

## The Old Testament Miracle-Workers in Early Judaism (Wissenschafftliche Untersuchungen Zum Neuen Testament)

Erkki Koskenniemi



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Erkki Koskenniemi analyzes the most important early Jewish texts, that attribute miracles to people mentioned in the Old Testament. He investigates the miracles of Moses, Elijah, and Elisha, but also, for example, the extrabiblical deeds of men like Abraham, David, and Solomon. The author looks at the development of the traditional elements of the miracle stories and the theological intentions of every writer who deals with these stories.

The Jewish tradition of miracle-workers is rich and multifaceted. There was no rule that the biblical stories should be retold as they were written. Miracles could thus be connected with different types of historiography or even, in one case, with a tragedy, which was an imitation of Aeschylus great work. It didn't take long for the growing tradition to develop new shades and colors for the old stories: for example, the struggle with evil powers is involved in the retold stories. Several authors also hoped for the repetition of the saving miracles of the past, especially of the Exodus, God's help in the desert, and the great deeds of Elijah. The investigation of this rich tradition helps us better to understand the early Jewish belief as well as the early Christian world.

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