



THE MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

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Reviewer's Bookwatch: June 2014
James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief
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Julie's Bookshelf

The Watchers in Jewish and Christian Traditions
Angela Kim Harkins, et al.
Fortress Press
P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209
<http://fortresspress.com>
9780800699789, \$29.00, 224pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: At the origin of the Watchers tradition is the single enigmatic reference in Genesis 6 to the "sons of God" who had intercourse with human women, producing a race of giants upon the earth. That verse sparked a wealth of cosmological and theological speculation in early Judaism. Here leading scholars explore the contours of the Watchers traditions through history, tracing their development through the Enoch literature, Jubilees, and other early Jewish and Christian writings. This volume provides a lucid survey of current knowledge and interpretation of one of the most intriguing theological motifs of the Second Temple period.

Critique: Compiled by the editorial team of Angela Kim Harkins (Associate Professor of Religious Studies, Fairfield University, Connecticut); Kelly Coblenz Bauch (Associate Professor of Religious

Studies, St. Edward's University); and John C. Endres, S.J. (Professor of Sacred Scripture, Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University), "The Watchers in Jewish and Christian Traditions" is an impressive body of seminal scholarship, comprised of fourteen extraordinary essays, and deftly organized into three major sections: Origins and Biblical Discussions of the Fallen Angels; Second Temple Developments; Reception in Early Christianity and Early Judaism. Reflecting standards of meticulous scholarship, "The Watchers in Jewish and Christian Traditions" is very highly recommended for students of theology and would prove an enduringly appreciated and important contribution to community and academic library Religious Studies reference collections and supplemental reading lists. It should be noted that "The Watchers in Jewish and Christian Traditions" is also available in a Kindle edition (\$15.65).

Julie Summers
Reviewer