



Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship

Volume 22 | Number 7

Article 1

January 2002

New Book Enriches NT Study

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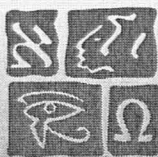
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Recommended Citation

(2002) "New Book Enriches NT Study," *Insights: The Newsletter of the Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship*: Vol. 22: No. 7, Article 1.

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Insights

A WINDOW ON THE ANCIENT WORLD

VOLUME 22 | 2002

Number 7

<http://farms.byu.edu>

New Book Enriches NT Study

A new book from FARMS offers a world of information about the New Testament and its background. *Charting the New Testament* contains scores of charts, tables, and graphs, each with helpful explanatory and reference materials in a reader-friendly format. Covering a wide array of topics—from the ancient Jewish setting of the New Testament and the world of the Greeks and Romans in which the activities of Jesus and his apostles took place to detailed analysis of the scriptural text itself—the book offers an extensive overview of matters doctrinal, literary, and historical. A companion volume to *Charting the Book of Mormon*, this handy resource is designed with both the student and the teacher in mind.

“The charts used in this book have been developed, tested, and used in a number of settings,” BYU professors John F. Hall (classics) and John W. Welch (law) write in the preface to their book. “We appreciate what we have learned by using these charts in our university classes, during public lectures, at conferences and workshops, and on travel-study tours in

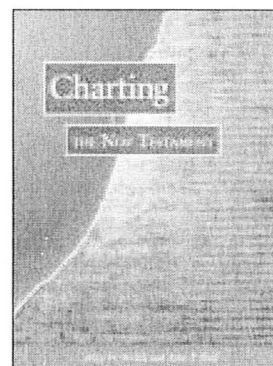
many parts of the Mediterranean world.”

The historical background in the first sections of the book ranges from broad overviews of events to detailed chronologies. Interesting, for instance, are explanations of aspects of daily life that are encountered throughout the New Testament yet are

often puzzling to modern readers. Understanding the culture and daily life of the period is key to grasping the significance of a myriad of New Testament verses that refer to the objects and customs of the time.

The exposition of Jesus’ life and teachings comprises a main component of the book. Analysis of the Savior’s sermons reveals the often underlying doctrinal significance of his teachings. For example, the parable of the good Samaritan lays out the plan of salvation, and the Sermon on the Mount encapsulates

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Hor Book of Breathings Analyzed in New Study

The Hor Book of Breathings: A Translation and Commentary, by Michael D. Rhodes, was recently published by FARMS. This landmark volume is a full publication of the Hor Book of Breathings (the extant portions of the roll from which Facsimiles 1 and 3 of the Book of Abraham also derive) and includes a transliteration, translation, and philological commentary; a complete glossary of all Egyptian words in the surviving text; and both color and gray-scale digital images of the papyri.

“I hope that this publication will prove useful to scholars interested in Egyptian religious writings of the Greco-Roman era and will provide material for a better understanding of the grammar, vocabulary, and paleography of that period,” writes author Michael D. Rhodes in the preface.


The Hor Book of Breathings is a part of eleven papyri fragments in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art that came to the attention of Dr. Aziz Atiyah in 1966. These fragments, subsequently donated to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1967, came from three separate papyri rolls. Joseph Smith Papyri I, X, and XI are from the Book of Breathings belonging to Hor (*Hr*), the son of Usiwer

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New Testament continued from page 1

the requirements for entering into temple covenants that hold the secrets of life eternal. The miracles and other acts of Jesus are depicted in their relation to the teachings of his ministry. The events of Jesus' life are outlined in detail and set in their historical perspective, as in the case of the contemporary legal setting for the prosecution and crucifixion of the Savior.

The apostles' and other disciples' courageous lives of service devoted to the Master's cause constitute an exciting portion of the book. The lives and teachings of Peter, John, and Paul are treated extensively. Confusing situations are sorted out, including questions like, Who are all the different Johns in the New Testament? Who is James the brother of the Lord? How many Marys appear in the gospel accounts? The book also presents charts on the apostolic era and the post-apostolic age, introducing the first stages of the apostasy that would involve the loss of many plain and precious things.


Also included are detailed maps of various regions mentioned in the New Testament and bibliographic notes that lead the most interested readers to scholarly treatments of the topics contained in the charts. *Charting the New Testament* can be the means to initiate further investigation into this exciting scripture or a way to share LDS perspectives with others who also value this sublime book of scripture. Its primary aim, the authors write, is "to make the New Testament simple without simplifying this vastly complex text." To order a copy of this book, use the enclosed order form or visit the bookstore section of the FARMS Web site. 

Book of Breathings continued from page 1

(*Wsr-wr*), which is the subject of this book. (The Book of the Dead fragments will be the subject of a separate book.)

The Hor Book of Breathings is the second volume in the Studies in the Book of Abraham series, following *Traditions about the Early Life of Abraham* (edited by John A. Tvedtnes, Brian M. Hauglid, and John Gee), published by FARMS in 2001.

In addition to providing a translation and transliteration, Rhodes, an associate research professor in the Department of Ancient Scripture at BYU, examines such topics as the history and paleography of the papyrus, grammatical forms and vocabulary, the language of the Book of Breathings, the vignettes, and the Book of Breathings made by Isis.

To obtain a copy of *The Hor Book of Breathings: A Translation and Commentary*, see the enclosed order form or visit the bookstore section of the FARMS Web site. 

Insights

A Window on the Ancient World
Volume 22 | Number 7 | 2002

A Publication of the
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and Mormon Studies (FARMS)

Institute for the Study and
Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts
Brigham Young University

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FARMS is part of Brigham Young University's Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts. As such, it encourages and supports research on the Book of Mormon, the Book of Abraham, the Bible, other ancient scripture, and related subjects. Under the FARMS imprint, the Institute publishes and distributes titles in these areas for the benefit of scholars and interested Latter-day Saint readers.

Primary research interests at FARMS include the history, language, literature, culture, geography, politics, and law relevant to ancient scripture. Although such subjects are of secondary importance when compared with the spiritual and eternal messages of scripture, solid research and academic perspectives can supply certain kinds of useful information, even if only tentatively, concerning many significant and interesting questions about scripture.

FARMS makes interim and final reports about this research available widely, promptly, and economically. These publications are peer reviewed to ensure that scholarly standards are met. The proceeds from the sale of these materials are used to support further research and publications. As a service to teachers and students of the scriptures, research results are distributed in both scholarly and popular formats.

It is hoped that this information will help all interested people to "come unto Christ" (Jacob 1:7) and to understand and appreciate more fully the scriptural witnesses of the divine mission of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

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