

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-----|
| Preface | VII |
| List of Abbreviations | XV |
| | |
| Introduction | 1 |
| <i>A. Textual History and Witness</i> | 6 |
| <i>B. The Protevangelium of James in Modern Scholarship</i> | 13 |
| <i>C. Recent Research on Purity in Early Judaism and Christianity</i> | 19 |
| <i>D. Scope, Aims, and Structure</i> | 23 |
| <i>E. Terminology</i> | 26 |
| | |
| Chapter One: Date, Provenance, and Genre | 31 |
| <i>A. Dating the Protevangelium of James</i> | 32 |
| <i>B. Debates about Provenance</i> | 40 |
| <i>C. The Protevangelium of James and Judaism</i> | 44 |
| <i>D. Genre and Purpose</i> | 52 |
| <i>E. Conclusion</i> | 57 |
| | |
| Chapter Two: Mary, the Temple, and Ritual Purity..... | 60 |
| <i>A. Introduction</i> | 60 |
| <i>B. What is Ritual Purity/Impurity?</i> | 60 |
| I. Ritual Purity/Impurity in the Hebrew Bible..... | 61 |
| II. Ritual Purity/Impurity in other Ancient Jewish Literature... | 64 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| III. Philo | 64 |
| IV. The Scrolls | 66 |
| V. Rabbinic Literature | 68 |
| VI. NT Gospels and Pauline Corpus | 69 |
| <i>C. The View of Ritual Purity in the Protevangelium of James</i> | <i>70</i> |
| I. The Jerusalem Temple and the Miraculous Conception | 71 |
| II. Mary as a Temple Sacrifice | 88 |
| <i>D. Conclusion</i> | <i>103</i> |
| Chapter Three: Mary and Menstrual Impurity | 107 |
| <i>A. Introduction</i> | <i>107</i> |
| <i>B. What is Menstrual Purity/Impurity?</i> | <i>107</i> |
| I. Menstrual Purity/Impurity in the Hebrew Bible | 107 |
| II. Menstrual Purity/Impurity in the Qumran Scrolls | 108 |
| III. The Damascus Document | 109 |
| IV. The Temple Scroll | 111 |
| V. QTohorot (Purities) | 113 |
| VI. Rabbinic Literature | 114 |
| VII. Early Christian Sources | 116 |
| VIII. The Apostolic Tradition of Hippolytus | 117 |
| IX. The Letter of Dionysius of Alexandria | 118 |
| X. Didascalia Apostolorum (DA) | 118 |
| <i>C. The View of Menstrual Purity/Impurity</i> | <i>119</i> |
| I. Does Mary Menstruate? The Problem of Prot. Jas. 8:4 | 120 |
| II. Menstrual Impurity and the Image of Mary | 125 |
| III. The Literary Function of Prot. Jas. 8:4 | 133 |
| IV. Prot. Jas. 8:4 as a Narrative Pivot | 136 |
| <i>D. Conclusion</i> | <i>146</i> |
| Chapter Four: Mary and Sexual Impurity | 148 |
| <i>A. Introduction</i> | <i>148</i> |

| | |
|---|-----|
| B. <i>What is Sexual Purity/Impurity?</i> | 148 |
| C. <i>Virginit y and Celibacy in Early Jewish Sources</i> | 149 |
| I. Betulah and Parthenos | 149 |
| II. Virginit y, Celibacy, and Marriage in the Hebrew Bible | 149 |
| III. Virginit y, Celibacy, and Marriage in the Scrolls | 150 |
| IV. Virginit y, Celibacy, and Marriage in Rabbinic Sources | 152 |
| D. <i>Virginit y, Celibacy, Asceticism, and Marriage</i> | 153 |
| I. Jesus | 153 |
| II. Paul..... | 154 |
| III. Second and Third Centuries Views..... | 156 |
| E. <i>The View of Sexual Purity/Impurity</i> | 161 |
| I. Mary’s Sexual Status and Role as the Virgin of the Lord.. | 161 |
| II. The Miraculous Conception of Mary | 166 |
| III. Pre-Testing..... | 170 |
| F. <i>The Virginit y Tests</i> | 171 |
| I. Test One: Joseph Questions Mary’s Pregnancy | 171 |
| II. Test Two: The High Priest Questions Mary’s Pregnancy ... | 176 |
| III. Test Three: Salome Questions Mary’s Pregnancy..... | 182 |
| G. <i>Conclusion</i> | 190 |
| Chapter Five: Provenance Revisited | 193 |
| A. <i>Jews and Christians in Syria</i> | 193 |
| B. <i>Jews, “Jewish-Christians,” and Christians in Syria</i> | 195 |
| I. Antioch: A Test Case..... | 196 |
| C. <i>The Protevangelium of James and Syrian Christianity</i> | 213 |
| I. “Marcionism and Docetism:” Edessa | 213 |
| II. Asceticism and Marriage..... | 223 |
| III. Menstrual Purity: The Didascalia Apostolorum | 227 |
| IV. Mary and Women in Syrian Christianity | 236 |
| V. Final Thoughts on a Syrian Provenance..... | 238 |

| | |
|---|---------|
| Conclusion | 240 |
| A. <i>Mary's Purity and Characterization</i> | 240 |
| B. <i>Understanding Mary's Potential Menstrual Impurity</i> | 244 |
| Bibliography | 247 |
| A. <i>Critical Editions, Translations, and Commentaries</i> | 247 |
| B. <i>General Bibliography</i> | 250 |
| Index of Ancient Sources | 269 |
| Index of Modern Authors | 278 |
| Index of Subjects | 280 |