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978-1-107-03907-0 - Heavenly Priesthood in the Apocalypse of Abraham

Andrei A. Orlov

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HEAVENLY PRIESTHOOD IN THE *APOCALYPSE OF ABRAHAM*

The *Apocalypse of Abraham* is a vital source for understanding both Jewish apocalypticism and mysticism. Written anonymously soon after the destruction of the Second Jerusalem Temple, the text envisions heaven as the true place of worship and depicts Abraham as an initiate of the celestial priesthood. Andrei A. Orlov focuses on the central rite of the Abraham story – the scapegoat ritual that receives a striking eschatological reinterpretation in the text. He demonstrates that the development of the sacerdotal traditions in the *Apocalypse of Abraham*, along with a cluster of Jewish mystical motifs, represents an important transition from Jewish apocalypticism to the symbols of early Jewish mysticism. In this way, Orlov offers unique insight into the complex world of the Jewish sacerdotal debates in the early centuries of the Common Era. The book will be of interest to scholars of early Judaism and Christianity, Old Testament studies, and Jewish mysticism and magic.

ANDREI A. ORLOV is Professor of Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity at Marquette University. His recent publications include *Divine Manifestations in the Slavonic Pseudepigrapha* (2009), *Selected Studies in the Slavonic Pseudepigrapha* (2009), *Concealed Writings: Jewish Mysticism in the Slavonic Pseudepigrapha* (2011), and *Dark Mirrors: Azazel and Satanael in Early Jewish Demonology* (2011).

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For Fr. Alexander Golitzin

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[A]nd as the priest casts lots below so the Priest casts lots above; and just as below one is left for the Holy One and one is thrust out to the wilderness, so above one remains with the Holy One, blessed be He, and one goes forth into the supernal wilderness.

The Zohar 3.63a

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[More information](#)*Preface*

Several chapters of this book were written during spring and summer of 2011, when I was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. At that time I greatly benefited from the hospitality and intellectual companionship of Daniel Abrams, Rachel Elijor, Michael Greenberg, Moshe Idel, Reuven Kiperwasser, Menachem Kister, James Kugel, Alexander Kulik, Lara Kulik, Sergey Minov, Serge Ruzer, Michael Schneider, Dan Shapira, Michael Stone, Nira Stone, Danna Taube, Moshe Taube, and Michael Tuval.

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This work is dedicated to my dear friend and colleague Fr. Alexander Golitzin, in whose company I enjoyed countless hours discussing the heavenly priesthood traditions.

ANDREI ORLOV

Milwaukee

Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, 2012

Abbreviations

AB	Anchor Bible
AGAJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
<i>AJSR</i>	<i>Association for Jewish Studies Review</i>
AnBib	Analecta biblica
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt</i>
ArBib	Aramaic Bible
<i>AS</i>	<i>Asiatische Studien</i>
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
<i>ASTI</i>	<i>Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute</i>
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments
<i>AUSS</i>	<i>Andrews University Seminary Studies</i>
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BJs	Brown Judaic Studies
<i>BN</i>	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
<i>BSac</i>	<i>Bibliotheca sacra</i>
<i>BTB</i>	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
ConBOT	Coniectanea biblica: Old Testament Series
CRINT	Compendia rerum iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum
CSCO	Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium
<i>CTM</i>	<i>Concordia Theological Monthly</i>
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EB</i>	<i>Eichstätter Beiträge</i>
EJL	Early Judaism and Its Literature
Ekstasis	Ekstasis: Religious Experience from Antiquity to the Middle Ages
<i>ET</i>	<i>Église et théologie</i>

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FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
HR	<i>History of Religions</i>
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
Imm	<i>Immanuel</i>
JATS	<i>Journal of the Adventist Theological Society</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JBT	<i>Jahrbuch für biblische Theologie</i>
JCPS	Jewish and Christian Perspectives Series
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JR	<i>Journal of Religion</i>
JRS	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
JSHRZ	Jüdische Schriften aus hellenistisch-römischer Zeit
JSJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period</i>
JSJS	Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic and Roman Period: Supplement Series
JSOTSS	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JSQ	<i>Jewish Studies Quarterly</i>
JSPSS	Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha: Supplement Series
JSSSS	Journal of Semitic Studies Supplement Series
JU	Judentum und Umwelt
JZWL	<i>Jüdische Zeitschrift für Wissenschaft und Leben</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LSTS	Library of Second Temple Studies
MARI	<i>M.A.R.I. Annales des Recherches Interdisciplinaires</i>
NHS	Nag Hammadi Studies
NovTSup	Supplements to Novum Testamentum
NSBT	New Studies in Biblical Theology
NTOA	Novum Testamentum et Orbis Antiquus
NTS	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
ÖBS	Österreichische biblische Studien
PVTG	Pseudepigrapha Veteris Testamenti Graece
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RevQ	<i>Revue de Qumrân</i>

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Abbreviations

<i>RHPR</i>	<i>Revue d'histoire et de philosophie religieuses</i>
RVV	Religionsgeschichtliche Versuche und Vorarbeiten
SANE	Sources from the Ancient Near East
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
<i>SBLSP</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SBLSS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBLTT	Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations
SHR	Studies in the History of Religions (supplement to Numen)
SJLA	Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
<i>SJOT</i>	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
SNTSMS	Society for New Testament Studies Monograph Series
<i>SP</i>	<i>Studia patristica</i>
SPB	Studia Post-biblica
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha
TBN	Themes in Biblical Narrative
TCS	Text-Critical Studies
<i>ThZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
TED	Translations of Early Documents
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
TSMEMJ	Texts and Studies in Medieval and Early Modern Judaism
TU	Texte und Untersuchungen
UBL	Ugaritisch-Biblische Literatur
<i>UF</i>	<i>Ugarit-Forschungen</i>
<i>VC</i>	<i>Vigiliae christianae</i>
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
<i>WZKM</i>	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>
<i>ZAW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>ZDPV</i>	<i>Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>
ŻM	Źródła i monografie
<i>ZNW</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die neutestamentliche Wissenschaft und die Kunde des Urchristentums</i>