

To Set at Liberty: Essays on Early Christianity and Its Social World in Honor of John H. Elliott. Edited by Stephen K. Black. *The Social World of Biblical Antiquity, Second Series*, 11. Sheffield: Phoenix, 2014. Pp. xii + 399. \$120.

John Elliott, a patriarch of social science criticism, is likewise patron to scholars beginning to use his way of reading according to the culture of an ancient author, not ours. He joined other scholars of similar interests to found the Context Group. This festschrift honors Elliott with mature reflections from peers and students attesting to the productivity of social scientific reading.

Senior works reflecting a mature appropriation of social scientific reading include Alicia Batten, “The Characterization of the Rich in James 5”; Zeba Crook, “Manufacturing Memory and Community: Luke 7:36–50”; Jonathan Draper, “Disease, Table and Economy in Luke 16:19–31”; Dennis Duling, “Following Your Nose: Directions in New Testament Cosmology”; Bruce Malina, “Were There ‘Authors’ in New Testament Times?”; Halvor Moxnes, “Jesus Beyond Nationalism—in Light of Terrorism”; John Pilch, “Cross-Cultural Psychology: Jesus’ Psychological Development”; Richard Rohrbaugh, “The Social Function of Genealogies in the New Testament” and Ritva H. Williams, “The Interests of the Shrewd Steward.”

Other contributors engage with Elliott’s mode of interpretation and focus on 1 Peter, his dominant interest. These include essays by Ralph Klein, “Resist the Emperor! The Attitude toward the Emperor”; David Sorrell, “‘Honor Everyone . . .’ (1 Peter 2:17): The Social Strategy of 1 Peter”; Herman Waetjen, “Intimation of the Year of Jubilee in the Parable of the Wicked Tenants.”

While essays in the first batch are excellent examples of the mature use of the social sciences, three stand out: those of Duling, Malina, and Pilch, which show particular depth, originality, and execution. The second batch are excellent as well, written by scholars attracted to Elliott’s method, although not citizens of that realm. Together, the essays can introduce scholars and students to this way of reading.

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Hagar’s Vocation: Philosophy’s Role in the Theology of Richard Fishacre, OP. By R. James Long. Washington: Catholic University of America, 2015. Pp. xvii +271. \$69.95.

Richard Fishacre (ca. 1200–48) was the first Dominican friar at Oxford to leave a written legacy. As such, he was not only a contemporary of Albert the Great, but like him one of the first medieval theologians to use the newly translated natural philosophy of Aristotle to analyze sacred Scripture and make sense of Christian revelation.

This work by Long is made up largely of previously published occasional papers, essays, and presentations that deal with theology and its philosophical interests and sources. A variety of topics regarding Fishacre’s work and milieu are covered here,