

The Life of
ADAM and EVE
and Related Literature



*Marinus de Jonge
& Johannes Tromp*

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Adam and Eve
and Related Literature*

Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha

Series Editor

Michael A. Knibb

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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 *Studiorum 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 <i>Life of Adam and Eve</i> (<i>Penitence of Adam</i>)
Copt.	The Coptic fragment(s)
Georg.	The Georgian version of the <i>Life of Adam and Eve</i> (<i>Book of Adam</i>)
GLAE	The Greek version of the <i>Life of Adam and Eve</i> (<i>Apocalypse of Moses</i>)
LAE	<i>Life of Adam and Eve</i>
LLAE	The Latin version of the <i>Life of Adam and Eve</i> (<i>Vita Adae et Evae</i>)
Slav.	The Slavonic version of the <i>Life of Adam and Eve</i>
ANT	<i>The Apocryphal New Testament</i>
CRINT	Compendia rerum iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum
CSCO	Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium
EPROER	Etudes préliminaires aux religions orientales dans l'Empire Romain
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
JJS	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
JSJ	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>
JSP	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
NS	New Series
OTP	<i>The Old Testament Pseudepigrapha</i>
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	SBL Dissertation Series
SBLSP	SBL Seminar Papers
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti pseudepigrapha
VC	<i>Vigiliae Christianae</i>
VOHD	Verzeichnis der orientalischen Handschriften in Deutschland

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