Jewish-Christian Conversation in Fourth-Century Persian Mesopotamia

A Reconstructed Conversation

Naomi Koltun-Fromm



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pretace	vii
Abbreviations	ix
Introduction	1
Overview of Prior Research	6
Primary Sources 1: Aphrahat	33
Primary Sources 2: Rabbinic Texts	38
Chapter 1. Jews, Christians and Persecutions	
in Fourth-Century Persia	45
Jewish settlement in Mesopotamia	51
Christian settlement in Mesopotamia	57
Shabur II's persecutions	
and the question of Jewish involvement	63
Chapter 2. Chosenness: The Election of Israel	79
Chosenness	
Rejection	87
The Ingathering and Redemption	94
Chapter 3. Marriage and Celibacy	
in Jewish and Christian Tradition	105
The example of Moses	
Celibacy and Asceticism: Christian	
Celibacy and Asceticism: Jewish	115
Divine Blessing	
Procreation	124
The Social Milieu	129
Chapter 4. Ritual: Passover and Circumcision	135
Passover	141
Circumcision	147
Crossing Ritual Practice Boundaries	152
Conclusion	161
Appendix: Post Second Temple Passover Sacrifices?	167
Bibliography	171