

“At the Entrance Sin is Crouching”: The Source of Sin and Its Nature as
Portrayed in Second Temple Literature

by

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DEDICATION

For my mother and father

No verse can express what I owe you, and no quote conveys what you mean to me.

שלי - שלכם הוא

is the simple truth.

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ABSTRACT

This study addresses the problem of the existence of sin and the determination of its source as reflected in texts of the Second Temple period. The study surveys the relevant Apocrypha, Pseudepigrapha, and Dead Sea Scrolls, as well as the works of Philo and (where relevant) Josephus, in order to determine the extent to which texts' presentation of sin is influenced by genre and sectarian identification and to identify central worldviews regarding sin in the Second Temple period. The analysis is divided into two parts; the first explores texts that reflect a conviction that sin's source is an innate human inclination, and the second analyzes texts that depict sin as caused by demons. This study finds that the genre or purpose of a text is frequently a determining factor in its representation of sin, particularly influencing the text's portrayal of sin as the result of human inclination versus demonic influence and sin as a free choice or as predetermined fact. Second Temple authors and redactors chose representations of sin in accordance with their aims. Thus prayers, reflecting the experience of helplessness when encountering God, present the desire to sin as impossible to overcome without divine assistance. The need for God's help in preventing sin is central to prayer texts regardless of whether the source is a human inclination or a demon and whether the text is sectarian or nonsectarian. In contrast,

covenantal texts (sectarian texts explaining the nature of the covenant) emphasize freedom of choice and the human ability to turn away from the desire to sin. The emphasis on free will in these texts makes it clear to the member that there is no excuse for not keeping the community's laws. Even demonic influence as described in these texts does not impinge upon the member's free will. Genre, however, is not the only determining factor regarding how sin is presented in these texts. Approaches to sin in sectarian texts frequently built upon already accepted ideas reflected in nonsectarian literature, adding aspects such as predestination, the periodization of evil, and a division of humanity into righteous members and evil nonmembers.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AARSR	American Academy of Religion Studies in Religion
AB	Anchor Bible
<i>ABD</i>	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by D. N. Freedman. 6 vols. New York, 1992.
AGJU	Arbeiten zur Geschichte des antiken Judentums und des Urchristentums
<i>AGPh</i>	<i>Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie</i>
AJEC	Ancient Judaism and Early Christianity
ALGHJ	Arbeiten zur Literatur und Geschichte des hellenistischen Judentums
AnBib	Analecta biblica
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der römischen Welt: Geschichte und Kultur Roms im Spiegel der neueren Forschung</i> . Edited by H. Temporini and W. Haase. Berlin, 1972–
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
<i>ASTI</i>	<i>Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute</i>
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments
ATDan	Acta theologica danica
<i>Aug</i>	<i>Augustinianum</i>
<i>BDB</i>	Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs. <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Oxford, 1907

BEATAJ	Beiträge zur Erforschung des Alten Testaments und des antiken Judentum
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BibOr	Biblica et orientalia
<i>Bijdr</i>	<i>Bijdragen: Tijdschrift voor filosofie en theologie</i>
BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
<i>BLE</i>	<i>Bulletin de littérature ecclésiastique</i>
BRS	The Biblical Resource Series
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CBC	Cambridge Bible Commentary
CBET	Contributions to Biblical Exegesis and Theology
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CBQMS	Catholic Biblical Quarterly Monograph Series
CJAS	Christianity and Judaism in Antiquity Series
CQS	Companion to the Qumran Scrolls
CREJ	Collection de la Revue des études juives
CRINT	Compendia rerum iudaicarum ad Novum Testamentum
CSCO	Corpus scriptorum christianorum orientalium
CSRT	Cambridge Studies in Religious Traditions
DCLS	Deuterocanonical and Cognate Literature Studies
DJD	Discoveries in the Judaean Desert
<i>DSD</i>	<i>Dead Sea Discoveries</i>
<i>EBib</i>	<i>Etudes bibliques</i>
<i>EDSS</i>	<i>Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls</i> . Edited by L. H. Schiffman and J. C. VanderKam. 2 vols. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
<i>EgT</i>	<i>Eglise et théologie</i>
EHAT	Exegetisches Handbuch zum Alten Testament

FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GAP	Guides to Apocrypha and Pseudepigrapha
GCS	Die griechischen christlichen Schriftsteller
<i>HALOT</i>	Koehler, L., W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm, <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated and edited under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. 4 vols. Leiden, 1994–1999
<i>Hen</i>	<i>Henoch</i>
<i>HR</i>	<i>History of Religions</i>
<i>HSAT</i>	<i>Die Heilige Schrift des Alten Testaments</i> . Edited by E. Kautzsch and A. Bertholet. 4th ed. Tübingen, 1922–1923
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>HUCA</i>	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
ICC	International Critical Commentary
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>IOS</i>	<i>Israel Oriental Society</i>
JAJSup	Journal of Ancient Judaism Supplements
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JCTCRS	Jewish and Christian Texts in Contexts and Related Studies
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JJTP</i>	<i>The Journal of Jewish Thought and Philosophy</i>
JLCRS	Jordan Lectures in Comparative Religion Series
JSHRZ-St	Studien zu den Jüdischen Schriften aus hellenistisch-römischer Zeit
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>

<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism in the Persian, Hellenistic, and Roman Periods</i>
JSJSup	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
JSNTSup	Journal for the Study of the New Testament: Supplement Series
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
<i>JSP</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha</i>
JSPSup	Journal for the Study of the Pseudepigrapha: Supplement Series
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>KUSATU</i>	<i>Kleine Untersuchungen zur Sprache des Alten Testaments und seiner Umwelt</i>
LCL	Loeb Classical Library
LNTS	Library of New Testament Studies
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., R. Scott, H. S. Jones, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. with revised supplement. Oxford, 1996
LSTS	Library of Second Temple Studies
MLBS	Mercer Library of Biblical Studies
<i>MScRel</i>	<i>Mélanges de science religieuse</i>
<i>NJPS</i>	<i>Tanakh: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i>
<i>NovT</i>	<i>Novum Testamentum</i>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
NTL	New Testament Library

<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>Numen</i>	<i>Numen: International Review for the History of Religions</i>
OBO	Orbis biblicus et orientalis
OLA	Orientalia lovaniensia analecta
OTL	Old Testament Library
<i>OtSt</i>	<i>Oudtestamentische Studiën</i>
<i>PAAJR</i>	<i>Proceedings of the American Academy of Jewish Research</i>
PACS	Philo of Alexandria Commentary Series
PTSDSSP	Princeton Theological Seminary Dead Sea Scrolls Project
PVTG	Pseudepigrapha Veteris Testamenti Graece
<i>QC</i>	<i>Qumran Chronicle</i>
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RelSoc</i>	<i>Religion and Society</i>
<i>RevQ</i>	<i>Revue de Qumran</i>
<i>RRJ</i>	<i>Review of Rabbinic Judaism</i>
<i>RStB</i>	<i>Ricerche storico bibliche</i>
SAACT	State Archives of Assyria Cuneiform Texts
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
SBLEJL	Society of Biblical Literature Early Judaism and Its Literature
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBLSCS	Society of Biblical Literature Septuagint and Cognate Studies
<i>SBLSP</i>	<i>Society of Biblical Literature Seminar Papers</i>
SBLSymS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBLTT	Society of Biblical Literature Texts and Translations
SBT	Studies in Biblical Theology
SC	Sources chrétiennes
ScrHier	Scripta hierosolymitana
SDSSRL	Studies in the Dead Sea scrolls and Related Literature

