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978-1-107-00836-6 - Jesus and the Forgiveness of Sins: An Aspect of his Prophetic Mission

Tobias Hägerland

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### JESUS AND THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS

The Gospels record that Jesus purported to forgive sins. What significance would such a claim have had for his contemporaries and what would the implications have been for his identity as a first-century popular prophet? Tobias Hägerland answers these questions and more as he investigates the forgiveness of sins in the mission of the historical Jesus. The Gospels are interpreted within the context of first-century Judaism as part of a broader reconstruction of Jesus' career as a healer and prophet, and rhetorical criticism is introduced as a tool for explaining how the Gospel tradition about Jesus and forgiveness developed. Hägerland combines detailed exegesis and rigorous methodology with a holistic view of the historical Jesus, evaluating recent scholarship about first-century Jewish prophets, and utilizing previously neglected textual evidence to present a thorough investigation of the theology of forgiveness in early Judaism and primitive Christianity.

TOBIAS HÄGERLAND is a teacher of New Testament exegesis, theology and hermeneutics at Lund University, Sweden. He has published articles in journals such as the *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, *New Testament Studies* and *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*.

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# Jesus and the Forgiveness of Sins

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**TOBIAS HÄGERLAND**



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## ABBREVIATIONS

## Books, series and journals

AASFDHL	Annales academiae scientiarum fennicae: Dissertationes humanarum litterarum
AB	Anchor Bible
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
AnBib	Analecta biblica
ASNU	Acta seminarii neotestamentici upsaliensis
ATD	Das Alte Testament deutsch
<i>AusBR</i>	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
AYBRL	Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library
AzT	Arbeiten zur Theologie
BAC	Biblioteca de Autores Cristianos
<i>BBR</i>	<i>Bulletin of Biblical Research</i>
BDAG	Danker et al., <i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i> , 3rd edn
BDR	Blass et al., <i>Grammatik des neutestamentlichen Griechisch</i>
BET	Beiträge zur biblischen Exegese und Theologie
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BIS	Biblical Interpretation Series
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZNW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
CBNTS	Coniectanea biblica: New Testament Series
CBOTS	Coniectanea biblica: Old Testament Series
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>The Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>

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CC	Corpus christianorum
CSCO	Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium
CSCOSS	Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium: Scriptores syri
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EC</i>	<i>Early Christianity</i>
EHPR	Études d'histoire et de philosophies religieuses
EKKNT	Evangelisch-katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>ETL</i>	<i>Ephemerides theologicae lovanienses</i>
<i>EvT</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>FilNeot</i>	<i>Filología Neotestamentaria</i>
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neues Testaments
FS	Festschrift
FzAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FzB	Forschung zur Bibel
GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller
<i>GFA</i>	<i>Göttinger Forum für Altertumswissenschaft</i>
HBS	Herders biblische Studien
<i>HBT</i>	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
HTKNT	Herders theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
Jastrow	<i>A Dictionary of the Targumim</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JBT	Jahrbuch für biblische Theologie
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JR</i>	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
<i>JSHJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Historical Jesus</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period</i>
JSJSup	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTS	Journal for the Study of the New Testament Supplement Series

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JSOTS	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KEK	Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament
KfA	Kommentar zu frühchristlichen Apologeten
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LNTS	Library of New Testament Studies
LSJ	Liddell, et al., <i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i>
LXX	Septuagint
MT	Masoretic Text
MThZ	<i>Münchener theologische Zeitschrift</i>
MTS	Marburger theologische Studien
NA27	Nestle et al. (eds.), <i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> , 27th edn
NCB	New Century Bible
NF	Neue Folge
NGSt	New Gospel Studies
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplements
<i>NRT</i>	<i>Nouvelle revue théologique</i>
NS	New Series
NT	New Testament
NTA	Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen
NTOA	Novum testamentum et orbis antiquus
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
NTTS	New Testament Tools and Studies
OT	Old Testament
<i>OTP</i>	Charlesworth (ed.), <i>The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i>
<i>PEGLMBS</i>	<i>Proceedings Eastern Great Lakes and Midwest Biblical Societies</i>
PVTG	Pseudepigrapha Veteris Testamenti graece
QD	Questiones disputatae
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RBL</i>	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
<i>RevQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>

