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978-0-521-10886-7 - Greek Words and Hebrew Meanings: Studies in the Semantics
of Soteriological Terms

David Hill

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BY

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To my Mother and Father

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PREFACE

The appearance of a book containing New Testament word-studies which follow, to a large extent, the methods adopted in the *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament* probably requires some explanation. In recent years the legitimacy of studying biblical words has been called in question and the methodology of the *Wörterbuch* severely criticised. No writer may proceed as though these views had never been expressed. The first section of this book submits them to detailed investigation, and, at this point, I content myself with stating the conclusions which emerge from that discussion and which guide the subsequent studies. First, the study of the background and semantics of theological words in the New Testament is a valid and necessary enterprise: valid, because such words are markers for different fields of meaning, pointers to recognised areas of thought and experience; necessary, because they have become, in many cases, technical terms whose special connotations cannot be appreciated without knowledge of their use and meaning outside the Greek New Testament. Secondly, although arguments and interpretations put forward in some of the studies of theological words in the *Wörterbuch* are open to criticism on linguistic grounds, the methodology on which the whole work is based is not thereby invalidated: the general approach can still be used and used fruitfully in laying the foundations for biblical theology, provided those who employ it exercise caution and common sense and are acquainted with the scope and procedures of modern linguistic science.

If the method of word-study found in the *Wörterbuch* is sound, why then are the studies in this book being presented at this time? The *Wörterbuch* is not only still available, but is also currently being translated into English in order that its riches may be more widely accessible to students of the New Testament. This observation evokes two comments. In the first place, the claim that the methodology of the *Wörterbuch* is defensible does not mean that every contribution is being judged adequate and unassailable. It is hoped that the studies published here do not perpetuate the linguistic errors and mistaken interpretations which can be

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PREFACE

found in some of their predecessors. I must add, however, that the words I have investigated were not chosen because I considered the articles devoted to them in the *Wörterbuch* to be especially weak or ill-informed: they were chosen because they are all relevant to New Testament soteriology and because, to some extent, they are representative of the ways in which aspects of that theme were expressed by the main New Testament witnesses. In the second place, it must be pointed out that the English translation of the volumes of the *Wörterbuch* presents the articles without revision (by contributors who are still alive), without editing and without any attempt to bring the bibliographies up to date. This is in no way intended as a criticism of a gigantic piece of translation work for which every English-speaking New Testament student will be grateful: it is a simple statement of fact which makes a fresh investigation of some of the words desirable and useful. The *Wörterbuch* articles on four of the words studied in this book were written between twenty and thirty years ago: the amount of material touching on the interpretation of those terms which has appeared in that time is very great. To obtain, read and assess all of it would be virtually impossible, but much of it that is significant has been allowed to contribute to my investigations and interpretations, but without taking away from the independence of my conclusions.

In an earlier form this work was submitted to the University of St Andrews for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, and that degree was granted in June 1964. It is a pleasure to record here my thanks to the supervisors of my research, the Rev. Principal Matthew Black, D.D., F.B.A., and the Rev. Dr R. McL. Wilson: their interest in my work, at all stages of its preparation, has been a source of encouragement and enrichment. I would also like to thank the administrators of Mrs Honyman-Gillespie's Trust for the scholarship by which I was supported during my research-studentship. Staff and fellow-students in St Mary's College, St Andrews, colleagues in the University of Sheffield and several other friends have contributed to these studies through conversation and discussion. My thanks are due to them, as they are to the staffs of the University libraries where I have worked.

Finally, I must express my gratitude to Principal Black and

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D.H.

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>AJT</i>	<i>American Journal of Theology.</i>
<i>BASOR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research.</i>
<i>BDB</i>	<i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> , by F. Brown, S. R. Driver and C. A. Briggs: Oxford University Press, 1907, reprinted 1959.
<i>BJRL</i>	Bulletin of the John Rylands Library, Manchester.
<i>ET</i>	<i>The Expository Times.</i>
<i>FRLANT</i>	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testament.
<i>HDB</i>	<i>Hasting's Dictionary of the Bible</i> , 5th edition, Edinburgh, T. T. Clark, 1906, and revised edition (ed. H. H. Rowley), Edinburgh, 1963.
<i>HTR</i>	<i>The Harvard Theological Review.</i>
<i>ICC</i>	The International Critical Commentary.
<i>IDB</i>	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> , 4 vols., Abingdon Press: New York and Nashville, 1962.
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature.</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies.</i>
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review.</i>
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies.</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies.</i>
<i>KB</i>	<i>Lexicon in veteris testamenti libros</i> , L. Koehler and W. Baumgartner, Leiden, 1953.
<i>LS</i>	<i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , by H. G. Liddell and R. Scott; revised edition by H. S. Jones and R. McKenzie, Oxford, 1940.
<i>MNTC</i>	Moffatt New Testament Commentary.
<i>NEB</i>	The New English Bible.
<i>NT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum.</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies.</i>
<i>PTR</i>	<i>Princeton Theological Review.</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue Biblique.</i>
<i>RQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran.</i>
<i>RSV</i>	The Revised Standard Version of the Bible.
<i>SB</i>	<i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrasch</i> , by H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, Munich, 1922-8.
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology.</i>
<i>ST</i>	<i>Studia Theologica.</i>
<i>TBlätt</i>	<i>Theologische Blätter.</i>

