

# “From the Dead of the Resurrection” : A New Reading of Romans 1 : 3–4

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According to the consensus of modern biblical research, Paul is quoting an earlier tradition in these two verses, and it almost certainly originated as a Christological poetic expression of Jewish Christian theology :

“(his son), who was born from the seed of David, who was appointed Son of God from the dead of the resurrection, (Jesus Christ our Lord).”

The anarthrous Greek prepositional phrase *ex anastaseôs nekrôn* makes logical sense only when it is construed as a hyperbaton. This essay presents a case for this reading on the basis of considerations of word-order freedom in Greek noun phrases, narrow focus marking by a preposed genitive noun, the biblical and Judaistic background of the earliest Christology, and the theology of the author(s) of the tradition. Its primary focus of attention lies in the “from where” of the appointment of God’s Son, not in his resurrection itself.