

# da carson the gospel according to john

Da Carson The Gospel According to John: A Deep Dive into One of the Most Influential Biblical Commentaries

**da carson the gospel according to john** stands as a monumental work in the field of biblical studies and theological scholarship. Renowned New Testament scholar D.A. Carson brings his extensive expertise to this commentary, offering readers a profound exploration of the Gospel of John. Whether you are a seminary student, pastor, or simply a curious reader looking to understand one of the most theologically rich books of the New Testament, Carson's work provides clarity, depth, and practical insight.

In this article, we will explore what makes Da Carson's commentary on the Gospel according to John so significant, break down its key features, and highlight why it remains a vital resource for understanding the life, teachings, and divinity of Jesus Christ.

## Who is D.A. Carson and Why His Commentary Matters

Before diving into the nuances of the Gospel of John, it's helpful to understand the scholar behind the work. D.A. Carson is a respected evangelical theologian, author, and professor known for his rigorous approach to Scripture combined with pastoral sensitivity. His commentary on the Gospel according to John is part of the well-regarded Pillar New Testament Commentary series, which aims to balance scholarly depth with accessibility.

Carson's approach is characterized by:

- Meticulous exegesis of the Greek text
- Engagement with historical and cultural contexts
- Theological reflection that connects ancient text to contemporary faith
- Clear explanations that avoid unnecessary jargon

This blend makes the commentary valuable not only for academic study but also for sermon preparation and personal Bible study.

## Understanding the Gospel According to John through Carson's Lens

The Gospel of John is distinct from the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) in style, content, and theological emphasis. It focuses heavily on the identity of Jesus as the incarnate Word of God and provides unique insights into His ministry, miracles, and teachings.

# Key Themes Explored in Da Carson The Gospel According to John

Carson's commentary sheds light on several major themes in John's Gospel:

- **Christ's Divinity:** The opening prologue ("In the beginning was the Word...") sets the stage for understanding Jesus as both fully God and fully human.
- **Signs and Miracles:** Carson carefully examines the seven "signs" that John highlights, explaining their theological significance beyond mere wonder stories.
- **Light and Darkness:** The dualistic motif illustrates the spiritual conflict between belief and unbelief, a thread Carson unpacks throughout the commentary.
- **Love and Commandments:** The "new commandment" to love one another is explored not just as ethical instruction but as a reflection of Jesus' own love and the community He forms.
- **Faith and Eternal Life:** Carson emphasizes how John's Gospel connects faith in Jesus to the promise of eternal life, a cornerstone of Christian hope.

## How Carson Handles Difficult Passages

One of the strengths of this commentary is Carson's ability to navigate complex or controversial passages with nuance. For example, the "I am" statements in John—such as "I am the bread of life" or "I am the good shepherd"—receive detailed linguistic and theological analysis. Carson clarifies their Old Testament background and their significance for understanding Jesus' self-revelation.

Similarly, passages like John 6, which deals with the "Bread of Life" discourse, are unpacked carefully to avoid misinterpretations that have historically led to theological confusion.

## The Scholarly Depth Meets Practical Application

While Da Carson the Gospel according to John is rich in academic detail, it never loses sight of the practical implications for believers today. His commentary often includes reflections on how the Gospel's truths apply to modern Christian living, worship, and ministry.

## Insights for Preachers and Teachers

Pastors and Bible teachers find Carson's work particularly helpful because:

- It offers clear explanations of Greek terms and cultural references that bring the text to life.
- It includes theological reflections that help connect ancient narratives with contemporary faith challenges.
- It provides balanced interpretations that avoid extremes, fostering sound doctrine.

## Personal Bible Study Enhancement

For those studying the Gospel of John on their own, this commentary serves as a guide to understanding the text's deeper meanings without feeling overwhelmed. Carson's engaging writing style invites readers to explore the spiritual richness of John's Gospel while grounding their faith in solid scholarship.

## Comparing Da Carson's Commentary with Other John Commentaries

The market offers numerous commentaries on the Gospel of John, ranging from devotional to highly technical works. What sets Da Carson's commentary apart?

- **Balanced Accessibility:** It's neither overly academic nor superficially devotional, making it ideal for a broad audience.
- **Comprehensive Coverage:** Carson doesn't shy away from difficult questions or obscure passages, providing thorough treatment of the entire Gospel.
- **Engagement with Scholarship:** The commentary interacts with contemporary and classical scholarship, offering a well-rounded perspective.
- **Theological Depth:** Carson's evangelical convictions inform his work, providing a coherent theological framework without dogmatism.

