

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

## NEW CREATION IN PAUL'S LETTERS AND THOUGHT

As a biblical motif, “new creation” resonates throughout the pages of the Jewish and Christian Scriptures, and occupies a central place in the apostle Paul’s vision of the Christian life. Yet the biblical and extra-biblical occurrences of this theme vary widely in meaning, referring to either a new cosmos, a new community, or a new individual. Beginning with the Old Testament and working through the important texts of Second Temple Judaism, Moyer V. Hubbard focuses on how the motif functions in the argument, strategy, and literary structure of these documents, highlighting its role as the solution to the perceived plight. He then explores in detail which senses of the term Paul intends in Galatians 6.15 and 2 Corinthians 5.17, concluding that “new creation” in Paul’s letters describes the Spirit-wrought newness of the person in Christ, and is fundamentally anthropological in orientation.

MOYER V. HUBBARD is Associate Professor of New Testament Language and Literature at Talbot School of Theology, Biola University. He has published in the *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament*, and *Eerdmans Bible Dictionary*.

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

SOCIETY FOR NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

*MONOGRAPH SERIES*

General Editor: Richard Bauckham

**119**

NEW CREATION IN PAUL'S LETTERS AND THOUGHT

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

# New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought

**MOYER V. HUBBARD**

*Biola University, California*



Cambridge University Press  
 0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
 Moyer V. Hubbard  
 Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
 The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
 The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK  
 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
 Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain  
 Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa  
<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Moyer V. Hubbard 2002

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
 and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
 no reproduction of any part may take place without  
 the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2002

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

*Typeface* Times 10/12 pt.    *System* L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X 2<sub>ε</sub> [T<sub>B</sub>]

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress cataloguing in publication data*

Hubbard, Moyer V.

New creation in Paul's letters and thought / Moyer V. Hubbard.

p. cm. – (Society for New Testament Studies monograph series; 119)

Includes bibliographical references and indexes.

ISBN 0 521 81485 5 (hardback)

1. Man (Theology) – Biblical teaching. 2. Creation – Biblical teaching.

3. Bible. N.T. Epistles of Paul – Theology. 4. Bible. O.T. – Theology. I. Title.

II. Monograph series (Society for New Testament Studies); 119.

BS2655.M3 H83 2002

227'.064 – dc21

2001052872

ISBN 0 521 81485 5 hardback

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*For Heidi*

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

Τὸ δὲ πνεῦμα ζωοποιεῖ  
2 Corinthians 3.6

## CONTENTS

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	page xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
<b>1 Introduction: the current debate</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>PART I</b>	
<b>NEW CREATION: CENTRAL JEWISH TEXTS</b>	
<b>2 New creation in the Jewish Scriptures: an overview</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>3 New creation in apocalyptic Judaism: <i>Jubilees</i></b>	<b>26</b>
<b>4 New creation in Diaspora Judaism: <i>Joseph and Aseneth</i></b>	<b>54</b>
<b>PART II</b>	
<b>FROM DEATH TO LIFE: NEW CREATION IN THE CONTOURS OF PAUL'S THOUGHT</b>	
<b>5 From death to life: insights from cultural anthropology</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>6 Newness of life: Romans 6.1–11</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>7 Newness of the Spirit: Romans 7.1–6</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>8 Spirit, newness, life: the Pauline antecedents</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>9 Crucified with Christ: Galatians 2.19–20</b>	<b>123</b>

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*x List of contents*

**PART III**

**THE OLD AND THE NEW: NEW CREATION IN THE  
CONTEXT OF PAUL'S LETTERS**

<b>10</b>	<b>If anyone be in Christ: 2 Corinthians 5.17</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision: Galatians 6.15</b>	<b>188</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Summary and conclusions</b>	<b>233</b>
	<i>References</i>	242
	<i>Index of passages cited</i>	268
	<i>Index of modern authors</i>	287



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This monograph began as a doctoral thesis accepted by the University of Oxford in 1998. A doctoral program is never undertaken alone, and thanks are due to many for their help and encouragement in the completion of this task. Generous financial assistance was provided by the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom, the Oxford University Faculty of Theology, and the Spalding Charitable Trust.

More than the usual word of thanks is owed to my supervisor, the Revd. Robert Morgan. His perceptive balance of guidance, criticism, and encouragement allowed my research to flourish, and kept me from traveling too far down the many blind alleys of New Testament scholarship. He made himself available academically and personally, which may be the most important attribute in a supervisor. Professor Christopher Rowland provided invaluable input throughout the course of my study, and his contribution to the shape and focus of the final product is no doubt greater than he realizes. Especially important during my years in Oxford were the graduate seminars which he organized and moderated. His gracious manner and intellectual rigor exemplify the best in Christian scholarship.

Our time in England was immeasurably enriched by friendships forged through the shared experience of doctoral research. Among them, Tony and Jayne Cummins, Bruce and Carolyn Hindmarsh, and Norm and Anne Klassen (and families) were vital. The support of others was equally crucial during these years, including Patrick Cain, Revd. Tom and Hazle Houston, and Dr. Mike and Shirley Dobson.

It is an honor to have my work included in this series, and I extend my sincerest thanks to Professor Richard Bauckham and the expert editorial staff at Cambridge University Press. My research assistants, and friends, Zeke Pipher, Steve Earle, and Joanne Jung, spent many tedious hours re-formatting and editing. Their conscientious labor was as encouraging as it was helpful. My colleagues at Talbot School of Theology, Mike Wilkins and Clint Arnold in particular, offered crucial support during the final

Cambridge University Press  
0521814855 - New Creation in Paul's Letters and Thought  
Moyer V. Hubbard  
Frontmatter  
[More information](#)

---

*xii Acknowledgments*

phase of my doctoral research, and our Dean, Dennis Dirks, generously provided release time for preparing this manuscript for publication. To have your friends as your colleagues is a treasure indeed.

Most importantly, however, I am grateful to my family. To my mother, who taught me to dream big, and to my father, who taught me to love an adventure, I offer my heartfelt thanks. Likewise, my father-in-law and mother-in-law, Revd. John and Miriam Notehelfer, supported and encouraged us at every turn. Without their joyful assistance, the dream of doctoral work would have never materialized. My two sons, Scott and Jeffrey, kept me sane during the long months of research and writing. They are a daily reminder of what is truly important in life, and our evening ritual of playing, reading, and so on, are among my fondest memories of Oxford.

No word of thanks can adequately express my gratitude to and affection for my wife, Heidi. Her encouragement, patience, and joyful perseverance sustained me throughout my research. She has been my partner and co-laborer in this project, and it is to her, with all my love and admiration, that this book is dedicated.

## ABBREVIATIONS

Most abbreviations follow S. Schwertner, *Internationales Abkürzungsverzeichnis für Theologie und Grenzgebiete* (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1976). Others are as follows:

- ANRW** H. Temporini and W. Haase (eds.), *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt*, many volumes (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter).
- BAGD** W. Bauer, W. F. Arndt, F. W. Gingrich, and F. W. Danker, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.
- BDB** F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1951.
- BDF** F. Blass, A. Debrunner, and R. W. Funk, *A Greek Grammar of the New Testament*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961.
- LCL** Loeb Classical Library, Harvard University Press.
- OTP** James H. Charlesworth, *The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha*, 2 volumes. New York: Doubleday, 1983 and 1985.