

Current biblical scholarship tends to treat the nativity narratives as having little historical basis and to see in them illustrations of the particular theologies of Matthew and Luke. Nonbiblical scholarship sees in these narratives only an adaptation of traditional folklore themes relating to the birth of the hero. This leaves the ordinary Christian in a vacuum that the mass media and other commercial interests are only too anxious to fill. *Liberating Christmas* shows that, regardless of whether the nativity narratives are rooted in actual historical situations, they do portray a particular network of social-political relationships. Thus Caesar ruled and taxed peoples, such as the Jews, through client-kings, such as Herod, who ruled with sharply repressive violence. But the narratives also celebrate the birth of a messiah who will finally liberate his people even though he and his family are driven into exile. The Christmas stories as reappraised by this book have, therefore, important political implications, implications not only about first-century Palestine but about contemporary history as well. These latter implications are brought out by an extensive analysis of the political-economic domination exercised in much of Latin America by the United States, domination maintained by client dictators who use death squads (paralleling Herod's slaughter of innocents) to terrorize and control the exploited peasants while driving members of basic Christian communities into exile. *Liberating Christmas* has as much to say about the Pax Americana as the original nativity narratives had to say about the Pax Romana. The story of Jesus is as important to ordinary readers today as it was when it was first told centuries ago.

Neue Werkstoffe: Überblick und Trends (German Edition), The Economic Development of France and Germany 1815-1914, Challenging Blank Minds and Sticky Moments in Counselling, Nine Days With St. Anthony of Padua, Mel Bay Fun With The Guitar, Painting World War II Miniatures (Schiffer Book for Hobbyists), Clinical Management of Renal Transplantation (Developments in Nephrology), Ray Charles (A Crowell Biography), Erich Sauer, gestaltete Themen (German Edition),

Horsley has made a major contribution to scholarly knowledge and hermeneutical debate by providing a rigorous social reading and interpretation of infancy.

Richard A. Horsley is Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and the Study of Religion at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. He is a prolific author with. Current biblical scholarship tends to treat the nativity narratives as having little historical basis and to see in them illustrations of the particular. *The Liberation of Christmas: The Infancy Narratives in Social Context*. By Richard A. Horsley. New York, Crossroad, pp. \$ Imagine that you have. The liberation of Christmas: the infancy narratives in social context. Responsibility: Richard A. Horsley. Imprint: New York: Crossroad, Physical . *The Liberation of Christmas* has 24 ratings and 3 reviews. Evan said: some pretty good information about the birth of Jesus as seen through the down trodd. Another cultural eye opener by Horsley, with the focus and emphasis on the social relationships reflected in the infancy narratives. Horsley.

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