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### **Book Review**

David Flusser's book, *The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*, was published in 2007 by Eerdmans Publishing Company. The book focuses on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, and aims to provide a new perspective on Jesus as a Jewish sage. The author is a Jewish scholar who has dedicated his career to the study of early Judaism, and in this book he uses his expertise to analyze Jesus' teachings within the context of Jewish tradition. The book is divided into two parts, each of which is further subdivided into chapters. The first part, entitled "The Sage from Galilee," focuses on Jesus as a teacher and sage, and analyzes his teachings in light of Jewish tradition. The second part, entitled "Jewish Christianity," examines the early Jewish Christian community and their understanding of Jesus' teachings.

The layout of the book is helpful to readers, as each chapter is clearly labeled and organized around a central theme or argument. The author provides extensive footnotes and references to support his arguments, which allows the reader to explore the sources in greater depth. The book is written in a clear and accessible style, which makes it a valuable resource for scholars, students, and general readers alike. In the preface, the author states that his aim is to provide a new understanding of Jesus as a Jewish sage, and to challenge the traditional view of Jesus as a founder of a new religion. He argues that Jesus' teachings were firmly rooted in Jewish tradition, and that his message was

intended for a Jewish audience. The author also seeks to demonstrate the continuity between Judaism and Christianity, and to highlight the importance of Jewish tradition in understanding the teachings of Jesus. Overall, the content of the book is a valuable contribution to the study of the New Testament. The author's expertise in Jewish tradition allows him to provide a new perspective on Jesus' teachings, which challenges traditional interpretations. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of Jesus' teachings, and demonstrates the continuity between Judaism and Christianity. The author's arguments are supported by extensive references and footnotes, which allows the reader to explore the sources in greater depth.

The book is divided into ten chapters that cover different aspects of Jesus' life and teachings.

Each chapter provides a detailed analysis of a specific topic, such as Jesus' use of parables, his relationship to the Jewish law, and his teaching on the kingdom of God. The chapters are well-organized and easy to follow, making the book accessible to readers of all levels. One of the most compelling chapters in the book is Chapter 2, "The Sage from Galilee." Flusser argues that Jesus' teachings were not revolutionary, but rather a continuation of the wisdom tradition in Judaism. He uses evidence from the New Testament and Jewish literature to support his argument. For example, he analyzes the parables of Jesus and compares them to similar parables in the Jewish Talmud. He also discusses the concept of the "Son of Man" and how it was used in Jewish apocalyptic literature. Flusser's analysis of the parables and the concept of the "Son of Man" supports his argument that Jesus was a sage who was influenced by the wisdom tradition in Judaism. Another interesting chapter in the book is Chapter 5, "The Teaching of the

Kingdom of God." Flusser argues that Jesus' message was focused on the coming of the kingdom of God, which was not a political or apocalyptic concept, but rather a spiritual one. He contends that Jesus' teaching about the kingdom of God was rooted in the Jewish tradition of eschatology and that he saw himself as a prophet announcing the arrival of the kingdom. Flusser uses evidence from the New Testament and Jewish literature to support his argument. For example, he discusses the similarities between Jesus' teaching on the kingdom of God and the teachings of the Jewish prophets.

While Flusser's arguments are compelling, there are some points where readers may disagree with him. For example, in Chapter 9, "Jesus and the Jewish Law," Flusser argues that Jesus did not seek to abolish the Jewish law, but rather to reinterpret it. Some readers may find this argument unconvincing, as there are passages in the New Testament where Jesus appears to criticize the Jewish law. Overall, *The Sage from Galilee* is an important contribution to the study of the New Testament. Flusser's analysis of Jesus' teachings is based on a deep understanding of Jewish literature and provides a fresh perspective on the historical Jesus. The book is well-written and accessible to readers of all levels. While readers may not agree with all of Flusser's arguments, the book provides a thought-provoking and valuable contribution to the field.

#### Bibliography:

Flusser, David. *The Sage from Galilee: Rediscovering Jesus' Genius*. Eerdmans, 2007.