



**March 2022, 348 pages**

Emory Studies in Early  
Christianity 24

Paperback \$60.00

ISBN 9781628373073

Hardcover \$80.00

ISBN 9780884145479

e-book \$60.00

eISBN 9780884145486

## Apocalyptic Sheep and Goats in Matthew and 1 Enoch

Elekosi F. Laitaga

### An alternative understanding of apocalyptic eschatology in the Gospel of Matthew

Matthew's eschatological imageries of judgment are often identified as apocalyptic and referred to as Matthew's apocalyptic discourses. In this volume Elekosi F. Laitaga reexamines Matthew's vision of the sheep and goats in the judgment of the nations, which are often interpreted as metaphors for the saved and the condemned. Laitaga views these images in the wider context of the rhetoric of apocalyptic communication stretching back to Matthew 3. This broader context reveals that the vision of Matthew 25 serves to exhort Israel in the here and now according to the torah, with salvation for Israel involving an indispensable responsibility to love and serve humanity. Central to Laitaga's analysis is the highly probable scenario that the material in Matthew is dependent on the Book of Dreams (1 Enoch 83–90).

**Elekosi F. Laitaga** is the Academic Dean and New Testament Lecturer at Kanana Fou Theological Seminary located on the US Territory of American Samoa. He is also a Visiting New Testament Scholar at the Pacific Theological College in Suva, Fiji. He is an ordained priest for the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa. He is the author of "Fanua as a Diasporic Concept: Rereading James 1:21," in *Theologies from the Pacific* (2021).

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