Refuting the allegation that the author of Luke–Acts showed no systematic thought about the significance of Jesus’ death, this study affirms that Luke had a coherent theologia crucis. Peter Doble focuses sharply on the Gospel’s death scene and explores those features which appear in Luke alone, then extends the exploration into the longer account of Jesus’ final days in Jerusalem.

The three Lukian features are first, that the centurion calls Jesus ‘dikaios’ rather than the ‘Son of God’ of Mark and Matthew; Doble examines Luke’s use of the word in his Gospel and in Acts, and shows that its presence and force come from the Wisdom of Solomon. Second, in Luke, Jesus’ final word from the cross, different from that in Mark and Matthew, belongs to the same Wisdom model. Third, the centurion in Luke, seeing the manner of Jesus’ death, is said to have ‘glorified God’, and this is shown to be a Lukian verbal signal which appears whenever the evangelist wants to show that an element in the salvation programme has been fulfilled.

In the final section Doble demonstrates how specific words and patterns from Wisdom shape and fill Luke’s retelling of the story of Jesus’ entrapment, trials and death. Luke wanted his readers to understand that what had happened to Jesus was not a humiliating rejection but in accord with scripture’s presentation of God’s plan, and issued in the paradox of his salvation.
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THE PARADOX OF SALVATION
The paradox of salvation

Luke’s theology of the cross

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ὁ θεὸς ἐκτίσεν τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἐπʼ ἀφθαρσίᾳ καὶ εἰκόνα τῆς ἰδίας ἁπαθότητος ἐποίησεν αὐτὸν
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PREFACE

This monograph is a revision of a thesis sustained in the University of Leeds in 1992; parts I and III have been substantially rewritten to take up some implications of the earlier work; part II, the heart of the argument, has been much shortened, so that its accent now falls on Luke’s composition rather than on his redaction of sources. In part III, chapter 7 develops an earlier detached note into a fuller treatment of echoes of Wisdom in Luke’s narrative of Jesus’ passion, while chapter 8 reflects on ways in which the preceding chapters point to Luke’s theology of the cross.

Many people have supported the writing of this book: my thanks are most particularly due to Dr J. Keith Elliott, who proved an ideal supervisor; to Professor I. Howard Marshall, Dr Margaret Thrall, the Monograph Series editor, and to the anonymous reader, all of whom offered detailed comment on this work in ways which disclosed much about the generous yet rigorous spirit of our discipline. Two friends have been particularly helpful: Mary Hayward, a colleague for fourteen years, not only first prompted the writing of the thesis, but, during its emergence and during that of this book, generously encouraged and practically supported both, reading and commenting on successive drafts; Dr W.H. Burns marked forty years of friendship by reading, discussing and commenting on much of this work. Sandra Huxley was an admirable librarian, swiftly producing innumerable articles and books. Gwyneth, my wife, prospered this work by sharing our home with Luke, who has made increasing demands on time and space; I owe her large thanks for this – and for very much more that only she can know.

I also owe much to Cambridge – first, to my teachers. Among them, my largest debt is unquestionably to the Revd W.F. Flemington, who generously gave of himself and his learning to generations of his students while expecting much of them. Second, seminars and lectures for those reading part III of the Tripos
Preface

stimulated particular interest in Luke–Acts which was the special study for part III; even then, discussion of Luke’s passion narrative was lively, and teachers and taught certainly contributed more to this book than I can consciously recall and acknowledge. Third, when the University Press accepted this work for publication, I could not guess how much larger my debt to Cambridge would become: those charged with turning manuscript into book have been unfailingly helpful, meticulous and kind; perhaps, from all of them, I may particularly thank Peter Edwards, whose copy-editing kept my feet from many a pit. Acknowledging large debts to Cambridge does not overshadow more recent debts to colleagues in Leeds, among whom Dr Alan Lowe has been especially helpful, as the footnotes witness; I thank them for their interest in and contributions to my work, and for the Fellowship which makes them ‘colleagues’.

Debts, however large, do not absolve an author from responsibility for what stands in his name. I hope that this little volume, with its defects, will contribute helpfully to continuing discussion of Luke’s theology of the cross, and of the uses made by New Testament writers of Jewish scripture.
ABBREVIATIONS

ANQ  Andover Newton Quarterly
ATR  Anglican Theological Review
BC   Jackson, F.J.F. and Lake, K. The Beginnings of Christianity
BETL Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologicaurn lovaniensium
BJRL Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, Manchester
BZNW Beihefte zur ZNW
CBQ  Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CLS  Christian Literature Society
CUP  Cambridge University Press
DLT  Darton, Longman and Todd
Ephem Theol Lovan Ephemeresis Theologicae Lovanienses
EQ   The Evangelical Quarterly
Eus. HE Eusebius, Historia Ecclesiastica
EWNT Exegetisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament
ExpT Expository Times
HTR  Harvard Theological Review
IDB  Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible
IVP  Inter-Varsity Press
JBL  Journal of Biblical Literature
JETS Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society
JnlRel Journal of Religion
JSNT Journal for the Study of the New Testament
JSNTSS JSNT Supplement Series
JSOT Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
JTS  Journal of Theological Studies
MT   Masoretic Text
xiv List of abbreviations


NewRSV New Revised Standard Version

NIV New International Version

NovT Novum Testamentum

NTS New Testament Studies

OUP Oxford University Press

PerspRelStud Perspectives in Religious Studies

REB Revised English Bible

RevExp Review and Expositor

RHPR Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses

RSV Revised Standard Version

SB Strack, H. and Billerbeck, P., Kommentar zum Neuen Testament

SBLMS SBL Monograph Series

SBT Studies in Biblical Theology

SCM Student Christian Movement Press

SCM/TPI SCM and Trinity Press International

SNTSMS Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas Monograph Series

SPCK Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge

StANT Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament

TB Tyndale Bulletin

TDNT Theological Dictionary of the New Testament

Th. Wb. Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament

THzNT Theologisches Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament

Trin Sem Rev Trinity Seminary Review

TS Theological Studies

TWNT Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament

TZ Theologische Zeitschrift

UBSGNT United Bible Societies Greek New Testament


WCC World Council of Churches

ZNW Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft