

SLAVERY IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY

Jennifer A. Glancy



Slavery In Early Christianity

Henry Donald Maurice Spence-Jones

Slavery In Early Christianity:

Slavery in Early Christianity Jennifer A. Glancy, 2024-03-12 A classic work that exposed the centrality of enslaved people and slaveholders in early Christian circles In this expanded edition the distinguished scholar Jennifer A Glancy reflects upon recent discoveries and future trajectories related to the study of ancient slavery s impact on Christianity s development What if the stories traditionally told about slavery as something peripheral or contradictory to Christianity s emergence are wrong This book contends that some of the most cherished Christian texts from Jesus and the apostle Paul prioritized the perspectives of slaveholders Jennifer A Glancy highlights how the strong metaphorical uses of slavery in early Christian discourse can t be disconnected from the reality of enslaved people and their bodies Deftly maneuvering among biblical texts material evidence and the literary and philosophical currents of the Greco Roman world she situates early Christian slavery in its broader cultural setting Glancy s penetrating study into slavery s impact on early Christianity from the pages of the New Testament to the branded collars used by Christians who held people in bondage will be of interest to those asking questions about slavery power and freedom in the long arc of history

Slavery in Early Christianity Jennifer A. Glancy, 2002 Though early Christians were both slaves and slaveholders there has been little study of what they thought about the realities of slavery Glancy situates early Christian slavery in its broader cultural context arguing that scholars have underestimated its impact on the institutional structures ideologies and practices of the early churches

Slavery as Moral Problem Jennifer A. Glancy, The fact that some early Christians were slaves does not present a moral problem for Christians today The fact that some early Christians were slaveholders does Jennifer Glancy tackles questions that continue to haunt contemporary men and women inside and outside of the churches Why didn t Jesus speak out forcefully against slavery Why didn t the early church see slavery as fundamentally incompatible with the gospel Were there any bright moments when some Christians in fact drew that conclusion and why don t we know more about them Why didn t Christianity have more of an impact on slaveholding in the Roman Empire And what lessons can we learn as we face moral catastrophes in our own day

[The Manumission of Slaves in Early Christianity](#) James Albert Harrill, 1998

Enslaved Leadership in Early Christianity Katherine Ann Shaner, 2018 Slaves were ubiquitous in the first and second century CE Roman Empire and early Christian texts reflect this fact This book argues that enslaved persons engaged in leadership roles in civic and religious activities Such roles created tension within religious groups including second century communities connected with Paul s legacy

Preaching Bondage Chris L. de Wet, 2015-07-21 Preaching Bondage introduces and investigates the novel concept of doulology the discourse of slavery in the homilies of John Chrysostom the late fourth century priest and bishop Chris L de Wet examines the dynamics of enslavement in Chrysostom s theology virtue ethics and biblical interpretation and shows that human bondage as a metaphorical and theological construct had a profound effect on the lives of institutional slaves The highly corporeal and gendered discourse associated with slavery was necessarily central in Chrysostom s

discussions of the household property education discipline and sexuality De Wet explores the impact of doulology in these contexts and disseminates the results in a new and highly anticipated language bringing to light the more pervasive fissures between ancient Roman slaveholding and early Christianity The corpus of Chrysostom s public addresses provides much of the literary evidence for slavery in the fourth century and De Wet s convincing analysis is a groundbreaking contribution to studies of the social world in late antiquity *The Unbound God* Chris L. de Wet,2017-07-14 This volume examines the prevalence function and socio political effects of slavery discourse in the major theological formulations of the late third to early fifth centuries AD arguably the most formative period of early Christian doctrine The question the book poses is this in what way did the Christian theologians of the third fourth and early fifth centuries appropriate the discourse of slavery in their theological formulations and what could the effect of this appropriation have been for actual physical slaves This fascinating study is crucial reading for anyone with an interest in early Christianity or Late Antiquity and slavery more generally

Slavery in Early Christianity Jennifer A. Glancy,2002 Jennifer A Glancy brings a multilayered approach to these and many other issues offering a comprehensive reexamination of the evidence pertaining to slavery in early Christianity Jacket

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God, Slavery, and Early Christianity Chance E. Bonar,2025-09-30 Ancient Christians understood themselves to be enslaved to God an attitude that affected their ethics theology and self understanding This widespread belief is made especially clear in the Shepherd of Hermas an overlooked early Christian text written by an enslaved person which was nearly included in the New Testament In this book Chance Bonar provides a robust analysis of the ancient discourses and practices of slavery found in the Shepherd of Hermas He shows how the text characterizes God s enslaved persons as useful loyal property who could be put to work surveilled and disciplined throughout their lives and the afterlife Bonar also investigates the notion that God enslaved believers which allowed the Shepherd to theorize key early Christian concepts more deeply and in light of ancient Mediterranean slavery Bonar s study clarifies the depth to which early Christians were entrenched intellectually practically and theologically in Roman slave society It also demonstrates how the Shepherd offers new approaches to early Christian literary and historical interpretation

