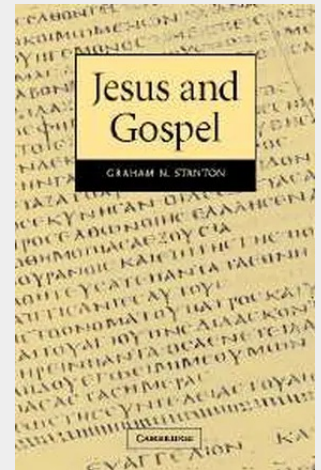


Jesus and Gospel

'Gospel' initially referred to oral proclamation concerning Jesus Christ, but was later used to refer to four written accounts of the life of Jesus. How did this happen? Here, distinguished scholar Graham Stanton uses new evidence and fresh perspectives to tackle this controversial question. He insists that in the early post-Easter period, the Gospel of Jesus Christ was heard against the backdrop of a rival set of 'gospels' concerning the Roman emperors. In later chapters Stanton examines the earliest criticisms of Jesus and of claims concerning his resurrection. Finally, he discusses the early Christian addiction to the codex (book) format as opposed to the ubiquitous roll, and undermines the view that early copies of the Gospels were viewed as downmarket handbooks of an inward looking sect. With half the material previously unpublished and the rest carefully gathered from sources difficult to access, this is a timely study with broad appeal.

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66,20 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780521810326

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-521-81032-6

Verlag: Cambridge University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 27.07.2015

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2015

Produktform: Gebunden

Gewicht: 453 g

Seiten: 252

Format (B x H): 145 x 222 mm

