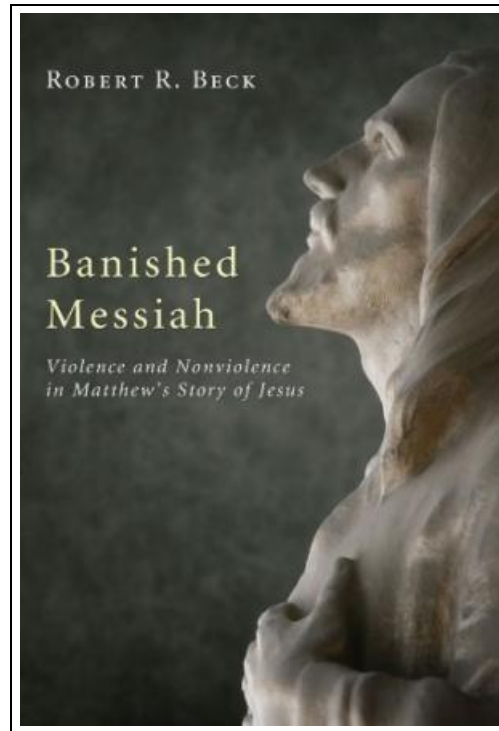


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BANISHED MESSIAH: VIOLENCE AND NONVIOLENCE IN MATTHEW S STORY OF JESUS



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Wipf Stock Publishers, United States, 2010. Microfilm. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. By arguing that Matthew s Gospel can be read as a homecoming story according to the ancient formula of the Banished and Returning Prince, Robert Beck offers a fresh and provocative reinterpretation of the Gospel. He exploits this understanding of the narrative to disclose new elements within the plot, to identify a fresh resolution to conflict development within the tale, and to arrive at an unprecedented explanation of the place of violence and nonviolence within Matthew s text. The traditional roles of Usurper, Impostor, and Mentor are examined for insight into what Matthew s narrative achieves as well as, perhaps more importantly, what it excludes in the way of cultural expectations of violent reprisal. It s an age-old issue, pervasive in our literature, yet not engaged enough by contemporary biblical scholarship. With an eye on both the past and the present, as well as on Matthew s Gospel and various intertexts, Robert Beck profitably and insightfully explores the complex manifestations and interactions of violence and non-violence. -Warren Carter, Professor of New Testament, Brite Divinity School at TCU Beck s Banished Messiah is superb, contrasting Jesus nonviolence with dominant culture s hero myths in which a prince or princess is exiled (banished) and returns home, only to retaliate against and destroy enemies. Matthew confounds myths that animate the entertainment fare. Surprises abound: genealogies theologically and ethically significant, comparative visions of John the Baptist and Jesus, and the magi as Matthew s mentor! Places theologically significant in Matthew (Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee) interact with plot design. In Matthew, as well as Mark (Matthew s intertext), the banished one does not return for revenge upon enemies. Beck s narrative style crafts a rich exposition...



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