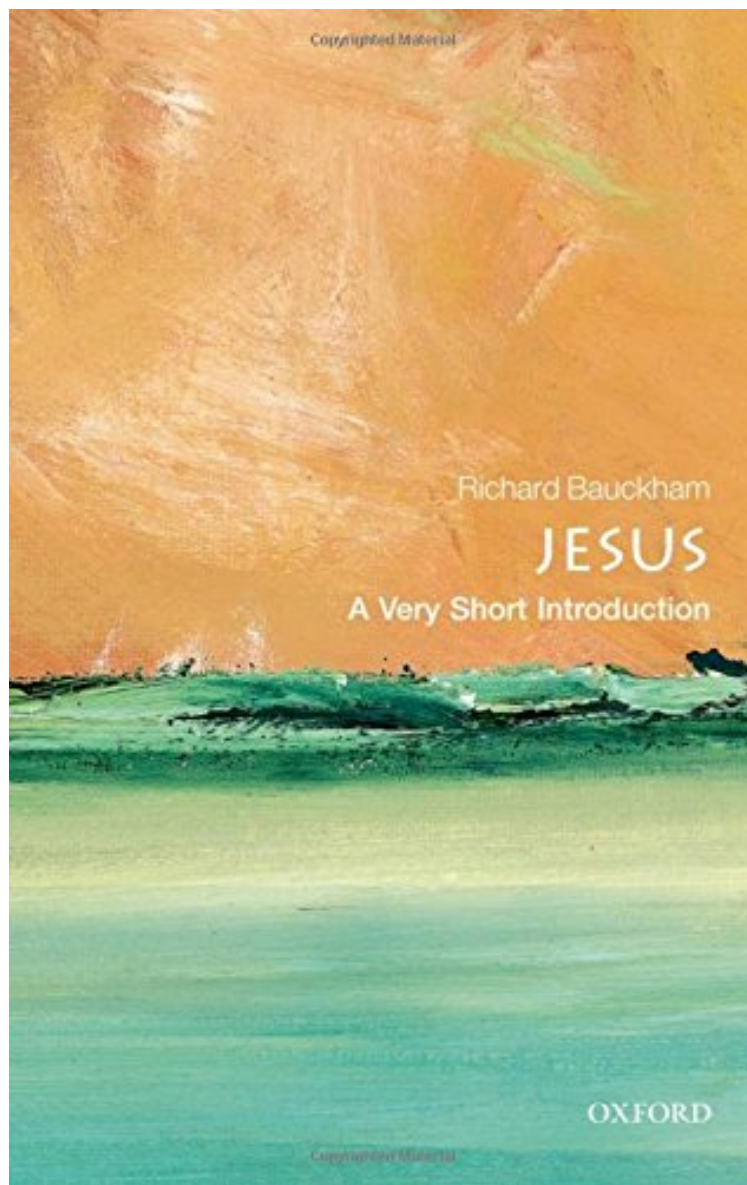


[Free] Jesus: A Very Short Introduction

## Jesus: A Very Short Introduction

*Richard Bauckham*

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#202329 in Books imusti 2011-08-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 4.20 x .30 x 6.60l, .26 #File Name: 0199575274144 pagesOxford University Press USA | File size: 47.Mb

**Richard Bauckham : Jesus: A Very Short Introduction** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jesus: A Very Short Introduction:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Historical Jesus Minus Skeptical AssumptionsBy Kevin W. HaugBauckham's book on the historical Jesus does not make many assertions which would be considered controversial which means it is actually a breath of fresh air in Jesus scholarship. What he does do is start with a very

different assumption than much of the historical Jesus scholarship of the past century: the Gospels can be considered reliable eyewitness testimony into the life of the historical Jesus. The phrasing of that last statement is very important as Bauckham does not view the Gospels as history but as ancient biography (please read his "Jesus and the Eyewitnesses: The Gospels as Eyewitness Testimony" for further development of his argument for this method of reading.) What I very much appreciated was Bauckham's ability to trust the biblical witness and show how the teachings of that witness would have been received in the context in which spoken. This is a bit different from other scholars like Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan who relish the historical situation but have a massive distrust of the Gospel accounts. My theological training was in the latter, and it always rubbed me the wrong way since one could subject the Gospels to a subjective criteria to formulate one's own picture of Jesus--a picture that was not necessarily in accord with the ancient texts. Bauckham methodology allows the reader to understand the cultural dynamics AND be true to the witness of the Gospels. His short exegesis of the Parable of the Good Samaritan was particularly good. Further, Bauckham does a nice job of showing how Jesus embodied both God's radical love accompanied with judgement for those who rejected that love--a nice antidote to the "God is love and there should be no judgement" strain of Christianity pervading some Christian circles.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Introducing Jesus By G. T. Love An excellent short introduction to Jesus the Christ! I enjoyed this book very much. Also a great intro to the writing of R. Bauckham. Definitely worth the time and money.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Dr. Bauckham is the go-to expert on New Testament Studies and this is no exception! By jedi008A great introduction to the person of Jesus not only as who the Gospels describe what He did, but why He did. Dr. Bauckham writes a concise, not too terribly dense and yet very understandable introduction that regardless of your beliefs or background will cause one to take pause and really think this topic through. Cudos to Oxford Press on this series of "A Very Short Introduction"!

Award-winning religious scholar Richard Bauckham here explores the historical figure of Jesus, evaluating the sources and showing that they provide us with good historical evidence for his life and teaching. To place Jesus in his proper historical context, as a Jew from Galilee in the early first century of our era, Bauckham looks at Jewish religion and society in the land of Israel under Roman rule. He explores Jesus' symbolic practices as well as his teachings, looks at his public career and emphasizes how his actions, such as healing and his association with notorious sinners, were just as important as his words. Bauckham writes that Jesus was devoted to the God of Israel, with a special focus on God's fatherly love and compassion, and like every Jewish teacher he expounded the Torah, but did so in his own distinctive way. After a discussion about the way Jesus understood himself and what finally led to his death on a Roman cross, Bauckham concludes by considering the significance Jesus has come to have for Christian faith worldwide.

Bauckham offers a fresh and significantly new methodological angle on the life, ministry and portrayals of Jesus in the four canonical Gospels. ... Chapter by chapter Bauckham's methodological lens sheds new light on a variety of themes and topics in the Gospels. ... I find it difficult to come up with substantial criticism of this book. \* Frederik Mulder, Churchman \* This book is a very good introduction to Jesus as portrayed in the New Testament, with an impressive amount of scholarship in small space, that sheds light on some of the texts and stories which are often read with little appreciation of their contextual richness. \* Alan Sage, Literature and Theology \* Where the book soars is in Bauckham's introduction to Jesus as a historical figure ... there is a very good possibility that this becomes a standard text in university courses on Jesus and Christianity \* Anthony Le Donne, Theology Magazine \* Balanced scholarly insight. \* The Furrow \* About the Author Richard Bauckham is Emeritus Professor of New Testament Studies at the University of St Andrews, and a Senior Scholar at Ridley Hall, Cambridge.