

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

MONOGRAPH SERIES

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47

HEBREWS AND PERFECTION



Hebrews and Perfection

An Examination of the Concept of Perfection in the 'Epistle to the Hebrews'

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
LONDON NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE
MELBOURNE SYDNEY



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521244084

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First published 1982

This digitally printed first paperback version 2005

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Catalogue Card Number: 82-4188

ISBN-13 978-0-521-24408-4 hardback ISBN-10 0-521-24408-0 hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-01877-7 paperback ISBN-10 0-521-01877-3 paperback



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PREFACE

My interest in Hebrews was first aroused when I read the commentary by Professor F.F. Bruce in connection with undergraduate theological studies. It was therefore a great privilege for me to pursue my study of Hebrews at a postgraduate level under his supervision. His many writings and personal example have continued to challenge me, and I am especially grateful to him for the many hours spent in personal consultation over my work. This book is the modification of a doctoral dissertation accepted by the University of Manchester in 1978.

The research was made possible financially by the granting to me of the Joan Augusta Mackenzie Travelling Scholarship, by various provisions of the Principal and Executive Committee of Moore Theological College and by the awarding of a Research Studentship in Theology through the University of Manchester. To the relevant authorities in each case I offer again my sincere thanks.

I want to express my thanks to the editors of this Monograph Series for the many helpful suggestions made in connection with the revision of my thesis for publication. Dr Peter O'Brien was kind enough to read through the manuscript of this book, making helpful suggestions and pointing out errors. I would also like to record my appreciation of the typing assistance given by Mrs Margaret Kirton, Mrs Sue Westwood, Miss Lynda Graham and Miss Elizabeth Lockrey during various stages of the revision.

The work is dedicated to my wife and children, who have lived for so long in its shadow. During the period of research and writing and then during the revision, they have been a continual source of encouragement to me. Doubtless, they rejoice in the completion of the work and in my release from preoccupation with the project more than I do!

David Peterson July, 1980



ABBREVIATIONS

| AG | (Walter Bauer's) Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, translated and adapted by W.F. Arndt and F.W. Gingrich (Chicago-Cambridge, 1957) |
|----------|--|
| ATR | Anglican Theological Review |
| BDF | F. Blass and A. Debrunner, A Greek Grammar of the New |
| | Testament and Other Early Christian Literature, translated |
| | and edited by R.W. Funk (Chicago London, 1961) |
| BJRL | Bulletin of the John Rylands Library |
| BNTC | Black's New Testament Commentary |
| BZ | Biblische Zeitschrift |
| BZGBE | Beiträge zur Geschichte der biblischen Exegese |
| BZNW | Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft |
| CBQ | Catholic Biblical Quarterly |
| EQ | Evangelical Quarterly |
| ET | English Translation |
| EVV | English Versions |
| ExpT | Expository Times |
| FS | Festschrift |
| HTR | Harvard Theological Review |
| HTS | Harvard Theological Studies |
| ICC | International Critical Commentary |
| JBL | Journal of Biblical Literature |
| JTS | Journal of Theological Studies |
| LSJ | A Greek-English Lexicon, by H.G. Liddell and R. Scott, |
| | revised by H.S. Jones (Oxford, 1940) |
| LXX | Septuagint version of the OT |
| MK | Meyer Kommentar (Kritisch-exegetischer Kommentar über |
| | das Neue Testament, begründet von H.A.W. Meyer) |
| MT | Massoretic Text of the Hebrew Bible |
| Migne PG | Patrologia, Series Graeca, edited by J.P. Migne (Paris, 1844-) |
| NEB | New English Bible |
| | |



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|---------------|---|
| Abbreviations | Y |
| | |

| NKZ | Neue kirchliche Zeitschrift |
|--------|--|
| NovT | Novum Testamentum |
| NRT | Nouvelle Revue Théologique |
| n.s. | new series |
| NTS | New Testament Studies |
| 1QS | Rule of the Community (serekh hayyaḥad) from Qumran |
| | Cave 1 |
| par | (and) parallel(s) |
| PTR | Princeton Theological Review |
| RSV | Revised Standard Version |
| RTR | Reformed Theological Review |
| S.B.L. | Society of Biblical Literature |
| SJT | Scottish Journal of Theology |
| TDNT | (G. Kittel's and G. Friedrich's) Theological Dictionary of the |
| | New Testament, translated by G. Bromiley (Index Volume |
| | compiled by R. Pitkin), 10 volumes (Grand Rapids, Michigan, |
| | 1964–76) |
| TKNT | (Herders) Theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testament |
| TLZ | Theologische Literaturzeitung |
| TZ | Theologische Zeitschrift |
| WUNT | Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament |
| ZK | Zahn Kommentar (Kommentar zum NT herausgegeben von |
| | Theodor Zahn) |
| ZNW | Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft |

Abbreviations of the titles of the works of Philo and other ancient writers follow the pattern of *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology* (I, pp. 31–40), edited by Colin Brown (Exeter, 1975).

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