Risking Proclamation, Respecting Difference

Christian Faith, Imperialistic Discourse, and Abraham

CHRIS BOESEL

"Risking proclamation, respecting difference, Chris Boesel has dared to host a dialogue among Karl Barth, radical postmodernists, religious Jews, and those Christian theologians who seek both to follow Christ and not turn their backs on the People Israel. This is one of the essential dialogues we need to have today, and Boesel is a most able host. He has set the table and served his delicious meal—with provisions for our various diets and with an invitation to eat according to our own tastes. Now it is time for us to converse!"
—Peter Ochs, University of Virginia

"Can Christian proclamation be made ethically safe for the Jewish neighbor? Or does the question itself harbor a hidden danger as serious as the one it seeks to remedy? In Chris Boesel's skillful hands, these questions become highly sensitive diagnostic tools for assessing the strengths and weaknesses of two major approaches to a Christian theology of Judaism, those exemplified by Rosemary Radford Ruether and Karl Barth. In clear, surefooted, and subtle prose, Boesel shows that the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches are seldom what they appear to be at first glance. Boesel makes an important contribution to our understanding of systematics, ethics, and homiletics at the intersection of Jewish-Christian relations."
—Kendall Soulen, Wesley Theological Seminary

"This book is at once vigorous and vulnerable. Respecting the Jewish neighbor invites the Christian to learn anew the strangeness of Christianity. For Boesel, proclamation has a chance of becoming authentic when it realizes it inevitably involves ethical risk."
—Walter Lowe, Emory University, Emeritus

CHRIS BOESEL is Assistant Professor of Christian Theology at Drew University's Theological School and Graduate Division of Religion.