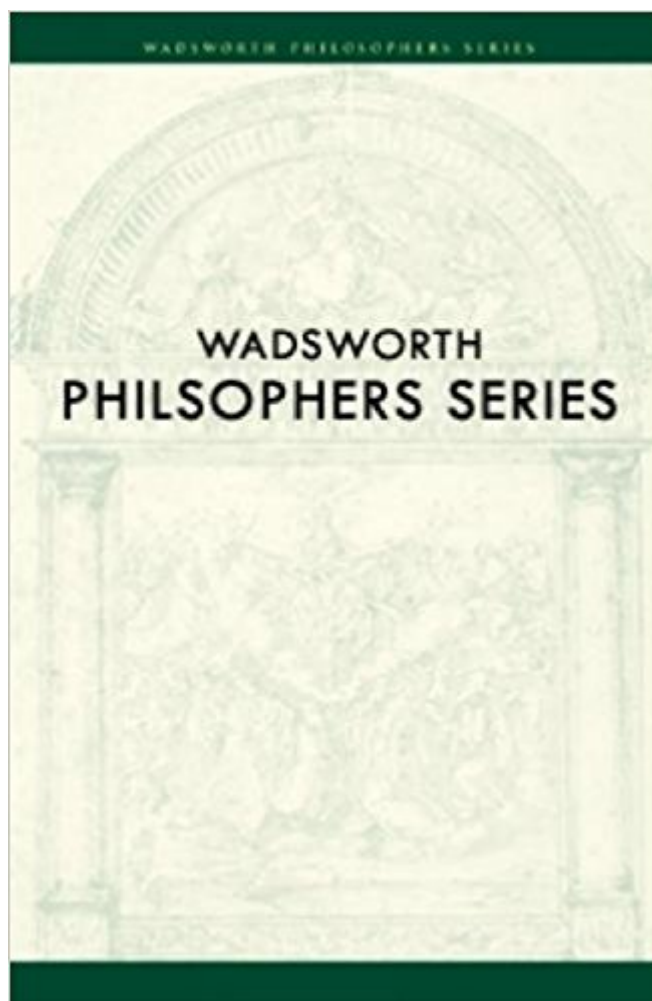


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On Jesus (Wadsworth Philosophers)



Synopsis

ON JESUS, like other titles in the Wadsworth Philosopher's Series, offers a concise, yet comprehensive, introduction to this philosopher's most important ideas. Presenting the most important insights of well over a hundred seminal philosophers in both the Eastern and Western traditions, the Wadsworth Philosophers Series contains volumes written by scholars noted for their excellence in teaching and for their well-versed comprehension of each featured philosopher's major works and contributions. These titles have proven valuable in a number of ways. Serving as standalone texts when tackling a philosophers' original sources or as helpful resources for focusing philosophy students' engagements with these philosopher's often conceptually daunting works, these titles have also gained extraordinary popularity with a lay readership and quite often serve as "refreshers" for philosophy instructors.

Book Information

Series: Wadsworth Philosophers

Paperback: 114 pages

Publisher: Cengage Learning; 1 edition (June 6, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0534583946

ISBN-13: 978-0534583941

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #83,974 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Philosophers #146 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Theology > Christology #207 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Christianity

Customer Reviews

1. Was Jesus a Philosopher? 2. Jesus in History. 3. Jesus' Use of Arguments. 4. Jesus' Metaphysics. 5. The Ethics of Jesus. 6. Jesus' View of Women. 8. "Who Do You Say That I Am?"

Dr. Douglas Groothuis (groot-ice) provides a unique addition to Christian studies in his addition to the Wadsworth Philosophers Series titled "On Jesus." This series outlines the major teachings and beliefs of various philosophers from Socrates to Kant and beyond. Groothuis tackles the

controversial topic of Jesus as a philosopher - controversial to philosophers since Jesus never systematizes His philosophy and controversial to Christians who take an anti-philosophy bent from Col 2:8. Overall, this 95 page book wastes no space and packs in a tremendous amount of goodness regarding Jesus' teachings. Groothuis begins with making the case for Jesus as a philosopher. He adeptly puts both philosophers' and anti-philosophy Christians' minds at ease. From there, he does something I have never seen in print. Groothuis outlines Jesus' use of philosophical/logical argument in His teaching. This section is superbly done and I would love to read more on the topic. Overall, Groothuis shows how Jesus uses *modus ponens*, *a fortiori* and *reductio ad absurdum* arguments along with splitting the horns of a false dilemma and appeals to evidence. Truly an outstanding section. From there, Groothuis outlines Jesus' worldview including who He claimed to be, His view of women, criticisms of Jesus due to his apparent support of slavery and Jesus' resurrection. Throughout the text, Groothuis refers to other authors such as major writers like Aristotle, Plato and Kierkegaard while also tackling more recent issues brought up by modern philosophers like Morgan. Groothuis, a seminary professor of philosophy, answers many questions skeptics raise about Jesus in this book to the point where this text almost qualifies as an apologetics text. This is an introduction to these topics and he cuts the discussion off a little earlier than I would have liked at times. But, these books are intended to be short introductions, and *On Jesus* provides much more than a basic introduction to the philosophy of Jesus. Highly recommended book!

Overall pretty good. Groothuis' goal is to show Jesus is a philosopher and to describe his philosophy. He argues Jesus is a philosopher though not in the same way as Kant, Aquinas, or Hume. His chapter arguing that Jesus was a philosopher was interesting. For example, he compares Jesus and Socrates. Socrates never wrote any of his arguments down and didn't really have a systematized philosophy, yet no one would not call him a "philosopher." Thus, this criteria cannot be used to contend that Jesus wasn't a philosopher. His strongest chapter was "Jesus' use of argument". He persuasively showed how Jesus logically handled objections based on Biblical dialogues and that Jesus valued rationality. Some of the other chapters were not as convincing. For example, he looks at Jesus' ethics by simply describing Jesus' position on various issues and how they are similar to modern philosophical categories such as virtue ethics and deontology. There are real connections there, but this method wasn't as convincing to show that Jesus was a Philosopher. A better method might have been to show these connections, but to argue that the Biblical authors were not interested in focusing on the philosophical aspects of Jesus. One gets the sense that Jesus did have developed philosophical ideas which shine through at different times in

the gospels. A more modest claim might have been that Jesus was a deep philosophical thinker, but that he focused more on theological and scriptural issues given his Jewish context. (I think these are philosophical issues but it depends on how you define philosophy and what things count as "doing philosophy") Moreover, if you really were the son of God, how might that change the way you would do philosophy? This book would definitely be great for a class that is studying Christian beliefs and Jesus' philosophy. Even though Groothuis could have framed his thesis more persuasively it is still a helpful introduction to the world's most influential thinker.

Great book that helps anyone see that faith in Jesus is reasonable. Each chapter is great!

I'm 75 and the writing is too small and makes it very hard for me to read. Otherwise all was good

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