

THE COMMON TRADITION BEHIND SYNOPTIC SAYINGS OF JUDGMENT AND JOHN'S APOCALYPSE

Paul Penley advances our understanding of the sources used behind the composition of John's Apocalypse by performing a source-critical investigation of selected portions of the Apocalypse and of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Penley applies specific criteria for compositional influence (shared vocabulary, phrases, grammar, syntax, ideas, and contexts) to these texts demonstrating clear links between them.

Penley first surveys recent research on tracing oral traditions behind the Synoptic Gospels, and on how John's Old Testament allusions have been mediated through Jewish and Christian interpretive traditions. He then conducts a comparative analysis of Synoptic sayings of judgment and John's Apocalypse, finding many instances of shared tradition. One example is Revelation 6, which Penley identifies as sharing a common sequence with Luke 21. The cumulative weight and character of the unique connections examined in this work expose a common oral tradition that framed Old Testament prophetic material in a recognizable but flexible manner.

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