
Reviewed by
Peter R. Rodgers

There seems to be no end of books on Paul’s use of scripture. What justifies this one is its brevity, clarity and value as a guide to navigating the subject. In this complicated and crowded field Moyise has emerged as a respected guide through his more technical books, *Evoking Scripture* and *The Old Testament in the New* (both T. and T. Clark) and in his co-editing with Maarten J.J. Menken a series of monographs on the use of Old Testament books in the New Testament.

There is much in this book to commend it as a guide for the beginner in the field. The chapters on Paul and the Creation Stories, Paul and Abraham, and Paul and Moses introduce complex material that makes it accessible to the non-specialist. Two chapters on Paul and the prophets deal respectively with the subjects of Israel and the Gentiles and the life of the Christian community. A concluding chapter introduces modern approaches to Paul’s use of scripture.

There are three valuable appendices. The first lists Paul’s quotations from Isaiah, giving the NRSV of the Old Testament in one column and the wording of the *New English Translation of the Septuagint* (NETS) in the other. Italicized words of the latter highlight the differences. A second Appendix notes 94 quotations, allusions and echoes in the Pauline corpus. A third appendix presents several passages from the Dead Sea Scrolls (tr. Geza Vermes). These resources alone make the book a valuable tool for a class in biblical interpretation.

Students new to the study of Paul’s use of scripture will find Appendix 1 (Paul’s quotations from Isaiah, 126-130) a useful place to begin. Close comparison of the NRSV of Isaiah with the NETS makes clear the wide divergence of the two. Had Moyise set out the wording of Paul’s quotation in a separate column, the student would be able to see more clearly the difficulty of studying the text form of New Testament quotations. Frequently Paul quoted from the LXX, but often his wording is closer to the Hebrew text, and sometimes it diverges from both. The list of 94 quotations in Appendix 2 (131-132) might have given some indication of which form Paul was following. A similar list produced by M. Silva in the *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters* (IVP, 1993, 631) gives 107 references and helpfully indicates whether the quotation in Paul is closer to LXX or to MT, or whether Paul resembles both or differs from both. The student working with both lists will have a much fuller resource to hand for assessing the form and other aspects of the quotations in Paul. Beginner and specialist alike will be reminded afresh by such an exercise of the complexity of the issues. For not only must the form of the NT, LXX and MT be considered, but also in many cases there are textual variations in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.

In some cases the textual variations for both the New Testament and the LXX are significant and should be listed. For example, the presence and position of the μου in the quotation from Hab 2:4 at Rom 1:17 must figure hi to any thorough discussion of this programmatic quotation in the letter. The textual data here and at Heb 10:38 (at Gal 3:11 there are no variants) reflect the richness of the variation in the Hebrew Bible, LXX and Qumran. In his two discussions of Hab 2:4 in Paul, Moyise notes neither the variations in the LXX manuscripts, nor the reading άντων of the Greek Minor Prophets scroll from Nahal Hever (8QHever) and Aquila. Decisions on the text have important implications for interpretation. So the omission of textual data amounts to a
missed opportunity. Had Appendix 1 included the text of Pauline quotations and significant variants, students would have been in a better position to make a judgment for themselves. Thus for Romans 9:28 (Isa 10:22-23) the chart on p. 127 might have read:

- NRSV: Destruction is decreed, overflowing with righteousness
- LXX: For he is completing and cutting short a reckoning with righteousness
- Rom 9:28: For the Lord will execute his sentence on the earth quickly and decisively
  (D al. read: for he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness...)

Thus the student, whether beginner or seasoned practitioner, is better served in deciding whether the additional words in the textual tradition of Romans represent a later scribal assimilation to the LXX or MT or whether the characteristically Pauline in righteousness is what Paul wrote in Rom 9:28. Perhaps the printing of the words of Paul, with significant variations, will be included in the second edition of this useful volume.
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