

Uri Wernik

Jesus and his Two Fathers

The Person and the Legacy

SERIES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

“The narrative of Jesus’s life, mission, and afterlife that shaped the history of the world in the last two millennia still haunts readers in the 21st century as the persistent list of titles on Jesus indicates. Uri Wernik’s Jesus and his Two Fathers is a welcome addition to this list. Original and insightful in contents, lucid and engaging in style, it articulates Jesus legacy in the context of his family, disciples, culture, and politics. Using notions and methods from diverse branches of psychology, Wernik astutely peels off the outer layers of early Christology’s and Pauline revisions, to discover Jesus as a Jewish reformer, in the spirit of the biblical prophets. This book can find its way to the minds and hearts of many interested readers.”

Yoram Bilu, professor emeritus of psychology and anthropology, Hebrew University.
Member of the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Summary

Who was Jesus in real life? What inspired his ideas? What did he aim to achieve? What drew his disciples to him? How was he influenced by them? Unlike the many “quests for the historical Jesus”, as a psychologist, Wernik answers these questions from the perspectives of psychology and the social sciences.

This book’s central axis is the theme of the father. It looks at the family constellation into which Jesus was born, where he was raised by a stepfather. It also investigates the relationship he develops with God, his father in heaven; and examines how he became a father figure to his disciples and followers. It is hoped that readers will also think about their own father when reading, the one usually called “dad”.

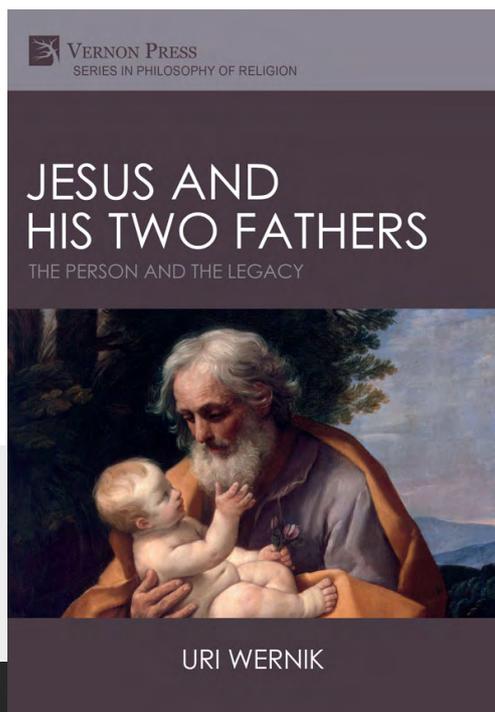
Jesus and His Two Fathers sees Jesus’ love of peace and appeasement doctrine, as well as his difficulty with anger control, in the context of his upbringing and family constellation. Wernik offers a solution to the problem of the “missing years” which were unaccounted in the New Testament. He examines the internal conflicts in Jesus’ movement, and the tensions with the religious establishment, which led to his death. Jesus did not see himself as the Messiah, and Wernik

shows him in fact as a great reformer of Judaism, who changed the notions of righteousness, the relation of the believers to God, and the status of the commandments. This book will be of interest to scholars, teachers and students in the humanities and social sciences, among others in the fields of religion, especially Christianity and Judaism. It is aimed at interested discerning readers of non-fiction in these areas.

About the author

Uri Wernik, Psy.D is a senior clinical and medical psychologist and certified sex therapist. He is in private practice and his work experience includes heading a unit for autistic adolescents in a psychiatric hospital, advising staff and students at the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, and facilitating groups for bereaved parents.

Dr. Wernik is a graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a founding member and former chairman of Transtherapy.org. He has published Nietzsche Trauma and Overcoming: The psychology of the psychologist (Wilmington, DE : Vernon Press, 2018), Nietzschean Psychology and Psychotherapy: The New Doctors of the Soul (Lanham, MD: Lexington, 2016), Chance Action Therapy: The playful way of changing (New York, Nova Science Publishers, 2010) and eight books in Hebrew, among them I Qoheleth [Ecclesiastes]: Psychologist, Philosopher, Poet (Jerusalem: Carmel, 1998) as well as books in the areas of sexuality, couple relationships and self-help. In addition, he has published articles on psychotherapy, sexuality, psychology of religion and creativity. Further information can be found at his website <http://therapy.co.il>.



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