## The Life of ADAM and EVE and Related Literature

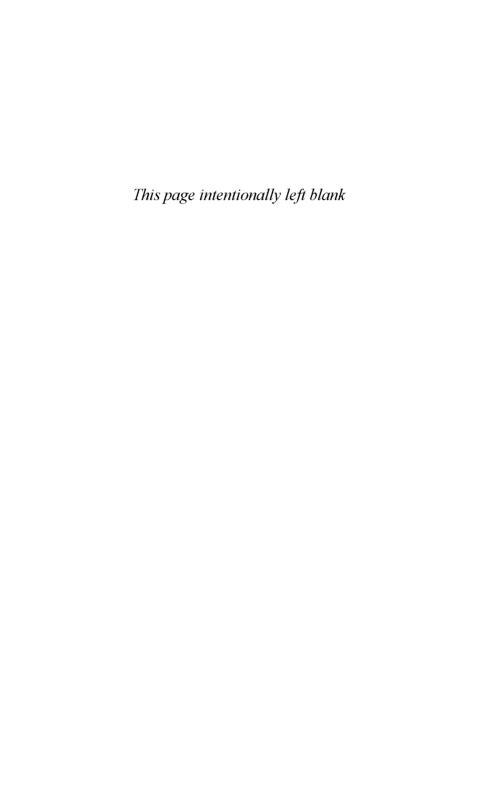


Marinus de Jonge & Johannes Tromp

# The Life of Adam and Eve and Related Literature

## Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Series Editor Michael A. Knibb



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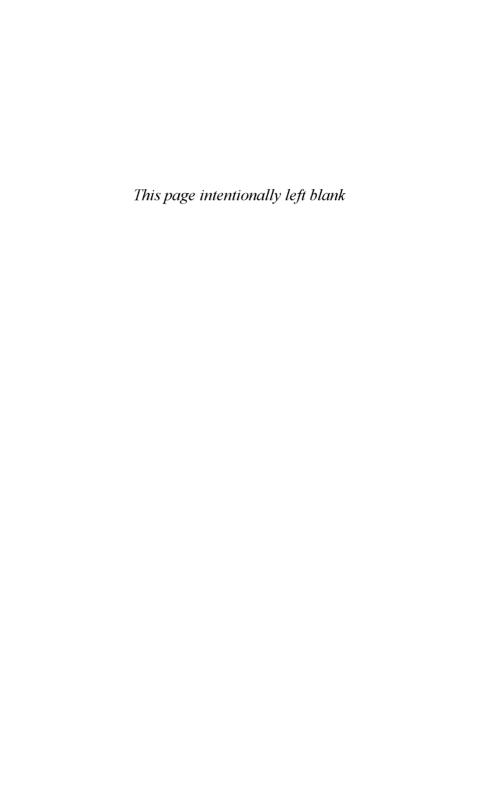
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### Preface

An introduction to the Adam literature in the series 'Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha' has, of necessity, to be selective. Following Michael Stone in his A History of the Literature of Adam and Eve (1992), we distinguish between 'primary' and 'secondary' Adam literature, and we have decided to concentrate on the documents belonging to the first category. They are:

The Greek Apocalypse of Moses, or: the Greek Life of Adam and Eve

The Latin Vita Adae et Evae

The Slavonic Life of Adam and Eve

The Armenian Penitence of Adam

The Georgian Book of Adam

One or two Coptic versions, of which only few fragments exist.

In the first four chapters of this book attention will be paid to these writings, which are, in fact, different versions of one book, a Life of Adam and Eve. We shall focus on the contents of the documents and the relationships between them, as well as on their individual features. We shall not be able to avoid a number of (rather technical) textual and literary-historical questions. In these fields relatively little has been done recently, and clarification of a number of these issues has proved necessary before an adequate description of the constitutive elements and main themes of the different versions of the Life of Adam and Eve could be given.

The last chapter will be devoted to the most important of the many writings ranged by Stone under the heading 'secondary Adam Literature'. Among the many writings belonging to that category we selected the Discourse on Abbatôn, the Testament of Adam, the Cave of Treasures, the Conflict of Adam and Eve with Satan and the Apocalypse of Adam.

For all serious work on any problem related to the Adam literature M.E. Stone's *History* is an indispensable tool. In the Introduction to that work the author emphasizes that his primary aim was to bring

together and to assess recent research in order to stimulate new work ('The purpose of the present book is not to make a new contribution to the resolution of these complex issues. It is to make a clear and integrated assessment and presentation of what is currently known about the various textual, literary and transmission historical aspects of the Adam literature' [p. viii]). In a modest way this guide wants to contribute to new solutions to questions that have not yet found satisfactory answers—at least as far as the versions of the *Life of Adam and Eve* are concerned. The authors realize, of course, that the brief indications that they can give in the present context call for a more elaborate presentation of the evidence. In due course they hope to come back to those problems in further publications.

For the work on the Life of Adam and Eve another tool was constantly used: A Synopsis of the Books of Adam and Eve, edited by Gary Anderson and Michael Stone (1994). Earlier, the authors benefitted from the discussions in the seminar on 'Early Jewish Literature and the New Testament' of the international Studionum Novi Testamenti Societas that devoted its sessions in 1990–1992 to the versions of the Life of Adam and Eve. M.E. Stone gave us much helpful advice. J. van der Vliet assisted us in assessing the Coptic material. M.A. Knibb and H.W. Hollander read the manuscript and suggested a number of clarifications. The authors are very much obliged to all of them.

Marinus de Jonge Johannes Tromp

### Related Reading

At the end of most sections or chapters, the main relevant literature is mentioned with full titles. In the text the books and articles cited are mentioned with short titles. All titles are mentioned in full in the Select Bibliography at the end of this book.

- M.E. Stone, A History of the Literature of Adam and Eve (SBL Early Judaism and its Literature, 3; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1992).
- G.A. Anderson and M.E. Stone, A Synopsis of the Books of Adam and Eve (SBL Early Judaism and its Literature, 5; Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1994).

### **Abbreviations**

Arm. The Armenian version of the Life of Adam and Eve

(Penitence of Adam)

Copt. The Coptic fragment(s)

Georg. The Georgian version of the Life of Adam and Eve (Book of

Adam)

GLAE The Greek version of the Life of Adam and Eve (Apocalypse

of Moses)

LAE Life of Adam and Eve

LLAE The Latin version of the Life of Adam and Eve (Vita Adae et

Evae)

Slav. The Slavonic version of the Life of Adam and Eve

ANT The Apocryphal New Testament

CRINT Compendia rerum iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum

CSCO Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium

EPROER Etudes préliminaires aux religions orientales dans l'Empire

Romain

HTR Harvard Theological Review
HUCA Hebrew Union College Annual
JJS Journal of Jewish Studies
Journal for the Study of Judaism

JSP Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha

JTS Journal of Theological Studies

NS New Series

OTP The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha
SBL Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS SBL Dissertation Series
SBLSP SBL Seminar Papers

SVTP Studia in Veteris Testamenti pseudepigrapha

VC Vigiliae Christianae

VOHD Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in

Deutschland

