

## Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero

By *Dennis R. MacDonald*

Download now

Read Online 

**Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero** By Dennis R. MacDonald

Our culture is well-populated with superheroes: Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, and more. Superheroes are not a modern invention; in fact, they are prehistoric. The gods and goddesses of the Greeks, for example, walked on water, flew, visited the land of the dead, and lived forever. Ancient Christians told similar stories about Jesus, their primary superhero—he possessed incredible powers of healing, walked on water, rose from the dead, and more. Dennis R. MacDonald shows how the stories told in the Gospels parallel many in Greek and Roman epics with the aim of compelling their readers into life-changing decisions to follow Jesus. MacDonald doesn't call into question the existence of Jesus but rather asks readers to examine the biblical stories about him through a new, mythological lens.

 [Download Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic H ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic ...pdf](#)

# Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero

*By Dennis R. MacDonald*


## Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald

Our culture is well-populated with superheroes: Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, and more. Superheroes are not a modern invention; in fact, they are prehistoric. The gods and goddesses of the Greeks, for example, walked on water, flew, visited the land of the dead, and lived forever. Ancient Christians told similar stories about Jesus, their primary superhero—he possessed incredible powers of healing, walked on water, rose from the dead, and more. Dennis R. MacDonald shows how the stories told in the Gospels parallel many in Greek and Roman epics with the aim of compelling their readers into life-changing decisions to follow Jesus. MacDonald doesn't call into question the existence of Jesus but rather asks readers to examine the biblical stories about him through a new, mythological lens.

## Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #355539 in Books
- Published on: 2015-05-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .73" w x 6.28" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 178 pages

 [Download Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic H ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

The Christian scriptures took shape within a rich literary landscape, as the gnostic gospels and the Dead Sea Scrolls make clear. But MacDonald, a biblical studies professor at Claremont Graduate School and Claremont School of Theology, sheds light on a different dimension of literary dependence: Homeric material, especially the epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. MacDonald (author of *The Homeric Epics and the Gospel of Mark*, to which he directs interested readers for more scholarly treatments) aims here to distill his findings and present a cogent comparison of Homeric tropes with the Christian gospels of Mark and Luke. To that end, in brief chapters, the author shows some 24 major parallels explored chapter by chapter, from 'Born Divine and Human' to 'Disappearing into the Sky.' . . . The evidence certainly seems to demonstrate . . . dependence by the gospel writers on their masterful Greek predecessor in their stories about and portrayals of Jesus. (*Publishers Weekly*)

VERDICT MacDonald doesn't intend to assail belief; this is not an atheist's or a scoffer's approach but rather a post-Rudolf Bultmann view of the Christian ideal, suitable for believers who are ready to embrace a Christianity that acknowledges its own myth. (*Library Journal*)

[T]his book is an intriguing read and worth the time to dig through it... (*Faith Matters*)

*Mythologizing Jesus* convincingly explains the numerous correspondences between the synoptic Gospels of Luke and Mark and the Greek poet Homer; too many, in fact, to be just coincidences and thereby shedding new light on old texts and unmistakably illuminating an important area of research. (*San Diego Jewish World*)

The author of this work, a professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Claremont School of Theology, has dedicated much of his professional work to comparing the New Testament literature with ancient Greek and Latin classics. This work on Jesus is something of a summary of his more extensive previous studies on this subject. His thesis is clear. (*The Bible Today*)

This book is a rare treat. It breams with knowledge of Homer, the Gospels, and early Christian writings.... Read *Mythologizing Jesus*. It is courageous, refreshing and timely. It unearths a huge truth and breaks ground in scholarship and theology. (*The Huffington Post*)

Exceptionally well written, organized, and presented, *Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero* is enhanced with the inclusion of eight pages of Notes; an Appendix (The Gospels of Matthew and John); a two page Bibliography; a two page Index to Classical Greek Literature; and a two page Index to the Gospels and Acts. Highly recommended for both academia and non-specialist general readers alike, *Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero* is very highly recommended for community, seminary, and academic library Christian Studies reference collections. (*Midwest Book Review*)

This book distills much of MacDonald's decades of scholarship on the Homeric debt of popular literature at the time of Jesus. Mark's and Luke's stock of story motifs were in many cases influenced by Homer: the storm on the sea, the mentally ill man who lived among the caves, the hero walking on the water, the message from the dead to the living, the hero turning over the tables in his house, and many others. Early Christian authors and Byzantine scholars alike noticed the similarities, and now MacDonald has laid out the case clearly and forcefully. (Lawrence M. Wills, Ethelbert Talbot Professor of Biblical Studies, Episcopal Divinity School)

In this fascinating and provocative book, MacDonald shows how the concept of Jesus as superhero made sense to people of the ancient Mediterranean world. He argues that tales of epic heroes fed into portrayals of Jesus in the Gospels, especially in terms of miraculous elements. This is a book sure to fire debate, written with vibrancy and aplomb by an accomplished scholar wielding classical, biblical, and early Christian sources with equal dexterity. (Joan Taylor, King's College London)

About the Author

**Dennis R. MacDonald** is professor of New Testament and Christian origins at Claremont School of Theology. He is the author of several books, including *The Gospels and Homer* and *Luke and Vergil*.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Brittany Belliveau:**

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important action, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero. Try to stumble through book Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero as your good friend. It means that it can being your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you considerably more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , we need to make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

**Nicholas Buchanan:**

The e-book with title Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero includes a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. That book exist new understanding the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you throughout new era of the the positive effect. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

**Marcos Hawkins:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the time or they will get large amount of stress from both everyday life and work. So , when we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity are you experiencing when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative in spending your spare time, typically the book you have read is usually Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero.

**Danny Solberg:**

As we know that book is essential thing to add our expertise for everything. By a e-book we can know everything we want. A book is a list of written, printed, illustrated or blank sheet. Every year seemed to be

exactly added. This reserve Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero was filled in relation to science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your scientific research competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big good thing about a book, you can experience enjoy to read a e-book. In the modern era like at this point, many ways to get book that you simply wanted.

**Download and Read Online Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald #3VT8LUY7GRB**

## **Read Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald for online ebook**

Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald books to read online.

### **Online Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald ebook PDF download**

**Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald Doc**

**Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald Mobipocket**

**Mythologizing Jesus: From Jewish Teacher to Epic Hero By Dennis R. MacDonald EPub**