

Chapter 6

Conclusion

6.1 Introduction

In this chapter I will offer a brief recapitulation and synthesis of the arguments in the preceding chapters, before going on to make comparisons between the four letters, draw out the implications of my findings for the related issues that I identified in the introduction and suggest some possibilities for further research.

6.2 Summaries

6.2.1 Introduction

The introduction began with a brief statement of the problem which this thesis explores – the instances within the Pauline literature in which a text (or several texts) of Scripture seemingly speaking in the original context of the return of exiled or scattered Israelites is appropriated as a reference to Gentile believers in Christ – and the identification of three broader issues closely related to the hermeneutical questions raised by this phenomenon: (i) the relationship between the inclusion of the Gentiles and salvation by grace within Paul’s theology; (ii) the extent and nature of the continuities between Paul’s gospel and Israel’s Scriptures; and (iii) and the question of how the understanding and appropriation of Scripture within Ephesians relates to the hermeneutics of the undisputed Pauline letters.

After identifying these as the issues upon which I hoped my investigation would shed some light, I turned to the question of methodology, offering a brief critical evaluation of the methodology followed in the three most substantial and original contributions made in recent decades to our study of Paul’s reading of Scripture: Richard Hays’s *Echoes of Scripture in the Letters of Paul*, Francis Watson’s *Paul and the Hermeneutics of Faith* and Christopher Stanley’s *Arguing with Scripture: The Rhetoric of Quotations in the Letters of Paul*.