

RAW MATERIAL

STUDIES IN BIBLICAL SEXUALITY

James E Miller

GLOSSARY

Of Authors and Texts

Pages 177-182

2nd Revised Ed. 2010

Glossary of Authors and Texts

Akkadian – The language of Babylon and Assyria. Akkadian was written on clay tablets in a cuneiform script adapted from the Sumerians. Akkadian was a Semitic language and a distant relative of Hebrew. Dates for Akkadian texts cover more than a millennium.

Ambrosiaster – Name given to the anonymous author of writings once attributed to Ambrose of Milan. The exact date of these texts is unknown, though probably late 4th to early 5th century. The commentaries on Paul's epistles were done in two editions, except for Romans which was done in three editions.

Apocrypha – A collection of Bible-like texts which are not part of the Jewish Canon. Some of these texts are in the Roman Catholic Canon, known as the Deuterocanon. These same texts with a few others are in the Orthodox Canon. The Latin or Western Apocrypha are the texts in the Latin Vulgate translation, and the Septuagint Apocrypha are the Greek texts found in traditional editions of the Septuagint. In Anglican and some Protestant Bibles the Apocrypha is found between the Old and New Testaments. Similar texts not found in the Apocrypha are known as the Pseudepigrapha.

Apostolic Fathers – A collection of early Christian writings from the late 1st and early 2nd centuries.

Aquinas, Thomas – 13th century theologian and philosopher.

Aristotle – Late 4th century B.C.E. philosopher, former student of Plato.

Athenagoras – 2nd century church father.

Atrahasis – An ancient flood text from Mesopotamia.

Augsburg Confession – An early Lutheran statement of faith (1530). The Confession and its

defense, the Apology, were written mostly by Philipp Melanchthon. Both may be found in the Lutheran *Book of Concord*.

Augustine of Hippo – Late 4th and early 5th century church father.

Barnabas, Epistle of – A work found in the Apostolic Fathers.

Bede (The Venerable Bede) – Early 8th century writer, known for his history of the church in England.

Chrysostom, John – Late 4th century church father, known for his oratory.

Clement of Alexandria – Late 2nd century church father.

Clement of Rome – Late 1st century church father. Two epistles attributed to Clement are in the Apostolic Fathers.

Damascus Covenant / Damascus Document / Covenant of Damascus – From the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Covenant describes a Jewish sect, their history and some of their holiness laws.

Didache – “The Teaching of the 12 Apostles.” A 2nd century collection of instruction ascribed to the apostles. Part of the Apostolic Fathers.

Enoch – In the Pseudepigrapha are works attributed to Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24). 1 Enoch is the largest of these, containing several prophecies of Enoch and his dialogues with the Watchers (fallen angels). 1 Enoch 1:9 is quoted in Jude 14-15.

Enuma Elish – Babylonian creation story named for its two first words, “When on high . . .”

Epic of Gilgamesh – A story known in several versions in Sumerian and Akkadian. Its versions and copies span more than a millennium. Some copies have been found outside of Mesopotamia.

Genesis Rabbah (GenRab / Bereshit R) – Classic Rabbinic commentary on Genesis.

Gospel of Thomas – A collection of the sayings of Jesus in the Nag Hammadi library. Some Greek fragments are known. The Nag Hammadi library is a collection of Coptic texts. Many sayings in the Gospel of Thomas reflect Gnostic teachings, but some scholars find some genuine sayings of Jesus in this collection. This is not to be confused with another Gospel of Thomas which tells stories from the childhood of Jesus.

Hippolytus – Late 2nd and early 3rd century church father.

Holiness Code – Part of the book of Leviticus (chapters 17 - 26 or 27). See below, J.

Horus and Seth – Classic Egyptian collection of stories chronicling the competition of Seth against Osiris, Isis and their son, Horus.

J – A hypothetical narrative source for Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus and Numbers. Even if there never was a J source, the term is useful for a style of narrative found dispersed through these books. J is contrasted with other hypothetical sources, E, D, P and H. J uses the divine name YHWH (Jehovah), E uses Elohim (God), D reflects the ideology of Deuteronomy, P is interested in priestly issues such as genealogy and purity laws, and H is an important subdivision of P known as the Holiness Code.

