

From Jesus to the Church: The First Christian Generation. By Craig A. Evans. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 2014. Pp. xv + 188. \$30.

Evans's book derives from his 2010 Deichmann Lectures at Beersheba, investigating the causes of the split between Judaism and Christianity in the first century. Chapters 1–2 argue that Jesus intended to found a *qahal* (*ekklesia*) within reformed Israel, not a church outside of Judaism, but the ways in which he proclaimed the kingdom of God and called disciples provided the foundations for that church.

Chapters 3–4 discuss the controversy over faith and works that dominated Paul's mission and teaching, the "council" at Jerusalem, and the difference between Paul and James over "works." Chapter 5 shows the hostility between Annas's high priesthood family and the apostles, Stephen, Peter, and the two Jameses, for their attack on the Temple leadership. Chapter 6 traces the widening gap between Christians and Jews from Matthew, to John, to the letters in Revelation, and finally to Ignatius of Antioch, where the church had emerged as separate. An appendix finds the root cause of Jewish rejection of Christianity in the crucifixion of the Messiah and the failure of the kingdom to materialize.

The original Jewish audience may account for some inconsistencies in the book. At times E. addresses a popular audience, as when he must explain what the Vulgate is, and at other times he addresses an audience familiar with targumic and Qumran literature.

The book, though insightful, is curiously incoherent. E.'s thesis, stated in the introduction, that Jesus' prophecy of the Temple's doom inaugurates a clash between the family of high priest Annas and the family of Jesus (his disciples) is neither consistently developed nor convincingly established. Conversely, his assertion that the root cause of the rift is Jewish perception of the failure of the Messiah is not only at odds with his thesis but also never developed in the book.

The volume will be of greatest value to exegetes who study E.'s targumic description of "the revelation of the Kingdom of God" or his use of 4QMMT to demonstrate that what Paul means by works of the Law is fidelity to the dietary and cultic laws that keep Gentiles at a distance.

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Augustinus: Studien zu Werk und Wirkgeschichte. By Hermann Josef Sieben. Frankfurter Theologische Studien 69. Münster: Aschendorff, 2013. Pp. viii + 496. €66.

The volume gathers 13 studies on the work and reception of Augustine, of which twelve were previously published as articles or book chapters between 1971 and 2012. "Augustinus als 'Orakel': Briefliche Anfragen an den Bischof von Hippo" (43–92) appears here for the first time. After a careful analysis of the correspondence between Augustine and his questioners, Sieben identifies the literary form of *epistulae*