging liberal theology and reshaping Christian doctrine. This article explores Barth's distinctive approach to the Epistle to the Romans, his hermeneutical methods, and the wider implications of his theological innovation.

Understanding Karl Barth's Context and Motivation

Karl Barth's engagement with the Epistle to Romans occurred during a period of significant upheaval in Europe, both politically and culturally. The devastation of World War I deeply influenced his theological outlook, prompting a reconsideration of the prevailing liberal theology that had dominated German Protestantism. Barth's commentary on Romans emerged as a direct response to this intellectual and moral crisis, aiming to re-anchor Christian faith in the revelation of God as encountered through scripture.

Unlike earlier interpretations that tended to emphasize human reason and ethical progress, Barth insisted on the primacy of divine revelation. His reading of Romans was not merely exegetical but polemical, aiming to recover the radical nature of the gospel message. This context is crucial for appreciating why "the epistle to romans karl barth" remains a cornerstone in theological studies.

Key Features of Barth's Commentary on Romans

Barth's Epistle to Romans is distinguished by several innovative features that set it apart from traditional commentaries:

The Centrality of Divine Revelation

At the heart of Barth's interpretation is the conviction that God's self-revelation in Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of theological knowledge. For Barth, Romans articulates the encounter between God and humanity that transcends human attempts to understand God through reason alone. This emphasis on revelation challenges rationalist and anthropocentric theological models.

The Doctrine of Election and Grace

Barth's treatment of election in Romans is particularly noteworthy. He redefines election not as a static decree but as a dynamic event centered on Jesus Christ. This Christocentric approach shifts the focus from individual predestination to the universal scope of God's grace. Barth's interpretation highlights the tension between divine judgment and mercy, themes central to Romans.

Critique of Human Autonomy and Sin

Barth underscores the human predicament as described in Romans—humanity's estrangement from God

due to sin. His reading stresses the incapacity of human beings to achieve righteousness by their own efforts, thus underscoring the necessity of divine intervention. This stance contrasts sharply with liberal theological tendencies to emphasize human capability and moral progress.

Comparative Perspectives: Barth vs. Traditional Interpretations

To better understand the significance of “the epistle to romans karl barth,” it is helpful to compare his work with earlier commentaries, such as those by Friedrich Schleiermacher and Adolf von Harnack:

- **Schleiermacher:** Emphasized religious experience and feeling as the foundation of theology, often downplaying the objective content of revelation.
- **Harnack:** Focused on the historical Jesus and ethical teachings, interpreting Romans as primarily a moral document.
- **Barth:** Rejected these anthropological and historical reductions, insisting on the radical otherness of God and the gospel’s transformative power.

This contrast highlights Barth’s revolutionary role in redirecting theological attention to the sovereignty of God and the paradox of grace.

Hermeneutical Approach and Theological Method

Barth’s commentary is not merely a verse-by-verse exposition but a complex theological argument. His hermeneutics incorporate several distinctive elements:

Dialectical Theology

Barth’s method is often described as dialectical, emphasizing the paradoxical relationship between God and humanity. He insists that God’s revelation simultaneously reveals and conceals, bringing both judgment and grace. This dynamic tension resists simplistic interpretations and invites ongoing reflection.

Scripture as Witness to God's Word

Unlike approaches that treat biblical texts as autonomous documents, Barth sees scripture as the witness to the Word of God. The Epistle to Romans is, therefore, not just a letter from Paul but a medium through which God's self-communication is encountered. This theological reading prioritizes the living encounter with God over historical-critical analysis.

Christocentric Focus

Christology is central to Barth's theological framework. He interprets Romans through the lens of the person and work of Jesus Christ, asserting that all theological concepts must be understood in relation to Christ's revelation. This approach reshapes traditional doctrines such as justification, atonement, and election.

Implications and Influence of Barth's Romans Commentary

The impact of Barth's work on the Epistle to Romans extends far beyond its initial publication. It has influenced theological scholarship, ecclesial practice, and even political thought.

Theological Renewal

Barth's commentary catalyzed the movement known as Neo-Orthodoxy, which sought to restore theological rigor and scriptural fidelity after the failures perceived in liberal theology. His work remains a foundational text in seminaries and theological faculties worldwide.

Ecumenical Dialogue

Barth's emphasis on the unity of the gospel message has contributed to ecumenical conversations among Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox traditions. His reading of Romans as a universal call to grace resonates across denominational lines.

Challenges and Criticisms

While highly regarded, Barth's commentary has faced critiques, particularly from those who question his rejection of historical-critical methods or his perceived abstraction from socio-political realities. Some scholars

argue that his dialectical theology can be inaccessible or overly complex.

