

# Contents

Overture: *The Gospel of Jesus* xi  
Prologue: *The Historical Jesus* xxvii

## PART I *Brokered Empire* 1

Chapter 1. *Then and Now* 3  
    *A Friendly Sea in a Hostile Landscape* 4  
    *Through the Eyes of Others* 9  
    *Can Anything Good Come from Nazareth?* 15  
    *Do Not Forget Me* 19

Chapter 2. *War and Peace* 31  
    *A Shrine to Augustan Peace* 32  
    *Beggared of Paternal Estate* 36  
    *Against the Britons and the Asians* 38

Chapter 3. *Slave and Patron* 43  
    *Social Strata in Agrarian Societies* 43  
    *Paradoxes in Roman Slavery* 46  
    *An Anti-economic Ideology* 50  
    *The Frog-Prince's Passion for Trade* 53  
    *A Map of Patronal Society* 59  
    *The Bedrock of Political Life* 65  
    *In Heaven as It Is on Earth* 68

Chapter 4. *Poverty and Freedom* 72  
    *Diogenes or Daedalus?* 74  
    *Free Under Father Zeus* 76  
    *The Skin of My Feet for Shoes* 80  
    *In the Army of the Dog* 84

## PART II *Embattled Brokerage* 89

Chapter 5. *Aristocrat and Historian* 91  
    *At Least Hold Historical Truth in Honor* 92  
    *I Cannot Conceal My Private Sentiments* 96  
    *Sub Tiberio Quies* 100

- Chapter 6. *Visionary and Teacher* 103  
*The Coming of the Fifth Kingdom* 106  
*No Lord but God* III
- Chapter 7. *Peasant and Protester* 124  
*Vegetating in the Teeth of Time* 125  
*The Threat of an Agrarian Strike* 128
- Chapter 8. *Magician and Prophet* 137  
*Elijah and Elisha* 138  
*Magicians Rabbimized* 142  
*To Perform the Millennial Dream* 158
- Chapter 9. *Bandit and Messiah* 168  
*The Unpainted Face of Agrarian Empire* 168  
*A Brigand Chief with a Large Horde* 174  
*A King Without a Dynasty?* 196
- Chapter 10. *Rebel and Revolutionary* 207  
*Native Revolts Against Rome* 208  
*A Revolution Within a Revolution* 210  
*Trajectories of Peasant Turmoil* 218
- PART III *Brokerless Kingdom* 225
- Chapter 11. *John and Jesus* 227  
*By the Middle of the First Century* 228  
*John and the Coming One* 230  
*The Apocalyptic Son of Man* 238  
*Children and Disciples Complain* 259  
*Open Commensality* 261
- Chapter 12. *Kingdom and Wisdom* 265  
*A Kingdom of Nobodies* 266  
*A Kingdom of Undesirables* 276  
*A Kingdom of Here and Now* 282  
*A Kingdom of God* 283  
*From Kingdom to Liturgy* 293  
*Against the Patriarchal Family* 299
- Chapter 13. *Magic and Meal* 303  
*Magic as Religious Banditry* 304  
*A Gospel of Miracles?* 310  
*Possessed by Demonic Imperialism* 313

- Event and Process in Miracle* 320  
*From Miracle to Table* 332  
*The Message of an Open Secret* 348
- Chapter 14. *Death and Burial* 354  
*I Will Destroy This House* 355  
*Do This in Memory of Me* 360  
*The Passion as Narrative* 367  
*A Member of the Council* 391
- Chapter 15. *Resurrection and Authority* 395  
*Meal and Sea* 396  
*The Named and the Unnamed* 410
- Epilogue* 417  
*Jesus and Judaism* 418  
*A Peasant Jewish Cynic* 421  
*Jesus and Christianity* 422
- Appendixes* 427  
*Bibliography* 467  
*Author Index* 487  
*Text Index* 490  
*Complex Index* 506