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This volume examines a multitude of characters in Matthew's gospel, from the main figures of the narrative to smaller but still significant individuals or groups. These studies provide an in-depth look at the different approaches currently employed by scholars working with literary and reader-oriented methods, and demonstrate these approaches through narrative exegesis.

Beginning with an introduction that traces the rise of character analysis in New Testament scholarship, the contributors undertake a close reading of numerous characters and character types in the gospel; from the individual figures of Joseph, Mary, King Herod, John the Baptist, Jesus as King, Jesus the Teacher, God the Father, the Roman Centurion and Peter, to the collective characters of Women, Crowds, Gentiles, Scribes and Pharisees, and Romans. Such close studies aid the understanding of different issues in Matthean characterization, and the result is a collection of exegetical portraits that self-consciously work from a literary, narrative-critical, reader-oriented, or related methodology.

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