

Identity, memory, and narrative in early Christianity: Peter, Paul, and recategorization in the book of Acts

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Identity, memory, and narrative in early Christianity: Peter, Paul, and recategorization in the book of Acts

Social identity, social memory, and narrative theory intersect in this study of the characterization of Peter and Paul in the book of Acts. Baker argues that the authorial audience's memories of Peter and Paul are reinterpreted as their characters are encountered in the narrative, and as a resu...

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Summary:

Social identity, social memory, and narrative theory intersect in this study of the characterization of Peter and Paul in the book of Acts. Baker argues that the authorial audience's memories of Peter and Paul are reinterpreted as their characters are encountered in the narrative, and as a result, the audience is to understand themselves as united by a superordinate ingroup identity that transcends cultural boundaries. As prototypes of this common identity, the characters of Peter and Paul demonstrate the open, inclusive identity the audience is expected to embrace

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The study of Peter and Paul in the Acts of the Apostles has gone through primarily two methodological phases, a search for the historical Peter and Paul and a search for the literary Peter and Paul. In recent decades, the literary approaches to the Bible have begun to raise questions about the role of the reader in understanding texts and their characters, resulting in a few studies that raise the question of the interaction between the reader and the characters of Peter and Paul. This latter development constitutes an emerging third methodological phase, the search for the identity-forming Pe... Phillips, Thomas E. 2002 'Narrative Characterizations of Peter and Paul in Early Christianity', ARC: Journal of the Faculty of Religious Studies 30: 139-57. Hodder & Stoughton). On the narrative level, in their portrayal of the conflicts and trials of these early Christian leaders, the ancient Christian sources argued that because the early Christian community in Jerusalem sought to partake in the Temple worship in its own way, Jesus' followers were falsely accused of violating the Temple's sacredness. Vol. 3, The Book of Acts and Paul in Roman Custody (Carlisle: Paternoster; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994). 14 See Lüdemann, G., Early Christianity according to the Traditions in Acts: A Commentary (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1987) 60, 85, 92–3, 234–6, 239, 245–6, 249–51, regarding the first arrest of Peter, and the instances in which Stephen and Paul were involved. This fascinating new book by Paul Barnett, an expert in the New Testament, traces Peter's life chronologically from his beginnings in Bethsaida to his martyrdom in Rome c. 64. It demonstrates the importance of the apostle Peter to earliest Christianity and to our own day through the biblical narratives and his letters. The record of his leadership between the resurrection of Jesus and Peter's own death secured the vocation Jesus commissioned him to have as the 'rock'. From failure to success, from denying Jesus to leading his Church in Jerusalem and

beyond, Peter's is Social identity, social memory, and narrative theory intersect in this study of the characterization of Peter and Paul in the book of Acts. Baker argues that the authorial audience's memories of Peter and Paul are reinterpreted as their characters are encountered in the narrative, and as a result, the audience is to understand themselves as united by a superordinate ingroup identity that transcends cultural boundaries. As prototypes of this common identity, the characters of Peter and Paul demonstrate the open, inclusive identity the audience is expected to embrace. Set your country here § Review of Coleman A. Baker, *Identity, Memory, and Narrative in Early Christianity: Peter, Paul, and Recategorization in the Book of Acts* (Eugene: Pickwick Publications, 2011) in *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 76 (2014) 128-129. Published Articles. § "The Theological Significance of 'Judaea' in Luke-Acts," in J. Verheyden, ed., *The Unity of Luke-Acts* (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1999), pp. 675-691. § "Paul Among the Rustics: The Lystran Episode and Lucan Apologetic," *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 63/1 (2001) 84–101. "Remnants of Modernism in a Post-Modern Age: The Pontifical Bib

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