



Queer Readings of the Centurion at Capernaum: Their History and Politics

Christopher B. Zeichmann

The first-ever monograph on the history of queer biblical interpretation of this controversial biblical passage

Since the 1950s, homoerotic readings of the pericope in which Jesus heals a Roman centurion's slave have been built upon three of the account's features: the specific Greek word *pais*, which can refer to youth, slave, or the junior partner in a sexual relationship between two men; Luke's characterization of the young man as "dear" (*entimos*) to the centurion; and commonplace homoeroticism in the Roman army. Rather than affirming or denying the historical reality of a sexual relationship between the centurion and the young man, Christopher B. Zeichmann instead traces the shifting patterns of queer readings of the text and the influences of the sexual, political, and theological discourses of late twentieth- and early twenty-first-century Europe, the United States, and Australia. Readers will see how distinct political contexts have led interpreters to find very different meanings about the sexual subtexts of this story.

Christopher B. Zeichmann teaches in the departments of History and Religious Studies at Toronto Metropolitan University. He is the author of *The Roman Army and the New Testament* (2018) and *The Database of Military Inscriptions and Papyri of Early Roman Palestine* (2022). He is also the project manager of Brown University's Inscriptions of Israel/Palestine project.

October 2022, 324 pages
Bible and Its Reception 5

Paperback \$50.00
ISBN 9781628374544
Hardcover \$70.00
ISBN 9781628374551
E-book \$50.00
eISBN 9781628374568

PURCHASES, EXAM AND DESK COPIES:

SBL Press Customer Service
P.O. Box 2243, Williston, VT 05495
Phone: 802-864-6185 / 877-725-3334 (toll-free)
Fax: 802-864-7626
Email: sblpressorders@aidcvt.com
Web: www.sbl-site.org/publications

REQUEST REVIEW COPIES FROM:

SBL Press
Heather McMurray, Sales Manager
825 Houston Mill Road, Suite 350, Atlanta, GA 30329
Phone: 404-727-3096
Email: heather.mcmurray@sbl-site.org