John J. R. Lee

Christological Rereading of the Shema (Deut 6.4) in Mark's Gospel

[Christologische Relektüre des Shema' Jisrael (Deut 6,4) im Markusevangelium.]

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> Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 2. Reihe

> > Mohr Siebeck

2020. XIV, 320 pages. WUNT II 533

ISBN 978-3-16-152807-1 sewn paper 99,00 € ISBN 978-3-16-159819-7 eBook PDF 99,00 € Published in English

In Mark's Gospel, the Shema language of Deut 6.4 is not merely reiterated in a traditional sense but reinterpreted in a striking way that links Jesus directly and inseparably with Israel's unique God. Such an innovative rereading of the Shema must be understood in light of (a) various elements involved in and surrounding each of the three monotheistic references (Mark 2.7; 10.18; 12.29) relating to their respective literary contexts, and (b) Mark's nuanced, complex, and even paradoxical portrait of Jesus' relationship to God throughout his gospel. John J.R. Lee shows that Mark's use of the one-God language implies that his Jesus is not merely one who, as a Shema-observant Jew, speaks on behalf of God but also one whose status and significance fundamentally correspond to those of Israel's unique deity.

John J. R. Lee Born 1973; 2004 MDiv; 2010–12 Appointed Assistant Professor of New Testament, Midwestern Seminary; 2011 Doctor of Philosophy in New Testament, Edinburgh University; 2012–18 Assistant Professor of New Testament, Midwestern Seminary; since 2018 Associate Professor of New Testament, Midwestern Seminary.

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