

ARMENIAN APOCRYPHA  
RELATING TO BIBLICAL HEROES

SBL Press

# EARLY JUDAISM AND ITS LITERATURE

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ARMENIAN APOCRYPHA  
RELATING TO BIBLICAL HEROES

BY

MICHAEL E. STONE

SBL Press



Atlanta

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## PREFACE

This book is the fifth member of a series which I commenced with the publication of *Armenian Apocrypha Relating to Patriarchs and Prophets* in 1982. Initially, my aim was to search unstudied Armenian manuscripts with the hope of discovering works dating back to Second Temple times, like those treatises of Philo of Alexandria that survive only in Armenian translation. From this initial aim, the project developed into the search for reworkings of biblical traditions, stories, and persons in Armenian. These are of interest both because they sometimes do preserve ancient traditions and also because they reflect a rich tradition of biblical exegesis and commentary, much of it in genres of the older apocryphal and pseudepigraphical literature.

The whole project would have been impossible without the help given, down to his death in 1996, by Archbishop Norayr Bogharian, who until his ninetieth birthday, was keeper of Manuscripts of the Armenian Patriarchate of Jerusalem. His help is evident in particular in the earlier volumes of this series. All the way through I have also enjoyed the support of the Maštoc' Matenadaran, Institute of Ancient Manuscripts in Erevan, Armenia, under three directors, Sen Arevšatyan, Hrachea Tamrazyan, and present director Vahan Tēr-Ghevontyan. I also acknowledge here the most constructive scholarly cooperation of Dr. Gēorg Tēr Vardanean, curator of manuscripts of the Matenadaran and of members of his department's staff as well as of colleagues there. Over the years I have been able to pass many delightful and fruitful months rummaging among the Matenadaran's extraordinary collections.

A number of friends have supported me in this labor, and to them thanks must be given. The late Archbishop Shahe Ajamian, Gohar Muradyan, Aram Topchyan, Theo M. van Lint, and Abraham Terian each helped in very significant ways, often saving me from my own mistakes.

I am also indebted to financial support for this project over the years, given by the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities (first volume), the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and, consistently over recent decades, the Israel Science Foundation. The present book was supported by Israel Science Foundation grant no. 1123/16.

The book has benefitted from the support of my research assistants, Tomer Doitch, Michal Emanuel, and Samuel Rausnitz in 2016–2017 and Nathaniel Amsalem, Guy Shulberg, and Maria Ushakova in 2017–2018. Without their help, it would have been a much more difficult task.

The SBL Press series on Early Jewish Literature (once part of Septuagint and Cognate Studies), SBL Press, and its director Bob Buller have given volumes of recent years a warm and welcoming home. Gratitude is expressed to the series editor Rod Werline.

The first volume in this series in 1982 was dedicated to my two children. This volume, being completed in 2019, I dedicate to my great-granddaughters, Yael Nira Mazal and Shir Tsabari, and Nogah Yaacov-Avni, and to the blessed memory of Nira, my life-partner, whose life was a blessing for all who knew her.

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# LIST OF MANUSCRIPTS CONTAINING TEXTS NEWLY PUBLISHED

Manuscript, folios	Date (CE)	Text no.	Title
J0652, p. 490–491	angular <i>notrgir</i>	12	<i>Solomon Texts 1–3</i>
M101, 399r–401r	1740	14	<i>The Short Story of the Prophet Elijah</i>
M101, 401v	1740	17	<i>The Ninevehites</i>
M682, 8r	1679	4	<i>Concerning Abraham</i>
M724, 169v–173v	1736	19	<i>Ezra Salathiel</i>
M10986, 83v–84v	seventeenth century	10	<i>Concerning Solomon and the Building of the Temple</i>
M1134, 81r–84r	1695	18	<i>Story of Daniel</i>
M1500, 359v	1271–1288	12	<i>Solomon Text 1.1</i>
M2168, 310v–327r	seventeenth century	7	<i>Brief History of Joshua Son of Nun</i>
M2242, 24v–31v	seventeenth century	6	<i>Supplication about the Sodomites and Gomorreans</i>
M2245, 148r–148v	1689	1	<i>The Number and the Twelve Classes of Angels</i>
M4618, 131v	1675–1706	5	<i>Abraham and the Idols</i>
M4618, 132r–132v	1675–1706	12	<i>Paralipomena</i>
M4618, 132r–133r	1675–1706	12	<i>Solomon Texts 1–2, 6–7</i>
M4618, 142v–143v	1675–1706	15	<i>Hezekiah and Manasseh</i>
M4618, 146v–148v	1675–1706	7	<i>Brief History of Joshua Son of Nun</i>
M4618, 53r	1675–1706	3	<i>The Construction of Noah's Ark</i>
M5531, 66r–66v	eighteenth century	13	<i>Praise of the Prophets</i>
M5607, 308r–309r	1278	16	<i>Jeremiah, Susanna, and the Two Elders</i>
M5571, 212r–218r	1657–1659	6	<i>Supplication about the Sodomites and Gomorreans</i>
M5607, 67r–81r	1278	19	<i>Ezra Salathiel</i>
M5933, 27r–27v	fourteenth century	11	<i>Signs and Wonders of the Temple</i>
M6092, 343v–351v 353r	seventeenth century	7	<i>Brief History of Joshua Son of Nun</i>
M6092, 351v–353r	seventeenth century	14	<i>The Short Story of the Prophet Elijah</i>
M6340, 55v–58r	1651	8	<i>The Story of the Ark of the Covenant</i>
M9100, 35r–37r	1686	9	<i>Concerning the Ark of God</i>
Urbat'agirk	1512	2	<i>An Exorcism in the Name of Adam</i>

