

「使徒の働き1章8節における『地の果て』の意味」

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Abstract Yuzuru MIURA, “The Meaning of ‘The End of the Earth’ in Acts 1:8.” This study focuses upon the expression, “the end of the earth” in Acts 1:8. The expression is often considered to refer to Rome. Because Acts 1:8 is presumed to be the table of contents of Acts, some think that Acts is a mere record of causal sequence of the history of mission that moves toward the end of the earth. However, when we see “the end of the earth” in the light of the LXX, it becomes clear that it is being in both a general geographical sense and an ethnic sense (i.e., referring to the Gentiles’ inclusion with the Jews). The fact that Paul’s arrival in Rome in Acts 28 can be explained as the suitable ending of Acts without claiming the feature of climax supports the view that Rome is not the referent of “the end of the earth” in Acts 1:8. The role of the apostles as the witnesses to the end of the earth in Acts 1:8 is given to Paul (and Barnabas) in Acts 13:47. When “the end of the earth” in Acts 13:47 is quoted from Isaiah 49:6, it is manifested that the role as the witnesses to the end of the earth has been also given to Israel, the servant of the Lord, and to the Davidic Messiah, Jesus Christ. Then Acts 28: 17-31 gives the impression of an ‘open-ending’ feature for the readers of Acts. Thus “the end of the earth” connects the apostles, Paul (and Barnabas), Israel, who is the servant of the Lord, Jesus Christ, who is the Davidic Messiah, and readers of Acts to one another. Hence “the end of the earth” in Acts 1:8 is considered to be an eschatological expression that has the sense of the expansion, not only of “geography/space” and “ethnic nation,” but also of “time” throughout the book of Acts.