

SÉRIE

Judaïsme ancien et origines du christianisme

Cette collection a pour vocation d'accueillir des travaux d'historiens, de philologues, d'archéologues et d'épigraphistes consacrés aux Judéens de la Palestine et de la Diaspora du VI^e siècle avant notre ère (début de l'époque perse) au VII^e siècle de notre ère (fin de l'époque gréco-romaine ou byzantine). Pour la période comprise entre le I^{er} et le VII^e siècle de notre ère, elle repose sur une définition large du judaïsme ancien, allant des prêtres (judaïsme sacerdotal et synagogal) aux chrétiens (judaïsme chrétien) et aux rabbins (judaïsme rabbinique).

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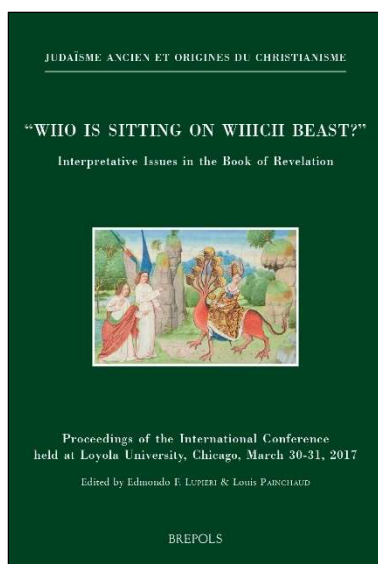
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“Who is Sitting on Which Beast?”

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ, better known as the Apocalypse of John, or simply the Book of Revelation, has always fascinated its readers, both religious and non-religious. Its transmission and reception in a Christian context have given rise to a wide variety of interpretations and controversies. At the heart of this revelation are the enigmatic figures of a pregnant woman appearing in heaven and then fleeing into the desert, a prostitute appearing in the desert and riding a beast, and then the bride of the Lamb, as well as a great city called Babylon, Sodom, and Egypt. Cities, beast, and prostitute are usually interpreted

as thinly veiled references to Rome and its empire, and in particular to the emperor Nero.

However, this reading raises a number of interpretative problems concerning the relationship between these different female figures and their relation to the beast, which duplicates into a beast from the sea and a beast from the land, and concerning the city that lies beneath Babylon. Although they do not all share the exact same point of view on the Apocalypse of John and on the solutions to these interpretative problems, the contributions gathered in this volume all question the received ideas in one way or another. What they have in common is a regard for the Apocalypse of John as a text strongly rooted in the Judaism of its time, and they place great emphasis on interpreting the text through attention to its author's use of the Jewish Scriptures.

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