







Preface

The *IVP Dictionary of the New Testament* is a one-volume compilation of essential articles found in a series of dictionaries published by InterVarsity Press: *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*, *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments* and *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Otherwise known in the trade as IVP's "Black Dictionary" series, from their black dust jackets, this series has proven its worth since the first volume was published in 1992. Each volume has won the Gold Medallion Book Award annually presented by the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association for biblical or theological reference books. At the time of this writing translations of individual volumes are completed or underway in several languages, including French, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese and Korean. This series, in its own quiet way, is having a worldwide impact.



The selection of articles in this volume has been made with students and the classroom in mind, though it is expected that others who have not collected the series—including those engaged in ministry—will find it a valuable addition to their libraries. For the most part, the articles appear in the same form as in their dictionary of origin. It is important to note that this volume is *not* a condensation—a sort of *Reader's Digest* version—of the four-volume New Testament dictionary series. Such an approach would have done violence to most of the articles and defeated the original vision of the series, which was to provide encyclopedia-length articles that engage their topics with greater depth than a one-volume Bible dictionary can afford. As we approached the editing of each volume in the series, our rule of thumb was that if a one-volume Bible dictionary article would handle a topic sufficiently, there was probably no need to include that topic. We would stick with the major topics but offer "more"—more depth, more detail, more specialized scholarship, more bibliography, etc. In many cases the articles were written by scholars who are specialists in their topic(s) rather than by generalists. In some cases we were granted previews of important work in progress, and several articles have come to be regarded as authoritative epitomes (in the ancient Greek sense) of published research on their topic.

A few editorial changes are, however, worth noting. Where they are not integral to the text of an article, foreign language works have generally been deleted from bibliographies (it is assumed that most readers of this volume will not have access to these works anyway). On the other hand, important recent works have frequently been added to the bibliographies, particularly commentaries in those articles focusing on the individual New Testament documents. In their original form, topical articles taken from



the *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments* also cover the apostolic fathers. However, unless the postapostolic perspective is integral to the discussion, it has not been included in this volume.

Over the years of producing these volumes the editor has joined many others who have used these dictionaries as teaching tools in seminary and undergraduate classrooms. We have found students to be remarkably appreciative of the series. But there are many contexts where assigning the three or four volumes is out of the question, even in a curriculum in which more than one term is devoted to New Testament introduction. And in undergraduate contexts, a full-scale use of the series has been nearly prohibitive (though some have valiantly attempted). Over the years we have heard requests for a one-volume edition that would offer the most essential articles. We agreed that it was a good idea, one that would serve students as well as extend the vision of the series. We have tried to fill that need with this volume.

However, the task of deciding which articles are the most essential was not as easy as it first seemed. We began by envisioning a course in New Testament introduction. Obviously we would include the articles on the New Testament documents themselves. Then the most salient theological topics would be included—christology, God, Holy Spirit, baptism, Lord's Supper, death of Christ, resurrection, eschatology, etc. But where should we stop when already we were rapidly approaching our targeted length? We could not leave out articles on the literary genres of the New Testament and important areas of New Testament background. A long "wish list" was painfully whittled down with the help of others who have used the volumes in teaching. But ultimately the decisions rested with the editor to work out a compromise between the demands of the subject and the space limitations imposed on the project. And even at the eleventh editorial hour, there was a Last Judgment, with numerous articles being sent away with weeping and gnashing of teeth—on the part of the judge and his court! There is some consolation in knowing that no two editors would have come up with the same solution. So many excellent articles, including some personal favorites, had to be left out.

One feature may help offset this editorial tension and remorse. At the end of articles, and in addition to those "See also" references to articles within the volume, we have placed crossreferences to relevant articles that have not been included in this volume. These crossreferences are typically made only to the source volume of a given article (i.e., if an article came from the *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*, the crossreferences will be to other relevant articles in the *DJG*). This feature is intended to provide a service to both curious students and their demanding professors. It also suggests the value of readers eventually graduating up to the full four-volume series.

Articles on the same topic from different dictionaries (e.g., kingdom of God in the Gospels, Paul and the later New Testament) are generally presented separately and in canonical order, with the main title followed by the numerals I, II and III, and a subtitle indicating the scope of literature covered. In a handful of cases such articles have

been combined, but this approach was not practical or even desirable across the board. For one thing, the variety of contributors and viewpoints are sometimes in tension with—even critical of—each other. While these multiple points of view are an enriching feature of the series and of this volume, it seemed like editorial mischief to meld them into one article here.

For those who are new to the field of New Testament studies, a glossary of terms has been included at the end of the book, with definitions mostly derived from Arthur G. Patzia and Anthony J. Petrotta's *Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies* (IVP). This little “dictionary within the dictionary” will assist students who are newly immersing themselves in the strange world and vocabulary of New Testament studies.

Working through this material yet again has been a reminder of the extensive collaborative and sacrificial contribution of numerous scholars to this dictionary series as well as the long-suffering labors of the eight editors who steered each volume to its publication. These scholars have poured far more time and labor into their research and writing than most popular writers would venture to guess or care to endure. With high teaching and administrative loads, many scholars find writing and editing forced into the margins of their days and weeks and careers, and the monetary rewards of this labor are nothing to envy. And yet, like alpine guides leading their clients to the view from the summit, those who are called to teaching and research do find rich reward in introducing a wider audience to the fascinating world they are privileged professionally to inhabit—the text, the world and the message of the New Testament. And while this extended classroom does not usually allow teachers those moments of gratification when students' eyes brighten with curiosity and understanding, the reports uniformly affirm that it is happening day by day. With the hope and prayer that this quiet transaction will be extended and broadened, we send this repackaging of their work back into the world.

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