

## A FEW NOTES ON THE USE OF THE SCRIPTURE IN GALATIANS

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**Abstract.** This paper revisits the question of the function of the Old Testament references in the Epistle to the Galatians. The inquiry is largely focused on direct quotations which are each analyzed with regard to their specific function within the argument in which they are employed. A number of characteristics emerge from the analysis which will then be assessed against the solutions proposed in previous scholarship on the topic.

**Keywords:** Galatians, Use of Scripture, OT Exegesis

The outer margin apparatus of NA28 highlights twenty-nine Galatians places with parallels to forty-one places from the Old Testament.<sup>1</sup> On ten occasions the NA28 editors considered these to be direct quotations.<sup>2</sup> Of the twenty-nine Galatians instances with scriptural parallels, two are in the first chapter, three in the second, ten in the third, eight in the fourth, two in the fifth and four in the sixth chapter.

The largest concentration of Old Testament references are thus in chapters three and four. Several explanations have been proposed for this fact. On the one hand, it was linked with that these two chapters bear the main arguments of the

<sup>1</sup> Recent monographs on Paul's use scripture of include ANDREW H. WAKEFIELD, *Where to Live. The Hermeneutical Significance of Paul's Citations from Scripture in Galatians 3:1-14*, (Atlanta: SBL, 2003), ROY E. CIAMPA, *The Presence and Function of Scripture in Galatians 1 and 2* (Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 2/102; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1998), CHRISTOPHER D. STANLEY, *Paul and the Language of Scripture: Citation Technique in the Pauline Epistles and Contemporary Literature* (Supplements to New Testament Studies 74; Cambridge: CUP, 1992), RICHARD B. HAYS, *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul* (New Haven, London: Yale UP, 1989), and DIETRICH-ALEX KOCH, *Die Schrift als Zeuge des Evangeliums: Untersuchungen zu Verwendung und zum Verständnis der Schrift bei Paulus* (Beiträge zur historischen Theologie, 69; Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 1986). Surveys of past scholarship on the matter are available in WAKEFIELD, *Where to Live*, 57-96, CIAMPA, *Function*, 7-19, and HAYS, *Echoes*, 5-14.

<sup>2</sup> A discussion of the differences between the Pauline citations and the parallel texts of the Old Testament (including Galatians) can be found in STANLEY, *Language*. He only discusses nine occurrences, excluding 3,11. A list of all explicit Old Testament quotations in Paul's letters is available in KOCH, *Schrift*, 21-24.