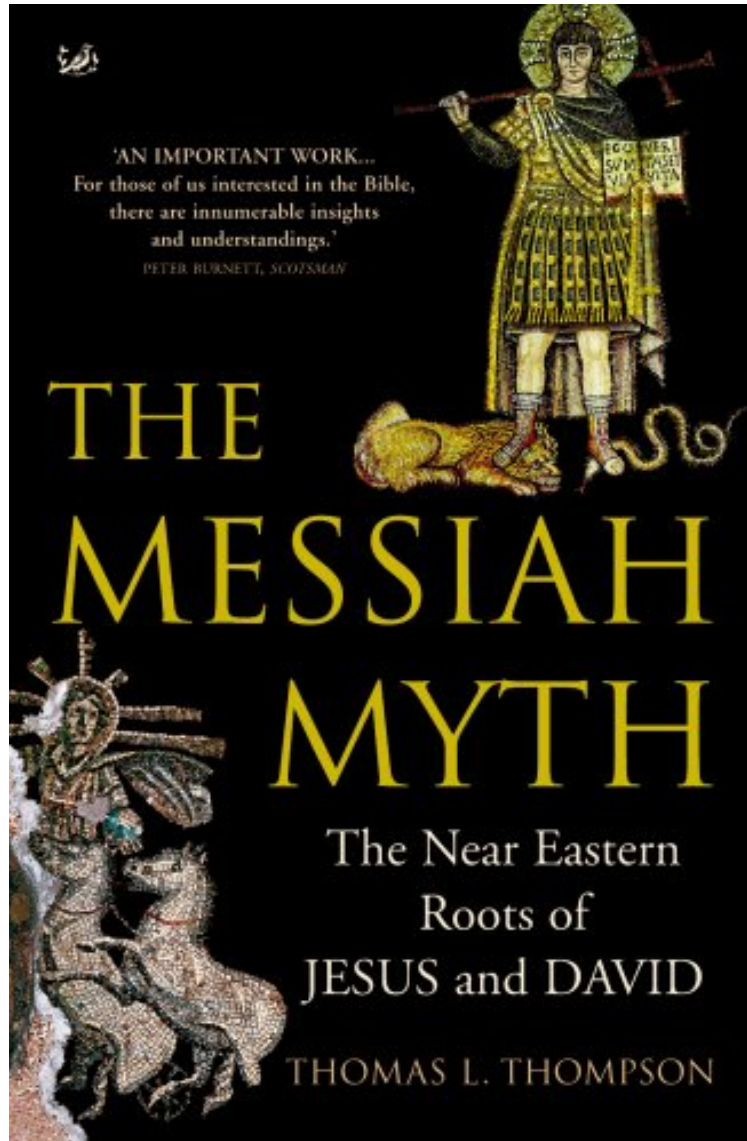


(Free download) The Messiah Myth: The Near Eastern Roots of Jesus and David

The Messiah Myth: The Near Eastern Roots of Jesus and David

Thomas L. Thompson

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#8681409 in Books 2007-08-28 2007-08-28 Format: International Edition Original language: English PDF # 1
9.25 x 1.19 x 6.00l, 1.25 #File Name: 0712668438432 pages | File size: 20.Mb

Thomas L. Thompson : The Messiah Myth: The Near Eastern Roots of Jesus and David before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Messiah Myth: The Near Eastern Roots of Jesus and David:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting By Rick Theis I'd certainly recommend this to anyone interested in ancient writings in connection with the mythology. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. 31 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Less Than Convincing, But Still Useful to Some Readers By David E.

