CHRISTOLOGY AND DISCIPLESHIP IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK

Exploring the interrelated topics of Christology and discipleship within the apocalyptic context of Mark’s gospel, Henderson focuses on six passages: Mark 1:16–20; 3:13–15; 4:1–34; 6:7–13; 6:32–44; 6:45–52. Together, these passages indicate that the disciples failed to understand not just Jesus’ messianic identity per se but the apocalyptic nature of his messiahship, as well as its implications for their own participation in God’s coming reign.

The implications of this for Mark’s gospel as a whole are to situate Mark’s Christological claims within the broader context of the apocalyptic “gospel of God.” This lends coherence to Mark’s bifocal interest in miracle and passion. It also illuminates the relationship between Mark’s Jesus and his followers as those who carry forward his own mission: to demonstrate the coming kingdom of God, which is fully assured if not yet fully in view.

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To my father
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This book represents the culmination of a project begun some fifteen years ago during my Masters of Divinity program at Princeton Theological Seminary. There, in my final semester, I enjoyed the privilege of participating in a doctoral seminar on Mark’s gospel led by Professor Joel Marcus. My seminar paper for that course addressed the topic of the disciples’ incomprehension.

Nearly a decade after finishing at Princeton I enrolled in the doctoral studies program at Duke, still convinced there was more work to be done on the topic of the Markan disciples. By God’s providence – or sheer good fortune – Professor Marcus joined the faculty at Duke just in time to supervise my dissertation. In the meantime he had completed his Anchor Bible commentary on Mark 1–8, which along with his earlier writings proved invaluable for my grounding of discipleship in the soil of apocalyptic thought.

The abnormally lengthy gestation period of this work has benefited from the cumulative wisdom of innumerable friends and colleagues, terms that apply equally to those I name here. To begin with, my gratitude to Professor Marcus simply could not be more profound. His example of rigorous scholarship and his free-flowing red ink have strengthened my work immeasurably; his profound kindness, persistent encouragement, and refreshing good humor have strengthened my soul even more. My thanks go also to Richard B. Hays, E. P. Sanders, and James L. Crenshaw – the other members of my dissertation committee whose careful reading and constructive feedback have contributed significantly to this work.

I also wish to thank those who have shared my journey at Duke. The Graduate Program in Religion has offered an abundantly hospitable and collegial setting for my studies. I am most grateful for the other students and faculty whose gifts of friendship and vigorous conversation have made my days in Durham so invigorating. The New Testament & Judaic Studies Colloquium provided a helpful forum for the discussion of much of chapter 2. In particular, Rick Stone has shared not only commuting
expenses but also keen exegetical insights that have bolstered my arguments at every turn. Rick is this book’s “sous chef,” and words cannot express my gratitude for his vast contribution to this effort. In addition, Dustin Ellington, now at the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Cairo, Egypt, has read and responded to much of the work contained here with characteristic depth and sensitivity. Along the way, my community of faith, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, has served as a living example of the ideals of discipleship presented in this book.

Institutionally, I would like to thank the administration, faculty, and students of Salem College, where I now teach Religion, for an environment that has supported this publication effort. Thanks also go to Father Michael McGarry and the staff at Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem for the gift of time and space to complete the book’s index during my stay as Scholar-in-Residence. My editorial contacts at Cambridge University Press, Kate Brett, Jackie Warren, and Jan Chapman, have dealt most graciously with me, as I navigate this process for the first time.

Finally, my husband Bob and our children Abbie, Hannah, and Will have provided the foundation of unqualified love and enthusiastic support that makes a sustained effort such as this possible. They have tolerated my frequent disappearance to the computer screen with patient grace. They are truly God’s greatest gift to me.

Five years ago today my father, Thomas Ellington Watts, Jr., lost a valiant fight against cancer. Though he did not live to see the completion of this project, he was its greatest inspiration, and it is to him that I dedicate this book. The power of his unfailing love has outlasted his life on this earth; his reach does indeed exceed his grasp. May he rest from his labors.
ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>Anchor Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACNT</td>
<td>Augsburg Commentary on the New Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AnBib</td>
<td>Analecta biblica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATANT</td>
<td>Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>Babylonian Talmud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAGD</td>
<td>Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, and Danker, A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BETL</td>
<td>Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicarum lovaniensium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BHT</td>
<td>Beiträge zur historischen Theologie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bib</td>
<td>Biblica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BibInt</td>
<td>Biblical Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BibLeb</td>
<td>Bibel und Leben</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNTC</td>
<td>Black’s New Testament Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BZ</td>
<td>Biblische Zeitschrift</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BZNW</td>
<td>Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBQ</td>
<td>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBQMS</td>
<td>Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CGTC</td>
<td>Cambridge Greek Testament Commentaries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EKKNT</td>
<td>Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETL</td>
<td>Ephemeredes theologicae lovanienses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EvQ</td>
<td>Evangelical Quarterly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EvT</td>
<td>Evangelische Theologie</td>
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<tr>
<td>ExpT</td>
<td>Expository Times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNT</td>
<td>Handbuch zum Neuen Testament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HTKNT</td>
<td>Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTR</td>
<td>Harvard Theological Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Int</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
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List of abbreviations

IRTI Issues in Religion and Theology
JAAR Journal of the American Academy of Religion
JBL Journal of Biblical Literature
JJS Journal of Jewish Studies
JR Journal of Religion
JSNT Journal for the Study of the New Testament
JSNTSup Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series
JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
JSSSup Journal of Semitic Studies Supplement Series
JTS Journal of Theological Studies
LEC Library of Early Christianity
LSJ Liddell, Scott, and Jones, A Greek–English Lexicon with a Supplement
LQ Lutheran Quarterly
LXX Septuagint
m. Mishnah
MT Masoretic text
NICNT New International Commentary on the New Testament
NovT Novum Testamentum
NTS New Testament Studies
OG Old Greek version of the Septuagint
OT Old Testament
PC Proclamation Commentaries
QL Qumran literature
RB Revue biblique
RNTS Reading the New Testament Series
SANT Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
SBB Stuttgarter biblische Beiträge
SBLDS Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBM Stuttgarter biblische Monographien
SBT Studies in Biblical Theology
SNTSMS Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SNTW Studies in the New Testament and Its World
t. Tosefta
TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament
THKNT Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament
TZ Theologische Zeitschrift
WBC Word Biblical Commentary
List of abbreviations

WUNT  Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament

ZAW  Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft

ZNW  Zeitschrift für die neustamentliche Wissenschaft

ZTK  Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche