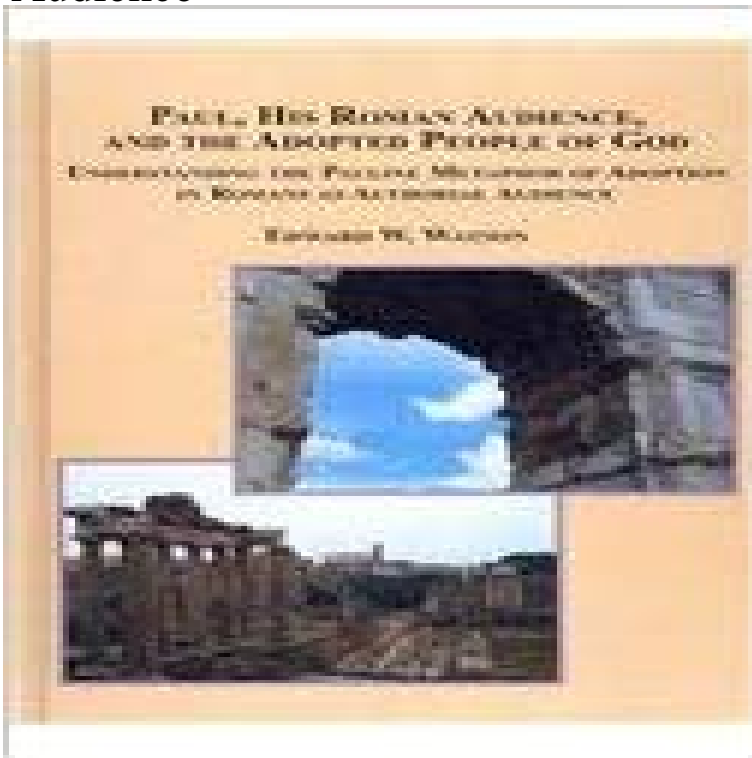


# Paul, His Roman Audience, and the Adopted People of God: Understanding the Pauline Metaphor of Adoption in Romans As Authorial Audience



This title argues that the use of the metaphor of adoption as a literary construct in Romans would have aided Paul's intended audience in the understanding of their Christian experience both in the present and at the eschaton. In the text of Romans, the term adoption describes the manner in which God brings believers into the people of God, bestowing upon them the rights, privileges, and obligations associated with sonship. Divine adoption, a blessing first given to the Jewish remnant, now available through the fulfillment of God's covenantal faithfulness, appropriated to God's eschatological people as a whole (i.e., believers made up of both Jews and Gentiles). Paul, therefore, utilizes concepts that theologically depict Israel's unique status, while also providing interpretive markers through the surrounding familial language that would be read by the authorial audience against their wider Greco-Roman milieu. As a result, insight would be gained about the believers' inclusion, along with Israel's true remnant, into the eschatological people of God. God's people are thus redefined within Romans in a way that eliminates the ethnic particularities attached to inclusion and allows Gentiles and Jews to enter the family of God on an equal basis.

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