Abstract:

**The Angels as Instrument in the Jewish-Christian Debate of the Aramaic Translations of the Torah**

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The Aramaic translations of the Torah (Targum Onkelus and the Palestine Targums) use angels as instruments for solving literary and theological problems that challenge the perception of God’s singularity.

This study seeks to examine the usage of angels in passages that display direct or indirect polemics by attempting to either disprove Christological interpretations or to reinforce interpretations that were meaningful to the Jewish community.

The Targums preserve an echo of the rabbinic debates between Jews and gentiles. Nevertheless, the Aramaic translations altered the Christological interpretations lest they influence Jewish readers negatively.

Changing attitudes toward Christianity emerge within the different Aramaic translations. Before Christianity separated from Judaism, the debate is bitter and vigorous. After its separation, the tone becomes more relaxed as is apparent in translations of the biblical Enoch story. In awareness of each other’s opinions, the two communities, sharpened their dissent in the debate.