## Tips for Getting the Most Out of Da Carson The Gospel According to John

To fully appreciate and benefit from this commentary, consider the following approaches:

1. **Read Alongside the Biblical Text:** Keep your Bible open to the Gospel of John and refer to the commentary as you read each chapter for enhanced understanding.
2. **Take Notes:** Jot down insights, questions, and reflections that arise

from Carson's explanations to deepen engagement.

3. **Use for Sermon Preparation:** Utilize Carson's detailed analysis to enrich your preaching with theological and historical background.
4. **Discuss in Study Groups:** Share insights from the commentary with others to foster richer group discussions and mutual growth.
5. **Don't Rush:** John's Gospel is dense and profound; allow time to digest Carson's insights slowly and prayerfully.

## **Exploring the Impact of Da Carson The Gospel According to John**

Since its publication, this commentary has influenced not only students and pastors but also laypeople seeking a deeper connection with Scripture. Its careful balance of scholarship and spirituality helps readers appreciate John's Gospel as a living text that continues to speak to contemporary issues of faith, identity, and salvation.

Many readers praise Carson's ability to maintain fidelity to the original text while making it accessible and relevant. This impact highlights the ongoing importance of quality biblical commentaries in nurturing a thoughtful, informed Christian faith.

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Engaging with Da Carson the Gospel according to John offers a transformative journey through one of the Bible's most profound books. Whether you approach it academically or devotionally, Carson's commentary invites you to see Jesus anew—as the Word made flesh, the Light of the world, and the source of eternal life.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Who is D.A. Carson in relation to 'The Gospel According to John'?**

D.A. Carson is a renowned New Testament scholar and theologian who authored the commentary 'The Gospel According to John,' providing in-depth analysis and interpretation of the text.

### **What is the main focus of D.A. Carson's 'The Gospel According to John'?**

The commentary focuses on exploring the theological themes, historical context, and literary features of the Gospel of John to help readers understand its message and significance.

## **How does D.A. Carson interpret the concept of 'light' in the Gospel of John?**

Carson interprets 'light' in the Gospel of John as a symbol of Jesus' divine revelation and truth that overcomes spiritual darkness and brings salvation to humanity.

## **Is D.A. Carson's commentary on John suitable for beginners or more advanced readers?**

While accessible to dedicated readers, Carson's commentary is primarily geared towards advanced students, pastors, and scholars due to its detailed exegesis and theological discussion.

## **What theological themes does D.A. Carson emphasize in his commentary on John?**

Carson emphasizes themes such as the divinity of Christ, the incarnation, belief and unbelief, eternal life, and the relationship between Jesus and the Father.

## **Does D.A. Carson address the historical context of the Gospel of John in his commentary?**

Yes, Carson provides historical background and cultural context to help readers understand the circumstances in which the Gospel of John was written and its intended audience.

## **How does D.A. Carson handle the miracles described in the Gospel of John?**

Carson treats the miracles as signs that reveal Jesus' identity and divine authority, analyzing their theological significance rather than just their narrative function.

## **Can 'The Gospel According to John' by D.A. Carson be used for sermon preparation?**

Absolutely, many pastors and ministers use Carson's commentary as a resource for sermon preparation due to its thorough explanation and practical theological insights.

## **Where can readers find D.A. Carson's 'The Gospel According to John'?**

The commentary is available through major Christian bookstores, online retailers like Amazon, and academic libraries, often published by reputable theological publishers.

## Additional Resources

**\*\*Da Carson The Gospel According to John: An In-Depth Scholarly Review\*\***

**Da Carson the gospel according to john** represents a significant contribution to contemporary biblical scholarship, particularly in the field of New Testament studies. D.A. Carson, a renowned evangelical scholar, brings a meticulous and insightful approach to the Gospel of John, combining rigorous exegesis with theological reflection. This review aims to explore Carson's treatment of this Johannine text, assessing his interpretative methods, theological insights, and the broader impact of his work on both academic and ecclesiastical audiences.