Josephus -- Late 1st century Jewish historian and apologist.

Jubilees – An important book in the Pseudepigrapha. Jubilees claims to be a history dictated to Moses by an angel. It covers the history of Genesis and the first part of Exodus.

Juvenal – Latin satirist, influenced by Martial. Late 1st and early 2nd century.

LXX – see Septuagint.

Martial – Late 1st century Latin writer of epigrams.

Masoretic Text (MT) – Standard Hebrew text of the Jewish Scriptures.

Mishna – See Talmud.

Neofiti – A highly expansive Targum of the first five books of the Bible.

Onkelos – Standard Targum of the first five books of the Bible, slightly expansive.

Ovid – Early 1st century Latin poet.

Pederasty (παιδεραστια) – Adult men having sex with adolescent males. In Classical Greece (5th – 4th centuries B.C.E.) the ideal pederastic relationship included apprenticeship in the duties and privileges of citizenship, including military service. In the 1st and 2nd centuries C.E. the term usually referred to sex with slave boys, including prostitutes, with no pedagogical activity.

Philo of Alexandria – Early 1st century Jewish author and Platonic philosopher.

Pirke Aboth – A section (tractate) of the Mishna and Talmud.

Plato – Early to mid 4th century B.C.E. philosopher.

Pseudepigrapha – Uncapitalized (pseudepigrapha), texts falsely ascribed to an ancient figure of prominence, such as Abraham, Enoch or Moses. Capitalized (Pseudepigrapha), Bible-like texts which are neither in the Bible nor the Apocrypha.

PseudoJonathan (PsJonathan) – A highly expansive Targum of the first five books of the Bible. This targum probably was originally called the Jerusalem Targum (Yerushalami), but eventually it was misattributed to Jonathan, a targumist of the Prophets.

PseudoPhokylides – Ancient Jewish collection of wise sayings in Greek. This pseudepigraphon was falsely ascribed to a Greek philosopher, Phokylides (or Phocylides).

Q – Hypothetical source for the Synoptic Gospels Matthew and Luke. Q consists of the common material in Matthew and Luke which does not appear in Mark.

Sanhedrin – A section (tractate) of the Mishna and Talmud.

Septuagint (LXX) – Ancient translations of the Jewish Scriptures into Greek, c. 200 B.C.E. to 150 C.E. Septuagint translations often contain significant variants from the Masoretic Text.

Sifra – A Rabbinic commentary on Leviticus. The present text is Medieval, but much of the material may date back to the 2nd and 3rd centuries C.E.

Smalcald Articles – Luther's own defense of the Lutheran faith. It may be found in the Lutheran *Book of Concord*.

Talmud – Ancient compendium of Jewish law on which almost all later Jewish law is based. The Talmud has layers of legal exposition, beginning with the Mishna, then the commentaries on the Mishna, called the Gemara. Surrounding these are further commentaries on the Gemara. There are two Talmuds based on a common Mishna, the Babylonian Talmud and the Jerusalem Talmud. The Babylonian Talmud is the larger and more commonly used Talmud.

Targums – Classic Jewish translations of the Hebrew Scriptures into Aramaic, including expansions which explain the text or add traditional lore to the Biblical text. Most surviving

Targums are Medieval, though they contain some ancient interpretations and lore.

Theogony of Hesiod – Early Greek creation text attributed to Hesiod.

Ugaritic – Language of Ugarit (modern Ras Shamra, Syrian coast). Ugarit was destroyed at the end of the Late Bronze Age (c. 1200 B.C.E.) Ugaritic is a Semitic language, closer to Hebrew than Akkadian. The Ugaritic texts are separated by both time and space from the language and literature of Israel, Judah and their neighbors (Phoenicia, Ammon, Moab and Edom), yet show many similarities. Ugaritic may represent an earlier stage of the same language group. Ugaritic was written in an alphabetic cuneiform script on clay tablets. These tablets preserve mythological texts, letters, treaties, laws and administrative lists, etc.