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This book provides an exciting reinterpretation of the sayings and actions of Jesus. Setting him firmly in the context of first-century Judaism, it asks how important the city of Jerusalem and the theological traditions centred on it were to Jesus. At this time, Zion had become 'the symbol of the life, beliefs and hopes of all Jews'. Those Jews who expected the coming of a messianic Davidic king assumed that it would be from Zion that he would reign. Dr Tan examines how Jesus viewed the significance of Jerusalem in relation to his own vocation, and asks why he went there in what proved to be the last weeks of his life. Skilfully integrating what Jesus is recorded to have said with what he is recorded to have done, the author argues that, as a prophet, Jesus was attracted inevitably to the city of Zion. His message concerned the establishment of God's sovereignty on earth, and this in itself impelled him to go to the city to bring it under the divine rule. Jesus' actions in Jerusalem can also be interpreted as part of a common theme of the restoration of God's people for the fulfilment of their promised destiny.

An understanding of the importance to Jesus of the Zion traditions, therefore, not only helps us to understand the unifying aim behind his ministry, but can also provide us with the key to the riddle of who Jesus thought he was.

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The Zion traditions and the aims of Jesus

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used for journals or reference works.

<i>ABD</i>	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> , ed. D. N. Freedman (New York: Doubleday, 1992)
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i> , eds. H. Temporini and W. Haase (Berlin and New York: de Gruyter, 1972–)
<i>BAGD</i>	W. Bauer, <i>A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature</i> , translated and adapted by W. F. Arndt, and F. W. Gingrich, 2nd edition revised and augmented by F. W. Gingrich and F. W. Danker (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979)
<i>BDF</i>	F. Blass and A. Debrunner, <i>A Greek Grammar of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> , translated and revised by R. W. Funk (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1961)
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BJRL</i>	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands Library</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>EQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>ExpT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>HeyJ</i>	<i>Heythrop Journal</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>ICC</i>	International Critical Commentary
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>

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<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>JRelEth</i>	<i>Journal of Religion and Ethics</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>
<i>JSNT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
NA ²⁶	Nestle–Aland, <i>Novum Testamentum Graece</i> , 26th edition, eds. K. Aland, M. Black, C. M. Martini, B. M. Metzger and A. Wikgren; based on an original work by Eberhard Nestle and Erwin Nestle (Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1979)
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>OTP</i>	<i>Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i> , ed. J. H. Charlesworth, 2 vols. (New York: Doubleday, 1983 and 1985)
<i>RevQum</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
<i>RHPR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
SB	H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , 6 vols. (Munich: Oskar Beck, 1922–56)
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , eds. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, 10 vols., translated by G. W. Bromiley (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964–76)
<i>TDOT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament</i> , eds. G. J. Botterweck and H. Ringgren, many vols., translated by J. T. Willis, G. W. Bromiley and D. E. Green (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1974–)
<i>TynB</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>VE</i>	<i>Vox Evangelica</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZTK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>

(Note: The Hebrew transliteration adopted in this book follows the system of the ICC series.)