

Philo of Alexandria, an Exegete for His Time (Supplements to Novum Testamentum)

By Peder Borgen

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Philo's writings are a comprehensive and important source of late Second Temple Judaism. This volume gives important insights into his exegetical works. The structure of the books and their exegetical ideas are seen here as being closely connected and his writings are analysed against the background of the history, variety and outlook of Alexandrian Jewry. Philo's exegesis is a meeting place between Jewish and Greek notions and ideas; tensions are reflected, such as those between particularism and universalism, between specific biblical and historical earthly events and general macro- and micro-cosmic principles, and between heavenly ascents and interpreted history and eschatology. In addition, glimpses are gained of community life in a Hellenistic Jewish community, especially of issues on the borderline between Jews and their non-Jewish surroundings. New Testament material illuminates Philo's broader Jewish context, and in turn Philo throws light on New Testament backgrounds.

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Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #6114077 in Books
- Published on: 2005-11-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.02" h x .77" w x 5.98" l, 1.11 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 344 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"This book belongs in any library with a collection of books on ancient Judaism, particularly Hellenistic Judaism." Frederick J. Murphy, "The Catholic Biblical Quarterly," 1999. "an impressive piece of scholarship." Gregory E. Sterling, "The Studia Philonica Annual," 1998. "It makes demands upon the reader, but those who are prepared to work through it carefully will find the effort well worthwhile. Peder Borgen has enriched the literature on Philo and on the New Testament over many years, and this latest volume is a valuable contribution toward the better understanding of Philo's work." R. McL. Wilson, "Review of Biblical Literature," 2000. "une tres belle synthese sur l'exegese philonienne." Patrice Cambronne, "Revue des Etudes Anciennes," 2000. "I can recommend this monograph to everyone who is interested in Philo's exegesis. With this monograph Borgen has again shown that he belongs to the most prominent Philonic scholars of our time." A.C. Geljon, "Vigiliae Christianae," 2002"

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About the Author

Borgen is Research Professor in the Department of Religious Studies, University of Trondheim, Norway.

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