

## New Testament Abstracts 61/2 • 2017

ALEXANDER KULIK AND SERGEY MINOV, *Biblical Pseudepigrapha in Slavonic Tradition* (Oxford—New York: Oxford University Press, 2016, £120/\$125) xxxi and 387 pp. Bibliographies. Indexed. LCN: 2015931308. ISBN: 978-0-19-959094-0.

This volume provides a collection of the minor biblical pseudepigrapha preserved solely in Slavonic and offers the first collection of Slavonic pseudepigrapha translated into a western European language. After a seventeen-page introduction to the volume, it provides introductions, the Slavonic texts, English translations, and commentaries on the following texts: *About All Creation*, *The Creation of Adam*, *Adam's Contract with Satan*, *The Tale of the Tree of the Cross*, *The Appeal of Adam to Lazarus in Hell*, *The Sea of Tiberias*, *About the Ark*, and *The Ladder of Jacob*. The introductory sections cover the exposition of each work's contents; matters of dating and provenance, including such issues as original language, textual integrity, and relation to other apocryphal compositions; an inventory of the manuscript witnesses; and bibliographical information for editions of the original text, translations into modern languages, and secondary literature. Kulik is associate professor and chairman of the department of German, Russian, and East European studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Minov is a research fellow at the University of Oxford.

CELENE LILLIE, *The Rape of Eve: The Transformation of Roman Ideology in Three Early Christian Retellings of Genesis* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2017, \$79) xiv and 349 pp., 14 halftones. Bibliography. Indexed. ISBN: 978-1-5064-2336-4.

Based on a doctoral dissertation supervised by H. Taussig and accepted by Union Theological Seminary, this book contends that the telling of the story of Eve's rape in the *Secret Revelation of John*, *the Reality of the Rulers*, and *On the Origin of the World* occupies a unique place within the corpus of both biblical and extrabiblical texts. After a nineteen-page introduction, it provides a close reading of three of the major founding myths of Rome, noting pertinent themes centered on the constellation of rape, marriage, and conquest; explores the theme of rape in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, book 1; engages in a close reading and analysis of the rape of Eve story as found in the *Secret Revelation of John*, *the Reality of the Rulers*, and *On the Origin of the World* in an effort to identify the contours of the story as well as the thematics in each text; highlights several other significant intertextualities; and analyzes the Nag Hammadi rape of Eve stories. Lillie, director of the Tanho Center in Colorado, concludes that the *Secret Revelation of John*, *the Reality of the Rulers*, and *On the Origin of the World* all engage issues of gender, slavery, and bondage and the ways in which they are part and parcel of the imperial system of conquest, domination, and rule.

FRANCIS M. MACATANGAY, *When I Die, Bury Me Well: Death, Burial, Almsgiving, and Restoration in the Book of Tobit* (Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2016, paper \$17) xii and 111 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. LCN: 2010549998. ISBN: 978-1-4982-0985-4.

This book sheds light on the symbolic significance of sending the dead away through proper ritual according to the book of Tobit. After a seven-page introduction, it discusses the book of Tobit as a narrative of exile; almsgiving and acts of charity in the book of Tobit; interpretations of the significance of burying the dead; burial of the dead, kin, and land; and almsgiving and the restoration of Israel. Macatangay, adjunct professor of Sacred Scripture and theology at the University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, concludes that Tobit's burial of the dead is a preparation for, and an acknowledgment of, the impending fulfillment of the prophetic expectation of the restoration to life in the land; and that by burying the dead of Israel, Tobit makes a claim that God's beloved son, Israel, will be raised to life.

DAVID V. MECONI (ED.), *Sacred Scripture and Secular Struggles*, *The Bible in Ancient Christianity 9* (Leiden—Boston: Brill, 2015, €114/\$145) x and 289 pp. Bibliography. Indexed. LCN: 2015028493. ISBN: 978-90-04-30264-8.

The twelve essays in this volume aim to show how key theological figures chose and interpreted Scripture when engaging the Roman-Hellenic world in which they lived. After Meconi's eleven-page introduction, the contributions are by N. Kelley on the fragmentation and inversion of empire in Christian apocryphal Acts; J. P. Yates on Latin patristic views on 1 Pet 2:13-17;

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