

Abstract

The present thesis focuses on the topic of exorcism in the Synoptic Gospels. The introductory chapters characterize the practice of exorcism in the cultures of antiquity and Judaism, clarifying some of the specific emphases of these rituals. It then introduces the perspective of the New Testament on the subject, including a short list of terminology related to the designation of the enemy of God in the synoptics. Separate chapters are dedicated to Jesus' statements about exorcism, exorcism narratives and general reports. Each chapter treats in great detail the different exegeses, and the relevant terminological and stylistic peculiarities. The merits of the individual findings, which are summarized in the concluding chapter, are duly assessed from several perspectives, primarily biblical theology, but also underscoring some issues concerning pastoral theology and the practical applications of these findings.