

The Figure of Moses and the Importance of the Mosaic Law within the New Testament Writings

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Abstract

The Law (*Torah*) is the most important concept within the Judaic religious tradition and it usually refers to the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch), which were written by Moses. In the rabbinic literature, the term denotes both the five books of the Hebrew Bible and the oral tradition, which were given by God to Moses, have been passed from generation to generation and embodied in the Talmud. The New Testament authors speak about Jesus Christ as the fulfillment and the end of the Law. The ecclesiastical rule is the concord and harmony of the law and the prophets in the covenant delivered at the coming of the Lord. Considering the “new perspective on Paul”, in recent scholarship, the problem with Judaism, according to Saint Paul, the Apostle of Gentiles, was not works righteousness, but its failure to accept God’s new covenant in Christ, which embraced Gentiles as well as Jews. On this perspective, Paul’s gospel is not an answer to the troubled conscience of someone who can’t meet God’s demands. Rather, it is the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham to bless all nations. The “works of the law” against which Paul contends are not man’s attempts to satisfy God’s moral law, but the distinctions between Jews and Gentiles such as circumcision, food laws, and cleansings.