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Elements in the Philosophy of Martin Heidegger

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HEIDEGGER ON RELIGION

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Heidegger on Religion

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Abstract: Throughout his career, Heidegger explored the religious sides of life in ways that had far-reaching impacts on the thought of his contemporaries and successors. This Element examines three important stops along Heidegger's ways of thinking about religion as the risky performance of life in new spaces of possibility. Section 1 examines Heidegger's 1920–1921 lectures on Paul, while Section 2 turns to the darker period of the late 1930s, exploring how Heidegger reconfigures religion in the context of his “new inception” of thought beyond metaphysics. Finally, Section 3 takes up Heidegger's challenging discussions of the divine in several postwar addresses and essays. In each case, Heidegger argues that we must suspend, bracket, or rescind from our tendencies to order, classify, define, and explain things in order to carry out a venture into a situation of indeterminacy and thereby recast religion in a new light.

Keywords: Heidegger, Martin, religion, metaphysics, phenomenology, theology

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Contents

Method of Citation	1
Introduction	1
1 Phenomenology of the Apocalyptic Situation	8
2 God Beyond Metaphysics	22
3 Divinity in the World	44
Concluding Thoughts	61
Works by Heidegger	64
References	66