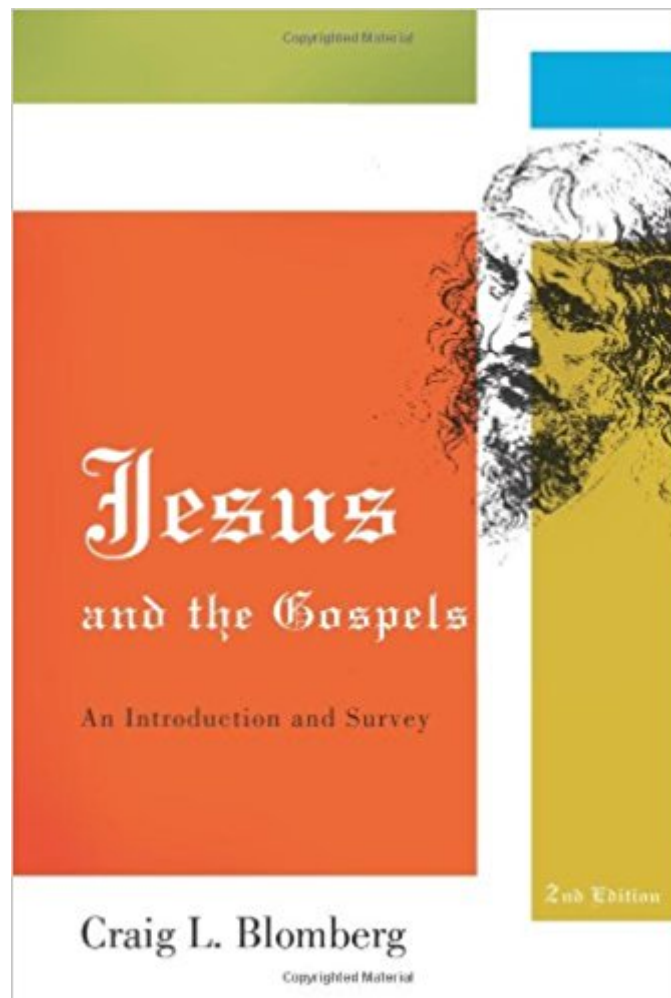




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# Jesus And The Gospels: An Introduction And Survey, Second Edition



## Synopsis

This second edition of *Jesus and the Gospels* prepares readers for an intensive study of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and the events they narrate. Craig Blomberg considers the historical context of the Gospels and sheds light on the confusing interpretations brought forth over the last two centuries. The original 1997 book won a Gold Medallion Award from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, and this updated version, factoring in new scholarship, debate, critical methods, and the ongoing quest of the historical Jesus, ensures the work will remain a top tool for exploring the life of Christ through the first four books of the New Testament.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Craig L. Blomberg is Distinguished Professor of New Testament at Denver Seminary and holds a Ph.D. in New Testament from Aberdeen University in Scotland. His previous works include the volume on the Gospel of Matthew in the New American Commentary series.

This is a truly invaluable book for introductory-level NT students. The value placed on historical and cultural insight, and its contribution to our appreciation of Jesus and the gospels, bears good fruit. This work doesn't go in to great depth on any particular issues, but serves very well as a spring board for further study to the college-level student, although the prose is not too dryly academic to discourage anyone else from armchair reading too. The book is very simply arranged. Section 4, on the life of Christ takes up about 40% of the total volume, which shows good focus. Background

information in other sections is useful but is not allowed to dominate, only contribute. The Kindle edition is clear and tidy. It would be nice if the contents included links to sub-headings within chapters but otherwise navigation is easy.

I took a class from the author of this textbook at a Christian seminary, and found this book to be one of the most helpful of my degree. The context this book will provide to your study of the NT is amazingly helpful. I particularly found the first couple of chapters to be quite useful in painting the picture of the religious environment of the time when Jesus walked the Earth. It wasn't nearly as simple as just Jews and not-Jews. A brilliant book by a brilliant scholar. This book will open your eyes to just how much work goes into to a serious academic study of the Bible.

Blomberg does an excellent job packing this full of information for the student of the Gospels. It is an excellent book in an academic setting. He has a way of cramming loads of viewpoints into a concise format. The endnotes at the end of each chapter leads to several excellent sources for those who want to pursue further research and understanding. It's impossible to write a thorough book on the Gospels. But this comes as close as you can get and does so in a relatively condensed volume.

Quite possibly one of the best resources I have ever read. Craig Blomberg delivers a thorough and easy to access treatment of many issues related to the four gospels of the New Testament. This book includes great contextual background information, a defense of the reliability and historicity of the four gospels, and even gives a detailed walk through each individual gospel, helping to assess the various teachings and parables.

"Jesus and the Gospels: An Introduction and Survey" is everything that the title suggests and a little more. Written (and sometimes narrated) by Craig L. Blomberg this tome is a scholarly overview of the gospel narratives of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John as well as an introductory study on Jesus and contemporary Jewish, Greek, and Roman society in Palestine with a brief history of pre-Christ society. Before the book dives in to the gospels it dives into the history of the study and criticism and historicity of the gospel narratives, tackling applied lines of thought both liberal and conservative, though Blomberg's personal explanations of some difficult passages and thoughts come across even-handedly and not adhering to either liberal or conservative hang-ups. Blomberg follows Aland's harmonization as he attempts to present the gospels themselves in chronological fashion and treating passages that are unique to individual gospel narratives that are hard to place

chronologically afterward. The last bit of the book is Blomberg's exegesis on Jesus Himself; His thoughts, beliefs, claims, and meanings based upon the gospels presentation of Him. This book is written as it a text for a college student and as such it is easy to study and maintains a natural flow. I was engrossed from the first few words and couldn't wait to read more but I had to pace myself so as to give adequate time to think about what was already presented. Blomberg's presentation doesn't shy away from discussing dissenting views (though there is no deep diving into any one), nor does he hesitate to state his beliefs about certain issues and passages. Perhaps of most value to those who are interested in further scholarly pursuits are his chapter ends which includes a "For Further Study" section that gives a number of references broken down into introductory, intermediate, and advanced resources for the would-be future scholar and/or advancing student. Each section ends with a brief "Questions for Review" which adds to the college course feeling of this book. This is an excellent and often exciting read for the lay person but would be a challenging read, though very informative, for someone not already versed in the Christian tradition. For the scholar this would serve as a compendium of resources and I'm sure even they would find some new (if not challenging) information here. Lastly, for anyone who might wonder about Blomberg's stance on Jesus the Christ and the gospels in general: Blomberg is a believer in Christ the King, the one and only substitutionary sacrifice for humankind, both fully God and fully man and he has found the gospels and the gospel traditions as highly reliable and trustworthy. A fantastic book. I can't wait to pass it on.

Blomberg takes the reader into the historic background conditions surrounding the Gospels, explaining the cultural, political, religious, and economic conditions necessary for developing a thorough understanding of them. I found Blomberg easy to understand, thorough but not exhaustive (wasn't looking for that) and engaging. Extensive footnoting of sources. A good book I will keep for reference.

Excellent work on the Gospels. I highly recommend this book to anyone wanting to better understand the Person of Jesus.

outstanding research done by the author explaining clearly the historical ,anthropological ,sociological ,spiritual economic background of Jewish and Roman culture during the inter testamental period .

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