

Foreword

This collection of articles by the academic scholar Géza G. Xeravits provides an overview of important publications by the author. The volume is subdivided into three groups of areas: there are articles on the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Deuterocanonical Works (for the nomenclature, cf. SBL Handbook of Style, 125) and Pseudepigrapha, and Early Judaism, especially the Synagogues. Those who consult the works of Géza G. Xeravits may gain a good insight into important issues of the late period of the Old Testament and early Judaism.

The collection is exemplary in terms of the spirit of research, the wide range of interests and outstanding scholarship. Currently, the pressure to publish in great quantity has led many researchers to the construction of hypotheses concerning various topics, often at the risk of getting lost in mere speculation. By contrast, Géza G. Xeravits gratifyingly engages with the texts themselves, analyses them methodically and, in this manner, achieves solid results. The individual contributions are good examples of how to analyse texts correctly. The results will always be appreciated by scholars.

Géza G. Xeravits works interdenominationally and internationally. Many students can benefit from his lectures in various universities in Hungary and Slovakia. But above all, the scientific community owes his zeal to many conferences, which he carried out with charm and, above all, great organizational skills, especially in Pápa and Budapest—often together with József Zsengellér, but also with other colleagues. What is an admirable trait of Géza G. Xeravits's personality is the fact that he prefers cooperation with others to being a solitary scholar. Many well-known scholars have gladly accepted his invitations, and what emerges from the lists of contributors to the respective volumes (based on the conferences) is the remarkable fact that almost all distinguished researchers have given papers on the late period of the Old Testament.

It is particularly important to point out the invaluable zeal in the edition of many collected volumes, for example, besides JSJSup, Brill especially DCLS, de Gruyter. If one is familiar with the time-consuming nature of editorial work, one can truly appreciate the value of these efforts. Particularly noteworthy in this context is the tedious preparation of comprehensive indexes in the individual volumes. They facilitate use for readers, and, at the same time, display the great variety of questions and topics treated. What underlies these achievements is Géza G. Xeravits's deep devotion to biblical scholarship, which has yielded a significant contribution in the field. Experts rely on these valuable editions with much gratitude.

The aforementioned joy in cooperation has led Géza G. Xeravits to intensive exchange with other research centers. The University of Salzburg is pleased to have a particularly prominent place in this regard. And, besides the long-term cooperation, the many international invitations to expert conferences and relevant lectures must be noted, some of which have also found their way into this volume.

Géza G. Xeravits, born in Budapest, is a renowned representative of Hungarian exegetical scholarship, who demonstrates in this volume how valuable contemporary research is in Hungary. The publishing house de Gruyter—and especially Dr. Albrecht Döhnert, Editorial Director Theology and Religion—must be thanked for making the contributions, which formerly appeared in various publications, available in a single volume. I am delighted to recommend this collected volume to the community of researchers.

Friedrich V. Reiterer, Salzburg, May 2018