THE PSALMS OF LAMENT IN MARK’S PASSION

Stephen Ahearne-Kroll examines the literary interaction between the Gospel of Mark’s passion narrative and four Psalms of individual Lament evoked in it. These four psalms depict a David who challenges God’s role in his suffering, who searches for understanding of his suffering in light of his past relationship with God, and who attempts to shame God into acting on his behalf only because he is suffering. Because Mark alludes to these psalms in reference to Jesus, David’s concerns become woven into the depiction of Jesus in Mark. Reading David’s challenge to God as part of Jesus’ going “as it is written of him” (i.e., suffering and dying according to scripture; Mark 14:21) calls into question the necessity for Jesus’ death within an apocalyptic framework of meaning. Finally, the suffering king David offers a more appropriate model for Jesus’ suffering in Mark than that of the servant from Deutero-Isaiah.

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The Psalms of Lament in Mark’s Passion
Jesus’ Davidic Suffering

STEPHEN P. AHEARNE-KROLL
Much of my perspective on suffering was formed from a very early age by the suffering of my father, whose life embodied endurance in the hope of salvation.

To him I dedicate this work.

Walter J. Kroll
1919–2004
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I wish to thank my professors and teachers over the course of my education in theology and religious studies, beginning in 1993, whose dedication and passion for the subject inspired me to continue in my work. John R. Donahue, S. J. initially inspired me to study the Gospel of Mark, and his friendship and encouragement over the years have helped me to grow in many ways. Donald Gelpi, S. J. showed great confidence in my abilities long before I had much of either, and his theological perspective continues to feed me. I would also like to thank Harold W. Attridge of Yale Divinity School for his sage advice in many areas of my academic and personal life, and for his and Jan’s incredible generosity.

The members of my dissertation committee worked with care and dedication in order to sharpen my thought and clarity of presentation. I could not ask for a better team of scholars to advise me in my work. I would like to thank William Schweiker of the University of Chicago Divinity School for the many times he helped me to clarify my muddled thoughts in ways that pushed me to go to a deeper level of insight than I had realized possible. I would like to thank Hans-Josef Klauck, also of the University of Chicago Divinity School, not only for his ongoing interest in my work, but also for his professionalism and integrity in the midst of many trying situations. His support has cleared a path for me where there was none. And my thanks especially go out to Adela Yarbro Collins of Yale Divinity School, who has been an integral part of my doctoral work from its beginning. For her careful reading of my work over the years, for her openness to my ideas, and for sticking by me from beginning to end, I will be always grateful.

I would like to thank the members of the SNTS Monograph Series editorial team, most especially for John M. Court, for supporting this project and facilitating the process of this manuscript becoming a book in a very efficient manner, and Kate Brett for her professional and responsive editing oversight. I would also like to thank Allen Georgia, a student at...
Acknowledgments

Methodist Theological School in Ohio, for toiling many hours to prepare the index.

I would like to pass on special thanks to my wife’s parents, John and Barbara Ahearne, who have been unconditionally supportive in every way, and to my mother, Barbara Kroll, who gave me life and believed in me from the beginning.

Finally, none of this would be possible if not for the presence of my wife, Pat, whose own scholarship continues to help me grow in mine and whose integrity, sense of humor, passion, and sense of beauty makes all those around her better people. I send my thanks and love to her always.
ABBREVIATIONS

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