## Contextualizing D.A. Carson's Approach to the Gospel of John

D.A. Carson's treatment of the Gospel of John is noted for its scholarly depth while maintaining accessibility for a wider audience beyond academia. Unlike some commentaries that lean heavily on technical jargon or strictly historical-critical methods, Carson strikes a balance between historical context, literary analysis, and theological application. His expertise as a New Testament scholar—especially in Johannine literature—allows him to navigate the complex theological themes embedded in the Gospel of John, such as Christology, the incarnation, and the nature of belief.

Carson's work on the Gospel of John often appears in his broader commentarial projects or thematic studies. One of the hallmarks of his scholarship is his careful attention to the original Greek text, which informs his interpretation of key passages. This linguistic sensitivity helps unpack the rich symbolism and nuanced language characteristic of John's writing.

## Methodological Framework: Exegesis and Theology Combined

One of the defining features of da carson the gospel according to john is the integration of exegesis and theology. Carson does not treat the text merely as an ancient document to be dissected but as a living word that informs Christian faith and practice. His methodology can be summarized in three main aspects:

- **Historical-Grammatical Exegesis:** Carson carefully analyzes the grammar, syntax, and historical context of the Gospel, grounding his interpretations in the original setting of the text.
- **Theological Reflection:** He consistently relates the exegesis to broader theological themes, particularly the identity and mission of Jesus Christ.
- **Pastoral Sensitivity:** Although scholarly, Carson's writing acknowledges the pastoral implications of the Gospel, making his work relevant for ministers and lay readers alike.

This framework allows readers to appreciate the Gospel of John not only as a historical narrative but as a theological masterpiece that continues to shape Christian doctrine and spirituality.

## **Key Themes in Da Carson's Treatment of the Gospel of John**

Carson's analysis highlights several central themes of the Gospel of John that have profound implications for biblical theology.

### **Christology: The Divine and Human Jesus**

A significant focus in Carson's work is the high Christology presented in John. He emphasizes how the Gospel asserts Jesus' divine identity through explicit claims (e.g., "I am" statements) and the prologue's portrayal of the Word (Logos) becoming flesh. Carson explores how John balances Jesus' divinity and humanity, providing a nuanced understanding that counters both docetism and low Christology.

### **Belief and Eternal Life**

Another critical theme is the concept of belief (pistis) and its relationship to eternal life (zoe aionios). Carson meticulously analyzes how John presents faith not just as intellectual assent but as a transformative trust in Jesus. This trust leads to an experiential knowledge of eternal life, beginning in the present and culminating in the eschaton.

### **The Role of the Holy Spirit**

Carson also addresses the Johannine emphasis on the Paraclete, or Holy Spirit, who serves as a guide, teacher, and comforter. His exploration of the Spirit's role in the believer's life highlights the continuity between Jesus' earthly ministry and the ongoing work of the Spirit within the church.

## **Comparative Analysis: Carson's Commentary Versus Other Johannine Scholars**

When comparing da carson the gospel according to john with other prominent commentaries, several distinguishing features emerge.

### **Clarity and Accessibility**

Unlike some commentaries that can be overly technical (such as those by Raymond Brown or C.K. Barrett), Carson's writing is clear and engaging without sacrificing scholarly rigor. This makes his work appealing to pastors

and seminary students seeking depth without obscurity.

## Theological Coherence

Carson's evangelical perspective ensures a consistent theological framework that resonates with orthodox Christian beliefs. While scholars like Rudolf Schnackenburg offer exhaustive historical-critical insights, Carson's approach integrates theology and exegesis more seamlessly.

## Use of Original Language

Carson's command of Koine Greek enriches his interpretations, allowing him to detect nuances that might be missed in translations. This feature places his work alongside the best technical commentaries, enhancing its value for serious students of the text.

## Strengths and Limitations of Da Carson's Work on John

No scholarly work is without its limitations, and Carson's treatment of the Gospel of John is no exception.

### Strengths

- **Balanced scholarship:** Carson avoids extremes, presenting a reasoned and well-supported interpretation.
- **Pastoral sensitivity:** His writing connects theological insights with practical application.
- **Comprehensive coverage:** He addresses various aspects of the text, including literary structure, historical background, and doctrinal content.

### Limitations

- **Evangelical bias:** While generally a strength, his theological commitments may limit engagement with alternative scholarly perspectives.
- **Conciseness:** Some readers may find his discussions less exhaustive compared to multi-volume commentaries.

