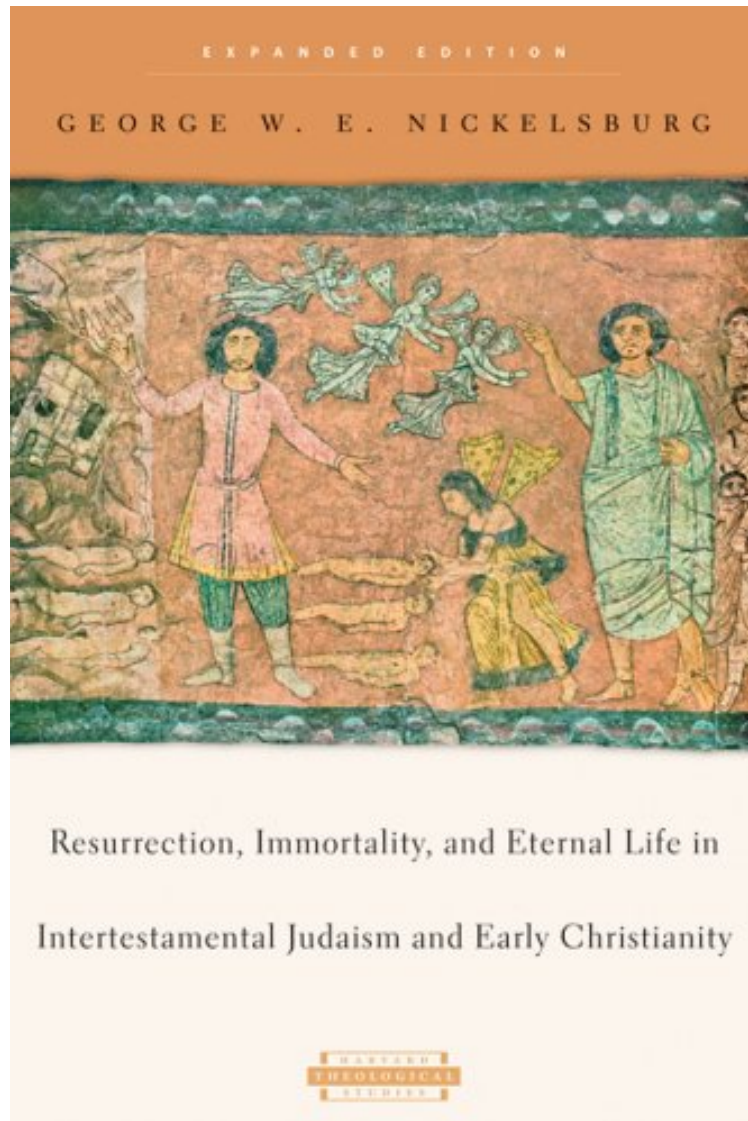


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## Resurrection, Immortality, and Eternal Life in Intertestamental Judaism and Early Christianity: Expanded Edition (Harvard Theological Studies)

*George W. E. Nickelsburg*

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By Michael\_in\_SC This is a fascinating book, of interest to anyone who is interested in the scholarship of Christian origins. It gives great context for understanding the creation of the New Testament and its themes. There were a great many apocalyptic texts current in the first century, with the themes of the Jewish god vindicating righteous people, and a Righteous Man in particular, and punishing the evildoers (all written out of indignation of the foreign domination and mistreatment of the Jews in the 2nd and 1st centuries BCE). It is plausible to think that people, thinking back on the life and death of Jesus of Nazareth, fit Jesus into the extant literary themes. The New Testament is then seen as simply another iteration of the ongoing apocalyptic, vindication-of-righteous-man literature that was already in circulation. All the texts referred to in this book (Wisdom of Solomon, 1 Enoch, et al) are readily findable on the internet.  
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By Abraxas Very in-depth and detailed study of death and afterlife beliefs in intertestamental Judaism and early Christianity. Nice use of sources. More attention to early Akkadian concepts would be a factor in a revised edition.

In this groundbreaking publication, originally published in 1972, George Nickelsburg places ideas in their historical circumstances as he probes biblical and postbiblical texts and challenges widely accepted scholarship. The continuities in literary forms demonstrate that divine justice was the central issue, but that people differed as to whether that justice was enacted in this life, in the assumption to heaven, in a resurrection, or in the ongoing life as an immortal soul. The expanded edition includes subsequent studies on the resurrection accounts and theologies of the New Testament, the New Testament passion narratives, and Jewish and Christian theologies about the Son of Man. This book provides a window into aspects of the ancient apocalyptic worldview whose dynamics and functions are often misunderstood.

It is both a curiosity and a cause for celebration that this seminal work is not only back in print, but has been generously augmented with three recent studies that carry the authors analysis forward into early Christian literature...  
Part One of this book is simply one of the most important monographs on the subject. Perhaps its greatest contribution is to demonstrate the variety and vitality of Jewish thought on this subject in the Second Temple Period...  
Nickelsburgs thoroughgoing examination of these texts remains, in my opinion, the starting point for questions surrounding resurrection in the Second Temple Period. It should serve as a model for scholars today in terms of how we approach biblical and especially non-canonical materials in a responsible and detailed fashion. (Dan Clanton Journal of Hebrew Scriptures 2008-01-01)  
About the Author  
George W. E. Nickelsburg is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa.