
The Fourfold Gospel: A Theological Reading of the New Testament Portraits of Jesus. 3.73 (56 ratings by Goodreads). Hardcover. “The Fourfold Gospel displays all the virtues that readers have come to expect from one of the finest biblical interpreters of our day: depth and breadth of learning, exegetical prowess, clarity of argument, and sure theological judgment, all in the service of the truth of the gospel.” - John Webster, Professor of Divinity, St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews “What does it mean, theologically speaking, that we have four canonical gospels? Drawing on sources as diverse as Ezekiel's vision and Eusebius's canons, Francis Watson’s reflection on this question in The Fourfold Gospel: A theological reading of the New Testament portraits of Jesus Francis Watson Baker Academic £14.99 (978-0-8010-9545-0) Church Times Bookshop £13.49. In this short book, contrasting with his massive Gospel Writing (2013), Watson concentrates for his portraits of Jesus on beginnings and endings; thus the first half treats in turn the beginning of each of the four Gospels, while the second half (Convergences) discusses more synoptically the narratives of the Passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, drawing out the theology of each. In the first half, I found particularly attractive the extended contrast between the birth-stories of Matthew, dominated by suffering, and those of Luke, glowing with joy. The origins and the theological significance of the fourfold Gospel raise a set of teasing questions. Why did the early Church eventually accept four partly parallel foundation documents? There is no precedent for this either in the OT Scriptures or elsewhere in earliest Christianity. Did retention of four gospels assist or hinder the early Church in the presentation of its claims concerning Jesus? No doubt to some, insistence that there were four gospels implied that there were basic flaws in the single gospels. 1 von Harnack, A., The Origin of the New Testament and the Most Important Consequences of the New Creation (London and New York, 1925) 69â€”72;Google ScholarZahn, Th., Grundriss der Geschichte des neutestamentlichen Kanons (Leipzig: Deichert, 2nd ed. The Fourfold Gospel book. Read 7 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. This groundbreaking approach to the study of the fourfold gospel... Francis Watson, widely regarded as one of the foremost New Testament scholars of our time, explains that the four gospels were chosen to give a portrait of Jesus. He explores the significance of the fourfold gospel's plural form for those who constructed it and for later Christian communities, showing that in its plurality it bears definitive witness to what God has done in Jesus Christ. Watson focuses on reading the gospels as a group rather than in isolation and explains that the fourfold gospel is greater than, and other than, the sum of its individual parts. Reading Backwards. Figural Christology and the Fourfold Gospel Witness. by Richard B. Hays. 177 Pages, 5.50 x 8.50 in. The book not only demonstrates how the Evangelists read the Old Testament, it also serves as a model for us to do the same. ~Benjamin L. Gladd, Reformed Faith & Practice: The Journal of Reformed Theological Seminary. Twenty-five years ago Richard Hays launched a quiet but highly effective revolution on how Paul read Israel’s scripture. The readings of each of the four Gospels that are presented in Reading Backwards provide a rich and concise survey in which each gospel distinctively uses scripture to paint its picture of Jesus. ~Neil White, Rejoice Lutheran Church, Word & World.