# Impact and Relevance of Da Carson's Gospel of John Scholarship

The influence of da carson the gospel according to john extends beyond academic circles. His work shapes preaching, teaching, and personal study, contributing to a renewed appreciation of John's Gospel as both an ancient text and a source of contemporary spiritual nourishment. Seminaries frequently include his writings in their curricula, and pastors find his insights valuable for sermon preparation.

Moreover, Carson's scholarship encourages deeper engagement with the text's original languages and cultural context, promoting a more informed and nuanced Christian faith. His accessible style ensures that theological truths are not confined to specialists but reach a broader audience eager to understand the message of John's Gospel.

In sum, D.A. Carson's contribution to Johannine studies offers a compelling blend of academic rigor, theological clarity, and pastoral wisdom, making his work an indispensable resource for anyone seeking to explore the Gospel of John in depth.

## [Da Carson The Gospel According To John](#)

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Gospel According to John** D. A. Carson, 1991  
With this acclaimed volume in the Pillar New Testament Commentary series, Carson explains the text of John's Gospel to help you minister the Word of God to others, either by preaching or by leading Bible studies. The commentary will also deepen your understanding of the Gospel in your own life and worship. Throughout his commentary Carson does the following: \* makes clear the flow of the text, focusing on the movement of thought rather than on word studies and Greek syntax \* engages a small but representative part of the massive secondary literature on John, providing a kind of map of contemporary studies on this Gospel \* draws a few lines toward establishing how John's Gospel contributes to biblical and systematic theology \* offers a consistent exposition of John as an evangelistic Gospel Preceded by a comprehensive introduction treating such matters as the authenticity, authorship, purpose and structure of the Gospel, this commentary on John exhibits the solid evangelical Scripture exposition for which Carson is well known and respected.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The God of the Gospel of John** Marianne Meye Thompson, 2001-10-09 While there are numerous studies of God in the Old Testament, the concept of God has largely been ignored as a subject of inquiry in contemporary New Testament theology. As this superb work by Marianne Meye Thompson shows, however, an understanding of the identity of God is central to the New Testament, particularly to the Gospel of John. Thompson here offers the first comprehensive study of the concept of God in John's Gospel. She shows that one must first grasp the importance of God to John before one can properly appreciate the Gospel's Christology and overarching message. By arguing that John is rightly understood to be a theocentric work, Thompson challenges the prevailing theory that John is primarily concerned with Christology. While Thompson uses traditional historical and exegetical approaches to the New Testament and ancient sources, her study is mainly theological in scope. She asks how John portrays God and how, after reading the Gospel, we ought to speak of the identity of God. Unlike many recent studies of John, this one does not try to reconstruct the history behind the text but, rather, tries to fully illumine the theological content of John's message. A seminal study with lasting implications for New Testament theology, The God of the Gospel of John will become a standard text for students of the New

Testament.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Gospel of John** Paul L. Metzger, 2010-11-01 In the Resonate series the stories and insights of each book of the Bible are brought into conversation with contemporary voices of hope and lament. In this volume we journey through the Gospel of John with Paul Louis Metzger who wrestles with the question of what happens when God, who is love, comes to town and takes up residence among us.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Gospel of John and Christian Theology** Richard Bauckham, Carl Mosser, 2008-02-25 The essays... were first presented in 2003 as papers at the first St. Andrews Conference on Scripture and Theology held at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland--P. x.

**da carson the gospel according to john: John** Morris, 1995 Morris's revised study on the Gospel According to John is part of The New International Commentary on the New Testament. Prepared by some of the world's leading scholars, the series provides an exposition of the New Testament books that is thorough and fully abreast of modern scholarship yet faithful to the Scriptures as the infallible Word of God.

**da carson the gospel according to john: Exploring the Gospel of John** Dwight Moody Smith, R. Alan Culpepper, Carl Clifton Black, 1996-01-01 Every aspect of the study of John is represented in this book, including the historical origins of the Johannine community, the religious traditions in the gospel within and beyond early Christianity, the Fourth Gospel's literary dimensions and theological concerns, and the distinctive challenges presented by the Gospel's interpretation.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Gospel of John : 2 Volumes** Craig S. Keener, 2010-03-01 Keener's commentary explores the Jewish and Greco-Roman settings of John more deeply than previous works, paying special attention to social-historical and rhetorical features of the Gospel. It cites about 4,000 different secondary sources and uses over 20,000 references from ancient literature.

