

## **RICHES, POVERTY, AND THE FAITHFUL**

In the book of Revelation, John appeals to the faithful to avoid the temptations of wealth, which he connects with evil and disobedience within secular society. New Testament scholars have traditionally viewed his somewhat radical stance as a reaction to the social injustices and idolatry of the imperial Roman cults of the day. Mark D. Mathews argues that John's rejection of affluence was instead shaped by ideas in the Jewish literature of the Second Temple period which associated the rich with the wicked and viewed the poor as the righteous. Mathews explores how traditions preserved in the *Epistle of Enoch* and later Enochic texts played a formative role in shaping John's theological perspective. This book will be of interest to those researching poverty and wealth in early Christian communities, and the relationship between the traditions preserved in the Dead Sea Scrolls and the New Testament.

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RICHES, POVERTY, AND THE FAITHFUL

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# Riches, Poverty, and the Faithful

Perspectives on Wealth in the Second Temple Period  
and the Apocalypse of John

**MARK D. MATHEWS**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

AARTTS	American Academy of Religion Texts and Translations Series
AB	<i>Astronomical Book</i>
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
AGAJU	Arbeit zur Geschichte des Antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
ALD	<i>Aramaic Levi Document</i>
AmAnth	<i>American Anthropologist</i>
ANRW	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> , ed. Wolfgang Haase and Hildegard Temporini (Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 1992)
ANYAS	Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AOW	<i>Apocalypse of Weeks</i>
AR	<i>Archiv für Religionswissenschaft</i>
ASV	American Standard Version
ASTI	<i>Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute</i>
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie das Alten und Neuen Testaments
ATLABS	American Theological Library Association Bibliography Series
ATSI	<i>Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute</i>
BAIU	<i>Bulletin de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle</i>
BDAG	Walter Bauer, <i>A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> , 3rd edn. Rev. and ed. Frederick William Danker (University of Chicago Press, 2000)
BDF	F. Blass and A. Debrunner (eds), <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> (University of Chicago Press, 1961)

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BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
BETL	Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium
BFCT	Beiträge zur Förderung christlicher Theologie
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BJSUCSD	Biblical and Judaic Studies, University of California San Diego
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
BOW	<i>Book of the Watchers</i>
<i>BR</i>	<i>Biblical Research</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BVB	Beiträge zum Verstehen der Bibel
<i>BZAW</i>	<i>Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>BZNW</i>	<i>Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
CBCOT	Cambridge Bible Commentaries on the Old Testament
CBOTS	Coniectura Biblica Old Testament Series
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CCWJCW	Cambridge Commentaries on Writings of the Jewish and Christian World 200 BC to AD 200
CD	Cairo Genizah MSS
CEJL	Commentaries on Early Jewish Literature
CHCS	Croom Helm Classical Studies
CRINT	Compendia Rerum Iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum
DCLS	Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Studies
DCLY	Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Yearbook
<i>DD</i>	<i>Damascus Document</i>
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
DNEBT	Die Neue Echter Bibel Themen
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
DSS	Dead Sea Scrolls
<i>DSSHAG</i>	James H. Charlesworth, Frank M. Cross, et al. (eds.), <i>The Dead Sea Scrolls: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek Texts with English Translations</i> , 6 vols. Princeton Theological Seminary Dead Sea Scrolls Project (Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1994)

## Abbreviations

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DSSR	Donald W. Parry and Emanuel Tov (eds.), <i>The Dead Sea Scrolls Reader</i> , 6 vols. (Leiden: Brill, 2003–5)
DTBYML	Marcus Jastrow (ed.), <i>A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature with an Index of Scriptural Quotations</i> (New York: Pardes Publishing House, 1950)
EB	Études bibliques
EDSS	Lawrence H. Schiffman and James C. Vanderkam (eds), <i>Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls</i> , 2 vols (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000)
EJ	Études juives
EMML	Ethiopian Manuscript Microfilm Library
EQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
ESV	English Standard Version
Eth.	Ethiopian
EUS	European University Studies
Exp	<i>The Expositor</i>
FOTL	The Forms of the Old Testament Literature
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten Neuen Testaments
GAP	Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
GBSOTS	Guides to Biblical Scholarship Old Testament Series
GDNES	Gorgias Dissertations, Near East Series
GKC	Wilhelm Gesenius, <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> , 2nd edn (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983)
HA	Handbuch der Altertumswissenschaft
HALOT	Ludwig Koehler and Walter Baumgartner, <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> , trans. M. E. J. Richardson, 2 vols (Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2002)
HDHL	Historical Dictionary of the Hebrew Language
HNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
ICC	International Critical Commentary
IDB	George Arthur Buttrick, <i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> , 5 vols. (New York: Abingdon Press, 1961)
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
JA	<i>Journal Asiatique</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>

