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Introduction

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Introduction

Gregory Hagg

**The Feinberg Lecture Series
and the *Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies*
The Christian and the Hebrew Scriptures**

Volume 1 of the *Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies* was published in the fall of 2015 following a conference sponsored by Chosen People Ministries in the United Kingdom. The theme was eschatology, and the conference was called “Thy Kingdom Come.” Volume 2 of the journal was published in the fall of 2017 and was devoted to the theme of Passover, with articles provided by faculty members associated with the Charles L. Feinberg Center for Messianic Jewish Studies.

From the inception of the Feinberg Center the leadership of the academic program considered hosting a series of lectures by prominent members of the academy who could address issues relating to the Messianic Jewish movement. This was first



realized in December of 2019 when several Jewish believers and non-Christian Jewish scholars gathered to consider the history of Jewish ministry in general and Chosen People Ministries in particular.

Volume 3, published in the summer of 2020, followed that special Feinberg Lecture Series entitled “The Life and Times of Leopold Cohn.” This rabbi was the founder of Chosen People Ministries (then the American Board of Missions to the Jews). The lectures celebrated the 125th anniversary of the founding of the mission. It featured articles by non-Messianic Jewish writers who have had a collegial relationship with many involved in Jewish missions, especially Dr. Mitch Glaser, current president of Chosen People Ministries. The result was an exceptionally interesting collaboration of scholars writing on the history of Jewish evangelism and missions to the Jewish people. These volumes are available at www.feinbergcenter.com.

Volume 4 is now here presented with the particular focus on the Christian and the Hebrew Scriptures, and it also follows the Feinberg Lecture Series that took place in the spring of 2022. That series provided most of the content of this volume of the journal, especially the excellent articles on the interpretation of Paul’s use of the Mosaic Law in his writings.

First, however, Dr. Zhava Glaser has provided a selective list of Christian Hebraists along with a description of their unique contributions to the field of Hebraica. It includes her insight into their positive and/or negative relationships with the Jewish people, and especially helpful is her analysis of the possible motivations these pivotal scholars may have had for their work in the field. Clearly, the Hebrew Scriptures made a crucial impact on Christian academia.

Dr. Richard Averbeck, who presented two of the lectures in March of 2022, provided two articles from those lectures, one



called “The Unity and the Goodness of the Law” and another called “The Limitations of the Law.” Each of these unusually thought-provoking articles should be required reading for all who seek clarification on this subject. His book, *The Old Testament Law for the Life of the Church*, which covers these topics and many more, is reviewed below.

Dr. Brian Rosner, another Lecture Series speaker last spring, contributed the brilliant article, “The Puzzle of Paul and the Law: Keeping the Commandments of the Law.” His insight is indispensable in determining how believers of today should understand the Law of Moses. His approach is a bit different from Averbeck’s, and readers will benefit from both volumes. Dr. Rosner’s book, *Paul and the Law: Keeping the Commandments of God* is also reviewed below.

Dr. Mitch Glaser traces the history of one of the most famous missionaries in Christian history, S.I.J. Schereschewsky, a Jewish believer who took the gospel to the Chinese people. The role of the Hebrew scriptures in this account makes the article an invaluable contribution to this volume.

In the article called “The Jewish Bishop: S.I.J. Schereschewsky” Glaser focuses on the scholarship of this brilliant man of God in accomplishing the task of providing the Bible in the heart language of the Chinese of his day.

Also included in Volume 4 are helpful book reviews by faculty and staff members of the Feinberg Center. The books include those by Averbeck and Rosner on the topic at hand, but there are also three other works that deserve attention. A very perceptive book by David Ruderman, *Missionaries, Converts, and Rabbis*, discusses the role of Jewish missions in the 18th Century from a non-Christian Jewish perspective. Ruderman focuses on the life of Alexander McCaul, an outspoken and controversial missionary to the Jewish people. Brian Crawford



reviews the book noting that there are many things to learn from Ruderman's appraisal of Jewish mission.

One of the speakers at the Feinberg Lecture Series was Dr. Tim Laniak. While he was not able to provide an article for this volume of the *JMJS*, his book, *Shepherds After My Own Heart*, shows how the shepherd motif throughout the Hebrew Scriptures informs the Christian understanding of the Good Shepherd, Messiah Yeshua. One of Dr. Laniak's former students, Rich Flashman, reviews this excellent book.

This volume of the journal would be incomplete without consulting the views of the eminent scholar of the Hebrew Scriptures, Dr. Walter Kaiser. His book called *The Old Testament Really Matters*, as one would expect, defends the value of the Old Testament to Christians today. The new Administrative Director of the Feinberg Center, Jeff Millenson, reviews Kaiser's book. Jeff served as the registrar for Trinity Evangelical Divinity School where Walt Kaiser was Academic Dean for many years. So here is another nice connection.

Finally, Brian Crawford, as Assistant Editor, has assembled an excellent bibliography, which will help the readers do further research on this topic of the Christian and the Hebrew Scriptures.

Special thanks to Rachel Larsen for her contribution as Assistant Editor for this volume, and none of the volumes of the *Journal of Messianic Jewish Studies* would be completed without the generous and superb typesetting by Dr. Paul Brazier, a true friend of Israel.

Dr. Gregory Hagg
General Editor

