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978-0-521-07796-5 - Paul and the Language of Scripture: Citation Technique in the Pauline Epistles and Contemporary Literature

Christopher D. Stanley

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Explicit quotations from the Jewish Scriptures play a vital role in several of the apostle Paul's letters to struggling Christian congregations. In most cases the wording of these quotations differs markedly from all known versions of the biblical text. Studies of Paul's use of Scripture routinely note the problem and suggest possible solutions, but none to date has made this phenomenon the primary object of investigation. The present study aims to remedy this deficiency with a careful examination of the way Paul and other ancient authors handled the wording of their explicit quotations. In drawing general conclusions, Dr. Stanley examines the broader social environment that made "interpretive renderings" a normal and accepted part of the literary landscape of antiquity.

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SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

*MONOGRAPH SERIES*

General Editor: G. N. Stanton

**69**

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# Paul and the language of Scripture

Citation technique in the Pauline Epistles  
and contemporary literature

**CHRISTOPHER D. STANLEY**

*Hastings College*



**CAMBRIDGE**  
**UNIVERSITY PRESS**

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Published by the Press Syndicate of the University of Cambridge  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP  
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Victoria 3166, Australia

© Cambridge University Press 1992

First published 1992

Printed and bound in Great Britain by  
Woolnough Bookbinding, Irthlingborough, Northants

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data*

Stanley, Christopher D.

Paul and the language of Scripture: citation technique in the  
Pauline Epistles and contemporary literature / Christopher D. Stanley.  
p. cm.

Revision of the author's thesis (Ph.D.) – Duke University, 1990.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 0 521 41925 5

1. Bible. N.T. Epistles of Paul – Relation to the Old Testament.

2. Bible. O.T. – Quotations in the New Testament.

3. Bible. N.T. Epistles of Paul – Language, style.

4. Quotation. 5. Literature, Ancient – History and criticism. I. Title.

BS2655.R32S73 1992

91-39844

227'.06-dc20

CIP

ISBN 0 521 41925 5 hardback

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## PREFACE

Ancient authors relied far more on the works of their predecessors than one would ever guess from a study of their explicit quotations. The same holds true for modern scholars who have the benefit of computerized reference systems and automatic footnotes to ease their task.

The present work is a slightly revised version of a Ph.D. dissertation submitted to Duke University in the summer of 1990. Many of those who have contributed the most to this project would never find mention in the footnotes. Special thanks are due to Dr. Moody Smith, my adviser, who allowed me to pursue my interests well beyond the usual limits of a Duke dissertation. His own studies in early Christian exegesis made him an invaluable resource at numerous points along the way. Dr. Melvin Peters, in a class on the Septuagint, was the first to suggest that I explore Paul's use of the Greek biblical text. His faith in my abilities has been a constant source of encouragement. Dr. Orval Wintermute shared the fruit of years of careful research as we examined the biblical exegesis of the Qumran community and the Jewish "pseudepigrapha." Discussions with friends and colleagues likewise helped to hone my thinking in a number of key areas.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Graham Stanton for accepting this volume for publication in the SNTS series, and to Alex Wright and his colleagues at Cambridge University Press for handling a difficult manuscript with skill and aplomb. An earlier version of the section on citation technique at Qumran (chapter 8) was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Anaheim, California, in November 1989. A slightly longer version of chapter 7 appeared in *Novum Testamentum* 32 (1990), 48–78, and is used here with the kind permission of the publishers.

Two other people deserve special mention for their support in the years leading up to the completion of this study. To Dr. John

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*x Preface*

Nolland, now Vice Principal at Trinity College, Bristol, goes the credit for introducing me to the world of New Testament studies. His love for learning and patient attention to detail have been an inspiration and a model to me throughout my scholarly career. To my wife, Laurel, is due an immeasurable load of gratitude for the support and encouragement that she has given me through sixteen years of marriage. This book is dedicated to the two of them.



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## ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations follow the system set forth in the *Journal of Biblical Literature* 107 (1988), 583–96, with the following additions:

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Brooke–McLean     | Brooke, Alan England, Norman McLean, and Henry St. J. Thackeray (eds.), <i>The Old Testament in Greek</i> (Cambridge University Press, 1906–40)  |
| Field             | Field, Frederick (ed.), <i>Origenis Hexaplorum quae supersunt</i> , 2 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1867, 1875; repr., Hildesheim: G. Olms, 1964)  |
| Göttingen LXX     | Academia Litterarum Gottingensis, <i>Septuaginta: Vetus Testamentum Graecum</i> (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 1931– )  |
| Hatch & Redpath   | Hatch, Edwin, and Henry A. Redpath, <i>A Concordance to the Septuagint</i> , 3 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1897–1906; repr., Grand Rapids: Baker, 1987)  |
| Holmes–Parsons    | Holmes, A. Roberto, and Jacobus Parsons (eds.), <i>Vetus Testamentum Graecum cum variis lectionibus</i> , 5 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon, 1798–1827)   |
| Jastrow           | Jastrow, Marcus, <i>A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature</i> , 2 vols. (London: Luzac and Co., 1903; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1903; repr., New York: Judaica Press, 1971) |
| Strack–Billerbeck | Strack, Hermann L., and Paul Billerbeck, <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , 6 vols. (Munich: Beck, 1922–61)  |

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Tischendorf Tischendorf, Constantinus (ed.), *Novum Testamentum Graece*, 2 vols. (Leipzig: Giesecke and Devrient, 1869–72)