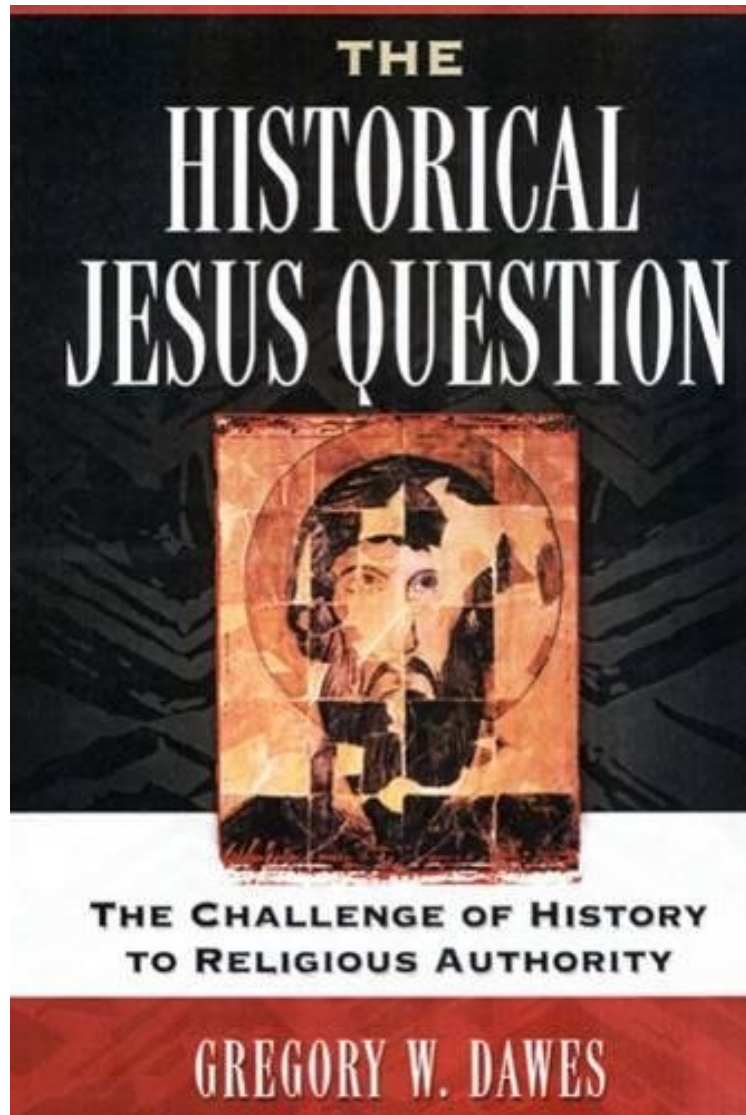


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The Historical Jesus Question: The Challenge of History to Religious Authority

Gregory W. Dawes

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for exploring the subject of Jesus and biblical/christian faith in relation to historical matters, concerns, meaning and methodology of inquiry. Is the Jesus of the gospels myth? what is the meaning/significance of Jesus and does the meaning of Jesus have relevance to history beyond his own time and place? what about the impact of the enlightenment on issues of religion and faith in relation to the subject of Jesus and Christian theology? what are some of the ways that these questions have been approached by historians, scholars, theologians and philosophers and how have they been raised and or answered? what kind of reflective thoughts can be drawn from it all ?this book takes a look at some of the key developments in the rise of the enlightenment and how those have impacted thinking and approaches in biblical studies, especially with the area of Jesus and historical concerns and methods of inquiry, and it explores some of the key thinkers and their thoughts that have wrestled with these issues since the time of the enlightenment and on up to current times. this is not an apologetics book and it is not a Jesus bashing book either. it is just an honest reporting of how these sorts of things have been dealt with by some of the well known, formative and pivotal thinkers in this field such as Spinoza, Schweitzer, Troeltsch, Barth, Bultmann, Strauss, Kasemann, Pannenberg. this book takes a look at some of the key developments in the rise of the enlightenment and how those have impacted thinking and approaches in biblical studies, especially with the area of Jesus and historical concerns and methods of inquiry.

A natural sequel to *The Historical Jesus Quest*, *The Historical Jesus Question* offers commentary on the work and significance of the classic writers presented in the earlier volume--Spinoza, Strauss, Schweitzer, Troeltsch, Bultmann, Kasemann--and some additional comment on the work of Pannenberg. Not merely a summary discussion of these important writers, this book goes beyond to follow the implications for theology of the ongoing challenge history presents to biblical authority.

About the Author Gregory W. Dawes is Associate Professor of Religion and Philosophy at the University of Otago in New Zealand. He is the editor of *The Historical Jesus Quest: Landmarks in the Search for the Jesus of History*.