
Kloppenborg, John S 1988 — Q Parallels: Synopsis, critical notes & concordance

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Reviewer: Prof G M M Pelsler

According to the writer the main reason for the origin of this book lies in the fact that the tools available for the study of the Synoptic Gospels in general are not always ideally suited to the examination and reconstruction of Q. The alignment of parallels in the standard synopses do not always make easily available the extent of verbal agreements and disagreements between Matthew and Luke where Mark is present and even on occasion in non-Markan material. Furthermore, the division of the texts of Matthew and Luke into short pericopæ is made not on the basis of their likely function in Q but on the basis of their use by Matthew and Luke, or their position *vis à vis* Mark. The result of this is that a sense of the original order and cohesion of the Q document is frequently either lost or obscured for those interested in Q.

It is not the intent of this volume to offer a reconstruction of the Greek text of the Q document but instead to provide a tool to aid in that construction and in any investigation of Q. The bulk of the book consists of a presentation of the Q parallels in Matthew and Luke, together with added parallel material from a wide variety of documents from both the Old and the New Testaments, Apocryphal Gospels, the Apostolic Fathers, Papiri, et cetera. In the presentation of the material the sequence of Luke is followed because Luke is regarded as closer to the sequence of Q than Matthew. A translation is also given of each and every text cited, whether it is that of Matthew or Luke or any of the other parallels. What is to be regarded as very helpful and useful is that a complete concordance of the material in Matthew and Luke is appended, together with a list of sayings formulae and compound Christological titles.

This volume is without a doubt going to become an indispensable tool for Q research for many years to come, and a standard Q synopsis as well. It is clear that much work has gone into this project and that much has been done to make available a volume of this kind that would really be worth having on one's shelf. It should especially be welcomed in view of the upsurge in Q studies during the last decade or more, and it will definitely make a very significant contribution towards this study. It is therefore strongly recommended not only to people interested in Q but also to anyone working on the Synoptic Gospels.
