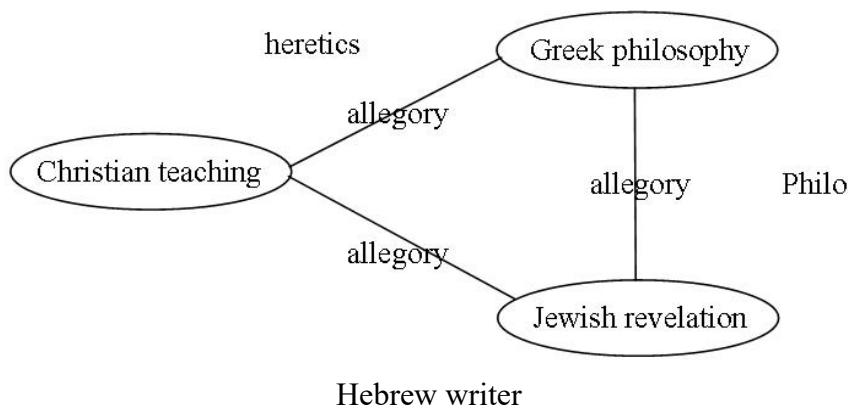


HEBREWS AND THE ALEXANDRIAN ORIGIN OR DESTINY

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1. The only reasons for associating Hebrews with Alexandria are that (1) the earliest favorable attestation comes from there and that (2) it supposedly uses the allegorical method of interpretation.

Philo joined Greek philosophy and Jewish revelation by allegorical method. He stood at the head of a line of scholars who did the same thing.



Allegorical interpretation is like using the Acts 27 trip to Rome as an allegory about life with its rough seas, throwing sins overboard, and so on.

2. Hebrews does not really use this method. Hebrews is not allegorical interpretation.
 - a. Exodus (is from Psalm 95:7-11)
 - b. Melchizedek (from Psalm 110:4)
 - c. Solomon and Jesus (2 Samuel 7:14)
 - (1) The writer's ideas are implicit in the Old Testament materials he quotes.
 - (2) The writer has precedent in the Old Testament for handling these events the way he does (Psalm 95; 110:1-4).- 3. Even if it were an allegorical method he got from Alexandria, he would not have to be there when he wrote the book.

Connecting the epistle with allegorical interpretation helps explain why Apollos is so well liked as a suggested author: he was from Alexandria. Allegorical interpretation may also explain the strong appreciation for the epistle in Alexandria among the ancients in the Eastern Church.