Svensk Exegetisk Årsbok 82



På uppdrag av Svenska Exegetiska Sällskapet utgiven av Göran Eidevall

Uppsala 2017

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Prenumerationspriser:

Sverige: SEK 200 (studenter SEK 100)

Övriga världen: SEK 300

Frakt tillkommer med SEK 50. För medlemmar i SES är frakten kostnadsfri.

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Tidskriften är indexerad i Libris databas (www.kb.se/libris/), samt ATLA Religion Database*, publicerad av the American Theological Library Association, 300 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60606; e-mail: atla@atla.com; webb: www.atla.com.

Omslagsbild: Del av 11Q19, "Tempelrullen", daterad till mellan första århundradet f.v.t och första århundradet v.t.

Svenska Exegetiska Sällskapet c/o Teologiska institutionen Box 511, S-751 20 UPPSALA, Sverige www.exegetiskasallskapet.se



Tryck: Bulls Graphics, Halmstad

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tet kan jag naturligtvis använda vilken text som helst för att förstärka de uppfattningar jag redan har, men vad vinner jag med detta?

Stig Norin, Uppsala

Jan Dochhorn, Susanne Rudning-Zelt, and Benjamin Wold (eds.) *Das Böse, der Teufel und Dämonen – Evil, the Devil, and Demons*WUNT II 412, Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2016, Paperback, xiv + 297 pp., €84,

ISBN: 978-3-16152-672-5

This anthology about evil, the Devil and demons includes the work of 13 authors. The contributions are written in German (six chapters) and English (nine chapters). The contributions are generally characterized by careful exegesis and very good knowledge of the latest secondary literature. Most of the chapters address either Biblical or Qumranic material.

Susanne Rudnig-Zelt introduces the work with a German summary of the various chapters. This is followed by the first of two chapters which focus on Old Testament material. Here Rudnig-Zelt offers plausible readings of Old Testament passages relating to Satan, rightly questioning projections of modern understandings of monotheism on this material. Job's book, for example, suggests that Satan could actually cause God to act against his better judgment. This chapter provides a good overview of the *status quaestionis*.

In the second chapter, with an Old Testament focus, Markus Saur studies the portrayal of evil in Wisdom literature. Whereas Proverbs teaches that the good prospers and shows how evil may best be avoided, Job explores the suffering of the righteous, showing how unpredictable God is in his boundless sovereignty and how limited people are in contrast. Saur argues that this insight in human limitations contributes to making us more human, which is a central goal of Wisdom literature. Considering our human limitations, Qoheleth in turn advises doing nothing in excess. As befits this lesson, Saur's chapter is reasonable though not revolutionary.

Three chapters focus on material from Qumran; two by Matthew Goff, one by Miryam Brand. Matthew Goff's first contribution investigates the relationship between giants and demons, Azazel and Satan in

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Enochic literature, especially the *Book of the Watchers*. He offers *inter alia* a convincing explanation for why being turned into spirits could be seen as the ultimate punishment for the ever-hungry giants.

Goff's second contribution shows that 4Q184 probably does not refer to Lilith as a female demon, contrary to Baumgarten, but is a further development of the motif of the Strange Woman in Proverbs 7. His writing is lucid and his arguments are convincing.

Miryam Brand compares how Belial is used in the Community Rule from Qumran with the term's use in 4QBerakhot and the Damascus Document. Brand shows how these texts, though dualistic, are less deterministic than has been previously thought; she also shows how one cannot generalize on the basis of a single text to the theology of the community as a whole. The Community Rule does not refer directly to the demon Belial, but only to the people of Belial's lot. Those who belong to Belial's lot have themselves to blame. People could decide to join the community, making them part of God's lot, or they could decide to stay outside, in which case they were Belial's lot. In contrast, according to the Damascus Document, those who refused to join the community had been deceived by Belial himself in their decision.

Six chapters address primarily New Testament material. The first two deal with apotropaic texts. Scholars have noted that in Second Temple Judaism, Psalm 91 was used as an apotropaic text, to ward off demons; it is included among exorcistic hymns in the Qumran manuscript 11Q11, for example. Why then does Satan himself quote this psalm in Matthew's and Luke's temptation narratives? Michael Morris notes passages where the Gospels portray demons as trying to exorcise Jesus, and argues convincingly that the temptations should be read in the same light: "The Devil mocks the apotropaic efficacy of Psalm 91 in order to intimidate Jesus" (99).

Benjamin Wold studies formulas in two Qumran texts, the Plea for Deliverance and the Prayer of Levi, that ask God to protect the person from demonic beings. Noting similarities with the final petition in Matthew's version of the Lord's Prayer, Wold asks whether the formulation "deliver us from the evil one" was also an apotropaic prayer. The

parallels Wold identifies strengthen the case that Jesus taught his disciples to pray for protection from "the evil one" rather than from evil in general.

Drawing on parallels offered by the Japanese reception of Christianity, Erkki Koskenniemi offers a plausible explanation for why Paul, who evidently assumed the existence of the devil and had a "well thought out" idea of him, downplays Satan's role in his letters and sermons. Koskenniemi argues that Satan and cosmological dualism were concepts that were too foreign to Paul's non-Jewish readers, so he relies on eschatological dualism instead, which was easier for them to accept.

Jan Dochhorn contributes two chapters to this anthology. The first one is on 1 Cor 5:5, arguing that Paul is telling the congregation to exclude the man who was guilty of gross immorality from the congregation in that Satan may kill him, so that the man's soul may be spared on judgment day. This interpretation, he notes, may be troublesome to Protestants, but he carefully explains why it is more likely than other alternatives.

Dochhorn's second article is a study of the Jewish background to the expression "Cain who was of the evil one" in 1 John 3:12. Building on a neglected article by Nils Dahl, he studies references in Targum Pseudo-Jonathan, and other rabbinic sources, to Samael having fathered Cain, and examines use of this motif by early Christian authors, such as Polycarp (7:1). He shows that there is reason to believe that the notion that Cain was fathered by Samael, or Satan, was well established in Jewish and Christian circles at the time 1 John was written. The question about how literally this expression was intended by the authors of the various texts is something that Dochhorn leaves open, however.

Oda Wischmeyer writes on references to the devil, demons and evil in James, concluding that although the author clearly assumes cosmological dualism, he deliberately avoids working with these categories in order to focus on human responsibility for evil. While James characterizes the flesh as evil and earthly, he does not speculate about how it might have come to be this way or how that might affect free will. James' focus is on dealing with evil within the Christian congregation.

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For James, sins are the concrete expression of evil, just as good deeds are the concrete expression of faith. Wischmeyer's reading of James is persuasive.

Hector Patmore investigates how Targum Jonathan, the Aramaic translation of the Prophets, translates four potential references to demons (2 Sam 22:5; Isa 13:21, 34:14; Hab 3:5) and what that says about when and where this translation was carried out. He finds that Targum Jonathan does not read demons into these texts, leading him to conclude that this text was probably written in the context of "(proto-)Rabbinic Palestinian" rather than Babylonian Judaism.

In a thought-provoking and well-argued chapter Ryan Stokes shows how the expressions "unclean spirit" and "demon" are not always used synonymously in Biblical and intertestamental texts. He also argues that *satan* is never used as a proper name in OT, and that in legal contexts it tends to signify not so much an accuser, but an executioner.

Jörn Bockmann's study of a version of the medieval legend of Judas and St Brendan, although interesting, is more likely to interest another group of readers than those most interested of this volume. The same goes for Ole Davidsen's contribution, a reading of biblical narratives relating to Satan, death, and evil and their positive counterparts in the light of Greimas's narrative semantics. He argues that our way of thinking is inherently dualistic, and that religion tries "to explain, and eventually surmount, mixed and dualistic reality" (257). I don't find that narrative semantics contributes to a better understanding of the texts in question.

With its many high quality contributions, this volume contributes to our understanding of Judaism and early Christianity. Although the contributors to this volume work on similar themes and in some cases refer to the same texts, their contributions are very much their own; the editors do not put forward any concluding consensus, showing that there is room for more research in this field. Scripture and author indexes increase the usefulness of this volume.