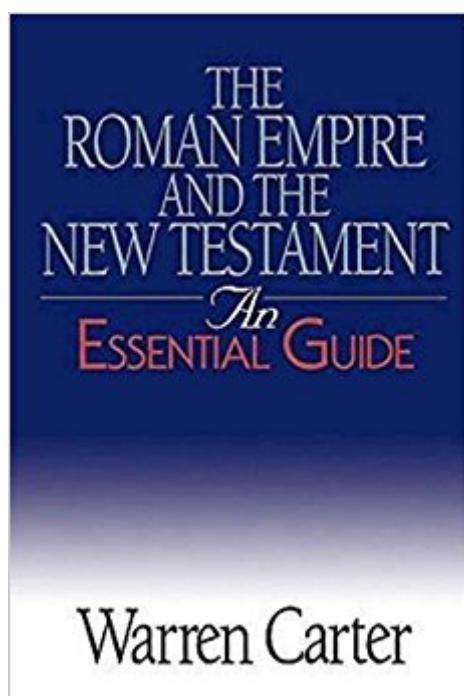


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The Roman Empire And The New Testament: An Essential Guide (Essential Guides)



Synopsis

An indispensable introduction to Roman society, culture, law, politics, religion, and daily life as they relate to the study of the New Testament. The Roman Empire formed the central context in which the New Testament was written. Anyone who wishes to understand the New Testament texts must become familiar with the political, economic, societal, cultural, and religious aspects of Roman rule. Much of the New Testament deals with enabling its readers to negotiate, in an array of different manners, this pervasive imperial context. This book will help the reader see how social structures and daily practices in the Roman world illumine so much of the content of the New Testament message. For example, to grasp what Paul was saying about food offered to idols one must understand that temples in the Roman world were not "churches" and that they functioned as political, economic, and gastronomic centers, whose religious dealings were embedded within these other functions. Brief in presentation yet broad in scope, *The Roman Empire and the New Testament: An Essential Guide* will introduce students to the information and ideas essential to coming to grips with the world in which early Christianity was born.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Warren Carter is Professor of New Testament at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, with a Ph.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary. Before moving to Brite in 2007, he taught for 17 years at

Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. His scholarly work has focused on the gospels of Matthew and John, and he has focused on the issue of the ways in which early Christians negotiated the Roman empire. In addition to numerous scholarly articles, he is the author of many books including *The Roman Empire and the New Testament*; *What Does Revelation Reveal?*; *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings* (with Amy-Jill Levine); and *God in the New Testament* published by Abingdon Press. He has also contributed to numerous church resources and publications and is a frequent speaker at scholarly and church conferences.

This volume is part of a larger collection of "Essential Guides" and serves as a great example of the rest of the series. In this short book, Carter offers a very helpful primer and surveys a wide variety of first-century Roman dynamics including Imperial Officials, Demographics (urban and rural), Religious and Political Personnel, and Imperial Theology. Carter even devotes an entire chapter to the "Economics, Food, and Health" of the Empire. As the series editors make clear, this volume is an introduction to the topic covered, not an in-depth analysis. Yet this book fits well along side other titles in a New Testament Survey course. Indeed, this book is important and helpful for all serious students of the Bible because as Carter notes, "the New Testament texts assume and engages Rome's world in every chapter" (1). For those interested in biblical studies and ancient history this book comes highly recommended.

This book is good, and it has the basic information for any beginner, and at the same time it presents a new and fresh outlook on the appropriate way of reading the New Testament in light of the presence of the Roman Empire as an essential player in all that happens. Moreover, it is short which makes it accessible for those of feeble-hearts and little time ;) My one negative remark (and the reason for the 4 stars), is that it tends to get a little repetitive (i.e: the idea that the Roman society was divided into two big groups of elite and non-elite...etc.). Perhaps however, this helps the reader grasp the ideas more firmly. All in all, a very good book for all types of interested readers!

I recommend it for small groups and for personal study.

Required text.

excellent read for Bible studies. Reasonable cost. Helps one to understand the influence that the Roman empire had on the 1st Century Church.

A very detailed book.

I would recommend this book to anyone wanting to research Rome in light of the New Testament and its role during that time period.

The book is an interesting read. I really enjoyed reading the book and found the information very useful in life today.

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