



Social Reality And The Early Christians

M. David Litwa



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Social Reality and the Early Christians Gerd Theissen,1992 Theissen inquires into the correlation between the theological and ethical convictions of the first Christians as well as the social realities of the world in which they lived He expands the form critical inquiry into the Sitz im Leben of early Christian texts to ask about the significance of early Christian convictions in society Constructing Early Christian Families Halvor Moxnes,1997 Constructing Early Christian Families explores the complex picture of family relations and the manifold attitudes to the family in the early Christian world

Handbook of Early Christianity Anthony J. Blasi,Paul-André Turcotte,Jean Duhaime,2002 Visit our website for sample chapters Q and the History of Early Christianity Christopher M. Tuckett,2004-01-01 A wide ranging examination of the key issues in Q studies After seeking to establish the existence of Q Tuckett proceeds to analyze the characteristic features of the Q material He explores not only what we can learn about the possible theology of Q but also what we can learn about the social situation of the Christians who valued and preserved this material There are discussions of John the Baptist in Q the eschatology and Christology of Q along with the nature of the polemic in Q Tuckett also attempts to determine how far Q is a wisdom text and how far it reflects Cynic ideas This work will be of interest to all New Testament scholars and students interested in the Q tradition the earliest history of Jesus traditions and early Christianity in general **Early Christian**

Families in Context David L. Balch,Carolyn Osiek,2003 Typical studies of marriage and family in the early Christian period focus on very limited evidence found in Scripture This interdisciplinary book offers a broader richer picture of the first Christian families by drawing together research by experts ranging from archaeologists to ancient historians By exploring the nature of households in the ancient Greco Roman world the contributors assemble a new understanding of ancient Christian families that is both compelling and instructive Divided into six parts the book covers key aspects of ancient family life from meals and child rearing to women s roles and the lives of slaves Three concluding chapters explore the implications of all this information for theological education today Contributors David L Balch Suzanne Dixon J Albert Harrill Ross S Kraemer Christian Laes Peter Lampe Amy Jill Levine Margaret Y MacDonald Dale Martin Eric M Meyers Margaret M Mitchell Carolyn Osiek Beryl Rawson Richard Saller Timothy F Sedgwick Monika Trummer Andrew Wallace Hadrill

Religious Context of Early Christianity Hans-Josef Klauck,2003-05-01 This is a uniquely well informed and comprehensive guide to the world of religion in the Graeco Roman environment of early Christianity Drawing on the most up to date scholarship the volume paints a carefully nuanced portrait of the Christians religious context Besides describing ordinary domestic and civic religion and popular belief including astrology divination and magic there is extended discussion of mystery cults ruler and emperor cults the religious dimensions of philosophy and Gnosticism A valuable textbook for advanced students as well as an authoritative reference work for scholars The Cambridge History of Early Christian Literature Frances Young,Lewis Ayres,Andrew Louth,2004-04 Publisher Description

Maidens, Magic and Martyrs in Early

Christianity Jan N. Bremmer, 2017-07-13 In this work Jan N Bremmer aims to bring together the worlds of early Christianity and those of ancient history and classical literature worlds that still all too rarely interlock Contextualising the life and literature of the early Christians in their Greco Roman environment he focusses on four areas A first section looks at more general aspects of early Christianity the name of the Christians their religious and social capital prophecy and the place of widows and upper class women in the Christian movement Second the chronology and place of composition of the early apocryphal Acts of the Apostles and Pseudo Clementines are newly determined by paying close attention to their doctrinal contents but also innovatively to their onomastics and social vocabulary The author also analyses the frequent use of magic in the Acts and explains the prominence of women by comparing the Acts to the Greek novel Third an investigation into the theme of the tours of hell suggests a new chronological order shows that the Christian tours were indebted to both Greek and Jewish models and illustrates that in the course of time the genre dropped a large part of its Jewish heritage The fourth and final section concentrates on the most famous and intriguing report of an ancient martyrdom the Passion of Perpetua It pays special attention to the motivation and visions of Perpetua which are analyzed not by taking recourse to modern theories such as psychoanalysis but by looking to the world in which Perpetua lived both Christian and pagan It is only by seeing the early Christians in their ancient world that we might begin to understand them and their emerging communities Publisher's description Early Christianity in Alexandria M. David Litwa, 2023-12-21 Utilizing the Nag Hammadi codices and early Christian writings this book explores the earliest development of Christianity in Alexandria

Kissing Christians Michael Philip Penn, 2013-10-09 In the first five centuries of the common era the kiss was a distinctive and near ubiquitous marker of Christianity Although Christians did not invent the kiss Jewish and pagan literature is filled with references to kisses between lovers family members and individuals in relationships of power and subordination Christians kissed one another in highly specific settings and in ways that set them off from the non Christian population Christians kissed each other during prayer Eucharist baptism and ordination and in connection with greeting funerals monastic vows and martyrdom As Michael Philip Penn shows in *Kissing Christians* this ritual kiss played a key role in defining group membership and strengthening the social bond between the communal body and its individual members *Kissing Christians* presents the first comprehensive study of the ritual kiss and how controversies surrounding it became part of larger debates regarding the internal structure of Christian communities and their relations with outsiders Penn traces how Christian writers exalted those who kissed only fellow Christians proclaimed that Jews did not have a kiss prohibited exchanging the kiss with potential heretics privileged the confessor's kiss prohibited Christian men and women from kissing each other and forbade laity from kissing clergy *Kissing Christians* also investigates connections between kissing and group cohesion kissing practices and purity concerns and how Christian leaders used the motif of the kiss of Judas to examine theological notions of loyalty unity forgiveness hierarchy and subversion Exploring connections between bodies power and performance *Kissing Christians* bridges the gap

