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0521018900 - Eschatology in the Making: Mark, Matthew and the Didache

Vicky Balabanski

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If the expectations of the early church concerning the return of Christ and the End of the World were disappointed, the magnitude of the disappointment and the form in which it was expressed do not seem to fit with the expectations of modern scholars. This study questions both the idea that the delay of Christ's return – the parousia – was the primary factor shaping the development of eschatological expectation in the early church, and the linearity of the models used to understand the development of early Christian eschatology. Vicky Balabanski argues that Matthew's Gospel shows a more imminent expectation than Mark's, and that there were fluctuations in eschatological expectation caused by factors within these early communities and those of the Didache. She traces these fluctuations and offers some new interpretative keys to Mark 13, Matthew 24 and 25 and Didache 16, as well as some vivid and original historical reconstructions.

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Mark, Matthew and the Didache

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Radi and Helene Balabanski

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PREFACE

This study is a revised version of my doctoral thesis which was submitted to the University of Melbourne in February 1993, a week before I took up my lecturing responsibilities at Parkin-Wesley College, South Australia, and some eight weeks before the birth of my second child. I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to my supervisors, examiners, colleagues and, not least, to my family for enabling both the study itself to come to fruition, and the present revision to be undertaken.

It was with the encouragement of my supervisors Professor Frank Moloney and Dr Geoff Jenkins that I embarked on this project after the completion of my honours degrees in Arts and Theology. I am most grateful for their guidance, insightful criticisms and confidence in me. The choice of this area of studies came about through my fascination with the Gospels and a sense that the shape of the earliest Christianities was much more diverse than meets the eye. My studies took me to Göttingen, Germany, where I particularly appreciated the stimulation of the 1987 SNTS Conference. In 1987/88 I spent five months in Jerusalem, studying in the fine library of the Ecole Biblique et Archéologique Française, supported by a Robert Maddox Award. My thanks in this period are due particularly to the late Revd Dr Gilbert Sinden SSM and Revd Tom Brown SSM who welcomed my husband and me into their home for the duration of our stay in Jerusalem and offered us insight into the Holy Land. In 1988/9 a Swiss Government Scholarship enabled me to pursue my studies in Berne, Switzerland, under the very capable and gracious supervision of Revd Professor Ulrich Luz. It was there that the present study took shape, and I am particularly grateful to Professor Luz and to the Revd Isabelle Noth for their encouragement, insight and friendship.

On returning to Melbourne with our daughter Anna only a few weeks old, it took another three and a half years to complete the

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study. Towards the end of that period, and expecting our daughter Laura, I took up a lectureship in New Testament at Parkin-Wesley College. I am very grateful to my colleagues for their unfailing support, and to the College Council for enabling this period of study leave in Jerusalem.

The thesis was examined by Professors Graham Stanton and Jerome Murphy O'Connor, for whose encouraging and helpful comments I am very grateful. My thanks are also due to Dr Margaret Thrall, former General Editor of the SNTS Monograph Series, whose perceptive criticisms have brought about many improvements to this book.

My final acknowledgement is to the incalculable contribution of my family. Anna and Laura have helped me focus my energies, and have kept me firmly anchored to the joys and challenges of life. My sister, Dr Joanna Barlow, read the manuscripts and offered every encouragement along the way. And most gratitude of all is due to my husband, Peter, without whose support, patience and practical assistance this study would not have been written. I dedicate this book to my parents, who both died while I was still a child, but whose mark is tangible in all that I do.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND NOTE ON TEXTS

All abbreviations conform to the standard set out in the ‘Instructions for Contributors’, *Journal of Biblical Literature* 107/3 (1988), 579–96. This covers periodicals, reference works, serials, and names of biblical and other ancient writings. Where titles occur that are not covered in that article, I write them out in full. I have also followed its guidelines for transliteration of ancient languages. All citations from the Bible in English are from the New Revised Standard Version except where stated otherwise.

AB	Anchor Bible
AnBib	Analecta Biblica
AusBR	Australian Biblical Review
BAGD	W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker, <i>Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament</i>
BDR	F. Blass, A. Debrunner, and F. Rehkopf, <i>Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch</i>
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
BGBE	Beiträge zur Geschichte der biblischen Exegese
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibLeb</i>	<i>Bibel und Leben</i>
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
<i>BR</i>	<i>Biblical Research</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
ConBNT	Coniectanea Biblica, New Testament
EKKNT	Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae</i>

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<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>EWNT</i>	H. Balz and G. Schneider, eds., <i>Exegetisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ExpTim</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
HSS	Harvard Semitic Studies
HTKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
JAC	Jahrbuch für Antike und Christentum
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JR</i>	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
<i>JRelS</i>	<i>Journal of Religious Studies</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>LB</i>	<i>Linguistica Biblica</i>
LSJ	Liddell–Scott–Jones, <i>Greek–English Lexicon</i>
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NTAbh	Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen
NTF	Neutestamentliche Forschungen
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
ÖBS	Österreichische biblische Studien
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
<i>PG</i>	J. Migne, <i>Patrologia Graeca</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RelSRev</i>	<i>Religious Studies Review</i>
<i>ResQ</i>	<i>Restoration Quarterly</i>
<i>RQ</i>	<i>Römische Quartalschrift für christliche Altertumskunde und Kirchengeschichte</i>
<i>RSR</i>	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series

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<i>SE</i>	<i>Studia Evangelica</i>
<i>SEÅ</i>	<i>Svensk exegetisk årsbok</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia theologica</i>
<i>StPatr</i>	<i>Studia Patristica</i>
StudBib	Studia Biblica
<i>Tbl</i>	<i>Theologische Blätter</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, eds., <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
<i>TF</i>	<i>Theologische Forschung</i>
THKNT	Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>TLZ</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>TTZ</i>	<i>Trierer theologische Zeitschrift</i>
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen
<i>TynB</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>UBSGNT</i>	United Bible Societies <i>Greek New Testament</i>
<i>USQR</i>	<i>Union Seminary Quarterly Review</i>
<i>Vcaro</i>	<i>Verbum caro</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZST</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für systematische Theologie</i>