

Table of Contents

Preface.....	V
Table of Contents.....	VII
Abbreviations and Citations.....	XI
 Chapter 1. The Problem of Philo's Ambivalence about the Physical World.....	 1
I. Discovering Philo's Ambivalence.....	1
II. Attempts to Analyse Philo's Ambivalence.....	6
III. Argument and Plan of the Book.....	9
IV. Socially-Conditioned Perspectives on the Physical World.....	13
V. Methodological Approach.....	15
 Chapter 2. The Context for Philo's Ambivalence toward the Physical World.....	 18
I. Introduction.....	18
II. Audiences and Aims for the Commentary Series.....	18
III. Judaism and Hellenism for Philo.....	22
A. Terms and Definitions.....	22
B. Philo's Understanding of Philosophy.....	24
C. Philo's Use of Philosophy.....	27
D. The Superiority of Judaism.....	29
IV. Conclusion.....	35
 Chapter 3. Philo's Negative Terminology for the Physical World: οὐσία, ὕλη, γένεσις, γενητός.....	 36
I. Introduction.....	36
II. The Act and Process of Creation: Bringing Order.....	38
III. Οὐσία and Ὑλη: The Stuff from which the Physical World is Made..	42
A. Introduction.....	42

B. Positive and Neutral References to Matter.....	43
C. Negative References to Matter.....	44
D. Conclusion for Οὐσία and "Υλη.....	49
IV. Γένεσις: Exemplar of Philo's Varying Views on the Physical World.....	50
A. Introduction.....	50
B. Process of Generation.....	53
C. Concrete Creation in Harmony with God.....	54
D. Concrete Creation in Opposition to God.....	56
E. Referent for the Concrete Creation.....	59
F. A Gap between Rhetoric and Meaning in Philo's Anti-Creation Language.....	60
G. Conclusion for Γένεσις.....	63
V. Γενητός: The Contrast between God and Creation.....	65
A. Introduction.....	65
B. The Divide between God and Creation.....	67
C. Referent for the Concrete Creation.....	70
D. Conclusion for Γενητός.....	70
VI. Conclusion.....	71

Chapter 4. Philo's Positive Terminology

for the Physical World: Κόσμος.....	74
I. Introduction.....	74
II. Definition and Attributes of the Κόσμος.....	75
A. Basic Definition.....	75
B. Acceptance and Adaptation of the Attributes of the Κόσμος.....	78
III. Praise of the Κόσμος to the Praise of God.....	82
IV. The Κόσμος as a Means of Knowing and Becoming like God.....	85
V. Limitations of the Κόσμος.....	88
VI. Comparison to other 'Universe' Terms.....	91
A. "Ολον.....	91
B. Πᾶν.....	92
VII. Comparative Usage of Κόσμος.....	95
A. Greco-Roman Philosophy.....	95
B. Other Jewish Writings.....	96
VIII. Conclusion.....	100

Chapter 5. Philo's Positive Terminology for the Physical World: Φύσις Part One.....	103
I. Introduction.....	103
II. Background for Φύσις in Philo.....	105
III. Φύσις as Creative Power.....	109
IV. Φύσις as Essential Character.....	112
A. Basic Sense.....	112
B. Φύσις and Essential Human Character.....	114
C. Divinely-Endowed Individual Φύσις.....	115
D. Ethical Status of 'Essential Character' Definition.....	118
V. Φύσις as Universal Nature.....	119
A. Polyvalence of Φύσις when Denoting Universal Nature.....	119
B. God's Relation to Universal Nature.....	121
C. Finding Φύσις (Universal Nature) in Scripture.....	122
D. Preliminary Conclusion: Ethical Status for Φύσις as Physical World.....	127
Chapter 6. Philo's Positive Terminology for the Physical World: Φύσις Part Two.....	129
I. Φύσις as Cosmic Order.....	129
A. Φύσις Rules and Guides the Sensible World.....	129
B. Cosmic Order as Ethical Standard: Following Φύσις.....	130
C. Place of Natural Law.....	135
D. Relation of Nature/Natural Law and Mosaic Law.....	139
E. Relation of Logos and Φύσις as Creative, Cosmic Principle.....	143
F. Conclusion: Ethical Status of Φύσις as Cosmic Order.....	146
II. Φύσις as Divine Metonymy.....	148
III. Conclusion.....	153
Chapter 7. Higher and Lower Approaches to God.....	155
I. Introduction.....	155
II. <i>Telos</i> of Human Life: To See and Become Like God.....	156
III. Indirect vs. Direct Vision of God.....	158
IV. Idealised Categories of People in Pursuit of God.....	162
V. Conclusion.....	166

Chapter 8. The Ambiguity of the Physical World:	
A Multiperspectival Approach.....	168
I. Introduction.....	168
II. Panoramic Review of Philo's Positive and Negative Perspectives.....	169
III. Distinction between Higher and Lower Aspects of Physical World...	171
IV. Perspective of God versus the Perspective of Substance.....	174
V. Higher and Lower Approaches to God and the Physical World.....	176
A. Commentaries and the Physical World.....	176
B. Interpretation of Scripture and the Physical World.....	178
C. Implied Audiences and the Higher-Lower Paths to Perfection.....	180
VI. Conclusion.....	184
Chapter 9. Conclusions.....	186
I. Summary.....	186
II. Whence this Negative Perspective? Comparative Analysis.....	187
A. Judaism and Hellenism.....	187
B. Two Strands of Platonism.....	188
C. Wisdom of Solomon.....	190
D. Paul of Tarsus.....	190
E. Gnosticism.....	192
F. Mystical-Ascetic Impulse.....	192
III. Contribution of this Book and Further Research.....	193
Appendix 1. Οὐσία.....	195
Appendix 2. Ὕλη.....	199
Appendix 3. Γένεσις.....	202
Appendix 4. Κόσμος.....	208
Appendix 5. Φύσις.....	216
Bibliography.....	233
Index of Ancient Sources.....	257
Index of Modern Authors.....	288
Index of Subjects.....	293