

## PREFACE

The following essays are devoted to a theme of current and, indeed, increasing interest and importance in a number of scholarly 'worlds': the mutual and pervasive interpenetration of Greek and Jewish cultures during those centuries in which early Judaism and nascent Christianity emerged. They show, we believe, with sufficient clarity that just as there were no air-tight cultural 'worlds' in those centuries, so today scholars cannot pursue their craft insightfully without opening themselves to the disciplines, methodologies, and information in contiguous areas of scholarship. One cannot adequately interpret 'Jewish' data without knowing the 'Greek' data; and the reverse is in many situations equally true. The scholar obviously cannot expect to be equally versed in all realities pertinent to his or her concerns; but one can listen to those who have chosen certain limited areas of religio-cultural interpenetration to research and review. The intent of the editors has been to provide this Volume as a contribution and resource for those who wish to listen to such scholars. It is our hope, not only that greater awareness of mutual intellectual and spiritual dependency will result, but also that these essays may make a modest contribution to the crucially important task of creating mutual respect among differing religious cultures in the world of our day.

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The Editors