Rewritten Biblical Figures

The histories of the Biblical figures, both heroes and villains, have lived throughout the millennia. Since they were given the privilege to live in the middle of the drama of God and man in history, as parts of it, and they became receivers of the divine revelation, they are by later generations looked upon as prototypes and models — ethical models in good or bad, as prototypes of things to come, as philosophers or prophets possessing extraordinary wisdom. Their qualities are to be imitated. In other cases, their stories are transmitted to coming generations as warnings of what may happen to people who make wrong choices. However, the stories of the fathers and mothers were not merely read and transmitted as such — they were also rewritten: new nuances added, some features toned down or left aside, anonymous figures given names etc. By studying these rewritings we may today get an impression of the interests and aims of the ancient scribes. By rewriting the stories of the Biblical figures they wanted to highlight theological truths, to tackle contemporary challenges, and to guide their youth to the path of the righteousness.
The 3rd volume of the multidisciplinary series Studies in Rewritten Bible investigates different particles of the rich tradition of biblical figures in Jewish, Christian and Islamic tradition. The core of the volume consists of contributions of two Rewritten Bible-conferences (Koblenz, Germany, 2007, and Karkku, Finland, 2008). Scholars contributing to this volume represent various fields of scholarship: Biblical studies, Jewish literature from the 2nd Temple period to medieval times, early Christianity and Islamic literature.

CONTENTS

Preface
Erkki Koskenniemi, Pekka Lindqvist

Gen 49:8-12 and Its Interpretation In Antiquity. A Methodological Approach to Understanding of the Rewritten Bible
Antti Laato

Typological Use of Traditions of the Jacob Cycle in the Book of Malachi
Lotta Valve

Ben Sira’s View of Elijah (Sir 48:1-11)
Pancratius C. Beentjes

Abraham’s Last Day according to the Book of Jubilees (Jub. 22:1-23:8)
Jacques T.A.G.M. van Ruiten

Abraham in the Genesis Apocryphon
Michael Becker

Emotional Plausibility in Josephus’s Rewritten Genesis
Folker Siegert

Joseph and Potiphar’s Wife (Gen 39:6b-20): A Retold Story Used in Early Jewish Ethical Instruction
Erkki Koskenniemi

The Rewritten Broken Tablets
Pekka Lindqvist

Rewritten Jephthah (Judg. 11:29-40)
Michaela Bauks
Paul and the Patriarchs of the Hebrew Bible  
*Lukas Bormann*

Joseph and his Egyptian Family in the Interpretation of Origen and the Early Rabbis  
*Anna Tzvetkova-Glazer*

Ephraem’s Joseph  
*Martin Tamcke*

Cain, Ruler over the Cave: Gnostic Views on Cain in Anti-Heretical Writings and Nag Hammadi Texts  
*Lautaro Roig Lanzillotta*

Jacob’s Blessings in Medieval Jewish Exegesis  
*Mariano Goméz Aranda*

The Patriarchs and the Creation in Megillat ha-Megalleh: Abraham Bar Hiyya and Biblical Interpretation  
*Hannu Töyrylä*

The Story of Joseph in Islamic Literature  
*Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila*