

The Qumran Rule Texts in Context. By Charlotte Hempel. Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism 154. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2013. Pp. vii + 396. \$157.

This handsomely presented collection brings together essays by one of today's leading Dead Sea Scrolls scholars. Most of the chapters were originally published from 1996 to 2012. The volume opens with a previously unpublished essay that stands as an introduction to the collection and offers a summary of significant changes that have taken place in recent Qumran scholarship concerning the Teacher of Righteousness and the understanding of the communities of the Scrolls.

Hempel's collection covers topics related to the structure and organization of the communities of the Dead Sea Scrolls and how these groups may have emerged. The focus is on two different types of constitutional documents, the Community Rule and the Damascus Document. Both texts have complex literary traditions and histories of editing, which H. lucidly presents based on extant manuscript evidence. H.'s technical expertise is well illustrated by the essays in the first half of the volume, which present the most up-to-date positions on these two important texts from Qumran.

In addition to the wealth of material found here concerning the Qumran texts and communities, H. extends the scope judiciously to relevant Second Temple biblical books: the Book of Daniel (231–52) and Ezra–Nehemiah (253–70). It is here in Part VII (chaps. 15 to 18) that H.'s discussion will prove especially useful to readers. Her discussion of what these Qumran texts can tell us about the emerging Scriptures is first rate and pertinent for any reader who may be interested in the complex development of literary texts and theological traditions in living communities of faith (271–99).

This collection will prove invaluable for Scrolls scholars and serious researchers in the Second Temple period and biblical studies generally.

Angela Kim Harkins
Fairfield University, CT

Who Do People Say I Am? Rewriting Gospel in Emerging Christianity. By Vernon K. Robbins. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2013. Pp. x + 259. \$25.

I cannot think of another book quite like this one. Robbins provides a classroom-friendly introduction to Q, the four canonical Gospels, and six noncanonical presentations of Jesus, including *Thomas*, *Infancy Thomas*, *Infancy James*, *Mary*, *Judas*, and the *Acts of John*. Each chapter includes study questions and bibliography. Even more than its selection of texts, the book's unique contribution resides with a consistent focus on Jesus as each text interprets him. R. adopts a relatively progressive strategy, interpreting each Gospel as a development of motifs found in its predecessors. For example, the book begins with two chapters on the Q Gospel, followed by a chapter on Mark. R. argues for an evolution of Son of Man terminology by pointing to the joyful lifestyle embodied by Jesus, to speculation concerning a Son of Man, to Mark's interpretation of Jesus himself as the suffering Son of Man.

Some might object that R.'s approach ultimately privileges the canonical Gospels. R. explicitly identifies the noncanonical Gospels in terms of their interaction with their predecessors. Indeed, he explicitly aims to enhance students' understanding of the canonical Gospels (114). For example, I learned a great deal from his demonstration of *Infancy Thomas* as a reading of Genesis, John, and Luke; and I had not thought of *Infancy James* as an articulation of Johannine word theology via an interweaving of infancy stories from Luke and Matthew. Others may complain that R.'s focus on Jesus, from which he rarely wavers, limits the book's appeal.

Although having a background in NT or early Christianity will be advantageous for readers, this volume includes remarkably lucid discussions of introductory matters such as a singularly helpful explanation of the Q hypothesis (13–14). Robbins' pioneering work in socio-rhetorical interpretation contributes to this study, and its formidable terminology rarely distracts.

Greg Carey

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Pennsylvania

Reading Mark for the First Time. By Wilfrid J. Harrington, O.P. New York: Paulist, 2013. Pp. iii + 172. \$14.95.

Introductions, it has been said, are best written either in the passion of youth or the wisdom of experience. Harrington's didactic study on the Gospel of Mark is a little gem, built for classrooms, that represents the latter: a sage invitation to read Mark as a literary and theological touchstone. H. highlights these two elements while deftly and gently introducing readers to Mark in a critically thoughtful light.

H. begins by foregrounding Mark's literary dimensions. H.'s real achievement here is his ability to pepper his exposition with helpful critical information and many astute literary insights. For instance, H. draws attention to the way Mark uses setting to lend solemnity and importance to the farewell discourse in Mark 13 (43), and continues by musing poignantly on Mark's depiction of Jesus' loneliness and solitude (44). H. then turns to the theological dimension of Christ "who suffers and sends," where he again achieves a balance of explanation and exposition as he smuggles theological tidbits into the discussion. For instance, H. explains that Jesus' message is inclusive (72), that Mark conveys the immanent and present kingdom of God (74), that the Gospel links Jesus to the suffering-servitude of Deutero-Isaiah (85), and that the text exhibits a preferential option for the poor (102).

H.'s intended audience comes into clarity in his final chapter, which fosters an understanding of discipleship and offers an application-oriented reading of Mark as a guide for active faith and church leadership. Here, also, is an indication that parts of this book might not be suited for all kinds of students. While the literary and theological sections would add an enlightening dimension to a diverse undergraduate course, it is difficult to know how this final chapter would work outside of a Sunday school classroom. Even so, H. takes care to include literary and theological insights and