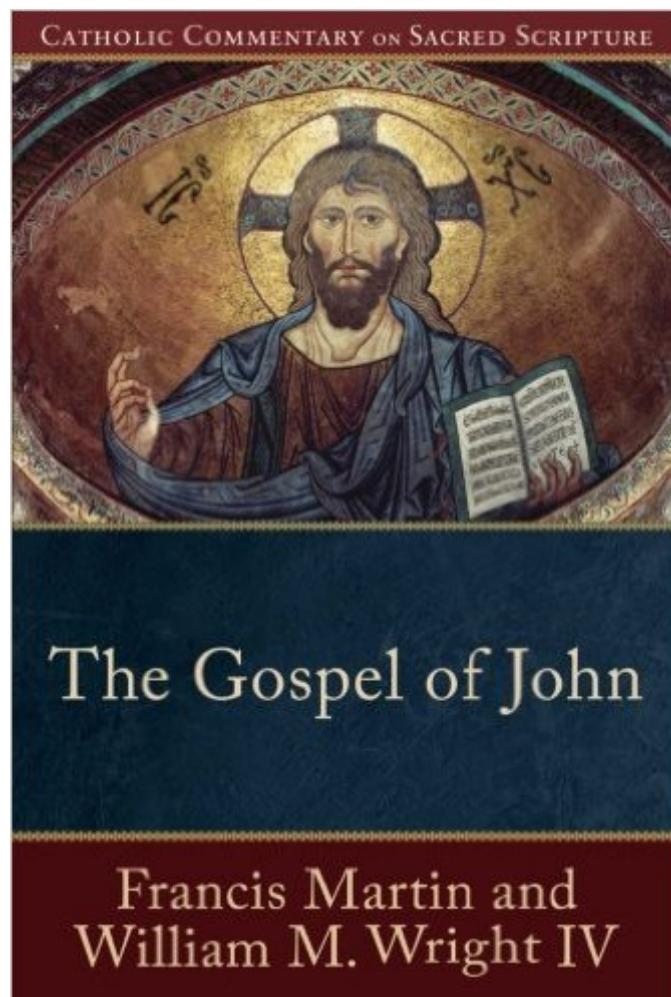


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The Gospel Of John (Catholic Commentary On Sacred Scripture)



Synopsis

In this addition to the Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture, two well-respected New Testament scholars interpret the Gospel of John in its historical and literary setting as well as in light of the Church's doctrinal, liturgical, and spiritual tradition. They unpack the wisdom of the Fourth Gospel for the intellectual and spiritual transformation of its readers and connect the Gospel with a range of witnesses throughout the whole history of Catholicism. This volume, like each in the series, is supplemented by features designed to help readers understand the Bible more deeply and use it more effectively in teaching, preaching, evangelization, and other forms of ministry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since Vatican II, the Roman Catholic Church has paid a lot more attention to the rising hunger for the Word of God. While they have been venerating the Scriptures for hundreds of years, it is only after Vatican II where the focus has become sharpened. With more desire from the laity to learn to interpret and to study the Bible for themselves, there is also a need for biblical resources like commentaries that are updated for the modern masses. This is where the "Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture" comes in. What makes this unique are the following:- Rather than technicalities of the texts, it focuses on the "meaning of the text for faith and life"- The Interpretation includes perspectives from Protestants and Orthodox groups- Though the main translation is the New American Bible, there are frequent comparisons to other translations like NRSV, JB, and NIV.-