SGRR	Studies in Greek and Roman Religion
SJLA	Studies in Judaism in Late Antiquity
<i>SJOT</i>	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
<i>SJT</i>	<i>Scottish Journal of Theology</i>
<i>SPhilo</i>	<i>Studia philonica</i>
<i>SR</i>	<i>Studies in Religion</i>
SSN	Studia semitica neerlandica
STAC	Studien und Texte zu Antike und Christentum
STDJ	Studies on the Texts of the Desert of Judah
StPB	Studia post-biblica
<i>SubBi</i>	<i>Subsidia biblica</i>
SUNT	Studien zur Umwelt des Neuen Testaments
SVTP	Studia in Veteris Testamenti pseudepigraphica
TBN	Themes in Biblical Narrative
TSAJ	Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum
TUGAL	Texte und Untersuchungen zur Geschichte der altchristlichen Literatur
<i>TZ</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
VCSup	Vigiliae christianae Supplements
<i>VD</i>	<i>Verbum domini</i>
<i>VT</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
WBC	Word Biblical Commentary
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
WUNT	Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament
YJS	Yale Judaica Series
<i>ZA</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>

ZAW *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*
ZTK *Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche*

SYMBOLS EMPLOYED IN TEXT TRANSCRIPTIONS

Dead Sea Scrolls

⋈	certain letter
⋈̇	probable letter
⋈̇̇	possible letter, except for texts in 1QH ^a . In 1QH ^a this indicates a damaged letter whether the reading is certain or uncertain, following the Schuller/Sukenik edition in DJD 40
◦ (mid-line circlet)	remnant of an undetermined letter
י̇	either <i>yod</i> or <i>waw</i>
[⋈]	reconstructed text
_____	<i>paragraphos</i>
< >	a modern correction, sometimes an addition
<< >>	a modern deletion
{⋈}, {a}	usually: erased letter(s) or surface
[⋈]	reconstructed text (according to a parallel manuscript)
⋈ ⋈ , ⋈⋈	crossing out a letter or word with a line
⋈̇̇̇̇	Deletion dot(s) above, below, or around letters
(⋈)	alternative or uncertain reconstruction. In the texts of <i>DJD VII</i> , these parentheses denote reconstructions in parallel texts.
(saying)	in the <i>translation</i> : words added for clarity
⋈ ^פ עזש, ^{six} months	supralinear insertion
⋈⋈⋈⋈	Tetragrammaton (the four-letter name of God represented in paleo-Hebrew letters)
....	Tetrapuncta (the four-letter name of God represented in the text by four or five dots)
<i>vacat</i>	interval (usually: the writing space was intentionally left blank)
recto/verso	observe/reverse side of a document
top/bottom margin	part of the top/bottom margin has been preserved
word 1/word 2 (in translation)	Alternative translations

Sirach (Hebrew)

⋈	probable reading
15 _{add}	verses/stichs that do not appear in the Septuagint version
(⋈)	insertion in the original manuscript
*	marginal notations and additions in the original
manuscript	
[⋈]	reconstructions by the editor
{⋈}	reconstructions by Segal based on LXX

I. Introduction

The question of the origin of human sin holds an important place in Second Temple Jewish literature.¹ This is not only a problem of theodicy, a problem that is more usually associated with the presence of *natural* evil, but also the dilemma of the human desire to sin and the existence of evildoers. The Hebrew Bible includes statements regarding the origins and nature of human sin, but these statements are not presented as “answers” to any explicit driving question. It is only during the Second Temple period that the problem created by the existence of moral evil (sin) becomes prominent. How is it possible to reconcile the existence of sin and the desire to sin with the belief in an omnipotent, omniscient and benevolent God? In attempting to solve this problem, the composers of texts during the Second Temple period propose a variety of solutions regarding the origin(s) of moral (as well as natural) evil, sometimes based on diverse biblical texts and traditions. Jews during the Second Temple period struggled with their own desires to sin as well as persecution by others whom they considered sinners, and the texts composed during this period reflect these concerns.

¹ For the purposes of this study, “Second Temple literature” will include works composed from approximately 300 BCE to 100 CE.