# LIST OF TEXTS PUBLISHED HERE AND THEIR MANUSCRIPTS

Title	Manuscript	Year (CE)	Text no.
<i>Abraham and the Idols</i>	M4618	1675–1706	5
<i>An Exorcism in the Name of Adam</i>	Urbat'agirk	1512	2
<i>An Exorcism in the Name of Adam</i>	V1957	n/a	2
<i>Brief History of Joshua Son of Nun</i>	M2168	seventeenth century	7
<i>Brief History of Joshua Son of Nun</i>	M6092	seventeenth century	7
<i>Concerning Abraham</i>	M0682	1679	4
<i>Concerning Solomon and the Building of the Temple</i>	M10986	seventeenth century	10
<i>Concerning the Ark of God</i>	M9100	1686	9
<i>Concerning the Story of the Ark of the Testament</i>	LOB Egerton708	eighteenth century	9
<i>Ezra Salathiel</i>	M5607	1278	19
<i>Ezra Salathiel</i>	M724	1736	19
<i>Hezekiah and Manasseh</i>	M4618	1675–1706	15
<i>Jeremiah, Susanna, and the Two Elders</i>	M5607	1278	16
<i>Paralipomena</i>	M4618	1675–1706	12
<i>Praise of the Prophets</i>	M5531	eighteenth century	13
<i>Signs and Wonders of the Temple</i>	M5933	fourteenth century	11
<i>Solomon Text 1.1</i>	M1500	1271–1288	12
<i>Solomon Texts 1–2</i>	J2558	1615	12
<i>Solomon Texts 1–2, 6–7</i>	M4618	1675–1706	12
<i>Solomon Texts 1–3</i>	J0652	angular <i>notrgir</i>	12
<i>Story of Daniel</i>	M1134	1695	18
<i>Supplication about the Sodomites and Gomorreans</i>	M2242	seventeenth century	6
<i>Supplication about the Sodomites and Gomorreans</i>	M5571	1657–1659	6
<i>The Ninevehites</i>	M0101	1740	17
<i>The Number and the Twelve Classes of Angels</i>	M2245	1689	1
<i>The Short Story of the Prophet Elijah</i>	M0101	1740	14
<i>The Short Story of the Prophet Elijah</i>	M6092	seventeenth century	14
<i>The Story of the Ark of the Covenant</i>	M6340	1651	8

## SIGNS AND ABBREVIATIONS

dtg	dittography
fol(s).	folio, folios
hkt	homoeoarkton
hmt	homoeoteleuton
OG	Old Greek
om	omit/s
p(p).	page(s)
p.m.	prima manu, designates text written by the original scribe
s.m.	secunda manu, designates text written by a later scribe
Th.	Theodotion
vel sim.	or the like
( )	words introduced into a translation by the editor for comprehensibility's sake
< >	words introduced into a diplomatic text from another source, including emendation
[ ]	lacuna in the manuscript
{ }	corrupt text
∞	transpose

## PROCEDURAL MATTERS

In the Armenian Bible, 1–2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings are numbered as 1–4 Kingdoms (Reigns). In this volume, however, to make it easier for the reader, I follow the ordinary English usage and denote them as 1–2 Samuel and 1–2 Kings. In this book, with respect to Psalms and certain chapters of the historical books, the Masoretic numbering is followed by the different LXX numbering in parentheses. A similar practice is followed in those occasional instances in which there is a difference of verse numbering between these two versifications.

The manuscript sigla in this volume follow the system developed by Bernard Coulie in “Liste des sigles utilisés pour désigner les manuscrits,” *Supplements to Répertoire des bibliothèques et des catalogues de manuscrits arméniens*, ed. Bernard Coulie, Corpus Christianorum (Turnhout: Brepols, 1992). Transcriptions follow the rules of the *Revue des études arméniennes*.

References to works in the *Armenian Apocrypha* series are referred to by the volume's short title and the number and short titles of the text in that volume. Works within the present volume are referred to by number and short title.

Editor's remarks in the critical apparatuses are always preceded by a colon.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

### CITED CATALOGUES OF MANUSCRIPTS OF THE MATENADARAN

#### *Short Catalogue 1*

Eganyan, O., A. Zeyt'unyan, and P. Ant'abyan. Vol. 1 of *Յուցակ ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անվան Մատենադարանի* (*Catalogue of Manuscripts of the Maštoc' Matenadaran*). Erevan: Academy of Sciences, 1965.