Blair If you wish to read four hundred pages of detailed, well worked out, and adventurous exegesis of the Old Testament as it applies to David and Jesus as myth fulfilling figures or fantasies, this should be your cup of tea. However, with an occasional tip of the hat to other ancient Near Eastern literary sources, this is what Thompson's book boils down to. Even in his essay on "The Myth of the Dying and Rising God" where one would expect a world of pagan material, Thompson's concerns are almost exclusively centered on the exegesis of OT material. It is at this interface between OT material and the prior mythic traditions and literature of the Near East where Thompson is at his weakest. Considering his academic specialty, this is no surprise. However, his sub-title, "The Near Eastern Roots of Jesus and David," does not read Old Testament roots. Therefore, his project is a questionable success at best for the open minded. To his credit, he never actually indicates that it is his intention to disprove a historical grounding of the figures of David and Jesus. This book should be read as massive cautionary to reading too much history into the Bible. Other than general cranky dismissals of academics that do not agree with him, Thompson launches forth assuming that you, the reader, agree with his methodology and are up to assessing the validity of his exegesis. To fully assess and appreciate this work, the reader must be nearly as accomplished in OT exegesis as Thompson. That is a tall order. No alternative readings are supplied. Moments of crystal clarity are rare. Expect to put in a great deal of work for what you get. And what you get out of this book is directly dependent on the level of knowledge you bring to the task. Interestingly, as would be expected, when dealing with the New Testament, Thompson spends twice as much ink on Matthew as he does on either Mark or Luke. Material on the Gospel of John is almost entirely missing. That Matthew the most "Jewish" of the gospels is most dependent on the OT should come as no great surprise. Also, in Thompson's scheme of things, the author of this gospel would have had to be as erudite as Thompson with subtle fully formed intentions regarding the use of myth and symbol. Was this the intention of the author of this particular "good news?" With a literacy rate of three percent or less in the Ancient World, this is an exceedingly problematic intent for the author of the gospel. We are better off for having this book. The only question is, will you be better informed after reading it? This book is very heavy intellectual lifting. 21 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting

By S A Moran
Thomas L Thompson, biblical scholar of the 'minimalist' school, here turns his attention to the commonality of tropes in the stories of Jesus and David as Messiahs. Never clearly defining Jesus as never existing, he, nevertheless, raises some pertinent criticisms of the quest for a historical Jesus, arguing that the gospels are a coherent whole; that Jesus' teachings cannot be separated from the miracles etc to construct a scholars' historical version of the man from Galilee. Thompson underpins this critique by highlighting the dependence of texts on each other for tropes and metaphors; his treatment of the temple cleansing is very enlightening, how his saying conflates Isaiah and Jeremiah to contrast and show who the true pure of Israel are. He also demonstrates that the use of 'OT' texts by the gospel writers are not just for prophetic proofs of Jesus' messiahship, but to construct a theology consistent with both Judaism and other Near Eastern thought. Very insightful, and a useful book to reference whether for or against Thompson's argument.

Bible scholars dissect the gospels to separate the Jesus of history from the Christ of faith. This provocative study argues that the biblical characters of Jesus and David should be viewed not as historical figures, but as embodiments of Babylonian, Egyptian and Near Eastern mythology. From the Hardcover edition.

From Publishers Weekly
Were David and Jesus fictional or historical figures? Do their stories actually report history, or are they simply tales that use familiar mythic elements about heroic figures to turn David and Jesus into heroes for a new generation? Thompson, who challenged conventional understandings of the history of Israel in *The Mythic Past*, answers these and other questions in this provocative but often pedantic study. Drawing on the wealth of tales of kings and saviors in Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman literature, he demonstrates that the biblical stories of David's military successes and Jesus' moral teaching are simply fictions weaving these earlier traditions into new hero stories. In addition, he reveals that the story of Jesus' resurrection was fashioned almost exclusively from the story of the dying and rising god, Dionysus. For Thompson, Jesus and David emerge merely as characters in stories that reveal the value of the good king. Although Thompson provides a valuable service by situating the Jesus and David tales in the context of other ancient Near Eastern literature, his argument that the biblical writers used such literature to write their fictions of David and Jesus is neither new nor startling. In addition, the lack of a coherent structure and a definitive conclusion lessens the effectiveness of Thompson's book. (Apr. 12) "An important work... For those of us interested in the Bible, there are innumerable insights and understandings" -- Peter Burnett * Scotsman * "Stimulating, controversial" * The Good Book Guide * "Thompson transforms the way we see the Bible" * Observer * About the Author
Thomas Thompson is Professor of Old Testament Studies at the University of Copenhagen.