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1542 KURT ERLEMANN ET AL. (EDS.), Neues Testament und Antike Kultur. Band 1

Do we need another New Schürer, i.e. a handbook that informs about the historical and cultural background of the NT? Although the Schürer is not mentioned, the editors of this volume insist on the appropriateness of the project, and rightly so. This first volume of a series of basic textbooks on the setting of the NT in its ancient Greco-Roman and Jewish settings surveys the sources that are relevant for historical research. So one finds here chapters on the Septuagint, Jewish law, on classical literature and law, inscriptions and coins, but also contributions on the cultural history of the Roman Empire in general and Asia Minor, Egypt, Palestine etc. in particular. Each section is annotated and includes a bibliography. Three authors have contributed papers that deal with NT matters in some detail: R. Riesner writing on the chronology of the NT, H. Omerzu on the trial of St. Paul, and R. Zimmermann on pseudonymous and pseudepigraphical writing. – A remarkable scholarly resource that, emulating the New Schürer in comprehensiveness and bibliographical detail, will not fail to shape German scholarship.

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