

Angela Kim Harkins, Kelly Coblenz Bautch, and John C. Enders, eds.,
The Watchers in Jewish and Christian Traditions. Minneapolis: Fortress Press
(www.fortresspress.com), 2014. Pages, 224. Paper, \$29.00.

Genesis 6 reports that “sons of God” descended from heaven and mated with the daughters of human beings. Over the years this story intrigued both Jewish and Christian imaginations. From it developed the traditions of the “watchers” / the “fallen angels.” Fourteen essays by as many scholars address this tradition as found particularly in Second Temple and early Christian writings, at a time when mythological and cosmological speculation was widespread. The book begins with essays

that treat origins of the “fallen angels” tradition. It then looks at Second Temple developments, and ends with their reception in works from early Christianity and early Judaism. The book opens up the history of a theme well known but little understood by many believers. The essays may seem difficult because they deal with unfamiliar material. However, the reader’s perseverance will be well rewarded.