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LEVINAS AND THEOLOGY

Emmanuel Levinas was a significant contributor to the field of philosophy, phenomenology, and religion. A key interpreter of Husserl, he stressed the importance of attitudes to other people in any philosophical system. For Levinas, to be a subject is to take responsibility for others as well as yourself and therefore responsibility for the one leads to justice for the many. He regarded ethics as the foundation for all other philosophy, but later admitted it could also be the foundation for theology. Michael Purcell outlines the basic themes of Levinas' thought and the ways in which they might be deployed in fundamental and practical theology, and the study of the phenomenon of religion. This book will be useful for undergraduate and graduate students in philosophy, theology and religious studies, as well as those with a theological background who are approaching Levinas for the first time.

MICHAEL PURCELL is senior lecturer in Systematic Theology in the School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh. He is author of *Mystery and Method: The Other in Rahner and Levinas* (1998).

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*'The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar.
Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God.'*
—Psalm 92

'Tout est grâce.'
—Georges Bernanos

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Abbreviations of Levinas' works

<i>AQS</i>	<i>Autrement que savoir</i>
<i>BPW</i>	<i>Basic Philosophical Writings</i>
<i>CPP</i>	<i>Collected Philosophical Papers</i>
<i>DEHH</i>	<i>En découvrant l'existence avec Husserl et Heidegger</i>
<i>DF</i>	<i>Difficult Freedom</i>
<i>DQVI</i>	<i>De dieu qui vient à l'idée</i>
<i>EE</i>	<i>Existence and Existents</i>
<i>EI</i>	<i>Ethics and Infinity</i>
<i>EN</i>	<i>Entre nous</i>
<i>GDT</i>	<i>God, Death, and Time</i>
<i>HAH</i>	<i>Humanisme de l'autre homme</i>
<i>HO</i>	<i>Humanism of the Other</i>
<i>IOF</i>	<i>Is Ontology Fundamental?</i> , in <i>Basic Philosophical Writings</i> . The article was first published in 1951.
<i>IRB</i>	<i>Is it Righteous to be? Interviews with Emmanuel Levinas</i>
<i>MS</i>	'Meaning and Sense' in <i>Basic Philosophical Writings</i>
<i>NineTR</i>	<i>Nine Talmudic Readings</i>
<i>NTR</i>	<i>New Talmudic Readings</i>
<i>OB</i>	<i>Otherwise than Being</i>
<i>OE</i>	<i>On Escape</i>
<i>OGCM</i>	<i>Of God who Comes to Mind</i> , 2nd edn
<i>PN</i>	<i>Proper Names</i>
<i>SMB</i>	<i>Sur Maurice Blanchot</i>
<i>TI</i>	<i>Totality and Infinity</i>
<i>TIHP</i>	<i>Theory of Intuition in Husserl's Phenomenology</i>
<i>TO</i>	<i>Time and the Other</i>
<i>US</i>	'Useless Suffering'