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>TLZ</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung.</i>
<i>TWNT</i>	<i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i> , ed. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, Stuttgart, from 1933.
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift.</i>
<i>VGT</i>	<i>Vocabulary of the Greek Testament</i> , ed. J. H. Moulton and G. Milligan, London: 1914–29.
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum.</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft.</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft.</i>
<i>ZTK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche.</i>

The abbreviation LXX refers to the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament. The edition used is *Septuaginta*, ed. A. Rahlfs (Stuttgart, 1933).

The commonly accepted abbreviations for the Dead Sea Scrolls are used.

CD	The Damascus Document (Fragments of a Zadokite Work).
1QM	War of the Sons of Light with the Sons of Darkness.
1QH	The Hymns of Thanksgiving.
1QS	The Manual of Discipline.
1Qpsr Hab.	The Habakkuk Commentary.
4Qpsr Ps.	Fragments of Commentary on Psalms from Cave 4.

The scriptural and rabbinic abbreviations are customary and self-explanatory. The commonly accepted abbreviations for the names of authors and their works in the classical Greek and Intertestamental literatures are used throughout the work.

The abbreviations for Philo's works used by H. A. Wolfson (*Philo*, 2 vols., Harvard University Press, 1947) have been adopted.

<i>Abr.</i>	<i>De Abrahamo.</i>
<i>Aet.</i>	<i>De Aeternitate Mundi.</i>
<i>Agr.</i>	<i>De Agricultura.</i>
<i>Cher.</i>	<i>De Cherubim.</i>
<i>Conf.</i>	<i>De Confusione Linguarum.</i>
<i>Congr.</i>	<i>De Congressu Eruditionis Gratia.</i>
<i>Cont.</i>	<i>De Vita Contemplativa.</i>
<i>Decal.</i>	<i>De Decalogo.</i>
<i>Deter.</i>	<i>Quod Deterius Potiori Insidiari Soleat.</i>
<i>Ebr.</i>	<i>De Ebrietate.</i>
<i>Flacc.</i>	<i>In Flaccum.</i>
<i>Fug.</i>	<i>De Fuga et Inventione.</i>
<i>Gig.</i>	<i>De Gigantibus.</i>

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<i>Heres</i>	<i>Quis Rerum Divinarum Heres.</i>
<i>Hypoth.</i>	<i>Hypothetica.</i>
<i>Immut.</i>	<i>Quod Deus Sit Immutabilis.</i>
<i>Jos.</i>	<i>De Josepho.</i>
<i>Leg. All.</i>	<i>Legum Allegoria.</i>
<i>Legat.</i>	<i>Legatio ad Gaium.</i>
<i>Migr.</i>	<i>De Migratione Abrahami.</i>
<i>Mos.</i>	<i>De Vita Mosis.</i>
<i>Mut.</i>	<i>De Mutatione Nominum.</i>
<i>Opif.</i>	<i>De Opificio Mundi.</i>
<i>Plant.</i>	<i>De Plantatione.</i>
<i>Post.</i>	<i>De Posteritate Caini.</i>
<i>Praem.</i>	<i>De Praemiis et Poenis.</i>
<i>Probus</i>	<i>Quod Omnis Probus Liber Sit.</i>
<i>Provid.</i>	<i>De Providentia.</i>
<i>Qu. in Exod.</i>	<i>Quaestiones et Solutiones in Exodum.</i>
<i>Qu. in Gen.</i>	<i>Quaestiones et Solutiones in Genesin.</i>
<i>Sacr.</i>	<i>De Sacrificiis Abelis et Caini.</i>
<i>Sobr.</i>	<i>De Sobrietate.</i>
<i>Somn.</i>	<i>De Somniis.</i>
<i>Spec.</i>	<i>De Specialibus Legibus.</i>
<i>Virt.</i>	<i>De Virtutibus.</i>