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<i>RSR</i>	<i>Recherches de science religieuse</i>
SBF	Studium Biblicum Franciscanum
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLECL	Society of Biblical Literature Early Christianity and Its Literature
SBLEJL	Society of Biblical Literature Early Judaism and Its Literature
SBLSCS	Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies
<i>SBLSP</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SBLTT	Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations
SBLWGRW	Society of Biblical Literature Writings from the Greco-Roman World
SBS	Stuttgarter Bibelstudien
SC	Sources chrétiennes
SCBO	Scriptorum classicorum bibliotheca oxoniensis
<i>SEÅ</i>	<i>Svensk exegetisk årsbok</i>
<i>SJOT</i>	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
<i>SNTU</i>	<i>Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt</i>
SNTU B	Studien zum Neuen Testament und seiner Umwelt B
SSS	Semitic Study Series
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia theologica</i>
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti pseudepigrapha
SzNT	Studien zum Neuen Testament
TANZ	Texte und Arbeiten zum neutestamentlichen Zeitalter
<i>TBei</i>	<i>Theologische Beiträge</i>
TENT	Texts and Editions for New Testament Study
<i>ThRev</i>	<i>Theologische Revue</i>
TSAJ	Texts and Studies in Ancient Judaism
<i>TTK</i>	<i>Tidsskrift for teologi og kirke</i>
<i>TWNT</i>	Kittel and Friedrich (eds.), <i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i>
UTB	Uni-Taschenbücher
VCSup	Vigiliae christianae Supplements
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Vetus Testamentum Supplements
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary

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WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
ZNW	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>
ZTK	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>

**Ancient texts**

<i>1 Cl</i>	<i>1 Clement</i>
<i>2 Cl</i>	<i>2 Clement</i>
<i>1 En</i>	<i>1 Enoch</i>
<i>2 En</i>	<i>2 Enoch</i>
<i>2 ApocJas</i>	<i>2 Apocalypse of James</i>
<i>2 Esd</i>	<i>2 Esdras (Vulgate IV Ezra)</i>
<i>3 Bar</i>	<i>3 Baruch</i>
<i>Adv. Pelag.</i>	<i>Adversus Pelagianos (Against the Pelagians)</i>
<i>Ant</i>	<i>Antiquitates Judaicae (Jewish Antiquities)</i>
<i>ApJas</i>	<i>Apocryphon of James</i>
<i>ApocMos</i>	<i>Apocalypse of Moses (Greek Life of Adam and Eve)</i>
<i>ApocrEzek</i>	<i>Apocryphon of Ezekiel</i>
<i>ApolArist</i>	<i>Apology of Aristides</i>
<i>AssMos</i>	<i>Assumption of Moses (Testament of Moses)</i>
<i>Barn</i>	<i>Barnabas</i>
<i>Bell</i>	<i>Bellum Judaicum (Jewish War)</i>
<i>bHag</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud tractate Hagiga</i>
<i>bMoedQat</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud tractate Moed Qatan</i>
<i>bNed</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud tractate Nedarim</i>
<i>bSanh</i>	<i>Babylonian Talmud tractate Sanhedrin</i>
<i>CD</i>	<i>Cairo Damascus (Damascus Document)</i>
<i>ConfLing</i>	<i>De confusione linguarum (On the Confusion of Tongues)</i>
<i>Const. ap.</i>	<i>Constitutiones apostolicae (Apostolic Constitutions)</i>
<i>Did</i>	<i>Didache</i>
<i>Didasc. ap.</i>	<i>Didascalia apostolorum</i>
<i>Diogn</i>	<i>Diognetus</i>
<i>Eccl. T.</i>	<i>Commentary on Ecclesiastes (Tura Papyrus)</i>
<i>Eccclus</i>	<i>Ecclesiasticus (Sirach, Ben Sira)</i>

