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978-0-521-09022-3 - The Bridegroom Messiah and the People of God: Marriage in the Fourth Gospel

Jocelyn McWhirter

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Many interpreters of the Fourth Gospel detect allusions to biblical texts about marriage, but none offers a comprehensive analysis of these proposed allusions or a convincing explanation for their presence. Building on the work of Richard Hays and Donald Juel, Jocelyn McWhirter argues that John alludes to biblical texts about marriage in order to develop a metaphor for Jesus and how he relates to his followers. These texts seem to have been interpreted as messianic prophecies, and applied by John to events in Jesus' life and death. McWhirter shows how verbal parallels link John's evoked marriage texts to Psalm 45 about God's anointed king. Messianic interpretation of these texts allows John to use them in portraying Jesus as a bridegroom-Messiah and depicting Jesus' relationship with his followers in terms of marriage.

JOCELYN MCWHIRTER is an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Albion College in Albion, Michigan. This is her first book.

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For Jamie and Teddy

τέκνα θεοῦ

and in memory of Donald Juel

μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες

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ABBREVIATIONS

1Q28b	<i>Rule of the Blessings</i>
2 Bar	<i>2 Baruch</i>
4 Kgdms	4 Kingdoms
4QCant ^{a-c}	<i>4QCanticles^{a-c}</i>
4QComm- Cant	<i>Commentary on Canticles</i>
4QFlor	<i>Florilegium</i>
4Qpls ^a	<i>Isaiah Pesher^a</i>
6QCant	<i>6QCanticles</i>
11QPs ^a	<i>Psalms Scroll^a</i>
AB	Anchor Bible
'Abot	'Abot R. Nathan
R. Nat.	
ACW	Ancient Christian Writers
AnBib	Analecta biblica
Ant.	<i>Jewish Antiquities</i> (Josephus)
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
Bar	Baruch
BDAG	Bauer, W., F. W. Danker, W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich. <i>Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> 3rd edn. Chicago, 1999
BDF	Blass, F., A. Debrunner, and R. W. Funk. <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> Chicago, 1961
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
BFCT	Beiträge zur Förderung christlicher Theologie
BGBE	Beiträge zur Geschichte der biblischen Exegese
BHS	<i>Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia</i> . Edited by Karl Ellinger and Wilhelm Rudolph. Stuttgart, 1983

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<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
<i>BSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca sacra</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BVC	Bible et vie chrétienne
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft
<i>CB</i>	<i>Cultura biblica</i>
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CGTSC	Cambridge Greek Testament for Schools and Colleges
<i>Comm.</i>	<i>Commentarius in Canticum</i> (Origen)
<i>Cant.</i>	
ConBNT	Coniectanea biblica: New Testament Series
CRINT	Compendia rerum iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum
<i>Dial.</i>	<i>Dialogue with Trypho</i> (Justin)
<i>DRev</i>	<i>Downside Review</i>
<i>Ebib</i>	<i>Etudes bibliques</i>
<i>EgT</i>	<i>Eglise et Théologie</i>
<i>EvJ</i>	<i>Evangelical Journal</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
FC	Fathers of the Church
GCS	Die griechische christliche Schriftsteller der ersten drei Jahrhunderte
<i>HBT</i>	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
<i>HeyJ</i>	<i>Heythrop Journal</i>
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
<i>Hom. Cant.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Canticum</i> (Origen)
<i>Hom. Gen.</i>	<i>Homiliae in Genesim</i> (Origen)
HTS	Harvard Theological Studies
HUCM	Monographs of the Hebrew Union College
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
<i>ITQ</i>	<i>Irish Theological Quarterly</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>

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JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
LXX	Septuagint
MT	Masoretic Text
<i>m. Yad.</i>	<i>Mishnah Yadayim</i>
NA ²⁷	<i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> , Nestle-Aland, 27th edn.
NCB	New Century Bible
<i>NeoT</i>	<i>Neotestamentica</i>
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIV	New International Version
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplements
<i>NPNF</i> ¹	<i>Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers</i> , Series 1
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NT	New Testament
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>Odes Sol.</i>	<i>Odes of Solomon</i>
<i>OTP</i>	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> . Edited by J. H. Charlesworth. 2 vols. New York, 1983
PL	Patrologia latina. Edited by J.-P. Migne. 217 vols. Paris, 1844–64
<i>Pss. Sol.</i>	<i>Psalms of Solomon</i>
PTMS	Pittsburgh Theological Monograph Series
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RSR</i>	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
<i>RThom</i>	<i>Revue Thomiste</i>
<i>RUO</i>	<i>Revue de l'université d'Ottawa</i>
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLSymS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
ScrHier	Scripta hierosolymitana
SJLA	Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNT	Studien zum Neuen Testament
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
SP	Sacra pagina
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
StABH	Studies in American Biblical Hermeneutics

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<i>TBT</i>	<i>The Bible Today</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Edited by G. Kittel and G. Friedrich. Translated by G. W. Bromiley. 10 vols. Grand Rapids, 1964–76
<i>ThTo</i>	<i>Theology Today</i>
<i>T. Jud.</i>	<i>Testament of Judah</i>
<i>T. Lev.</i>	<i>Testament of Levi</i>
<i>TNTC</i>	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
<i>Tract. Ev.</i>	<i>In Evangelium Johannis tractatus</i>
<i>Jo.</i>	
<i>TS</i>	<i>Theological Studies</i>
<i>TSAJ</i>	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
<i>t. Sanh.</i>	<i>Tosefta Sanhedrin</i>
<i>VTSup</i>	Vetus Testamentum Supplements
<i>WUNT</i>	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>