

## THE POLITICS OF INHERITANCE IN ROMANS

Mark Forman explores the extent to which Paul's concept of "inheritance" in Romans, and its associated imagery, logic, and arguments, served to evoke socio-political expectations that were different to those which prevailed in contemporary Roman imperial discourse. Forman explores how Paul deploys the idea of inheritance in Romans and analyzes the sources which inform and overlap with this concept. Coins, literature, and architecture are all examined in order to understand the purpose, hopes, and expectations of first-century society. This book contributes to recent studies covering Paul and politics by arguing that Paul's concept of inheritance subverts and challenges first-century Roman ideologies.

MARK FORMAN is an independent researcher. His research is concerned with first-century and contemporary land ownership, inheritance, and possession, and the ways in which these create power and cause vulnerability.

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# The Politics of Inheritance in Romans

**DR MARK FORMAN**



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For Luka and Oscar

## CONTENTS

<i>Preface</i>	page xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xii
1 Introduction: the politics of inheritance?	1
2 Some features of Greco-Roman society in the symbols, ritual and literature of Paul's time	20
3 Promising the world: inheritance in Romans 4:13–25	58
4 Suffering “conquerors”: inheritance in Romans 8:17–39	102
5 “Riches for the world”: inheritance in Romans 11:1	136
6 “Lords” over all the world: the language of inheritance in Galatians	172
7 Inheritance in 1 Corinthians and Colossians	207
8 Conclusions	229
<i>Bibliography</i>	244
<i>Index</i>	265

## PREFACE

Completing a project of this length is both demanding and rewarding. There have been many stimulating moments as I have attempted to come to terms with Paul's thought world. But the process has also been taxing and I would like to acknowledge the support I have received along the way.

I am grateful to the John Baldwin Memorial Scholarship Fund, which contributed to financial needs during the first two years of this project.

This book began life as a thesis, which was supervised by Associate Professor Chris Marshall and Professor Paul Trebilco. They always found the right balance between offering much needed guidance and fostering independent thought. Despite the geographical distance, they provided me with encouragement and support as well as with creative and disciplined models of scholarship. I will never forget Chris' friendship during my fragile health in the early stages of the thesis.

Dr. Andrew Shepherd and Dr. Ingrid Shepherd contributed in practical ways to this book – Andrew offered stimulating conversation and musings, and Ingrid was a dedicated proofreader. Janelle sacrificed much during a seemingly endless, study-oriented phase of our relationship. I would like to acknowledge her support during the writing of this book.

Throughout the many phases of this project, Mum and Dad reminded me in myriad ways of what it means to show faith, hope and love. Duncan Philps helped with proofreading and I have appreciated his ongoing, gentle presence in my life. Reverend Jeremy Younger is a close and wise friend whose companionship continues to give me both lightheartedness and courage.

Finally, *The Politics of Inheritance* is dedicated to Oscar and Luka, whom I love with all I have.



## ABBREVIATIONS

AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Ed. D. N. Freedman. 6 vols.
ACNT	Augsburg Commentaries on the New Testament
ANTC	Abingdon New Testament Commentaries
BAGD	W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich and F. W. Danker. <i>Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature</i> . 2nd edn.
BECNT	Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament
BevTh	Beiträge zur evangelischen Theologie
BJRL	<i>Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester</i>
BNTC	Black’s New Testament Commentaries
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
DPL	<i>Dictionary of Paul and His Letters</i> . Ed. G. F. Hawthorne, R. P. Martin and D. G. Reid
DSD	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
EBC	<i>Expositor’s Bible Commentary</i> .
EDNT	<i>Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Ed. H. Balz and G. Schneider. 3 vols.
EGGNT	Exegetical Guide to the Greek New Testament
EKK	Evangelisch-Katholischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testa- ment
EQ	<i>Evangelical Quarterly</i>
HR	<i>History of Religions</i>
HTKNT	Herders Theologischer Kommentar zum Neuen Testa- ment
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
IDBSup	<i>Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible: Supplementary Volume</i> . Ed. K. Crim
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>

*List of abbreviations*

xiii

IVPNT	InterVarsity Press New Testament Series
JAAR	<i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JCBRF	<i>Journal of the Christian Brethren Research Fellowship</i>
JETS	<i>Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JQR	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
JSJSup	Journal for the Study of Judaism Supplements
JSNT	<i>Journal for the Study of the New Testament</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KJV	King James Version
KNT	Kommentar zum Neuen Testament
Louw–Nida	<i>Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament Based on Semantic Domains</i> . Ed. J. P. Louw and E. U. Nida. New York: UBS, 1989
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NCB	New Century Bible
NIB	New Interpreter's Bible
NIBC	New International Biblical Commentary
NICNT	New International Commentary on the New Testament
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NIDNTT	<i>New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology</i> . Ed. C. Brown. 4 vols.
NIDOTTE	<i>New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> . Ed. W. A. Van Gemeren. 5 vols.
NIGTC	New International Greek Testament Commentary
NIV	New International Version
NovT	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NovTSup	Novum Testamentum Supplements
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
REB	Revised English Bible
RIC	<i>Roman Imperial Coinage</i> , vol. I: <i>Augustus to Vitellius 31 BC–AD 69</i> . Rev. edn. Ed. C. H. V. Sutherland. London: Spink, 1999
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series

xiv *List of abbreviations*

<i>SBLSP</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
STDJ	Studies on Texts of the Desert of Judah
TDNIV	Today's New International Version
<i>TDNT</i>	<i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> . Ed. G. Kittel and G. Friedrich. 10 vols.
THKNT	Theologischer Handkommentar zum Neuen Testament
<i>TLOT</i>	<i>Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Ed. E. Jenni and C. Westermann. 3 vols.
TNIV	Today's New International Version
TNTC	Tyndale New Testament Commentaries
TSAJ	Texte und Studien um antiken Judentum
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament

**Dead Sea Scrolls**

1QH	<i>Thanksgiving Hymns</i> from Qumran Cave 1
1QS	Qumran Community Rule
4QFlor	<i>Florilegium</i>
4Q501	<i>Words of the Luminaries</i> from Qumran Cave 4
11QMelch	<i>Melchizedek</i> text from Qumran Cave 11
CD	Cairo (Genizah text of) Damascus (Document)