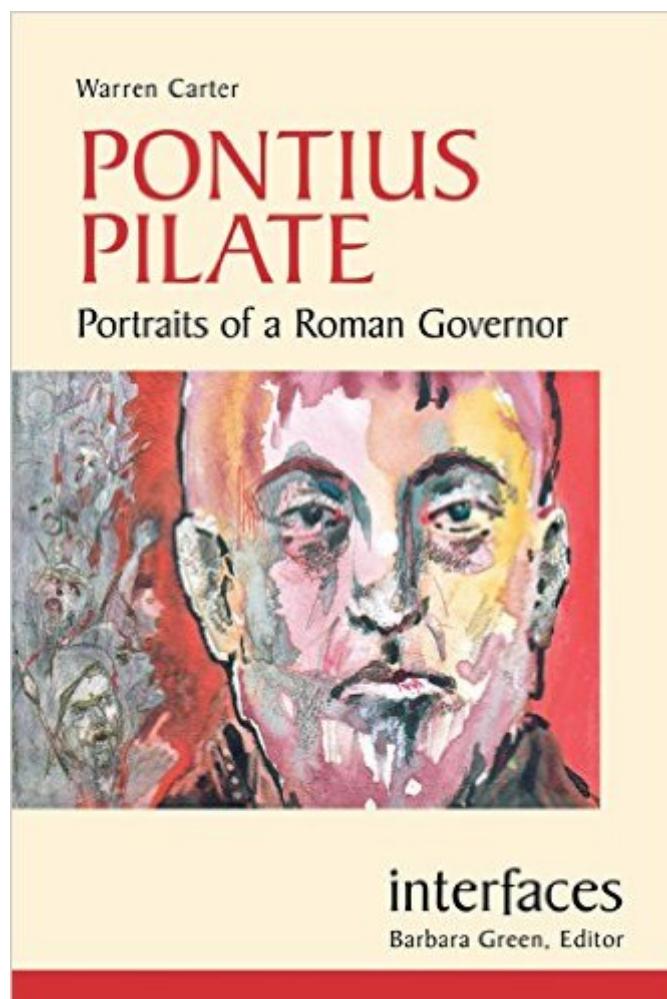


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Pontius Pilate: Portraits Of A Roman Governor (Interfaces Series)



Synopsis

This book explores the diverse portraits of Pontius Pilate in the Gospels. Pontius Pilate focuses on reading the Gospels not only as personal religious text but also as narratives shaped by their sociopolitical contexts. It identifies aspects of Roman imperial power that is assumed by each Gospel's presentation of Pilate, the Roman governor. It analyzes each Gospel's critical attitude to the empire and outlines how that Gospel shapes Christian discipleship in a world dominated by Roman power.

Book Information

Series: Interfaces

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Customer Reviews

Pontius Pilate, Portraits of a Roman Governor by Warren Brown, in the 'interfaces' seriesThis is the second book in this series I have reviewed on a minor Biblical figure, the first being the offering on Delilah, Ahab's wife. Both books do very good jobs of presenting their material, but Professor Carter has several advantages over the author for Delilah. The first advantage is that Pontius Pilate, the procurator and prefect (meaning tax collector and chief magistrate) for Roman interests in the backwater province of Judea has been cited in several historical works in addition to the four Christian gospels. On top of that, these four gospels give four different views of Pilate as he presides over the trial of Jesus of Nazareth, accused of blasphemy by the Sanhedrin, the Jewish council which ruled over the temple, religious affairs in Jerusalem, and some civic matters such as charity. The author avoids the mistake of throwing all these reports into one pot and trying to come

up with a single portrait of Pilate, hence, the appropriateness of the author's subtitle. And, combining the Gospels, historian Josephus, and historian / philosopher Philo's reports into a single picture would be like mixing oil and water, because as 'kind' as the Gospels are, that is how unflattering the Jewish reporters Josephus and Philo were. The Gospels have a good chance of being closer to the truth about Pilate. But that should be taken with a grain of sand, as the Gospels also had an agenda. This book would really be a rather nice High School text on the ancient world. As a scholarly text, it is not well enough documented to work for college.

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