

## THE DEATH OF JESUS IN MATTHEW

In this book, Catherine Sider Hamilton introduces a new lens through which to view the death of Jesus in Matthew. Using the concept of “innocent blood,” she situates the death of Jesus within a paradigm of purity and pollution, one that was central in the Hebrew Scriptures and early Judaism from the Second Temple to the rabbis. Hamilton traces the theme of innocent blood in Matthew’s narrative in relation to two Jewish traditions of interpretation, one (in Second Temple literature) reflecting on the story of Cain and Abel; the other (chiefly in rabbinic literature) on the blood of Zechariah. “Innocent blood” yields a vision that resists the dichotomies (*intra-muros* versus *extra-muros*, rejection versus redemption) that have characterized the debate, a vision in which both judgment and redemption – an end of exile – may be true. “Innocent blood” offers a new approach not only to the meaning of Jesus’ death in Matthew but also to the vexed question of the Gospel’s attitude toward contemporary Judaism.

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# The Death of Jesus in Matthew

Innocent Blood and the End of Exile

CATHERINE SIDER HAMILTON

*University of Toronto*



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For David

והוא אדמוני עם ייפה עינים וטוב ראי

1 Sam 16:12

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## ABBREVIATIONS

In matters of style, including abbreviations, I have followed *The SBL Handbook of Style* (Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1999). I list below several abbreviations not included in the *SBL Handbook*:

ÉJ	Études juives
HTS	<i>Hervormde Teologiese Studies</i>
SWR	Studies in Women and Religion