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Michael Wade Martin, Jason A. Whitlark
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INVENTING HEBREWS

Inventing Hebrews examines a perennial topic in the study of the Letter to the Hebrews, its structure and purpose. Michael Martin and Jason Whitlark undertake a thorough synthesis of the ancient theory of invention and arrangement, providing a new account of Hebrews's design. The key to the speech's outline, the authors argue, is in its use of "disjointed" arrangement, a template ubiquitous in antiquity but little discussed in modern biblical studies. This method of arrangement accounts for the long-observed pattern of alternating epideictic and deliberative units in Hebrews as blocks of *narratio* and *argumentatio* respectively. Thus the "letter" may be seen as a conventional speech arranged according to the expectations of ancient rhetoric (*exordium*, *narratio*, *argumentatio*, *peroratio*), with epideictic comparisons of old and new covenant representatives (*narratio*) repeatedly enlisted in amplification of what may be viewed as the central argument of the speech (*argumentatio*), the recurring deliberative summons for perseverance. Resolving a long-standing conundrum, this volume offers a hermeneutical tool necessary for interpreting Hebrews, as well as countless other speeches from Greco-Roman antiquity.

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To Mikeal C. Parsons
our mentor and friend

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ABBREVIATIONS

Unless otherwise indicated below, the abbreviations in this book follow *The SBL Handbook of Style for Biblical Studies and Related Disciplines* (2nd ed.; Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014).

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Anonymous
Seguerianus | M. R. Dilts and G. A. Kennedy, eds., <i>Two Greek Rhetorical Treatises from the Roman Empire: Introduction, Text, and Translation of the Arts of Rhetoric, Attributed to Anonymous Seguerianus and to Apsines of Gadara</i> (Leiden: Brill, 1997). |
| Aphthonius | G. A. Kennedy, <i>Progymnasmata: Greek Textbooks of Prose Composition and Rhetoric</i> (Atlanta: SBL, 2003). Page numbers from L. Spengel, ed., <i>Rhetores Graeci</i> (3 vols.; Leipzig: Teubner, 1854–56). |
| <i>Rom. Or.</i> | Aelius Aristides. H. Oliver. “The Ruling Power: A Study of the Roman Empire in the Second Century after Christ through the Roman Oration of Aelius Aristides.” <i>TAPS</i> 43/4 (1953): 895–907, 982–91. |
| Fortun. | <i>C. Chirii Fortunatiani artis rhetoricae libri III</i> . Pages 79–134 in C. Halm, <i>Rhetores Latini minores. Ex codicibus maximam partem primum adhibitis</i> (Leipzig: Teubner, 1863). |
| Libanius | <i>Libanius’s Progymnasmata: Model Exercises in Greek Prose Composition and Rhetoric</i> . Translated by C. Gibson (WGRW 27; Atlanta: SBL, 2008). |
| Menander
Rhetor | Menander. <i>Menander Rhetor: Edited with Translation and Commentary by D. A. Russell and N. G. Wilson</i> . Oxford: Clarendon, 1981. |

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- Nicolaus G. A. Kennedy, *Progymnasmata: Greek Textbooks of Prose Composition and Rhetoric* (Atlanta: SBL, 2003). Page numbers from J. Felten, ed., *Nicolai Progymnasmata* (Leipzig: Teubner, 1913; reprinted, Osnabrück: Zeller, 1968).
- Ps. Hermogenes G. A. Kennedy, *Progymnasmata: Greek Textbooks of Prose Composition and Rhetoric* (Atlanta: SBL, 2003). Page numbers from H. Rabe, ed., *Hermogenis Opera* (Leipzig: Teubner, 1931).
- Rhet.* Apsines. *Ars Rhetorica*. M.R. Dilts and G.A. Kennedy, eds. *Two Greek Rhetorical Treatises from the Roman Empire: Introduction, Text, and Translation of the Arts of Rhetoric, Attributed to Anonymous Seguerianus and to Apsines of Gadara* (Leiden: Brill, 1997).
- Theon G. A. Kennedy, *Progymnasmata: Greek Textbooks of Prose Composition and Rhetoric* (Atlanta: SBL, 2003). Page numbers from L. Spengel, ed. *Rhetores Graeci* (3 vols. Leipzig: Teubner, 1854–6).