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978-0-521-50962-6 - Geography and the Ascension Narrative in Acts

Matthew Sleeman

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GEOGRAPHY AND THE ASCENSION NARRATIVE IN ACTS

The book of Acts contains a strong geographical component. Yet readings of Acts typically ignore or marginalise geography's contribution to the construction of the narrative's theology. In this book Matthew Sleeman argues that Jesus' ascension into heaven is foundational for establishing the 'spatiality' of Acts, showing that the narrative's understanding of place and space is shaped decisively by Christ's heavenly location. Drawing on recent advances in geographical theory, Sleeman offers a 'spatial' interpretation that expands our vision of how space and place inform the theological impulses of Acts. Presenting a complement to conventional 'temporal' readings of Acts, he sheds new light on the theology of the book, and suggests new ways of reading not only Acts but also other New Testament texts.

Sleeman's work combines innovative biblical scholarship with accessible and informative geographical analysis, and is suitable for those with research and teaching interests in human geography or biblical studies.

MATTHEW SLEEMAN is Lecturer in New Testament and Greek at Oak Hill Theological College, London.

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For Karen, and our children:
Phoebe, David, Thomas and Tabitha

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