

Human Ontology Project

a four-volume, multi-disciplinary exploration of the ontological state of the self in ancient near eastern anthropology

The **Human Ontology Project** seeks to understand the self in ancient near eastern anthropologies. It utilises various disciplines, including anthropology, history, philosophy, chemistry, physics & others to understand the relationship between the divine & nondivine within the space of the human self.

It explores ancient Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Hittite, Canaanite, Israelite, Persian, Greek, Roman, Jewish & Christian ideas on the nature of the self—its divine & nondivine **ontological state**—in the present life.

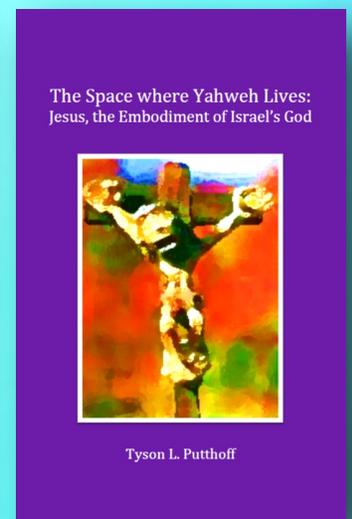
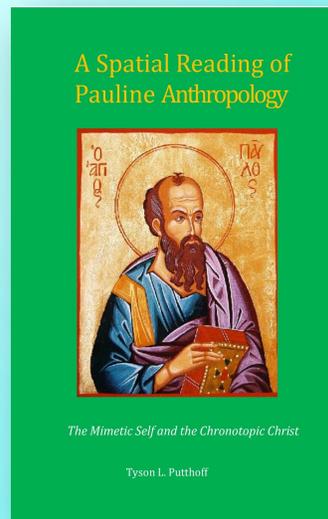
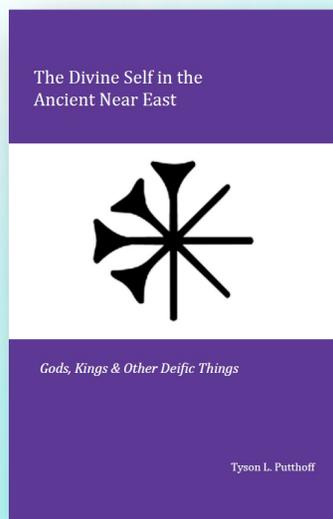
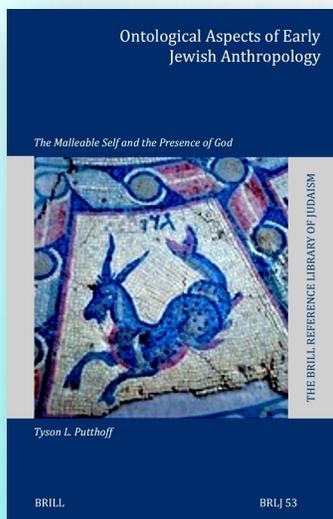
The project will comprise **four volumes**.

The **first volume** discusses the ontology of the self in early Judaism & is currently in print with Brill.

The **second volume** discusses the divine self in the Ancient Near East from the third millennium BCE to the turn of the Common Era. This book will be in print in 2018.

The **third volume** discusses Paul's conception of the self from within a spatial framework. This book will be completed by Summer 2018.

The **fourth volume** discusses Jesus' conception of himself as the physical embodiment of Israel's God. This book will be completed by early 2019.



Ontological Aspects of Early Jewish Anthropology

The Malleable Self and the Presence of God



THE BRILL REFERENCE LIBRARY OF JUDAISM

Tyson L. Putthoff

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In this **first volume**, I explore early Jewish beliefs about how the human self reacts ontologically in **God's presence**. Combining contemporary **theory** with sound **exegesis**, I demonstrate that early Jews widely considered the self to be **intrinsically malleable**—its condition is such that it **mimics the ontological state of the space it inhabits**. In divine space, they believed, the self therefore **shares in the ontological state of God himself**.

The book is critical for **students & scholars** alike. In putting forth a new **framework for conceptualising** early Jewish anthropology, it **challenges scholars** to rethink not only what early Jews **believed** about the self but how we **approach** the subject in the first place.

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Book Contents:

1. Introduction: The Self and the Mystical Experience
2. Aseneth the Anti-Eve: The Re-Created Self in an Egyptian Jewish Tale
3. Philo's Bridge to Perfection: *De opificio mundi* and the End of the Self
4. God's Anthropomorphous House: The Self-Constructed Temple at Qumran
5. When Disciples Enter Heavenly Space: Self-Transformation in Bavli *Sotah 49a*
6. Transformed by His Glory: Self-Glorification in *Hekhalot Zutarti*
7. Conclusion: Towards a Mimetic Anthropology of Early Judaism

Available Now:

- Visit **Brill.com** for ordering information
- Check out this book's place in the larger project at **humanontology.com**

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The Divine Self in the Ancient Near East



Gods, Kings & Other Deific Things

Tyson L. Putthoff

In this **second volume**, I investigate ontological aspects of **ancient near eastern** conceptions of the human creature, from the **third millennium BCE** to the turn of the Common Era.

Here I argue that **Egyptian, Mesopotamian, Canaanite, Hittite, Canaanite, Israelite, Persian, Greek & Roman** conceptions of the self provide a foundation for post-biblical Jewish anthropologies, which understand the human self to be **intrinsically malleable** such that it mimics or participates in the ontology of the space with which it is contact. This book is the prequel to ***Ontological Aspects of Early Jewish Anthropology***.