**da carson the gospel according to john: Introduction to the Literary Art of the Gospel of John** Paul Jaesuk Jo, 2022-05-24 The Gospel of John is a magnificent book. Intricate fabrics interweave its beautiful robe and its material is a finely twisted linen of many colors. Throughout the history of the church, interpreters have long been captivated by its loveliness and power. Many modern interpreters, however, would not hesitate to call it puzzling, confusing, or ridden with riddles at least. What is John? is therefore a fascinating question that lingers. During the last half century, literary theories have been brought into the study of the Fourth Gospel with varying degrees of success. New analytical lenses are cast over the Gospel to render its secrets, but it feels as if only those who are initiated into its mystery have the knowledge. Reading and rereading strategies are offered, but the path out of the vast labyrinth is difficult to find. The Gospel of John, however, surprisingly reads much like the Old Testament. In fact, its form is deeply imbued in the styles of Old Testament poetry, narratives, and prophets, that when they are properly understood together, John's message comes across clearly. Taking a comprehensive view of the styles of the Old Testament, this book takes you to see John in its grand design.

**da carson the gospel according to john: A Theology of John's Gospel and Letters** Andreas J. Kostenberger, 2015-04-28 A Theology of John's Gospel and Letters introduces the first volume in the BTNT series. Building on many years of research and study in Johannine literature, Andreas Köstenberger not only furnishes an exhaustive theology of John's Gospel and letters, but also provides a detailed study of major themes and relates them to the Synoptic Gospels and other New Testament books. Readers will gain an in-depth and holistic grasp of Johannine theology in the larger context of the Bible. D. A. Carson (Trinity Evangelical Divinity School) says about Köstenberger's volume that "for the comprehensiveness of its coverage in the field of Johannine theology (Gospel and Letters), there is nothing to compare to this work." I. Howard Marshall (University of Aberdeen) writes, "This book is a 'first' in many ways: the first volume that sets the pattern for the quality and style of the new Biblical Theology of the New Testament series published by Zondervan; the first major volume to be devoted specifically to the theology of John's Gospel and

Letters at a high academic level; and the first volume to do so on the basis that here we have an interpretation of John's theology composed by an eyewitness of the life and passion of Jesus." The Biblical Theology of the New Testament Series The Biblical Theology of the New Testament (BTNT) series provides upper college and seminary-level textbooks for students of New Testament theology, interpretation, and exegesis. Pastors and discerning theology readers alike will also benefit from this series. Written at the highest level of academic excellence by recognized experts in the field, the BTNT series not only offers a comprehensive exploration of the theology of every book of the New Testament, including introductory issues and major themes, but also shows how each book relates to the broad picture of New Testament theology.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Gospel According to John** Donald A. Carson, 1995

**da carson the gospel according to john: Challenging Perspectives on the Gospel of John** John Lierman, 2006 This book had its genesis at a conference held in Cambridge--Pref.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Miracles of Jesus According to John** Stephen S. Kim, 2010-07-08 In our age of theological relativism, Jesus' question to His own disciples continues to ring true: Who do the people say that the Son of Man is? Through Jesus' seven miracles and His seven I Am sayings, the apostle John provides a clear answer to that all-important question. Furthermore, what do Jesus' miracles represent? Are they designed to point to something or someone? In our supernatural-crazed culture that affects even evangelical Christianity, it is refreshing to be reminded that biblical miracles were never arbitrary but were always purposeful, authenticating God's message and His messenger(s). In the Gospel of John, the miracles of Jesus are both Christological, that is, they highlight Jesus' Person, and eschatological, that is, they foreshadow the work the Messiah will do in His future Advent. The miracles remind us that God's desire for every believer is first and foremost a spiritual relationship with Him through His Son. Furthermore, Jesus' miracles also remind us that God's work in and for every believer will be fully and ultimately realized in the everlasting life.

**da carson the gospel according to john: Interpreting the Gospel of John** Gary M. Burge, 2013-11-19 This tried and true classroom favorite by respected New Testament scholar Gary Burge has been praised for its usefulness. The expanded second edition has been revised throughout to take account of current scholarship and introduces software tools that have become available since the original edition was published. Combining original insight with how-to guidance, this textbook helps students interpret the Gospel of John and apply it in teaching and preaching.

