

Reading the New Testament Without Presupposing Supersessionism: Four Fundamental Issues

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in Christian-Jewish Relations

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12:00-1:00 pm

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A growing number of Jews and Christians no longer define and describe their religions in terms of being against each other, but rather as two authentic expressions of faith, both based upon the biblical texts. This encourages us to reread the New Testament texts without presupposing supersessionism. Jesper Svartvik will suggest four fundamental issues which must be addressed in this endeavour: the portrayal of the Pharisees, the New Testament's (especially the Gospel of John's) discussions of "the Jews," the role of the Law in the Pauline epistles, and, finally, the impact of the Epistle to the Hebrews. Exploring these four fundamental issues reveals a new landscape in which Judaism manifests itself not as the theological contrast of Christianity, but as its historical context.

Jesper Svartvik holds a doctorate in New Testament studies from Lund University (2000) where he held the Krister Stendahl Chair of Theology of Religions. His areas of expertise include New Testament studies, interreligious relations in general, and Jewish-Christian relations in particular. Dr. Svartvik is the author of ten books, which include *Mark and Mission: Mk 7:1–23 in Its Narrative and Historical Contexts* (Almqvist & Wiksell International, 2000), and the co-editor of four volumes including *Christ Jesus and the Jewish People Today: New Explorations of Theological Interrelationships* (Eerdmans, 2011) and *Enabling Dialogue about the Land: A Resource Book for Jews and Christians* (Paulist Press, forthcoming 2020).

