

Contents

Preface	V
Abbreviations	X

I Introduction

§ 1 Jewish Mysticism and New Testament Exegesis	1
1.1. The relation of merkabah mysticism and early Christology in scholarship	1
a. Merkabah mysticism in Jewish studies	1
b. Merkabah mysticism and Christology: early suggestions	6
c. Angelic interpretation	7
d. The divine agent theory	9
e. The theory of messianic enthronement	11
f. Some later developments of the main theories	13
1.2. Setting the task	15
1.3. Problems of methodology: on discourse and meaning	17
a. The contribution of semiotics and semantics	17
b. The contribution of structuralism and narratology	29
c. The contribution of intertextual criticism	34
d. A linguistic approach and the methodology of Christological study	38

II The Heavenly Throne in the Old Testament, Second Temple Jewish Theology, and the Pseudepigrapha

§ 2 God as King and the Ark of the Covenant as His Throne	43
2.1. The Lord is King	44
2.2. The ark as the throne of God in the Old Testament	50
2.3. The function of the throne in the Temple cult	55
2.4. The enthronement of the anointed king	58
§ 3 The Throne in Early Jewish Mysticism: the Merkabah	65
3.1. Throne visions in Old Testament prophetic literature	65
3.2. The throne in pre-Christian Jewish literature	71
a. The Book of the Watchers (1 Enoch 14)	72
b. Jubilees	75
c. The Testament of Levi	77
d. Qumran	79
e. The Exagoge of Ezekiel	86

3.3. Thrones and enthronements in the literature of the Common Era	91
a. Similitudes (1 Enoch 37-71)	91
b. Philo	96
c. The Fourth Book of Ezra	98
d. The Testament of Job	100
e. 2 Enoch	103
f. The Apocalypse of Abraham	105
g. The Ladder of Jacob	107
h. The Ascension of Isaiah	108
i. The Life of Adam and Eve/The Apocalypse of Moses	111
j. The Testament of Abraham	113
k. The Testament of Isaac	115
l. 3 Baruch	116
m. Hellenistic synagogue prayer 4	117
n. The Sibylline Oracles, Book 3	118
o. Questions of Ezra	119
p. 3 Enoch	120
§ 4 From Merkabah Mysticism to Christology: Suggestions and Refutations	
4.1. Merkabah mysticism and royal metaphors	124
4.2. Is there an exalted Messiah in merkabah mysticism?	127
4.3. Limitations of the angelic interpretation	137
4.4. Throne in a cultic setting	146
4.5. Throne in eschatological judgment descriptions	151
4.6. Conclusions	154
III The Messiah and the Throne in the New Testament Christological Discourses	
§ 5 At the Right Hand of God (<i>enthronement discourse</i>)	158
5.1. Psalm 110 and Christology in early Lukan traditions	160
5.2. Paul and merkabah mysticism	182
5.3. Reception of early enthronement Christology in the letter to the Hebrews and in the Revelation of John	202
§ 6 Resurrection as Enthronement in Rom. 1:3-4 (<i>resurrection discourse</i>)	217
6.1. Early tradition and the kerygmatic formula	217
6.2. The formula and the symbolic world of Jewish Christianity	227
6.3. Enthronement theme in the context of resurrection discourse	244
§ 7 Throne as a Place for the Atonement (<i>cultic discourse</i>)	251
7.1. The throne as a mercy seat	251
7.2. The unity of exaltation and atonement	258
7.3. The emergence of the cultic interpretation	264
§ 8 The Centre of the Last Judgment (<i>judicial discourse</i>)	270
8.1. Son of Man and his throne	270
8.2. The reception of early judgment descriptions in Paul	274
8.3. Judicial discourse and the problem of polarized eschatology	277

§ 9 The History of Influence:	
Enthronement in Jewish Christian Pseudepigrapha	285
9.1. Exalted Christ in the Ascension of Isaiah	285
9.2. Enthroned Davidide in the Sibyllines	289
9.3. Paul and merkabah in the Apocalypse of Paul	293
 IV The Nature of Early Enthronement Christology	
§ 10 Some Problems with the "Theocratic" Theory	
of Adoptionist Christology	295
10.1. The theory of theocratic adoptionism in scholarship	296
10.2. Adoptionism and the Ebionite theory	299
10.3. Defining early Jewish Christianity	309
§ 11 Main Factors in the Emergence of Christology	322
11.1. Divine agents and angels?	323
11.2. Possible features of a Christian merkabah tradition	328
11.3. Merkabah tradition and the search for a "missing link"	331
11.4. Semiosis in early Christian theology	336
§ 12 Theocracy, Exaltation Discourse, and Christology	338
12.1. Three enthroned figures	339
a. Messianic Davidide on the throne of Glory	339
b. New Melchizedek on the mercy seat	344
c. Son of Man on the judgment seat	346
12.2. Four narratives – four ascent stories	347
a. The heavenly enthronement of the seed of David	348
b. Prince of life conquers death	351
c. Eternal high priest enters the debir	356
d. Eschatological entrée of the messianic judge	359
12.3. Intertextual aspect: Christ as the reigning God on the throne of Glory	361
 Conclusion	375
 Bibliography	391
 Index of Ancient Sources	415
 Index of Authors	429
 Index of Subjects	434