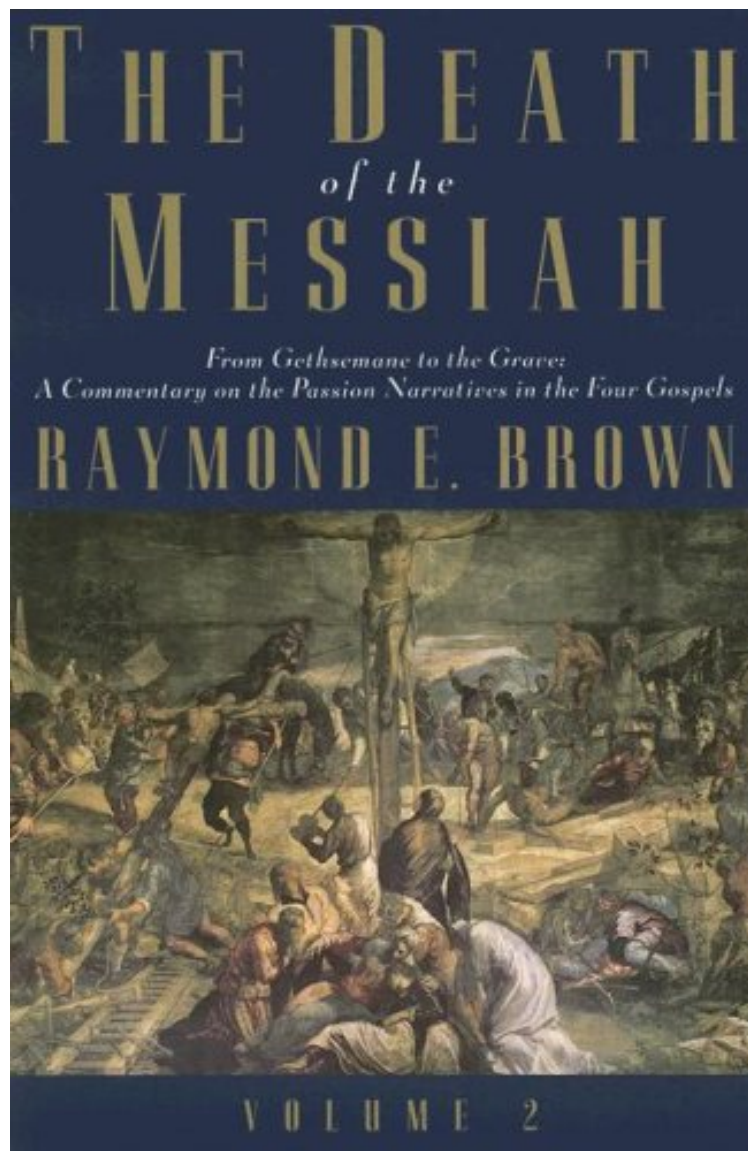


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Raymond E. Brown

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Raymond E. Brown : The Death of the Messiah, From Gethsemane to the Grave, Volume 2: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library) before purchasing it in

order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Death of the Messiah, From Gethsemane to the Grave, Volume 2: A Commentary on the Passion Narratives in the Four Gospels* (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By David C. McCue Superb analysis and clearly written 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Magisterial - Essential Reading for Christians By DoctorDI will add to the reviews of part I and give this 5 stars. These volumes alone could be the complete life work of a scholar, so thorough a job Fr. Brown has done. The scope of his learning - the sheer number of footnotes - is mindboggling. I found the 2-volume series completely engrossing, but it still took 2 months to complete. As stated in other reviews, these books analyze every single verse - indeed, every single word - of the Passion narratives. Furthermore, in volume 2, the reader is treated to 9 appendices that are self-contained scholarly articles in their own right. Also, useful for preaching purposes, at the end of Vol 2 is a cross-reference between every verse of the Passion and the page in which it is analyzed. The only people who will be disappointed in this book are Bible literalists and John Dominic Crossan. Crossan really comes in for well-deserved criticism in volume 2, especially in Brown's analysis of the Gospel of Peter. Brown finds Bible criticism that does not admit the possibility that Jesus had extra-human powers to be foolishly limiting (which indicts Crossan), but is flexible enough to acknowledge that some Biblical stories, like Matthew's report of the dead rising from their graves upon Jesus' death, are not historically true. I guess the other group who will not be happy will be fans of Luke's gospel. Although he never explicitly criticizes it, one gets the feeling Fr. Brown found Luke too wishy-washy for his tastes. Finally, was there a better non-fiction stylist of the English language than Father Brown? His ability to take an extremely complicated subject, with multiple viewpoints, and present a coherent exposition of his understanding was rarely equalled. His stylistic tools should be studied as models of clarity in any field, not just theology. So if you are looking for a good Bible study of the Passion sequence, start here. There are so many footnotes here that, even if you disagree with Brown, he had already provided you with the reference to support your belief. 16 of 16 people found the following review helpful. THE BOOK on the Death of Jesus Christ By Brian Wallace I used this book extensively in an exegesis paper on Luke's account of the Death of Jesus that I wrote this term. There is no book like it - and you want to own it. In paperback this book is a complete steal. Brown was a serious higher-critical scholar. If you're looking for something that avoids some of the difficult aspects of the crucifixion accounts (notably variations in the accounts) this is probably not the book for you. But if you're looking for seriously scholarly analysis of the crucifixion accounts then you can do no better. While individual commentaries on the four Gospels do offer some advantages, this book is second to none when it comes to comparing the accounts as well as Brown's insight into why the author might have recorded the story as he did. There are two key aspects that make this book as strong as it is. 1) Despite his higher-critical method, Brown's faith comes through constantly. This is not a person out to dispel and destroy the Gospel accounts. Rather, this is the work of Christian scholar who takes the text to be his authority. 2) Brown avoids heavy use of technical language and lots of Greek. Although not a light read, knowledge of Greek and/or a seminary education is not necessary to make use of this book. If you want to read about the Passion of our Lord, this and volume 1 are it.

No further information has been provided for this title.

About the Author Over his illustrious career, Raymond E. Brown, S.S., Ph.D., was internationally regarded as a dean of New Testament scholars. He was Auburn Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biblical Studies at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, received over thirty honorary degrees from Catholic and Protestant universities worldwide, and was elected a (Corresponding) Fellow of the British Academy and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In addition to serving as president of the Society of Biblical Literature, the Catholic Biblical Association, and the Society of New Testament Studies, two popes appointed Father Brown as the sole American on the Pontifical Biblical Commission. Some of the best known of his more than thirty-five books on the Bible are three volumes in the Anchor Bible series on the Gospel and Epistles of John, as well as the Anchor Bible Reference Library volumes *The Birth of the Messiah*, *The Death of the Messiah*, and *An Introduction to the New Testament*, winner of the 1998 Catholic Press Association Award for Biblical Studies. Father Brown's untimely death on August 8, 1998, saddened all who knew him.