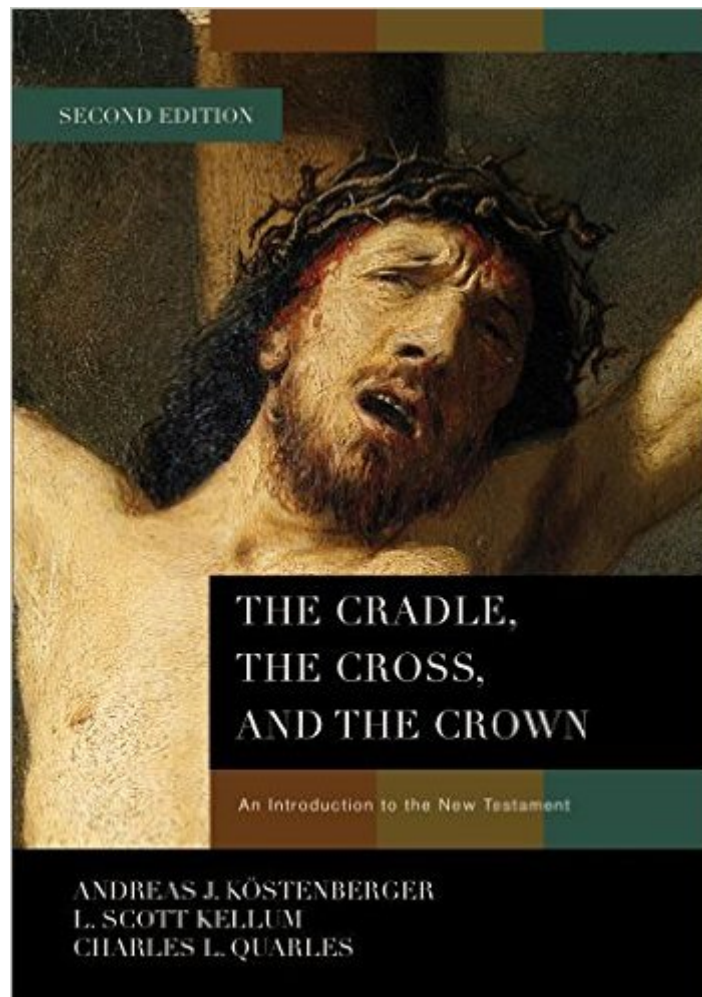


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The Cradle, The Cross, And The Crown: An Introduction To The New Testament



Synopsis

The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown guides serious New Testament students through the historical, literary, and theological dimensions of the biblical text, allowing them to better understand and share God's word of truth (2 Tim 2:15). It offers a thorough introduction to all twenty-seven books of the New Testament and closely examines events such as Christ's incarnation and virgin birth, his crucifixion and resurrection, and his triumphant return. The second edition features updated bibliographies and footnotes, interpretation sections that cover different literary genres in the New Testament, an epilogue that canvasses the entire storyline of Scripture, and a variety of maps. All of these new features contribute to making this a life-long resource for students of Scripture.

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Customer Reviews

I love this book! After having seen and used several New Testament Introductions, this volume strikes me as ideal. It's clearly designed for advanced studies, yet is so well written and accessible that it will not bore the reader as some advanced studies do. I have never had access to the first edition and so am not sure the level of updating in this second edition, but this is an outstanding book. Be sure to read the Preface to the Second Edition to see clearly the conservative outlook of Andreas Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles Quarles, and design of the volume. On both counts, it is exactly what I would be looking for in this type volume. Chapter 1 speaks of issues of canonicity and even inerrancy. They well outline the twists and turns of scholarship while

not allowing it to make them lose perspective. The chapter on the political and religious background is finely executed. Chapter 3 expertly introduces the Gospels with a chapter following on each Gospel. Next we have a chapter on Acts, then one on Paul, followed by each of the rest of the books of the New Testament. An ending chapter and an epilogue well round out the volume. Each of the chapters covering the perspective book is the greatest asset on the volume. Real background, scholarly thought, literary designs, theology, and contents of the book are all enlightening. Fine charts and maps only make the content better. Again, I give this the highest possible ratings among Introductions of the New Testament. I received this book free from the publisher. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament by Andreas J. Köstenberger, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles has been a go-to resource in my study of the New Testament for over a year now. I can't count the number of times this book has been off my shelf. It's comprehensive, user-friendly, up-to-date, evenhandedly conservative, and so much more. Now, recently released in an updated and revised second edition, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown* has further established itself as one of the best New Testament introductions on the market. The second edition of *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown* retains everything the reader came to know and love about the first edition, including learning objectives for different levels of study, chapter review questions, recommended bibliographies, and more. What has changed is reflected in the addition of nearly 200 pages. The second edition has received significant updates to the bibliographies and footnotes, maps, charts, as well as the addition of interpretation sections to better facilitate understanding of the various literary genres in the New Testament. Also, there is now an epilogue to the book that is devoted to the storyline of Scripture—a welcome addition to an already complete introductory treatment of the New Testament. One of the most appealing aspects of this volume is the intentionality with which the authors have sought to cultivate a balanced approach towards spiritual and intellectual growth. The authors not only immerse the reader into the intellectual dialog of New Testament studies, but they equally teach the reader how to interact with the New Testament and demonstrate how a properly understanding the New Testament (especially its placement and impact within the whole of the biblical narrative as shown in the epilogue of the second edition) refines the Christian life. There is no attempt among the authors to sidestep the difficult issues of New Testament studies, and there is likewise no desire to see the New Testament become a mere academic pursuit. This level of

intentionality was certainly present in the first edition, but it is even more so representative in the second. *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown: An Introduction to the New Testament* by Andreas J. Kästner, L. Scott Kellum, and Charles L. Quarles was an immediate standard when it was originally published in 2009. This second edition only builds upon the legacy of the first, and the outcome is deserving of much praise. I would make room (its big, so you will need to make a lot of room) for this volume whether you own the first edition or not. This is a New Testament introduction that deserves shelf space for any serious student of the New Testament. It comes highly recommended!!! I received a review copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255: "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

The book is a little intimidating in its size (it is a true academic textbook, and 1168 pages long), but understood as a reference and a guide for deep study, the length starts to come into focus. The Contents: Each section guides you, book by book, through the historical context, literary dimensions in terms of genre, and theological significance of each of the 27 new testament books. Extensive footnotes and an excellent bibliography for each book is provided, as well as helpful overview material of the entire canon. Maps and a few other tools make this an excellent and central resource to guide your study of the New Testament. Further, the book provides core concepts and study goals for each book, divided out at the "basic," "intermediate" and "advanced" level. This helpful calibration of expectation functions as something of a "workout manual" for study, knowing what your goals are, and how much farther is left to run. It lays out a life-long course of study in the work necessary for an "advanced" understanding of each of the books, but provides resources and pointers necessary to help you get there. Personal comments: I am personally excited about this particular book because not only will it be a helpful classroom resource for seminary students, but as one without a seminary degree, this book will help provide some excellent structure, accountability, and guidance in my approach to the scriptures. It was a bit humbling to find that for the most part, I stop my study of a particular book, and consider myself ready to teach it, having only gone to the depth described in the "basic" section of concepts and goals. Time to get back to running. Thank you, Dr. Kästner and B&H for producing this excellent resource. (A quick note that I was provided a free review copy by B&H. I hope this hasn't colored my review however, as I don't always post reviews for books given to me...)

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