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RIGHTEOUSNESS IN MATTHEW
AND HIS WORLD OF THOUGHT

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Righteousness in Matthew and his world of thought

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In memory of my father
Rev. Adolf Przybylski

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PREFACE

I am grateful to Professor E. P. Sanders for initiating me into the complex world of Rabbinic thought and making me aware of the intricacies of relating this knowledge to the study of the New Testament. While following his research on the relationship between Paul and Palestinian Judaism, my interest in the application of this type of criticism to the Gospel of Matthew was kindled. After various general investigations, my research began to focus on the relationship between the Matthaean concept of righteousness and that of the Tannaitic literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls.

My exhaustive analysis of the righteousness terminology in the Tannaitic literature and the Dead Sea Scrolls led to the unmistakable conclusion that the concept of righteousness is not to be equated with the soteriological system inherent in this literature. For the overall view of the intrinsic soteriology of Palestinian Judaism, I am, however, indebted to the work of Professor Sanders. On the other hand, the distinction between righteousness and soteriology in the Gospel of Matthew is based entirely on my own research.

Under the supervision of Professor Sanders this study was submitted to McMaster University as a doctoral dissertation and the degree of Doctor of Philosophy was granted in 1975.

The financial support provided by the Canada Council throughout my doctoral studies is deeply appreciated. I am particularly indebted for the grant which made it possible for me to engage in a year of research in Israel. At the Hebrew University of Jerusalem it was especially Professor D. Flusser who stimulated my thinking. Life in Israel presented numerous diversions which mitigated the painstaking work involved in word studies.

The present form of this study represents a major revision of the original doctoral dissertation. For their constructive suggestions concerning both form and content of this revised monograph I would like to thank my colleagues at McMaster University, Drs E. P. Sanders, B. F. Meyer, A. I. Baumgarten and A. M. Cooper. The suggestions by Professor R. McL.

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Preface

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Wilson, the editor of the SNTS Monograph Series, and by the appointed reader have also been most helpful and are appreciated.

Since this study deals primarily with unpointed Hebrew texts, a simplified method of transliteration has been adopted in most cases, that is, one in which there is no ambiguity concerning the identity of Hebrew consonants, while the numerous vowel points are represented by the appropriate English vowels without further distinguishing marks. In a few cases, i.e. especially when quoting unpointed terms in secondary literature, it seemed more appropriate to use solely consonants in transliteration.

For proofreading and sharing in the typing I would like to thank Miss Marlene Przybylski and Ms Phyllis Koetting.

For the laborious task of typing the bulk of this manuscript and helping in numerous other aspects of the preparation of this monograph I am deeply grateful to Brigitte, my wife. Above all, however, I am thankful for her encouragement and sincere interest in my research.

ABBREVIATIONS

AThD	<i>Acta Theologica Danica</i>
ATR	<i>Anglican Theological Review</i>
B.	Babylonian Talmud
BA	<i>Biblical Archeologist</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BEvTh	Beiträge zur evangelischen Theologie
BibSac	<i>Bibliotheca Sacra</i>
BNTC	Black's New Testament Commentaries
BThB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
CD	Damascus Document
DJD	<i>Discoveries in the Judaean Desert</i>
EQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
ET	English translation
EvTh	<i>Evangelische Theologie</i>
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
HbzNT	Handbuch zum Neuen Testament
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
IDB	<i>Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i>
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
JStJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>
JThS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KerDog	<i>Kerygma und Dogma</i>
LXX	Septuagint

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Mek.	Mekilta de-Rabbi Ishmael
MS.	Manuscript
MSS.	Manuscripts
NCB	New Century Bible
NF	Neue Folge
<i>NovTest</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NT	New Testament
NTAb	Neutestamentliche Abhandlungen
NTD	Das Neue Testament Deutsch
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>OSt</i>	<i>Oudtestamentische Studiën</i>
OT	Old Testament
P.	Palestinian Talmud
1QH	Thanksgiving Hymns
1QM	War Scroll
1QpHab	Habakkuk Commentary
1QpMic	Micah Commentary
1QS	Manual of Discipline
1QSa	Rule Annexe
1QSB	Book of Blessings
4QFI	Florilegium
4QPatr	Patriarchal Blessings
4QpNah	Commentary on Nahum
4QpPs37	Commentary on Ps 37
4QSI(39)	Angelic Liturgy
4QTest	Testimonia
R.	Rabbi
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
<i>RQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
Sifre Deut	Sifre on Deuteronomy
Sifre Num	Sifre on Numbers
SNTS	Society for New Testament Studies
SPB	Studia Post Biblica
StANT	Studien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
StTDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
<i>StTh</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i>
StUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
Suppl.	Supplements

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T.	Tosefta
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i>
ThA	Theologische Arbeiten
<i>ThLZ</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>ThZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>TU</i>	<i>Texte und Untersuchungen</i>
<i>VigChr</i>	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die Alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZThK</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>