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04/07/2023

## ***BOOK REVIEW***

B. H. Young, *Paul the Jewish Theologian* (Baker, 1995). Pp 184. Price: \$24.99.  
ISBN: 0801048214.

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“Paul the Jewish Theologian” by Brad H. Young is an interesting examination of the Apostle Paul's life and teachings from the perspective of his Jewish background. Young, a specialist in both Jewish and Christian scriptures, sheds light on Paul's perception of Jewish customs, the Hebrew Scriptures, and the setting in which he lived and wrote. Paul's Jewish identity and theology, according to the author, were fundamental to his message and purpose; correctly comprehending Paul's works depends on an understanding of this part of his life. Young provides readers with a clearer knowledge of one of the most significant persons in Christian history as well as a novel viewpoint on the interaction between Judaism and Christianity through his rigorous research and intelligent analysis.

The author of "Paul the Jewish Theologian" is Brad H. Young, a noted scholar in the field of Judeo-Christian Studies. Young earned his Ph.D. from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, where he studied under the renowned Jewish scholar David Flusser. In addition to his academic work, Young is a licensed minister and serves as the founder and president of the Gospel Research Foundation, a non-profit organization that promotes interfaith dialogue and understanding

between Jews and Christians. Young has written several other books on Jewish and Christian topics and it's been praised for their scholarship, insight, and ability to bridge the gap between Jewish and Christian perspectives.

In this book review, I will analyze his book called "Paul the Jewish Theologian" where he analyzes the apostle Paul's theological foundation from a Jewish viewpoint. The book is organized into eight chapters, each of which examines a distinct Pauline doctrine from a Jewish viewpoint.

- Chapter 1: Introduction

Young explains his book's central claim, which is that Paul's theology has a strong Jewish foundation. He also describes his approach to investigating this hypothesis, which incorporates situating Paul's works within Jewish philosophy.

- Chapter 2: The Law and the Messiah

In this chapter, Paul explains how he views the law and how it relates to the Messiah contending that the Messiah is fundamental to understanding the law and that Paul perceived the law as pointing to the Messiah. Paul's use of the word "law" is also examined in chapter 2.

- Chapter 3: The Hebrew Bible

The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) is discussed in this chapter as Paul uses it in his writings. Young claims that Paul's theology is based on the teachings of the Hebrew Scriptures. He also demonstrates how Paul studied the Hebrew Scriptures using Jewish interpretive techniques.

- Chapter 4: Grace and Faith

In this chapter, Young explores Paul's understanding of grace and faith. He argues that Paul's concept of grace is consistent with Jewish thought and that Paul saw faith as a response to grace. He also examines Paul's use of the term "faith" and shows how it is consistent with Jewish usage.

- Chapter 5: The Spirit and the New Creation

This chapter looks at how Paul perceived the Holy Spirit and his function in the new creation and he demonstrates how Paul's view of the new creation is compatible with Jewish philosophy.

- Chapter 6: Eschatology

This chapter investigates Paul's eschatology, which he thinks is truly congruent with Jewish philosophy. Paul's use of apocalyptic terminology is also examined, and he demonstrates how it is consistent with Jewish apocalyptic literature, with Messiah as the key to comprehending the end times.

- Chapter 7: Paul and the Rabbis

In chapter 7, Young contrasts Paul's theology with Rabbinic Judaism. He contends that rather than departing from Judaism, Paul's theology is a development of Jewish philosophy. He also demonstrates how Paul's view of the Messiah is in line with Jewish anticipation for the coming of the Messiah.

- Chapter 8: Conclusion

This is the final chapter and it's a summary of the findings and understanding of Paul's Jewish heritage in order to analyze its theology. Moreover, he makes suggestions for further study, and he ends by reiterating his claim that Paul's theology is fundamentally influenced by Jewish philosophy.

The book, it is deeply emphasized the theory that Paul's theology is influenced by his Jewish past, and comprehending Paul's Jewish heritage is crucial to understanding his theology. Paul is one of the most important figures in Christian history, and through the book, Young draws upon many Jewish sources to give him new perspectives and provide insight into his theology.

In terms of a comparison to other works, I found E.P. Sanders' "Paul, the Law, and the Jewish People" to be a helpful complement to Young's book. While both works explore Paul's relationship to Judaism, Sanders' book provides a more comprehensive examination of the historical context of Second Temple Judaism and Paul's place within it. Sanders shares Young's viewpoint that Paul's theology must be understood in the context of Judaism and that the Apostle's ideas were not as fundamentally different from Judaism as some researchers have suggested. I think that Sanders' looks at Paul's interpretation of the law, it's a suggestion that rather than a complete rejection of Jewish law, Paul's criticism of the law should be considered as an internal Jewish discussion.

In conclusion, I think that "Paul the Jewish Theologian" by B. H. Young is a great book for people interested in learning about the Jewish origins of Paul's theology. The work is well-

written and well-researched, and Young uses Jewish sources in a particularly interesting way to illustrate Paul's thinking. However, Paul the Jewish Theologian by B. H. Young was a challenging book that I eventually did not enjoy. Although I admire Young's emphasis on Paul's Jewish heritage, I felt the language to be scholarly and dry, which made it difficult to connect with the topic. The book was also less relevant to my personal interests because I discovered that I am not especially interested in a detailed analysis of Paul's theology.

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