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978-1-107-12047-1 - The Christian Schism in Jewish History and Jewish Memory

Joshua Ezra Burns

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The Christian Schism in Jewish History and Jewish Memory

How did Jews perceive the first Christians? By what means did they come to appreciate Christianity as a religion distinct from their own? In *The Christian Schism in Jewish History and Jewish Memory*, Professor Joshua Ezra Burns addresses those questions by describing the birth of Christianity as a function of the Jewish past. Surveying a range of ancient evidences, he examines how the authors of Judaism's earliest surviving memories of Christianity speak to the perspectives of rabbinic observers conditioned by the unique circumstances of their encounters with Christianity to recognize its adherents as fellow Jews. Only upon the decline of the Church's Jewish demographic were their successors compelled to see Christianity as something other than a variation of Jewish cultural expression. The evolution of thought in the classical Jewish literary record thus offers a dynamic account of Christianity's separation from Judaism counterbalancing the abrupt schism attested in contemporary Christian texts.

Joshua Ezra Burns is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology at Marquette University specializing in Judaism and Christianity in antiquity. He earned his doctorate in Religious Studies and Judaic Studies from Yale University.

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Abbreviations

The reader is advised of the following abbreviations utilized in reference to rabbinic texts.

- b.* Babylonian Talmud (*Talmud Bavli*)
- m.* Mishnah
- t.* Tosefta
- y.* Palestinian Talmud (*Talmud Yerushalmi*)

Titles of biblical and other ancient books are abbreviated per the stylistic guidelines of *The SBL Handbook of Style*, ed. B.J. Collins et al. (2nd edn.; Atlanta, GA: SBL Press, 2014).