Key Takeaways from Barth's Exegesis of Romans

To encapsulate the core contributions of "the epistle to romans karl barth," the following points summarize its enduring value:

1. **Re-centering Theology on Divine Revelation:** Barth insists that true theology must begin with God's self-disclosure, not human reason.
2. **Christ as the Fulcrum of Election and Grace:** Election is interpreted in light of Christ's universal role.
3. **Recognition of Human Sinfulness:** Human autonomy is limited, necessitating divine intervention for salvation.
4. **Dialectical Tension:** The coexistence of judgment and grace in God's revelation challenges simplistic readings.
5. **Scripture as Living Word:** Romans is more than historical text; it is a means of encountering God.

These insights continue to provoke reflection and debate among theologians and lay readers alike.

The enduring significance of Karl Barth's engagement with the Epistle to the Romans lies in its capacity to challenge, inspire, and deepen the understanding of Christian faith. His commentary remains a vital resource for those seeking to grapple with the complexities of scripture, theology, and the human condition in light of divine revelation.

[The Epistle To Romans Karl Barth](#)

the epistle to romans karl barth: The Epistle to the Romans Karl Barth, 1933 Named one of Church Times's Best Christian Books This volume provides a much-needed English translation of the sixth edition of what is considered the fundamental text for fully understanding Barthianism. Barth--who remains a powerful influence on European and American theology--argues that the modern Christian preacher and theologian face the same basic problems that confronted Paul. Assessing the whole Protestant argument in relation to modern attitudes and problems, he focuses on topics such as Biblical exegesis; the interrelationship between theology, the Church, and religious experience; the relevance of the truth of the Bible to culture; and what preachers should preach.

the epistle to romans karl barth: Reading Karl Barth Kenneth Oakes, 2011-09-22 Karl

Barth's 1922 *The Epistle to the Romans* is one of the most famous, notorious, and influential works in twentieth-century theology and biblical studies. It is also a famously and notoriously difficult and enigmatic work, especially as its historical context becomes more and more foreign. In this book, Kenneth Oakes provides historical background to the writing of *The Epistle to the Romans*, an introduction and analysis of its main themes and terms, a running commentary on the text itself, and suggestions for further readings from Barth on some of the issues it raises. The volume not only offers orientation and assistance for those reading *The Epistle to the Romans* for the first time, it also deals with contemporary problems in current Barth scholarship regarding liberalism, dialectics, and analogy.

the epistle to romans karl barth: *The Epistle to the Romans* Karl Barth, 1991-01 This volume provides a much-needed English translation of the sixth edition of what is considered the fundamental text for fully understanding Barthianism. Barth--who remains a powerful influence on European and American theology--argues that the modern Christian preacher and theologian face the same basic problems that confronted Paul. Assessing the whole Protestant argument in relation to modern attitudes and problems, he focuses on topics such as Biblical exegesis; the interrelationship between theology, the Church, and religious experience; the relevance of the truth of the Bible to culture; and what preachers should preach.

the epistle to romans karl barth: *The Epistle to the Ephesians* Karl Barth, 2017-05-02 Karl Barth is widely acknowledged as one of the great theologians of the church. This masterful example of theological interpretation of the biblical text presents Barth's insights on an important Pauline epistle. In 1921-22, Barth taught a course on the exposition of *Ephesians* at the University of Göttingen, lecturing from a detailed and carefully researched manuscript. The resulting lectures, now available in English for the first time, introduce theological and exegetical issues pertinent to the study of *Ephesians*. Introductory essays by world-renowned scholars Francis Watson and John Webster are included.

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the epistle to romans karl barth: *The Epistle to the Romans, by Karl Barth; Translated from the 6th Edition by Edwyn C. Hoskyns* Karl Barth,

the epistle to romans karl barth: *A Shorter Commentary on Romans* Karl Barth, 2012-08-01 About the Contributor(s): Karl Barth (1886-1968), the Swiss Reformed professor and pastor, was once described by Pope Pius XII as the most important theologian since Thomas Aquinas. As principal author of 'The Barmen Declaration', he was the intellectual leader of the German Confessing Church - the Protestant group that resisted the Third Reich. Barth's teaching career spanned nearly five decades. Removed from his post at Bonn by the Nazis in late 1934, Barth moved to Basel where he taught until 1962. Among Barth's many books, sermons, and essays are 'The Epistle to the Romans', 'Humanity of God', 'Evangelical Theology', and 'Church Dogmatics'.

