



# Reading Karl Barth: A Companion to Karl Barth's Epistle to the Romans

*Kenneth Oakes*

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Karl Barth's 1922 "The Epistle to the Romans" is one of the most famous, notorious, and influential works in twentieth-century theology and biblical studies. It is also a famously and notoriously difficult and enigmatic work, especially as its historical context becomes more and more foreign. In this book, Kenneth Oakes provides historical background to the writing of "The Epistle to the Romans", an introduction and analysis of its main themes and terms, a running commentary on the text itself, and suggestions for further readings from Barth on some of the issues it raises. The volume not only offers orientation and assistance for those reading "The Epistle to the Romans" for the first time, it also deals with contemporary problems in current Barth scholarship regarding liberalism, dialectics, and analogy.

“Barth's 'Epistle to the Romans' is notoriously opaque and challenging; Oakes' guide is lively, perceptive, and nimble, and will enable readers to approach Barth with confidence and discover for themselves the riches of this classic of twentieth-century theology.”

-John Webster

University of Aberdeen

“Clearly written and accessible, 'Reading Karl Barth' offers a fascinating and much-needed commentary on Karl Barth's 'The Epistle to the Romans.' Oakes' book is a helpful companion for those reading Barth for the first time, and there is also much here for those who have been thinking about Barth's revolutionary commentary for some time.”

-Tom Greggs

University of Aberdeen

Kenneth Oakes completed a doctorate in theology at the University of Aberdeen and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Eberhards Karl Universität, Tübingen.

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