

Dankesrede von Prof. Dr. Richard
Bauckham zur Franz-Delitzsch
Preisverleihung am 23. April 2010

Institut für  Israelologie

*Erst die Fakten.
Dann die Meinung.*

Franz Delitzsch prize for 2010

It is a great honour to be awarded the Franz Delitzsch prize for 2010 by the Institut für Israelologie. I am only sorry that I shall not be able to be there to receive it in person, but I shall be with you in spirit! and I send my greetings to the staff and students of the Institut and of the Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen.

The book you have kindly decided to honour with the prize is one that collects together essays that I have written over the whole course of my career. The first essay in the book was first published in 1976, and I enjoyed going back to it and writing a substantial up-date to it when I prepared the essays for this volume. The other essays span the whole course of my career up to 2008. What they all have in common is their focus on the Jewish literature and life of the period before and around the New Testament period, while many of them treat various aspects of the relationship between earliest Christianity and its Jewish context. They bear witness to the conviction that I have always had, as a New Testament scholar, that the New Testament itself is a collection of early Jewish texts that can only be adequately understood within the context of all that we now know about early Judaism. I have always considered that as a New Testament scholar I need to be also a scholar of early Judaism, committed to the understanding of early Judaism for its own sake as well as for the light it can shed on the New Testament. Looking back over the period of my career, I think that the real progress that scholars have made during that period in understanding the New Testament texts have been largely due to the even greater progress in our understanding of early Judaism and the impact that has had on our reading of the New Testament.

I have not written about the significance of my work for contemporary issues of Jewish-Christian relations and messianic Judaism today, but I have been delighted when others have found my work helpful in those respects.

So I can easily recognize that my work is in tune with the aims and activities of the Institut für Israelologie. Thank you so much for honouring me in this way.

Richard Bauckham