Royal Ideologies in the Book of Revelation

Studies of the Apocalypse have long neglected the royal and messianic dimensions of its portrait of the Lamb. In this volume, Justin P. Jeffcoat Schedtler offers new insights on this topic, arguing that royal and messianic ideologies and discourses are not merely evident in the book of Revelation but also constitute one of its primary organizing principles. Moreover, they shape Revelation’s Christology. Justin P. Jeffcoat Schedtler explores ideologies of kingship in the ancient Greek and Roman world, as well as Second Temple Judaism. Making previously unexplored connections in Revelation’s ideological portrait of the Lamb, he shows that the portrayal of Jesus as God’s chosen viceregent offers new insights into several of the central christological tenets in the text. They include the Lamb’s reception of the scroll to rule on God’s behalf, his place on a heavenly throne, the many benefactions he offers to those who remain faithful to him, and the hymnic praise he receives in response.

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Royal Ideologies in the Book of Revelation

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It was early in the winter of 2015 when I came to the conclusion that I should probably write nothing more about the Book of Revelation. By then I had published my dissertation on Revelation’s hymns, *A Heavenly Chorus* (Mohr Siebeck, 2014), and Kelly Murphy and I were very close to submitting the manuscript for our edited volume *Apocalypses in Context* (Fortress Press, 2016). Having read just about all of the interesting things that had ever been written about the Apocalypse, I was comfortable with the idea that I could not say much more about it.

About this time my *doktorbruder* and friend, Joshua Jipp, asked me to provide feedback on an essay dealing with kingship discourses in Romans. Midway through the review, I realized that the sorts of kingship ideologies that Jipp had uncovered in Romans were just as conspicuous in Revelation. They were so conspicuous, in fact, that I was certain that someone had already mapped the terrain. I was wrong.

Thanks to David Fredrickson and Melissa Harl Sellew for first introducing me to the wonders of the ancient world. Continued thanks to Carol Newsom, Luke Timothy Johnson, Carl Holladay, Vernon Robbins, and Steve Kraftchick, for giving me the requisite skills – and the degree – to pursue lifelong work I find so gratifying. To all others who have helped me along this particular journey, including especially Greg Carey, Craig Koester, the John’s Apocalypse SBL group, and the ILL staff at Wartburg College, thank you.
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Underlying all of the support I have had throughout the writing of this book – and always – is the love of min kjæreste, Jacqueline, and my two children, Johannes and Lilje.

Den lyser meg fram, så eg kan gå inn og gjere meg kjend i kvar krok.
Det er ikkje sant at kjærleik gjer blind. Kjærleik gjer klok.

It lights me forward, so I can venture and become familiar with each nook.
It isn’t true that love is blind
Love så /f_link like the wisest book.