

## Preface

This monograph is a revision of my doctoral thesis, “Breaching the Cosmic Order: The Biblical Tradition of Genesis 6:1-4 and its Reception in Early Enochic and Philonic Judaism.” The thesis was submitted to the Faculty of Theology at the University of Durham in February 2004. I am very grateful to Dr. Jörg Frey and Dr. Henning Ziebritzki for their initial interest in my topic and the subsequent approval for the WUNT 2 series. I appreciate their editorial suggestions, which have no doubt improved the quality of the work. I would especially like to thank Tanja Mix for her patience and tremendous assistance in bringing the manuscript to completion.

Most who have attempted to complete a Ph.D. will say that it is one of the loneliest tasks that a person can experience. In part, this is true. However, a Ph.D. is never the work of a single individual, but it involves the efforts of a special group of people in the student’s life. Thus, a grateful acknowledgement for the academic, spiritual, financial, and emotional support must be given, although one cannot express enough gratitude in these few lines. For me, this list of people could produce many pages, so I must limit my heartfelt thanks to a special group of individuals.

I offer a great many thanks to Ken and Lenore Mullican who have been a source of inspiration and encouragement during the process and in the years prior to moving to Durham. They have shown their loving friendship through prayer and financial support. Many thanks go to Kenny and Stephanie Mullican whose friendship, prayer, and financial support have been invaluable. The same must be said of Chad and Debbie Cox, Felipe Ornelas, and Dr. John Swails. I must also give special thanks to long-time friends Scott and Kathy Rex and Janet Koons for their support and prayers. I also must single out my brother Tom for his encouragement and financial support. All my family deserves especial merit for their encouragement and support throughout the process.

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Prior to taking up a place at Durham, I had heard many nightmarish stories about Ph.D. supervisors and all the difficulties that come with that

relationship. However, I can give only praise to my two supervisors, Professor Loren T. Stuckenbruck and Professor C.T. Robert Hayward. Both have shown why they are experts in their field. The knowledge they have given, the direction they have offered, and the patience they have shown, made working with them a memorable experience. Most of all they have offered a hand of friendship that I hope will continue in the years ahead. Special thanks must also be given to the faculty of the Abbey House for their valuable insight and to the staff for their administrative support.

I am grateful to all who have assisted in reading and offering suggestions to the drafts of the thesis and eventually the book. However, I take full responsibility for the content of this work.

Finally, I must thank the Lord for the calling and ministry that he has placed on my life. Without His wisdom and spiritual guidance, none of this would have been possible. I pray this work will bring light and knowledge to the Kingdom.

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