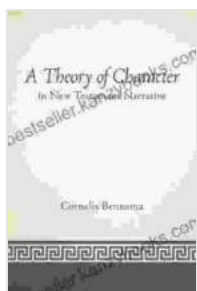


The Theory of Character in New Testament Narrative: Unveiling the Depth of Biblical Storytelling

The New Testament of the Christian Bible contains a vast array of characters, each with their own unique motivations, flaws, and experiences. These characters play a crucial role in conveying the core messages and themes of the biblical narrative. In his groundbreaking work, "Theory of Character in New Testament Narrative," renowned biblical scholar and literary critic David Rhoads offers a comprehensive analysis of the characterization techniques employed in the New Testament, shedding new light on the depth and complexity of biblical storytelling.



A Theory of Character in New Testament Narrative

by Cornelis Bennema

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 782 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 236 pages

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Exploring the Inner World of Biblical Characters

Rhoads argues that New Testament authors used a variety of sophisticated techniques to create characters that are both relatable and transformative. By analyzing their motivations, actions, and interactions, he uncovers the inner workings of their minds and hearts, revealing their hopes, fears, and aspirations. Rhoads demonstrates how these characters serve as mirrors through which readers can examine their own lives and relationships.

The Gospels' Portrayal of Jesus

A central focus of Rhoads' analysis is the characterization of Jesus in the four Gospels. He argues that Jesus is not simply a historical figure but a

complex and multifaceted literary character. Through a careful examination of the Gospels' narrative structure, dialogue, and symbolism, Rhoads reveals the layers of Jesus' humanity and divinity, his compassion, his vulnerability, and his ultimate triumph over death.

The Acts of the Apostles and the Mission of the Church

In the Book of Acts, Rhoads identifies a cast of diverse characters who play a pivotal role in the early mission of the Christian church. From Peter and Paul to Lydia and Aquila, these characters embody the challenges and triumphs of spreading the gospel in a hostile world. Rhoads explores how their relationships, conflicts, and personal journeys reflect the complexities of the early church's mission.

Parables and the Power of Fictional Characters

Rhoads also delves into the use of parables in the New Testament. He argues that parables are not mere allegories but powerful literary tools that invite readers to engage with the characters and their stories. By examining the characters in parables, he reveals how they embody universal human experiences and challenge us to reconsider our values and priorities.

The Epistles and the Development of Christian Character

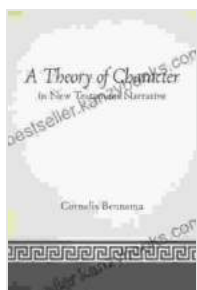
In the New Testament epistles, Rhoads explores how the characterization of individual believers contributes to the development of Christian character. Through close readings of Paul's letters, he shows how the apostle uses personal anecdotes, exhortations, and examples to guide believers in their spiritual formation. Rhoads argues that the

characterization of these believers not only reflects the early church's struggles but also provides models for Christian living today.

The Apocalypse and the End-Time Vision

In the Book of Revelation, Rhoads encounters a complex and enigmatic cast of characters that represent the cosmic battle between good and evil. He analyzes how these characters interact with the central figure of Jesus Christ, revealing the apocalyptic vision of the end times. Rhoads shows how the characterization in Revelation challenges traditional notions of reality and invites readers to confront the ultimate questions of life and death.

David Rhoads' "Theory of Character in New Testament Narrative" is a seminal work that has revolutionized our understanding of characterization in the Bible. By uncovering the depth, complexity, and transformative power of biblical characters, Rhoads invites readers to engage with the New Testament narrative on a new level. His insights provide not only a deeper appreciation for the literary genius of the Bible but also an invitation to reflect on our own lives, relationships, and the ultimate meaning of our existence.



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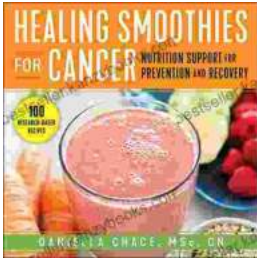
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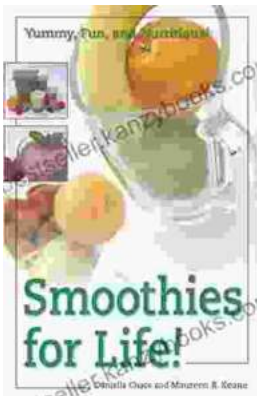
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