

mission de l'Église selon Luc-Actes et selon Jean"; P. Poucota, „La mission sous le signe de l'altérité: Ac 2.1-41" und J. Matthey, "Mission et guérison: le rôle des communautés chrétiennes selon quelques textes choisis du Nouveau Testament".

Abschließend fasst J. Matthey, Missiologe beim Ökumenischen Kirchenrat in Genf, in „Conclusion: convergences et divergences, pôles dynamiques en mission" unter den Stichworten *missio Dei*, eine Mission – unterschiedliche Missionen, *missio ecclesiae* sowie „ein Zeugnis – unterschiedliche Zeugnisse" die Perspektiven des gelungenen Bandes zusammen. Die Beiträge sind immer wieder mit wesentlichen Strömungen der gegenwärtigen internationalen Missiologie im Gespräch. An wichtigen Stellen fehlt jedoch das Gespräch mit evangelikalischen Beiträgen und mit neueren deutschen und englischsprachigen Studien zur Mission im Neuen Testament. Einige von ihnen haben die Rolle der ganzen Kirche in der Mission zurecht neu betont und den hier vorgelegten Aufsätzen zusätzliche Tiefenschärfe verliehen.

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***Feasts and Sabbaths: Passover and Atonement*
Traditions of the Rabbis from the Era of the
New Testament (TRENT) 2A
David Instone-Brewer**

Grand Rapids & Cambridge, UK: Eerdmans, 2011;
xviii + 382 pp., \$60 cloth; ISBN 978-0-8028-4763-8

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Der Band 2A von Rabbinische Überlieferungen aus der Zeit des Neuen Testaments (TRENT) umfasst folgende Mishnah Traktate: Shabbat: Der Sabbat, Erubin: „Gemeinschaften" zum Sabbat, Pesachim: Passahfeste, Sheqalim: Tempelsteuer und Yoma: Der Versöhnungstag. Zu dem jeweiligen Traktat erörtert Instone-Brewer ausführlich das Material aus der Zeit vor 70 AD (einschließlich Kriterien, die für eine Frühdatierung sprechen) sowie Schlussfolgerungen in Bezug auf Parallelen in der Evangeliumsüberlieferung, im Neuen Testament und in frühen jüdischen Schriften. Eine Beschreibung der Reihe und ihres besonderen Beitrags zu Studien des frühen Judentums und des Neuen Testaments ist unter www.T-R-E-N-T.com zu finden.

RÉSUMÉ

Ce volume 2A de la série d'ouvrages consacrée aux traditions des rabbins depuis l'époque du Nouveau Testament comporte les traités de la Mishna suivants : *Shabbat*, sur le Sabbat ; *Erubin*, sur les assemblées pour le sabbat ; *Pessachim*, sur la Pâque ; *Sheqalim*, sur la taxe due au temple ; *Yoma*, sur le jour de l'expiation. Pour chaque traité, Instone-Brewer commente de manière détaillée les parties datant d'avant l'an 70, indique les raisons de leur datation haute, puis présente leurs parallèles dans la tradi-

tion des Évangiles, dans le Nouveau Testament et dans les écrits juifs anciens. On trouve un descriptif de la série et une présentation de sa contribution à l'étude du judaïsme ancien et du Nouveau Testament sur le site www.T-R-E-N-T.com.

SUMMARY

Volume 2A of Traditions of the Rabbis from the Era of the New Testament (TRENT) covers the Mishnah tractates *Shabbat*: The Sabbath, *Erubin*: 'Communities' for the Sabbath, *Pesachim*: Passover, *Sheqalim*: Temple Tax and *Yoma*: The Day of Atonement. For each tractate Instone-Brewer offers detailed discussion of any materials which predate AD 70, including criteria for their early dating, and conclusions as to parallels in the Gospel tradition, New Testament and in early Jewish writings. For a description of the series and its particular contribution to studies of early Judaism and the New Testament see www.T-R-E-N-T.com.

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The potential value of rabbinic sources for New Testament studies has been recognised for a long time. While only specialists were able to read the original sources, students have used collections of such sources in translation to help their understanding of biblical texts. However, many selections of rabbinic material have rightly been criticised for their lack of precise dating of the traditions they contain. It is important to understand the origins of the rabbinic debates on certain subjects rather than the conclusions drawn at later times. Only traditions which can be traced to the first century BC or AD can be used with a degree of certainty for illuminating the background of the NT.