the epistle to romans karl barth: *Karl Barth's Epistle to the Romans* Christophe Chalamet, Andreas Dettwiler, Sarah Stewart-Kroeker, 2022-05-09 Karl Barth's commentary on Paul's epistle to the Romans, in its two editions (1919 and 1922), is one of the most significant works published in Christian theology in the 20th century. This book, which landed "like a bombshell on the theologians' playground," still deserves close scrutiny one hundred years after its publication. In this volume, New Testament scholars, philosophers of religion and systematic theologians ponder the intricacies of Barth's "expressionistic" commentary, pointing out the ways in which Barth interprets Paul's epistle for his own day, how this actualized interpretation of the apostle's message challenged the

theology of Barth's time, and how some of the insights he articulated in 1919 and in 1922 have shaped Christian theology up to our day. With his commentary, the young Swiss pastor paved the way for a renewed, intensely theological interpretation of the Scriptures. The volume thus centers of some of the key themes which run through Barth's commentary: faith as divine gift beyond any human experience or psychological data, the Easter event as the turning point of the world's history, God's judgment and mercy and God's one Word in Jesus Christ. This volume represents a major contribution to the interpretation of Karl Barth's early thought.

the epistle to romans karl barth: Epistle to the Romans John Murray, 1997 Careful scholarship and spiritual insight characterize this enduring commentary on Romans, generally considered to be Paul's most profound letter. In *The Epistle to the Romans* John Murray offers an exposition of Romans deeply penetrating in its elucidation of the text yet accessible to scholars, pastors, and students alike. In his introduction to the commentary proper, Murray discusses the authorship, occasion, purpose, and contents of Romans and provides important background information on the church at Rome. Murray then provides a verse-by-verse exposition of the text that takes into account key problems that have emerged in the older and newer literature. In ten appendices that close the volume Murray gives special attention to themes and scholarly debates that are essential for a full-orbed understanding of Romans -- the meaning of justification, the relation of Isaiah 53:11 to the message of Romans, Karl Barth on Romans 5, the interpretation of the weak brother in Romans 14, and more. This combined edition of Murray's original two-volume work, formerly published as part of the New International Commentary on the New Testament series, will hold continued value as a scholarly resource in the study of Romans for years to come.

the epistle to romans karl barth: The Barthian Revolt in Modern Theology Gary J. Dorrien, 2000-01-01 In this history of the rise, development, and near-demise of Karl Barth's theology, Gary Dorrien carefully analyzes the making of the Barthian revolution and the reasons behind its simultaneously dominating and marginal character. He discusses Barth's relationship to his predecessors and contemporaries, as well as to modern theologians, and argues that his approach to theology was deeply indebted to his liberal past.

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the epistle to romans karl barth: Barth's Epistle to the Romans 1922 Donald Wood, 2016-08-11 This title provides an introduction to Karl Barth's ground breaking commentary on St Paul's letters to the Romans from 1922 which laid the foundation to his later theology. Without any doubt Karl Barth was the most influential Protestant theologian of the 20th century. It was his commentary on Paul's Epistle to the Romans that gained Barth's international reputation, long before the massive work of his *Church Dogmatics*. Barth's *The Epistle to the Romans* is a landmark of twentieth-century theological literature and still required reading for students of the history of modern Christian theology. It is also famously provocative and controversial. Its first appearance helped trigger a parting of ways between Protestant liberalism and the theology of crisis. Today, nearly a century later, it continues to generate widespread discussion among theologians, biblical scholars, and philosophers. This introduction to the text is the ideal companion to study, offering guidance on the theological and historical context, key themes, reception and influence. *Continuum Reader's Guides* are clear, concise and accessible introductions to key texts in literature and philosophy. Each book explores the themes, context, criticism and influence of key works, providing

a practical introduction to close reading, guiding students towards a thorough understanding of the text. They provide an essential, up-to-date resource, ideal for undergraduate students.

the epistle to romans karl barth: Karl Barth's Epistle to the Romans Azariah Mackenzie, 1965

the epistle to romans karl barth: Jesus - God and Man, 1982-12-01 One of the most influential twentieth-century studies on the doctrine of Christ, this highly acclaimed work demonstrates Pannenberg's belief that at the heart of every Christian theology lies its teaching about Jesus Christ. The second edition, available for the first time in paperback, contains an Afterword in which the author reviews other theologians' responses to his thesis and methodology and shows the progression of his own interpretation.

