

Lisa M. Bowens

An Apostle in Battle

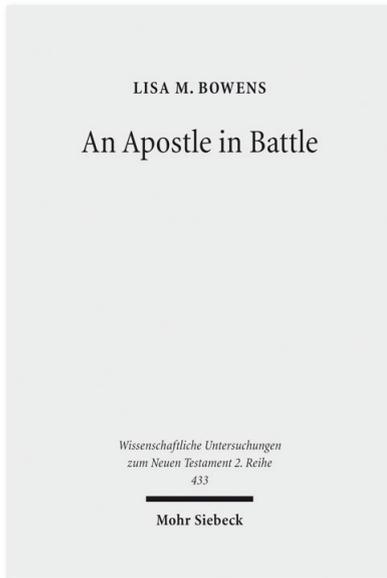
Paul and Spiritual Warfare in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

[An Apostle in Battle]

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In this close reading of 2 Corinthians 12:1-10, Lisa M. Bowens provides a detailed historical-critical exegesis and comparative analysis to establish that Paul links his ascent in 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 to 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 where he foregrounds a cosmic battle around the mind and the knowledge of God. In 10:3-6, the apostle presents a trilateral framework of cosmology, epistemology, and theological anthropology, which converge in his heavenly journey. Lisa M. Bowens examines a variety of Jewish and Greco-Roman texts and calls attention to the persistence and importance of martial imagery in chapters 10-13 of Second Corinthians, including in Paul's ascent narrative. Moreover, prayers of deliverance from evil forces become more prevalent around the first century, and this work situates Paul's request in 2 Corinthians 12:8 within this genre.

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