#### *Short Catalogue 2*

Eganyan, O., A. Zeyt'unyan, and P. Ant'abyan. Vol. 2 of *Յուցակ ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անվան Մատենադարանի* (*Catalogue of Manuscripts of the Maštoc' Matenadaran*). Erevan: Academy of Sciences, 1970.

#### *Short Catalogue 3*

Malkhasyan, Armen. Vol. 3 of *Յուցակ ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անունի Մատենադարանի* (*Catalogue of Manuscripts of the Maštoc' Matenadaran*). Erevan: Erevan State University Press, 2007.

#### *General Catalogue 1*

Eganyan, O., A. Zeyt'unyan, and P. Ant'abyan. Vol. 1 of *Մայր ցուցակ հայերէն ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անունի Մատենադարանի* (*Grand Catalogue of the Armenian Manuscripts of the Maštoc' Matenadaran*). Erevan: Academy of Sciences, 1984.

#### *General Catalogue 3*

Eganyan, O. Vol. 3 of *Մայր ցուցակ հայերէն ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անունի Մատենադարանի* (*General Catalogue of Armenian Manuscripts of the Maštoc' Matenadaran*). Erevan: Nairi, 2007.

#### *General Catalogue 4*

Kēoškeryan, A., and Y. K'ēōsēyan. Vol. 4 of *Մայր ցուցակ հայերէն ձեռագրաց Մաշտոցի անունի Մատենադարանի* (*General Catalogue of Armenian Manuscripts of the Maštoc' Matenadaran*). Erevan: Nairi, 2008.

#### *General Catalogue 7*

Tēr Vardanyan, Gēorg. Vol. 7 of *Մայր ցուցակ հայերէն ձեռագրաց*

*Մաշտոցի անուան Մատենադարանի (General Catalogue of Armenian Manuscripts of the Maštoc‘ Matenadaran)*. Erevan: Nairi, 2012.

## OTHER BIBLIOGRAPHIC ABBREVIATIONS

- ANRW *Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung*. Part 2, *Principat*. Edited by Hildegard Temporini and Wolfgang Haase. Berlin: de Gruyter, 1972–.
- BGAMB Beiträge zur Geschichte des alten Mönchtums und des Benediktinerordens
- CBQ *Catholic Biblical Quarterly*
- CEJL Commentaries on Early Jewish Literature
- CSCO Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium
- EJL Early Jewish Literature
- Gen. Rab. Midrash Genesis Rabba (Berešit Rabba)
- Ginzberg, Ginzberg, Louis. *The Legends of the Jews*. 7 vols. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society of America, 1909–1938.
- Legends*
- HTR *Harvard Theological Review*
- HUAS Hebrew University Armenian Series
- IJS Institute of Jewish Studies
- JE *The Jewish Encyclopedia*
- JJS *Journal of Jewish Studies*
- JSHRZ Jüdische Schriften aus hellenistisch-römischer Zeit
- JSJSup Supplements to *Journal of Jewish Studies*
- JSP *Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha*
- JTS *Journal of Theological Studies*
- MH Մատենագիրք Հայոց (Ancient Armenian Literature)
- OLA Orientalia Louvaniensa Analecta
- OED *Oxford English Dictionary*
- PhA *Philosophia Antiqua*
- RB *Revue Biblique*
- REArm *Revue des études arméniennes*
- SAC Studies in Antiquity and Christianity
- SBLDS Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
- SD Studies and Documents
- SPCK Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge
- SVTP *Studia in Veteris Testamenti Pseudepigrapha*
- TU Texte und Untersuchungen
- UPATS University of Pennsylvania Armenian Texts and Studies



YJS	Yale Judaica Series
Yovsēp'ianc'	Yovsēp'ianc', Sargis. <i>Անկանոն գիրք Հին Կտակարանաց</i> ( <i>Uncanonical Books of the Old Testament</i> ). Venice: Mekhitarist Press, 1896.
WZKM	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes</i>

## ABBREVIATIONS FOR ANCIENT SOURCES

<i>m. 'Abot</i>	'Abot
<i>Apoc. Ab.</i>	Apocalypse of Abraham
<i>3 Apoc. Bar.</i>	3 Baruch (Greek Apocalypse)
<i>Ascen. Isa.</i>	Mart. Ascen. Isa. 6–11
<i>m. Ber.</i>	Berakot
<i>1 En.</i>	1 Enoch
<i>Gen. Rab.</i>	Genesis Rabbah
<i>Jub.</i>	Jubilees
<i>Liv. Pro.</i>	Lives of the Prophets
<i>b. Mak.</i>	Makkot
<i>Pen. Adam</i>	Penitence of Adam
<i>Pr. Man.</i>	Prayer of Manasseh
<i>Ps.-Ezekiel</i>	4QPseudo-Ezekiel
<i>Ques. Ezra</i>	Questions of Ezra
<i>y. Sanh.</i>	Sanhedrin
<i>T. Ab.</i>	Testament of Abraham
<i>T. Jos.</i>	Testament of Joseph
<i>T. Reu.</i>	Testament of Reuben
<i>T. Sol.</i>	Testament of Solomon
<i>b. Yebam.</i>	Yebamot

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