between cultural and liturgical approaches to antiquity It breaks significant new ground in its application of literary and sociological theory to liturgical history and will have a profound impact on these fields **New Documents Illustrating Early Christianity, 8** Stephen Llewelyn, 1997-10-30 This series produced by the Ancient History Documentary Research Centre at Macquarie University keeps New Testament and early church researchers abreast of emerging documentary evidence by reproducing and reviewing recently published Greek inscriptions and papyri that help illumine the context in which the Christian church developed *Whose Historical Jesus?* William E. Arnal, Michel Desjardins, 2010-10-30 The figure of Jesus has fascinated Western civilization for centuries As the year 2000 approaches eliciting connections with Jesus birth and return excitement grows as does the number of studies about Jesus Cutting through this mass of material *Whose Historical Jesus* provides a collection of penetrating jargon free intelligently organized essays that convey well both the centrality and the complexity of deciphering the historical Jesus Contributors include such eminent scholars as John Dominic Crossan Burton L Mack Se n Freyne and Peter Richardson Essays range from traditional to modern and postmodern and address both recent and enduring concerns Introductions and reflections augment these lucid essays provide context and help the reader focus on the issues at stake *Whose Historical Jesus* will be of interest to all who wish to understand the current controversies and historical debates who want insightful critiques of those views or who would like guidance on the direction of future studies *The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Studies* J. W. Rogerson, Judith M. Lieu, 2006-03-17 The Oxford Handbooks series is a major new initiative in academic publishing Each volume offers an authoritative and up to date survey of original research in a particular subject area Specially commissioned essays from leading figures in the discipline give critical examinations of the progress and direction of debates Biblical studies is a highly technical and diverse field Study of the Bible demands expertise in fields ranging from Archaeology Egyptology Assyriology and Linguistics through textual historical and sociological studies to Literary Theory Feminism Philosophy and Theology to name only some This authoritative and compelling guide to the discipline will therefore be an invaluable reference work for all students and academics who want to explore more fully essential topics in Biblical studies **Anti-Judaism and Early Christian Identity** Miriam S. Taylor, 2022-06-08 Against the scholarly consensus that assumes early Christians were involved in a rivalry for converts with contemporary Jews this book shows that the target of patristic writers was rather a symbolic Judaism and their aim was to define theologically the young church s identity In identifying and categorizing the hypotheses put forward by modern scholars to defend their view of a Jewish Christian conflict this book demonstrates how current theories have generated faulty notions about the perceptions and motivations of ancient Christians and Jews Beyond its relevance to students of the early church this book addresses the broader question of Christian responsibility for modern anti-Semitism It shows how the focus on a supposedly social rivalry obscures the depth and disquieting nature of the connections between early anti Judaism and Christian identity **The Colonized Apostle** Christopher D. Stanley, *Travel among*

Early Christians: A Socio-theological Analysis of Pauline and Ignatian Communities Jason Borges, 2025-09-18 Travel among Early Christians approaches intercommunal movement between churches as a valuable source of insights regarding social and theological aspects of early Christianity Incorporating theories from mobility studies and ancient institutions that facilitated travel Borges traces how travel functioned as a formative practice among early Christians group identities and signified a new cosmic reality regarding their unity in Christ Borges investigates six specific travel events in Pauline and Ignatian churches noting how mobility became a distinctive and revealing aspect of early Christianity [The First Christians in the Roman World](#) E. A. Judge, 2008 Collection of previously published essays and lectures [The Cambridge History of Ancient Christianity](#) Bruce W. Longenecker, David E. Wilhite, 2023-08-24 The first three hundred years of the common era witnessed critical developments that would become foundational for Christianity itself as well as for the societies and later history that emerged thereafter The concept of ancient Christianity however along with the content that the category represents has raised much debate This is in part because within this category lie multiple forms of devotion to Jesus Christ multiple phenomena and multiple permutations in the formative period of Christian history Within those multiples lie numerous contests as varieties of Christian identity laid claim to authority and authenticity in different ways The Cambridge History of Ancient Christianity addresses these contested areas with both nuance and clarity by reviewing synthesizing and critically engaging recent scholarly developments The 27 thematic chapters specially commissioned for this volume from an international team of scholars also offer constructive ways forward for future research [Legitimation in the Letter to the Hebrews](#) Iutisone Salevao, 2002-07-01 This book adopts an inter disciplinary approach to the study of the theology symbolism and argument of Hebrews Employing sociological models the book examines Hebrews in the context of the early Christians construction and maintenance of a social world In that respect the book elaborates the thesis that Hebrews was designed to serve a legitimating function in the realm of social interaction that its theology symbolism and argument were designed to construct and maintain the symbolic universe of the community of the readers It is argued that we cannot properly understand the theology symbolism and argument of Hebrews apart from its first century context *The Oxford Handbook of Early Christian Studies* Susan Ashbrook Harvey, David G. Hunter, 2008-09-04 Provides an introduction to the academic study of early Christianity c 100 600 AD and examines the vast geographical area impacted by the early church in Western and Eastern late antiquity from publisher description

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