Special sidebars containing biblical background (historical, literary, theological, tradition, miscellaneous writings) information- Relating Scripture to Catholic doctrine- John being a special bridge to the other gospel writers as well as the three Johannine letters and Revelation. The two Catholic theologians serve in various teaching institutions of the Church. Francis Martin is Professor Emeritus of New Testament at the Dominican House of Studies while William M Wright is Associate Professor of theology at the Catholic Church's Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Both of them writes from a Roman Catholic perspective. With ten other CCSS commentaries on the New Testament already published, this volume deals with a gospel that was described by Pope St Gregory as a "smooth, deep river in which a lamb may walk and an elephant may swim." The gospel of John is indeed profound and no one tradition or interpretation can exhaust the depth of the gospel teachings. The Introduction covers quite a bit of background, beginning with the various interpretations to authorship. Traditionally, the authorship was ascribed to John being one of the Twelve. Later opinions point to a John outside the Twelve, namely a disciple of John the Baptist. Martin and Wright are not dogmatic about this authorship. Dating the gospel to the AD 90s, attention is paid not only to the textual meaning but also the literacy structure. In other words, it is not just what the stories are but how the author chooses to tell the stories. Some literary features include "pairs of opposites," "special vocabulary," "irony," "misunderstanding," double meanings, and symbolism. Like many other commentaries, the authors agree with the central focus of John wanting to write such that readers will come to believe. The volume is large, comprising 22 parts that cover the entire 21 chapters of the gospel. The outline is clear with a step by step revelation of John's plan through the book. Many commentaries focus on the seven signs of John and the seven I-AMs of Jesus. Martin and Wright still refer to them but tailor it in terms of focusing on the days of Revelation, the Faith journey of the Samaritan woman, the Bread of Life discourses, the Jerusalem debates, the Shepherd discourses, the Farewell discourses, and the various contrasting symbolism used. The commentary itself is very lively, beginning with a brief introduction of each pericope, then the biblical text, followed by a unique three part reference table.

- 1) Some Old Testament references
- 2) Some New Testament references
- 3) A Catechism and/or Lectionary of the Church

There are colourful photos, maps, and helpful sidebars that add additional perspectives and contexts to the passages. From Augustine to the various Popes of the Church, contributions come too from Church Fathers recognized by most segments of Christianity, like John Chrysostom, St Thomas Aquinas, St Catherine of Siena, Justin Martyr and others. The small glossary of terms is too brief to be any useful. Footnotes are kept to the minimum and the suggested resources are also very limited. When reading the commentary, care needs to be taken with regards to the verse

numberings. The authors remind readers that the NAB has a different numbering sequence which may cause some cross-references confusion when readers try to compare to other versions. The interpretive approach of this commentary is based on the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (Dei Verbum) that ties interpretation with Church tradition. Non-Catholic readers may want to note that the Dei Verbum does point back to certain unique Catholicism doctrines like the Church being given the "authority to teach in their own place," referring to the Church as "holy mother Church," and the insistence on mysteries being revealed to "holy Apostles and prophets in the Holy Spirit" for the work of God. This is a commendable effort on the part of the authors trying to remain faithful to Catholic doctrine and at the same time open to non-Catholic sources. Written primarily to pastors and teachers, lay persons may find it helpful as a resource in their studies of John. Rating: 4.25 stars of 5. conrade This book is provided to me courtesy of Baker Academic and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. All opinions offered above are mine unless otherwise stated or implied.

John's Gospel is a beautiful spiritual resource to those who can penetrate its profound Hellenistic symbolic and philosophic language. Fr. Francis Martin is the elder master spiritual and hermeneutical scholar of the Bible who can lead us with due reverence through this masterpiece without falling into the many pitfalls that poor theological foundations of our inquiry might present. I highly recommend this invaluable source.

I really got a lot out of reading this book. The authors take the Gospel of John and break it down into parts to really give an in depth look at what John was trying to tell his readers. There are lots of biblical references, historical information, and wonderful little additions from important people of faith. I have read the stories in the Gospel of John and thought I knew them well but I now feel like I have a deeper understanding and an appreciation for his words. I know that what I learned from reading this book will stay with me and help me to grow in my faith. This is a must read for all Catholics who want to go deeper into their understanding and love for Jesus.

John the Evangelist was one of the Heavenly Group with Our Lady; St Joseph; the Lamb of God on the altar with a cross who appeared to a group of People here in Knock Co Mayo Ireland.. No words were spoken but the Mission of Christ is already outlined in John's Gospel. John is depicted with the Book of the Gospel in his hand and he is silently preaching to all who want to listen!. I thank the two authors for their work. The skillful set up of contents alone, is very useful. A valuable resource book

and a great companion to the Gospel of John.

I have been teaching the new testament for about 40 years. This is the most comprehensive commentary I have ever seen. The format is perfect since the Bible passage is commented on after each verse. I have one on my Kindle and bought the book for a Religious Education Coordinator friend of mine who resists getting a home computer even though she uses one a work. She loves this book too.

This Commentary on the Gospel of John is a tremendous resource. I enjoy studying the Scriptures using this resource.

I am using the Kindle version of this commentary and absolutely love it! Kudos to all the editors involved in the production of this book. If Scott Hahn is involved, you know it is of the highest quality.

Excellent commentary to the 4th Gospel! The authors realy deepened in the interpretation of this book and in its application to present time

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