



**Reconceptualising Conversion: Patronage,
Loyalty, and Conversion in the Religions of the
Ancient Mediterranean (Beihefte Zur Zeitschrift
Fur Die Neutestamentliche Wissenschaft)**

Zeba A. Crook

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Combining classical, epigraphical, and biblical sources with social-scientific methodology, this monograph questions the way in which modern scholarship has tended to discuss ancient conversion. The author challenges long-held assumptions of psychological continuity between ancient and modern people, and offers in place of these assumptions a model founded on the categories the ancients used themselves. Graeco-Roman and Mediterranean religions and philosophies, including Hellenistic Judaism and Christianity, framed their religion in the language of patronage / benefaction and loyalty, and thus an understanding of ancient conversion must start there.

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