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Alexei M. Sivertsev

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**JUDAISM AND IMPERIAL IDEOLOGY  
IN LATE ANTIQUITY**

This book explores the influence of Roman imperialism on the development of messianic themes in Judaism in the fifth through the eighth centuries A.D. It pays special attention to the ways in which Roman imperial ideology and imperial eschatology influenced Jewish representations of the Messiah and messianic age. Topics addressed in the book include: representations of the Messianic kingdom of Israel as a successor to the Roman Empire, the theme of imperial renewal in Jewish eschatology and its Roman parallels, representations of the emperor in late antique literature and art and their influence on the representations of the Messiah, the mother of the Messiah in late antique and Byzantine cultural contexts, and the figure of the last Roman emperor in Christian and Jewish tradition.

Alexei M. Sivertsev is Associate Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University. He is the author of *Households, Sects, and the Origins of Rabbinic Judaism* (2005) and *Private Households and Public Politics in 3rd–5th Century Jewish Palestine* (2002). His articles have appeared in *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* and the *Journal of Early Christian Studies*.

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## Preface

I am profoundly grateful to people whose support over the past several years made this book possible. The project was both started and completed during my tenure years in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University. I want to thank members of the department for their collegiality, which allowed me to succeed in the daunting task of completing a book project. My special thanks go to Christopher Mount, for his advice on matters relevant to my research, as well as his constant readiness to proofread sections of this work and offer valuable remarks on matters of both content and style.

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