
Each detailed exegetical discussion in this volume is aimed at the demonstration of a two-fold thesis: 1) formative Judaism believed that its original state, the truly adamic nature, was angelic; and 2) this conviction was rooted in the temple cult, where human beings, through worship, transcended ordinary dimensions of space and time and were transferred from mortality to divinity. In fact, the substance of the book is more modest—to demonstrate that this description characterizes the Qumran community. In the first three chapters, in which Fletcher-Louis explores angelomorphism in formative Judaism more generally, his argument that Noah and the high priest were angelomorphic figures falters occasionally from strained exegetical inferences and incautious references to literary texts of uncertain date. In the subsequent nine chapters, his argument accelerates, as Fletcher-Louis musters more systematically and convincingly data from the Dead Sea Scrolls to demonstrate his thesis that the worshipping community at Qumran experienced, in the present, angelomorphic existence. His far-reaching evidence includes the Hodayot and other liturgical texts, the War Scroll, and, in particular, the Songs of the Sabbath Sacrifice, to which he devotes four chapters because he discerns in it “the fullest, most sustained expression of an anthropology which takes the righteous up into the divine life and that of the Holy One.” Although Fletcher-Louis is at times inattentive to currents that run counter to his thesis, he analyzes in prodigious scholarly detail numerous texts in the Dead Sea Scrolls, all of which appear in a thirty-nine page index of sources.

Jack Levinson
Seattle Pacific University


This volume provides valuable, balanced coverage of recent research on Ottoman Jewish life, by seventeen leading US, Israeli, Turkish, and European scholars. Key articles cover politi-