**da carson the gospel according to john: John, His Gospel, and Jesus** Stanley E. Porter, 2015-10-14 Captures John's unique perspective and voice in the wider field of Jesus studies In this volume Stanley Porter tackles a variety of important and often highly contentious topics within the Gospel of John as a means of defining and capturing the distinctive Johannine voice. Subjects discussed include John in relation to competing Gospels, the public proclamation of Jesus in John, the sources of John's Gospel, John's prologue, the I Am sayings, the notion of truth, the Passover theme, and the ending of the book. Each chapter, besides surveying representative research, puts forward new and insightful proposals regarding the topics concerned. Porter does not shy away from matters that have often perplexed Johannine scholars, and he confronts some of the viewpoints that have led to confusion in the field. In exploring John's unique perspective and voice, Porter makes a significant contribution to the wider fields of Jesus studies and New Testament investigation.

**da carson the gospel according to john: The Gospel of John in Modern Interpretation** Stanley E. Porter, Ron C. Fay, 2018-10-30 The Gospel of John in Modern Interpretation provides a unique look at the lives and work of eight interpreters who have significantly influenced Johannine studies over the last two centuries. The chapters contain short biographical sketches of the scholars that illuminate their personal and academic lives, followed by summaries and evaluations of their major works, and concluding with an analysis of the ongoing relevance of their work in contemporary Johannine scholarship. Key thinkers surveyed include C. H. Dodd, Rudolph Bultmann, Raymond Brown, Leon Morris, and R. Alan Culpepper. An introduction and conclusion by general editors

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**da carson the gospel according to john: Sense Perception and Testimony in the Gospel According to John** Sunny Kuan-Hui Wang, 2017-06-02 In this book, Sunny Kuan-Hui Wang explores the relationship between sense perception and testimony in the Gospel of John. While Johannine scholars tend to focus on one or the other, she shows that sense perception and testimony are both significant and are used together with the intention of drawing readers into the narrative so that they become witnesses in an emotionally engaged way. It is argued that John's use of sense perception together with testimony is rooted in Jewish literature. Yet John also employs a Graeco-Roman rhetorical technique, *enargeia*, which appeals to the persuasive power of sense perception to make his narrative vivid. John does not downplay sense perception. Rather, he uses it in the context of testimony as a means of persuasion to draw the readers, in their imagination, into the experience of the first disciples and thus deeper into faith and witness.

**da carson the gospel according to john: That You Might Believe - Study on the Gospel of John** Robert L. Deffinbaugh, 2002 There are certain books of the Bible that just seem to stand out and the Gospel of John is surely one such book. It is frequently the first book of the Bible we encourage non-Christians to read in the hope that its message will lead them to faith in Christ. After all, that is the purpose of the book. See John 20:31. For Christians, the Gospel of John is a source of much truth about our Lord and the Gospel. But it is much more than that. It is an opportunity for us to follow Him as we read, and to identify with the disciples as their knowledge of Him continues to expand. It is our opportunity to get to know the heart of the Savior, and to fellowship with Him through His Word. If men of old found their hearts set on fire as they listened to Him teach in person (Luke 24:32), so we will find our hearts warmed as we seek to listen to Him through this Gospel. I challenge you to join me in making the Gospel of John the subject of your study. May God use it to help you see and serve Jesus Christ as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

**da carson the gospel according to john: Understanding Judaism and the Jews in the Gospel of John** Nathan Thiel, 2024-10-02 Understanding Judaism and the Jews in the Gospel of John: Polemic, Tradition, and Johannine Self-Identity reopens the perennial question of the Fourth Gospel's perplexing characterization of "the Jews." According to the reigning paradigm, the Gospel of John witnesses to a community's burgeoning sense of religious distinctiveness. Ethnically Jewish believers in Jesus had begun to forge a new identity in contrast to the Jews. Nathan Thiel assesses the weaknesses of the prevailing model, arguing that the fourth evangelist still saw himself as living and working within the Jewish tradition. Yet if the Gospel of John is the literary product of a self-consciously Jewish author, why would he speak so often and so critically of "the Jews"? Thiel considers the factors which have conditioned the evangelist's choice of terminology: the Gospel's

setting, its intended audience, and, above all, John's indebtedness to Scripture. As a first-century Jew well-versed in Israel's sacred texts, the evangelist has modeled his story of Jesus after patterns familiar to him from the Scriptures—Scriptures in which Israelite authors consistently portray their ancestors as faithless despite God's powerful work on their behalf. John is a relentless critic, but such cutting theological assessment had long been part of Israel's counterintuitive way of telling its history.

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