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0521609372 - Hebrews and Hermeneutics: The Epistle to the Hebrews as a New Testament Example of Biblical Interpretation

Graham Hughes

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# Hebrews and Hermeneutics

The Epistle to the Hebrews as a New Testament  
example of biblical interpretation

**GRAHAM HUGHES**

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For Agathe Thornton

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## PREFACE

The ensuing work represents the modification of a dissertation presented to the University of Cambridge in 1971 for the degree of Ph.D. The revision has been made after a number of years in a small but lively country parish in New Zealand, so that in some sense it gathers up three stages of activity: the original exegetical labour, practical Christian involvement, and further theological reflection.

Presumably every author senses the limitations of his work as he is about to send it off to be fixed in print. That is especially so in this case. Up until my appointment as a lecturer in biblical studies (subsequent to the completion of the typescript for this book) I had always regarded myself essentially as a practising parish minister who had had some lucky breaks in which to indulge in his favourite hobby! That meant, however, a sense of being exposed on several flanks. The suggestions of the fourth chapter, which really required an expertise in church history, philosophy and linguistic theory, as well as some knowledge of the bible and theology, have been made especially tentatively.

At every stage of the work I have incurred a deep indebtedness to many people. As do all his students, I owe to Professor C. F. D. Moule an especial tribute for his insights and skill in the supervision of the original work. I am similarly under obligation to Professor Erich Grässer, with whom I spent one semester in 1970, and who listened very patiently to my ideas. In making certain criticisms of their points of view at some places in the following work, I have occasionally been conscious of a sort of betrayal of the friendship shown me by both these men; such criticisms are offered, therefore, in respect, gratitude and affection.

The research was made possible, initially, by the granting to me of the Begg Travelling Scholarship by the Theological Education Committee of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand and by the generosity of the electors for the Lewis and Gibson Scholarship at Westminster College, Cambridge. The most recent stage of the work was facilitated by a Post-Doctoral Fellowship from the University of Otago, New Zealand.

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*Preface*

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Agathe Thornton, to whom the work is offered, rescued me when I first came to the University as a student for the ministry and, together with her husband, Harry Thornton, has been a good friend and counsellor ever since.

I have been appreciative of the care and skill of Mrs Noela Pollard in typing the final draft; Professor Evan Pollard checked the typescript with a sharp eye for detail; and Professor Ian Breward made valued criticisms and suggestions for the last chapter.

In all this my dear wife and children, in amazing patience, have borne with an absent or otherwise preoccupied husband and father. To them belongs my deepest gratitude. Perhaps at last we shall now have time to 'do things', together!

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## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AngTheolRev</i>	<i>Anglican Theological Review</i>
<i>BA</i>	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
<i>BZ</i>	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>CanJTheol</i>	<i>Canadian Journal of Theology</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>EQ</i>	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
<i>ExT</i>	<i>Expository Times</i>
<i>EvTh</i>	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JES</i>	<i>Journal of Ecumenical Studies</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>NEB</i>	<i>New English Bible</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>RGG<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i> , vols. I–VI and Index, ed. K. Galling (Tübingen, 1957 <sup>3</sup> –1965 <sup>3</sup> )
<i>RSV</i>	<i>Revised Standard Version</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , vols. I–IX, ed. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1964–74)
<i>TEV</i>	<i>Today's English Version</i> ('Good News for Modern Man')
<i>ThBl</i>	<i>Theologische Blätter</i>
<i>ThLz</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>ThR</i>	<i>Theologisches Rundschau</i>
<i>ThZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>



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<i>TSK</i>	<i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>
<i>VuF</i>	<i>Verkündigung und Forschung</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZSTh</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Systematische Theologie</i>
<i>ZThK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>