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052161600X - Pre-Existence, Wisdom and the Son of Man: A Study of the Idea of  
Pre-Existence in the New Testament

R. G. Hamerton-Kelly

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21

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PRE-EXISTENCE, WISDOM, AND  
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A STUDY OF THE IDEA  
OF PRE-EXISTENCE IN THE  
NEW TESTAMENT

BY

R. G. HAMERTON-KELLY

*Professor of the New Testament  
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*For Rosemary, Ruth and Paul*

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## PREFACE

The rationale of this endeavor is explained in the Introduction, and so a brief preface will be an opportunity to record some remarks of a more personal nature.

One's debts to teachers and colleagues are always great, but especially so in the case of the first book. My chief debt is to W. D. Davies, who guided my doctoral studies at Union Theological Seminary, in New York City, with great sensitivity and devotion, and who has been a source of encouragement and sound counsel to me ever since. During those years I also profited from the advice of John Knox and J. Louis Martyn, and, in the field of Old Testament, from James Muilenburg and Samuel Terrien. The foundation of my interest in Biblical Studies was laid by Leslie Hewson of Rhodes University in the Republic of South Africa, and nurtured by C. F. D. Moule, Hugh Montefiore and Ernst Bammel at Cambridge University. To all these men I owe more than can be expressed.

Most of this work was written in the stimulating atmosphere of Claremont, California. My colleagues and students in the Humanities at Scripps College provided the indispensable atmosphere of lively scholarship and broad humanistic interest, in which theology can live and breathe as a vital human concern. Colleagues and graduate students in the Institute for Antiquity and Christianity and at the Claremont Graduate School taught me the real meaning of the phrase 'a community of scholars'. To all these I express my gratitude.

Thanks are also due to the enlightened administration of Scripps College, who by manifold considerations made scholarly research by the faculty a part of normal academic existence; to the Ford Foundation which provided a summer stipend for this work, and to the administration of McCormick Theological Seminary for generous support in matters of typing and duplicating. To Dr R. McL. Wilson I express my thanks for careful and considerate editing.

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PREFACE

More than all of these I owe my wife the sustaining encouragement and support without which nothing would have been accomplished. She also typed the manuscript.

With so rich a background of support and help my one regret is that the finished work is not more worthy of those who have contributed to it.

R. G. HAMERTON-KELLY

*Easter 1971*



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## ABBREVIATIONS

- A. and P.*      *The Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha of the Old Testament*,  
ed. R. H. Charles (2 vols., Oxford, 1913)
- Ab.T.A.N.T.*    *Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen  
Testaments*
- Arb.L.G.H.*    *Arbeiten zur Literatur und Geschichte des hellenistischen  
Judentums*
- B.A.*            *The Biblical Archaeologist*
- B.A.S.O.R.*    *The Bulletin of the American School of Oriental Research*
- B.H.T.*        *Beiträge zur historischen Theologie*
- B.Ĵ.R.L.*      *The Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*
- C.B.Q.*        *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*
- C.H.*          *Corpus Hermeticum – texts from Hermès Trismégiste*,  
ed. A. D. Nock and A. J. Festugière (Paris,  
1960)
- C.N.T.*        *Commentaire du Nouveau Testament*
- Ephem. Theol. Lov.* *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses*
- Ev.T.*         *Evangelische Theologie*
- F.R.L.A.N.T.*   *Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und  
Neuen Testaments*
- H.N.T.*        *Handbuch zum Neuen Testament*
- H.-S.*         *Edgar Henneke, New Testament Apocrypha*, ed. W.  
Schneemelcher, E.T. ed. R. McL. Wilson (2  
vols., Philadelphia, 1963 and 1965)
- H.T.R.*        *Harvard Theological Review*
- I.D.B.*        *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*
- I.Ĵ.B.G.*      *Internationale Zeitschriftenschau für Bibelwissenschaft und  
Grenzgebiete*
- Ĵ.A.A.R.*      *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*
- Ĵ.B.L.*        *Journal of Biblical Literature*
- Ĵ.N.E.S.*      *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*
- Ĵ.T.S.*        *Journal of Theological Studies*
- L.N.T.*        *Walter Bauer, Lexicon of the New Testament*
- N.T.D.*        *Das neue Testament Deutsch*
- N.T.S.*        *New Testament Studies*
- Nov. Test.*    *Novum Testamentum*
- O.U.D.*        *Oxford Universal Dictionary*
- Philo's treatises are cited according to the abbreviations in F. H.  
Colson, *Philo*, Loeb Classical Library (12 vols., London, 1962), 10,  
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|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <i>R.B.</i>            | <i>Revue Biblique</i>   |
| <i>R.G.G.</i>          | <i>Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i> (Tübingen, 1913, 1930, 1961)  |
| <i>R.H.P.R.</i>        | <i>Revue d'Histoire et de Philosophie Religieuses</i>   |
| <i>R.S.P.T.</i>        | <i>Revue des Sciences Philosophiques et Théologiques</i>  |
| <i>S.B.T.</i>          | <i>Studies in Biblical Theology</i>   |
| <i>S.-B.</i>           | Hermann L. Strack and Paul Billerbeck, <i>Kommentar zum Neuen Testament aus Talmud und Midrash</i> (6 vols., Munich, 1926–56) |
| <i>S.N.T.S.</i>        | <i>Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas</i>   |
| <i>T.D.N.T.</i>        | <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , Kittel and Friedrich, trans. G. W. Bromiley                              |
| <i>T.W.N.T.</i>        | <i>Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Neuen Testament</i> (German original ed. of the preceding)                                    |
| <i>Th.L.Z.</i>         | <i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>  |
| <i>T.H.N.T.</i>        | <i>Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament</i>  |
| <i>Th.Stud.u.Krit.</i> | <i>Theologische Studien und Kritiken</i>  |
| <i>T.Z.</i>            | <i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i> , Basel   |
| <i>V.T.</i>            | <i>Vetus Testamentum</i>  |
| <i>W.M.A.N.T.</i>      | <i>Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament</i>   |
| <i>W.U.N.T.</i>        | <i>Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament</i>   |
| <i>Z.K.G.</i>          | <i>Zeitschrift für Kirchengeschichte</i>  |
| <i>Z.K.T.</i>          | <i>Zeitschrift für katholische Theologie</i>  |
| <i>Z.N.W.</i>          | <i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde der älteren Kirche</i>                                    |
| <i>Z.R.G.G.</i>        | <i>Zeitschrift für Religion und Geistesgeschichte</i>   |
| <i>Z.T.K.</i>          | <i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>   |