The Slave Metaphor and Gendered Enslavement in Early Christian Discourse Marianne Bjelland Kartzow,2018-04-17 The Slave Metaphor and Gendered Enslavement in Early Christian Discourse adds

new knowledge to the ongoing discussion of slavery in early Christian discourse Kartzow argues that the complex tension between metaphor and social reality in early Christian discourse is undertheorized A metaphor can be so much more than an innocent thought figure it involves bodies relationships life stories and memory in complex ways The slavery metaphor is troubling since it makes theology of a social institution that is profoundly troubling This study rethinks the potential meaning of the slavery metaphor in early Christian discourse by use of a variety of texts read with a whole set of theoretical tools taken from metaphor theory and intersectional gender studies in particular It also takes seriously the contemporary context of modern slavery where slavery has re appeared as a term to name trafficking gendered violence and inhuman power systems

God, Slavery and Early Christianity Chance E. Bonar, 2025 Ancient Christians understood themselves to be enslaved to God which affected their ethics theology and self understanding This book analyzes the Shepherd of Hermas an overlooked early Christian text written by an enslaved person which was nearly included in the New Testament to map the effects of divine slavery

Ancient Slavery and Its New Testament Contexts Christy Cobb, Katherine A. Shaner, 2025-04-10 An essential resource for understanding slavery in the New Testament and early Christianity Slavery permeated society in the ancient world The realities of slavery and its shadows pervade the New Testament and other early Christian texts Yet enslavement remains an under taught aspect of the context of the New Testament and early Christianity Because of this readers are left with numerous questions about ancient slavery How did people become enslaved What kinds of work did enslaved people do Who enslaved people How did ancient slavery compare with more contemporary enslavement eras Did anyone in the ancient world criticize slavery Was ancient slavery racialized Did Christians have a different understanding of slavery than others These are just some of the questions students ask in higher education and in Bible study classrooms alike This volume takes on these questions introducing students to the textures complexities and material realities of slavery in the Greco Roman world *Ancient Slavery and Its New Testament Contexts* draws on the expertise of scholars around the world with a focus on introductory information accessibility and readability It does not attempt to dismiss or downplay the role of New Testament texts in the perpetuation of either ancient slavery or slavery in the North American context Rather the volume helps students and teachers alike wrestle with the ongoing historical theological and ethical legacies of slavery in their own faith formation and engagement with the biblical text

Backgrounds of Early Christianity Everett Ferguson, 2003 New to this expanded updated edition are revisions of Ferguson s original material updated bibliographies a fresh dicussion of first century social life the Dead Sea Scrolls much else

[Slavery as Salvation](#) Dale B. Martin, 2021-03-30 Early Christians frequently used metaphors about slavery calling themselves slaves of God and Christ and referring to their leaders as slave representatives of Christ Most biblical scholars have insisted that this language would have been distasteful to potential converts in the Greco Roman world and they have wondered why early Christians such as Paul used the image of slavery to portray salvation In this book Dale B Martin addresses the issue by examining the social history and rhetorical and

theological conventions of the times The first half of the book draws on a variety of historical sources inscriptions novels speeches dream handbooks and agricultural manuals to portray the complexity of slavery in the early Roman empire Concentrating on middle level managerial slaves Martin shows how slavery sometimes functioned as a means of upward social mobility and as a form of status by association for those slaves who were agents of members of the upper class For this reason say Martin slavery of Christ brought the Christian convert a degree of symbolic status and lent the Christian leader a certain kind of derived authority The second half of the book traces the Greco Roman use of political rhetoric that spoke about populist leaders as enslaved to their followers especially to members of the lower class This provides the context for Paul's claim in 1 Corinthians 9 that he has enslaved himself to all that is to those very people he is supposed to lead as an apostle Martin thus interprets this statement to mean that Paul identifies himself with the interests of persons with lower status in the Corinthian church calling on those with higher status to imitate his self debasement in order to further the interests of those below them on the social scale *The Early Christians in Rome* Henry Donald Maurice Spence-Jones, 1911

EARLY CHRISTIANITY Edward D. Andrews, 2025-03-12 How did the ancient world shape the rise of Christianity What political forces social customs and philosophical ideas influenced the spread of the gospel To truly understand the New Testament one must explore the historical and cultural environment in which it was written Early Christianity Exploring Backgrounds Historical Settings and Cultures takes readers on a deep and comprehensive journey through the world of the first century From the turbulent history of Judea under Babylonian Persian Greek and Roman rule to the daily lives of people in the Roman Empire this book uncovers the political social and religious realities that formed the backdrop for Jesus ministry and the early church This volume explores the intricate web of philosophies pagan religious practices and Jewish sects that shaped the intellectual and spiritual climate of the time It examines the Roman military economic systems law citizenship and cultural norms that influenced the experiences of early Christians It also delves into the significant archaeological discoveries that confirm the historical accuracy of the New Testament Meticulously researched and rich with historical insights Early Christianity is an essential resource for anyone seeking a deeper understanding of the biblical world Whether you are a student historian or devoted Bible reader this book will equip you with the knowledge to better grasp the context of Christianity's beginnings and its enduring impact on history *Encyclopedia of Early Christianity* Everett Ferguson, 2013-10-08 First published in 1997 What's new in the Second Edition Some 250 new entries twenty five percent more than in the first edition plus twenty five new expert contributors Bibliographies are greatly expanded and updated throughout More focus on biblical books and philosophical schools their influence on early Christianity and their use by patristic writers More information about the Jewish and pagan environment of early Christianity Greatly enlarged coverage of the eastern expansion of the faith throughout Asia including persons and literature More extensive treatment of saints monasticism worship practices and modern scholars Greater emphasis on social history and more theme articles More

illustrations maps and plans Additional articles on geographical regions Expanded chronological table Also includes maps

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

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