Angelology in Targum Jonathan to the Book of Judges

This article is the third in a series examining angelology in the Aramaic Targumim to the Bible. Earlier articles examined the Aramaic Targumim to the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua; this article focuses on the Book of Judges.

Although the material on angelology in Targum Jonathan to the Book of Judges is sparse, our examination of the material suggests that Targum Jonathan usually follows the approach established by the Aramaic Targumim to the Pentateuch: Targum Onkelos and Pseudo-Jonathan, together with the Palestinian Targum Neofiti. Following in their path, Targum Jonathan to the Book of Judges translates a human messenger as *izgada*, while an angel of God is rendered *malakha*. In consonance with Targum Pseudo-Jonathan, Targum Jonathan to the Book of Judges will add a reference to an angel, using it as a tool to avoid reference to the physicality of God, even when it does not appear in the biblical text.

Targum Jonathan to the Book of Judges offers a close reading of the text, yet it does not settle for a literal translation. Rather it grapples with the difficulties and suggests solutions, for example by translating "angel of God" as "prophet."