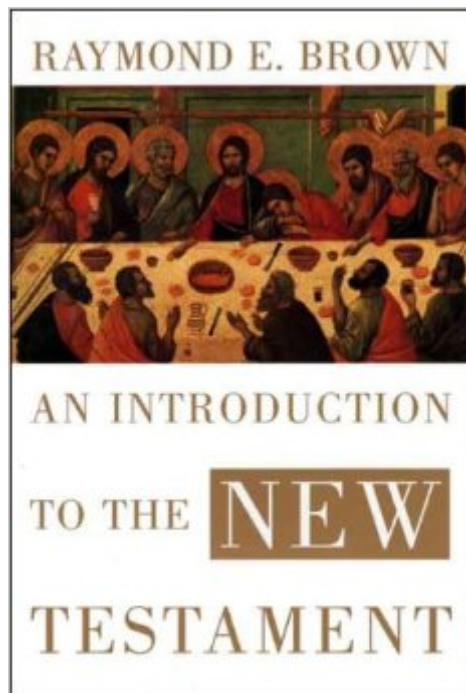


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An Introduction To The New Testament (The Anchor Yale Bible Reference Library)



Synopsis

Raymond E. Brown walks readers book-by-book through the basic content and issues of the New Testament. With a wealth of information contained in the text, this introduction also has basic summaries of each book, a historical overview, discussions of key theological issues, maps and tables.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Father Raymond Brown is, as always, impeccable in this "light" Introduction to the New Testament. He states in the opening section that this book is not for scholars. Somehow, I think this book has found its way onto the bookshelves of every pre-eminent NT scholar today. In spite of its heftiness, it is only an introduction to the NT. It starts off with wonderful background material to NT times, examining contemporary thought, philosophy, and history. This helps the NT reader to understand the difficulties and issues which are being addressed by the author of a particular NT text. After this background material Fr Brown insists that you actually read the specific book prior to reading his commentary and analyses of the text. If you do not do this, you will not be able to extract all of the information that Fr Brown is presenting to you. So I suggest one read the background material first, and then crack the Bible open to Mark and start reading along with Fr Brown, one text at a time. This will give you the most benefit for your effort. It is important to make sure the material is fresh in your mind. As time goes by, one tends to integrate the letters, gospels and parables into a working

synthesis, and unless you know which version of a particular parable is being commented upon, the commentary and analysis will not be entirely useful. I am enjoying this book immensely, and I encourage all serious Bible students, scholars or wanna-bes, to invest your time in this wonderful book. One additional comment: Father Brown is a Roman Catholic Priest. I have noticed that a lot of people have been making rather apologetic remarks for that fact on his behalf in these reviews. I am certain Father Brown, were he alive today, sees no need for these apologies of faith. Father Brown, in my opinion, clearly demonstrates that the Catholic Church does not sacrifice reason in order to maintain faith. *Orent ut intelligat*

The late Raymond E. Brown was a tremendous scholar and a devout Christian. In all he did, Father Brown carefully applied the tools of critical scholarship while never apologizing for his faith. In a scholastic battlefield too often dominated by extremists on the left and the right, Father Brown was a breath of fresh air who drew fire from both sides. This Introduction first provides helpful background information about the formation of the New Testament and the social and political world that produced it. Father Brown then carefully analyzes each book of the New Testament with consideration for issues such as who the author was, where the book was written, and who the author's initial audience was. More importantly, each book is then carefully analyzed in light of this information for the meaning it conveyed in the social and historical context in which it was written. As another reviewer has said, you can't read this book beneficially without also reading the New Testament. But for searching, inquisitive readers who are willing to put in that effort, this book provides a truly informative, intellectually honest introduction to the greatest story ever told.

another 5 stars for father brown (unfortunately posthumously). in this book, brown, a renowned 20th century catholic priest/scholar, tried to write a readable yet comprehensive intro to all facets of NT study. this volume treats all NT books, albeit briefly, giving the consensus of modern scholarship regarding authorship, purpose, date etc. as a note to conservative evangelicals (of which i am one), brown here is decidedly centrist in his stances. in accordance with modern catholic doctrine on biblical interpretation, brown lets history shape our understanding of the biblical message. for instance, brown would agree that such NT books as 2 Peter, Colossians, Ephesians, 1 & 2 Timothy etc, were not written by peter or paul. if you have read enough of brown's work, you know he IS a believer, and only occasionally his writings reflect it. i should say that whether one is liberal or conservative, brown was one of the best NT theologians ever. even as a conservative i can get a lot from his work. so..... get this book! even if you don't agree with all of it, you will learn a lot!

I was assigned Brown's introduction to the NT in my Ph.D. program in New Testament. I read the book thoroughly from cover to cover and wrote a 46 page outline of it. Several key features stuck out at me: (1) Brown recognizes only 5 undisputed letters of Paul, (2) He identifies Marcan source and Q along the lines of the Two-Source Hypothesis, (3) He write from a Roman Catholic perspective but fairly evaluates the evidence. Overall it is an excellent textbook which is very readable. I like the chapters which have a one page summary of an entire NT book--a very helpful feature. David Ritsema

The Word of God as found in the Scriptures has never had a better exegete than Fr. Brown. He writes with academic authority, never arrogant and always humble, showing readers of all levels the polysemy that unfolds in the New Testament. If one has room for only one commentary, let this be it. If not, this will become undoubtedly your favorite, leaving the rest in the back of the pack. Fr. Brown takes the awe and inspiring and make them awesome and inspirational. I get goosebumps when I read him. Revelation never had a better voice.

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