



# James Through the Centuries

By David Gowler

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This unique reception history of the Epistle of James is a prominent addition to the Blackwell Bible Commentaries series. Written by an outstanding New Testament specialist, it chronicles the major theological, political, and aesthetic responses to the text over the centuries, and to James as a historical figure.

- Surveys the many theological, cultural, literary, political, and artistic uses of the Epistle of James, and the broader influence his letters have had throughout the ages
- Includes extensive excerpts offering vital historiographical context
- Examines James's impact on popular culture, including examples such as Charles Schulz's Peanuts
- Unearths a range of neglected writings and opens access to material not readily available elsewhere

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## James Through the Centuries By David Gowler Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Review

This commentary draws on a rich and wide diversity of sources embracing scholarly and academic studies; ancient, medieval, and modern writings; theological and secular works; learned texts and devotional hymns; and sermons and resources from popular culture. A polyphony of voices and images provides a rich array of insights into the epistle, from those that have dominated the discussion over the centuries to many marginalized and some previously unpublished sources . . . .

Seldom has a scholarly work given me so much pleasure and provided me with such a rich source of material to which I can return frequently.

- *Catholic Biblical Commentary*

"...This commentary offers a fascinating read of the multifarious ways in which James has been interpreted and appropriated through the centuries." - Review & Expositor

### Review

"Gowler's commentary locates James not only at various intersections in the history of learned commentary, from Chrysostom to Kirkegaard, but even more richly in the history of icons, mediaeval woodcuts and other artistic representations, in monastic rules, hymnody, literature, political polemics, and much more. This is a breathtaking survey of the ways, both overt and subtle, that James has become embedded in multiple aspects of Western culture."

—*John S Kloppenborg, University of Toronto*

"In an engaging manner, David Gowler tells the story of the reception of the letter of James through the centuries. Along the way we meet an eclectic group of interpreters, some well-known and others not. The result is that we learn not only about how James was read in scholarly circles, but also among the more marginal, outside of the academy. Such a story is indeed a tribute to the letter of James."

—*Alicia Batten, Conrad Grebel University College at University of Waterloo*

### From the Back Cover

This unique commentary on James by an outstanding New Testament specialist, provides a broad range of original perspectives of how people have interpreted, and been influenced by, this important epistle.

The author explores a vast array of interpretations extending far beyond theological commentary, sermons, and hymns, which also embraces the epistle's influences on literature, art, politics, and social theory. The work includes examples of how successive generations have portrayed the historical figure of James the Just, in both pictorial and textual form. Contextualizing his analysis with excerpts from key documents, including visual and artistic representations of James, the author reviews the dynamic interactions between the James and Jesus traditions and compares James's epistle with those of Paul. The volume highlights James's particular concern for the poor and marginalized, charting the many responses to this aspect of his legacy. Drawing on sources as varied as William Shakespeare, John Calvin, Charles Schultz's *Peanuts*, and political cartoons, this is an exhaustive study of the theological and cultural debates sparked by the Epistle of James.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Shanika Jeans:**

Have you spare time to get a day? What do you do when you have much more or little spare time? Yes, you can choose the suitable activity to get spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to the actual Mall. How about open or maybe read a book titled James Through the Centuries? Maybe it is to get best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can better than before. Do you agree with its opinion or you have different opinion?

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#### **Ryan Maggard:**

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