the epistle to romans karl barth: A Shorter Commentary on Romans by Karl Barth Maico M. Michielin, 2016-03-16 First published in 1959, Karl Barth's *A Shorter Commentary on Romans* originated as the manuscript for a course of extra-mural lectures held in Basle during the winter of 1940-41. During this time, Barth continued to resist the Nazi regime and its influence on the Reformed Church as he did when he was in Bonn. This reissue of Barth's *A Shorter Commentary on Romans* links to the renewed interest today in a 'theological' interpretation of Scripture. In response to the modern preoccupation with what lies behind the text (the author's context), and to a postmodern preoccupation with what lies in front of the text (the reader's context), both theologians and biblical scholars are asking the following questions: 'What is the relationship between the biblical text, interpreter and God?' 'Can the Bible be read both as an historical document and as a text that speaks to us today, and if so, how can it do so?' Barth's commentarial practice as exemplified in *A Shorter Commentary on Romans* answers these questions. This book is presented in two parts: first, an introduction by Maico Michielin helping readers understand Barth's theological exegetical approach to interpreting Scripture and showing readers how to let Scripture address theological and ethical concerns for today; the main body of the book then follows - the republication of the original English translation by D.H. van Daalen of Barth's *A Shorter Commentary on Romans*.

the epistle to romans karl barth: Reading Romans through the Centuries Jeffrey P. Greenman, Timothy Larsen, 2005-12-01 What does it mean to be saved? Did God choose who would be his followers, or was it a personal choice? These are just some of the questions Paul addresses in the sixteen challenging chapters of his letter to the Romans. *Reading Romans* shows how some of the greatest minds in the history of the church have wrestled with, and even been changed by, Paul's words. For example, God used a passage from Romans to speak to the untamed heart of Augustine, and John Wesley said that after hearing Martin Luther's comments on Romans, he felt his heart strangely warmed. This book will show why, in many ways, Christian theology begins and ends with Romans.

the epistle to romans karl barth: God Against Religion Matthew Myer Boulton, 2008-01-29 This volume outlines a Christian theology that takes worship as its basic framework, as the occasion of not only an approach toward God in piety but also separation from God in sin. Drawing on Luther, Calvin, and especially Karl Barth, Matthew Myer Boulton builds a Reformed liturgical theology, maintaining that the God of Jesus Christ is a God against religion, one who saves human beings from religion by entering it, transforming it, and ultimately ending it.

the epistle to romans karl barth: Theological Hermeneutics Werner G. Jeanrond, 1991-06-18 An introduction to the history and scope of interpretation theory in theology. It discusses hermeneutical consciousness in Christian thinking from the time of the Church Fathers up to today.

the epistle to romans karl barth: Karl Barth's Theology as a Resource for a Christian Theology of Religions Sven Ensminger, 2014-08-28 This book uses Karl Barth's theology as a resource for Christian theology of religions. For this purpose, it examines Barth's theology under the doctrinal aspects of revelation, revelation and religion, theological anthropology and election, addressing questions such as the possibility of and context for revelation, Barth's understanding of religion, the theological approach to the human being, and soteriology. Furthermore, Barth's thought is put into conversation with other approaches in the field of theology of religions, notably

Karl Rahner's inclusivism and John Hick and the pluralist paradigm. It is shown that Barth's theological system as a whole can serve as a resource for the Christian approach to and interaction with those of other faiths or no faith at all. This is achieved through maintaining a balance between the commitment to the own faith and the openness to the sovereignty of God impacting the whole of creation. Central to Barth's approach is the challenge to the Christian community to see their presuppositions challenged in the most unexpected circumstances, while looking beyond human categories to affirm the dignity bestowed upon all of humanity through the divine Yes in the person Jesus Christ. Barth's theology with its starting point in the person of Jesus Christ is advocated as a framework for the members of the Christian community as they live alongside those with a different faith from their own.

the epistle to romans karl barth: The Bible, Christianity, and Culture Pavol Bargár, 2023-05-01 This book originated in the Donatio Universitatis Carolinae award and research support that Professor Petr Pokorný received in 2017. It was envisioned, designed, and originally conducted as a project exploring the biblical roots of Christian culture. Experts in various theological and philosophical disciplines, both from the Czech Republic and abroad, were to probe this topic from their particular perspectives. The hoped-for output was to be a coherent collective study of the proposed topic. However, due to the unexpected passing away of Prof. Pokorný in early 2020, the project could not be executed according to the original plan. Rather than a collective monograph, therefore, the present book is a collection of essays that investigate various aspects of the Bible and Christianity in their relation to culture as a broad human phenomenon. The book is divided into two sections. While the first section focuses on particular issues in the Bible, the second addresses historical, philosophical, and cultural developments. As Petr Pokorný was actively and importantly involved in the initial stages of the project, two essays are written by him personally. The whole book, then, is dedicated in his honor.

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