The series Traditions of the Rabbis from the Era of the New Testament (TRENT) by Dr. Instone-Brewer, senior research fellow in Rabbinics and the New Testament at Tyndale House in Cambridge and member of the Faculty of Divinity at the University of Cambridge, successfully avoids this mistake. TRENT volume 1, *Prayer and Agriculture* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2004), began with a fine introduction to rabbinic traditions, describing the authors and the ways in which this material was gathered, passed on and edited, the structure of rabbinic laws and the various editions and translations. Instone-Brewer addressed the complex problem of dating these traditions which – in some cases – were transmitted orally for generations before they were put into writing in about AD 200, and he developed persuasive tools for dating them, including different levels of confidence regarding the dates.

TRENT follows the order of the Mishnah, the authoritative collection of rabbinic traditions which is arranged according to subject matters. Volume 1 covers the Mishnah tractates on agriculture and prayer, selecting and discussing in detail only material that can be dated to before AD 70. For these passages of the tractates, Instone-Brewer provides an introduction to the context and argument of the Mishnah, including sum-

maries of sections which are not discussed in detail due to their later origin. The Hebrew text is printed with a fresh, literal translation, detailed comments and explanations. This is followed by a discussion of the dating in which Instone-Brewer applies the criteria established in the introduction and argues why this material belongs to the New Testament era. At the end of each section he indicates where and how this material is helpful for understanding the New Testament.

The present volume (2A), *Feasts and Sabbaths: Passover and Atonement*, covers in the same manner the tractates *Shabbat*: The Sabbath, *Erubin*: 'Communities' for the Sabbath, *Pesachim*: Passovers, *Shequalim*: Temple Tax and *Yoma*: The Day of Atonement. For each tractate Instone-Brewer offers in a final section a summary of the pre AD 70 materials and conclusions as to parallels in the Gospel tradition and in early Jewish writings. Later material is not treated extensively or not at all so that the volume does not offer a commentary on the tractates as a whole. The book closes with a glossary of technical vocabulary and indexes of subjects, people, places and Scripture references which allow its use as a reference tool.

In the preface, Instone-Brewer mentions his initial scepticism about finding any actual words which have survived unedited from before AD 70: 'I was hopeful of finding laws and concepts which formed the foundation of later Judaism, but I assumed that later editors had rewritten their past so completely that all the original wording would be lost' (xi). However, this initial estimate changed:

In the first volume I started to realise that the editors were often reluctant to edit traditions which they had received, even if this resulted in a clumsy or untidy final text. During my work on this volume ... I have changed my mind further. I now acknowledge it is possible that some texts from the early first

century or even earlier may have survived within Mishnah (xi).

Instone-Brewer's two volumes are the first attempt to identify the earliest layers of rabbinic literature and to analyse the dating of these texts. It is most welcome that he works in a manner which is both scholarly and accessible to the non-specialist. Through his nuanced approach, the author avoids the weaknesses of earlier collections and does justice to documents that to this day are crucial for the understanding of Judaism. Students and scholars are in his debt for providing a very helpful tool that will prove its value. The series will consist of five further volumes:

- 2B. *Fasts and Festivals: Tabernacles and Purim*
3. *Women and Marriage*
4. *Crime and Punishment*
5. *Offerings and Temple*
6. *Pure and Impure*

A detailed preview and Instone-Brewer's introductory section to the series, including his above mentioned discussion on dating rabbinic traditions, are available at www.T-R-E-N-T.com.

Of related interest is M. Krupp, *Einführung in die Mischna* (Frankfurt & Leipzig: Verlag der Weltreligionen, 2007) and a fresh German translation of the Mishnah: *Die Mischna: Festzeiten – Seder Moed: Aus dem Hebräischen übersetzt und herausgegeben von Michael Krupp ...* (Frankfurt & Leipzig: Verlag der Weltreligionen, 2007) and *Die Mischna: Schädigungen – Seder Neziqin: Aus dem Hebräischen übersetzt und herausgegeben von Michael Krupp ...* (Frankfurt & Leipzig: Verlag der Weltreligionen, 2008; see my review in *Theologische Zeitschrift* 66 [2010] 259-261).

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