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<i>EgerG</i>	<i>Egerton Gospel</i>
<i>Ep.</i>	<i>Epistula (Letter)</i>
<i>Ep. ad Cyprianum</i>	<i>Epistula ad Cyprianum (To Cyprian)</i>
<i>EpArist</i>	<i>Epistula Aristeae (Letter of Aristeas)</i>
<i>GosEb</i>	<i>Gospel of the Ebionites</i>
<i>GosHeb</i>	<i>Gospel of the Hebrews</i>
<i>GPet</i>	<i>Gospel of Peter</i>
<i>GThom</i>	<i>Gospel of Thomas</i>
<i>Herm Man</i>	<i>Shepherd of Hermas, Mandates</i>
<i>Herm Sim</i>	<i>Shepherd of Hermas, Similitudes</i>
<i>Herm Vis</i>	<i>Shepherd of Hermas, Visions</i>
<i>Hist. Eccl.</i>	<i>Historia Ecclesiastica (Church History)</i>
<i>Ign Eph</i>	<i>Ignatius, To the Ephesians</i>
<i>Ign Magn</i>	<i>Ignatius, To the Magnesians</i>
<i>Ign Phld</i>	<i>Ignatius, To the Philadelphians</i>
<i>Ign Pol</i>	<i>Ignatius, To Polycarp</i>
<i>Ign Smyrn</i>	<i>Ignatius, To the Smyrnaeans</i>
<i>Ign Trall</i>	<i>Ignatius, To the Trallians</i>
<i>JosAsen</i>	<i>Joseph and Aseneth</i>
<i>Jub</i>	<i>Jubilees</i>
<i>LAB</i>	<i>Liber antiquitatum biblicarum (Biblical Antiquities)</i>
<i>Mos</i>	<i>On the Life of Moses</i>
<i>MutNom</i>	<i>De mutatione nominum (On the Change of Names)</i>
<i>mYoma</i>	<i>Mishnah tractate Yoma</i>
<i>NHC</i>	<i>Nag Hammadi Codex</i>
<i>Oxy840G</i>	<i>Oxyrhynchus 840 Gospel</i>
<i>ParJer</i>	<i>Paraleipomena Jeremiou (4 Baruch)</i>
<i>Philops.</i>	<i>Philopseudes</i>
<i>PKöln</i>	<i>Papyrus Köln (Cologne Papyrus)</i>
<i>Pol Phil</i>	<i>Polycarp, To the Philippians</i>
<i>POxy</i>	<i>Papyrus Oxyrhynchus</i>
<i>PraemPoen</i>	<i>De praemiis et poenis (On Rewards and Punishments)</i>
<i>PraepEv</i>	<i>Praeparatio Evangelica (Preparation for the Gospel)</i>
<i>Prog.</i>	<i>Progymnasmata</i>
<i>PSI</i>	<i>Papiro della Società Italiana</i>
<i>PsSol</i>	<i>Psalm of Solomon</i>



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<i>QuaestExod</i>	<i>Quaestiones et solutiones in Exodum (Questions and Answers on Exodus)</i>
<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Refutatio omnium haeresium (Refutation of All Heresies)</i>
<i>SibOr</i>	<i>Sibylline Oracles</i>
<i>Strom.</i>	<i>Stromateis</i>
<i>TAbr</i>	<i>Testament of Abraham</i>
<i>TBenj</i>	<i>Testament of Benjamin</i>
<i>TGad</i>	<i>Testament of Gad</i>
<i>TgIsa</i>	<i>Targum Isaiah</i>
<i>TgNeof</i>	<i>Targum Neofiti</i>
<i>TgOnq</i>	<i>Targum Onqelos</i>
<i>TgPsJon</i>	<i>Targum Pseudo-Jonathan</i>
<i>TJob</i>	<i>Testament of Job</i>
<i>TJud</i>	<i>Testament of Judah</i>
<i>TLevi</i>	<i>Testament of Levi</i>
<i>TReub</i>	<i>Testament of Reuben</i>
<i>TZeb</i>	<i>Testament of Zebulun</i>
<i>V.A.</i>	<i>Vita Apollonii (Life of Apollonius)</i>
<i>VitProph</i>	<i>Vitae Prophetarum (Lives of the Prophets)</i>

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