xiv      *Abbreviations*

<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSJSup	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament, Supplement Series
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament, Supplement Series
<i>JSP</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JSPSup	Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha, Supplement Series
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
JU	Judentum und Umwelt
KKNT	Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über das Neue Testament
LNTS	Library of New Testament Studies
<i>LSJ</i>	Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott (eds), <i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i> , 9th edn (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996)
LSTS	Library of Second Temple Studies
LXX	Septuagint
MHUC	Monographs of the Hebrew Union College
MM	J. H. Moulton and G. Milligan, <i>Vocabulary of the Greek Testament</i> , rev. edn (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997)
MNTC	Moffat New Testament Commentary
MNTS	McMaster New Testament Studies
MSupHACA	Mnemosyne Supplements, History and Archaeology of Classical Antiquity
MT	Masoretic text
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCBC	New Century Bible Commentary
NEBT	Die Neue Echter Bibel Themen
NET	New English Translation
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
<i>NIDOTTE</i>	Willem VanGemeren (ed.), <i>New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> , 5 vols (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997)
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIV	New International Version

## Abbreviations

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NLT	New Living Translation
<i>NovTest</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NSBT	New Studies in Biblical Theology
NSKAT	Neuer Stuttgarter Kommentar Altes Testament
NT	New Testament
NTD	Das Neue Testament Deutsch
NTM	New Testament Message
NTOA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
OT	Old Testament
OTNT	Ökumenischer Taschenbuchkommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>OTP</i>	James H. Charlesworth (ed.), <i>The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1983)
PLIAJS	Philip L. Lown Institute of Advanced Judaic Studies
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RBL</i>	<i>Review of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>RevBib</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RevQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
RGW	Religions in the Graeco-Roman World
<i>RhetRev</i>	<i>Rhetoric Review</i>
RS	Religion and Society
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLEJL	Society of Biblical Literature. Early Judaism and its Literature
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBLSCSS	Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies Series
SBLSP	Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers
SBLSS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
<i>ScripHier</i>	<i>Scripta Hierosolymitana</i>
SCSS	Septuagint and Cognate Studies Series
SDSSRL	Studies in the Dead Sea Scrolls and Related Literature
SIL	Summer Institute of Linguistics
SILPL	Summer Institute of Linguistics Publications in Linguistics
SIS	Studies in Interactional Sociolinguistics
SNT	Studien zum Neuen Testament
<i>SocAn</i>	<i>Sociological Analysis</i>

xvi *Abbreviations*

<i>SocRel</i>	<i>Sociology of Religion</i>
SPB	Studia Post-Biblica
SPS	Sacra Pagina Series
SPSHS	Scholars Press Studies in the Humanities Series
SPSJCO	The Second Princeton Symposium on Judaism and Christian Origins
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
StPB	Studia Post-Biblica
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha
TAB	The Aramaic Bible
TANZ	Texte und Arbeiten zum neutestamentlichen Zeitalter
TBN	Themes in Biblical Narrative
<i>TDNT</i>	G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (eds), <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , trans. G. W. Bromiley, 10 vols (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1964–76)
<i>TDOT</i>	G. J. Botterweck and H. Ringgren (eds), <i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> , trans. J. T. Willis, G. W. Bromiley, and D. E. Green, 17 vols (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974–2006)
TNIV	Today's New International Version
T-S	Taylor-Schechter
T-S AS	Taylor-Schechter Additional Series
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum Antiken Judentum
TST	<i>Two Spirits Treatise</i>
TUGAL	Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
UBSHS	United Bible Societies Handbook Series
UTPSS	University of Texas Press Slavic Series
<i>VTest</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
<i>WUNT</i>	<i>Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde älterer Kirche</i>

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