The book is critical for **students & scholars** of the **Ancient Near East**. It offers an **innovative analysis** of **texts & artifacts** in languages otherwise out of reach for most students of the **Bible, early Judaism & ancient Christianity**. This volume will be in print in 2018.

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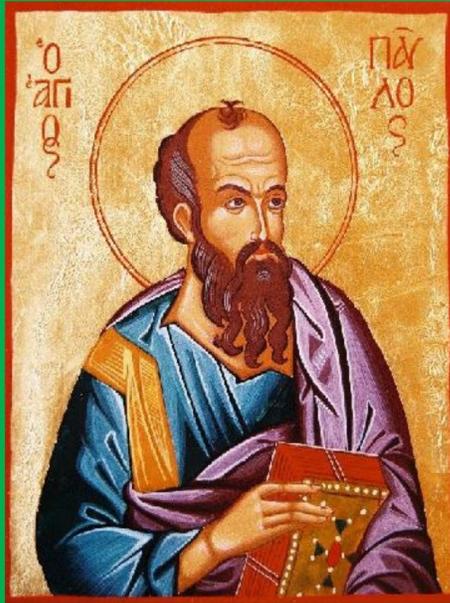
Book Contents:

1. Introduction: Self, Space and the Divine Embodiment Model
2. Golden Flesh and Deific Souls: Divine Embodiment and the Human Self in Ancient Egypt
3. Created Beings and Sexy God-Kings: The Divinity of Humanity in Mesopotamia
4. Stones, Statues and Deified Self-space: Divine Representation in Hittite Anatolia
5. Houses, Poles and the *Tselem Elohim*: Material Embodiment and the Self in Canaan-Israel
6. Fiery Self-space: The Heterotopian Creature in Persian Anthropology
7. Divine Within, Without and Sometimes Throughout: The Deific Self in Graeco-Roman Anthropology
8. Conclusion: Conceptualising the Divine Self in the Ancient Near East

For More Information:

- This book will be in print in 2018
- Check out its place in the larger project at humanontology.com

A Spatial Reading of Pauline Anthropology



The Mimetic Self and the Chronotopic Christ

Tyson L. Putthoff

This **third volume** examines ontological aspects of **Pauline anthropology** in the light of **ancient near eastern** conceptions of the human creature.

Here I argue that Paul believed the human self to have **mimetic** properties, such that upon entering **into Christ** and **being filled** with the **Spirit**, the self takes on the ontological state of **Christ**, the **Spirit** & even **heaven** itself. This book is the next to last installment in my three-volume **Ontology of the Self** project that analyses ancient near eastern and early **Jewish & Christian** conceptions of the ontological state of the self.

The book is critical for **anyone** interested in what Paul & other New Testament writers have to say about the state of those "**in Christ**". It dialogues with scholars of **Paul** & ancient **Christianity** & **challenges scholars** to rethink these matters in a whole new light. This book will be completed by Summer 2018.

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Book Contents:

1. Introduction: Paul, Christ and the Self
2. Christ the Chronotope and the Christian Self: Divine and Human Space in Romans 5–8
3. Beholding God in his Throne Space: The Inner Encounter with Christ in 2 Corinthians 3–5
4. Heaven Space, Heavenly Existence: A New Way of *Being* in Philipians 3
5. Sex in Temple Space: Idols, Bodies and the Divine Presence
7. Conclusion: Towards a Spatial Reading of Pauline Anthropology

For more information:

- This book will be completed by Summer 2018
- Check out its place in the larger project at humanontology.com

The Space where Yahweh Lives: Jesus, the Embodiment of Israel's God



Tyson L. Putthoff

In this **fourth & final volume**, I explore **Jesus' self-conception** in the light of the framework that the previous volumes have set forth. I suggest that Jesus' words & actions elucidate the way he conceives himself, namely, to be the **physical space** in which Israel's god resides. As a **shaman** with a deep, critical understanding of ancient near eastern anthropologies, **Jesus** asserts himself to be none other than **Yahweh's body**—Yahweh having entered human ranks to bring peace & justice to the earth.

The book is critical for **students & scholars** alike as it **challenges scholars** to rethink not only what Jesus does & says but what he **believes** about himself—his physical self—in relation both to God & humankind.

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Book Contents:

1. Introduction: Self, Space and the Divine Embodiment Model
2. Life on Earth: Jesus as Human
3. John, Qumran and the Ancient Near East: Jesus as Student
4. Life in the Otherworld: Jesus as Shaman
5. Associating with Others: Jesus as Revolutionary
6. The Space where Yahweh Lives: Jesus as Temple
7. Conclusion: Jesus as Yahweh's Body

For more information:

- This book will be completed by early 2019
- Check out this book's place in the larger project at humanontology.com

Who will enjoy this project?

If you're a **scholar, student** or **theologian** interested in ancient **biblical & near eastern** conceptions of the self, this **project** has something for you.

You'll explore **ancient near eastern** answers to questions about:

- What it means to have been created by God or the gods
- What the human creature is *made of*—i.e. the ontological state of things like flesh, spirit, soul & body
- How the space around us influences our state of being
- What happens to us when we enter God's immediate presence
- Why the human creature changes in divine space

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I hold degrees in various areas of **religious, biblical, Jewish & theological** studies from **Missouri State University (MA) & Durham University (MA, PhD)**. I am currently an **Associate** of the **Trinity Centre for Biblical Studies, Trinity Centre Dublin** & an **Academic Counselor** in the Department of **Anthropology, College of Arts & Sciences**, at the **University of Oklahoma**.

