

PREFACE

This work gives the *editio princeps* of the Arabic text of the Apocalypse of Baruch. The discovery of the Arabic text of this Jewish Apocalypse, usually dated at the end of the first century or the beginning of the second century A.D., is of considerable significance because until now it was only known from one manuscript with a Syriac text.

This Arabic text, which clearly is a translation of a Syriac version closely related to the existing Syriac text is important because it may be considered to give valuable clues for a better understanding of the underlying Syriac version and for its reconstruction. Therefore, the reader is provided with the complete Arabic text and an idiomatic translation. In footnotes references are made to the Arabic text. This translation is accompanied by an idiomatic translation of the Syriac version. The translation of the chapters 1 to 77 is based on the Syriac text edited by the late S. Dederling in *The Old Testament in Syriac*, Part IV, fasc. 3, Leiden 1973, pp. I-IV and 1-44. Since the Syriac text of the Epistle attached to the Apocalypse proper, viz. chapters 78 to 87, has not been published in this Series, a Syriac text has been added to the translation of this part. In the 'Notes' Section (pp. 139ff.) references are made to emendations and translations of previous editions of the Apocalypse of Baruch. The editors do not contend that their contribution will bring the discussion on the significance of the Syriac version to a conclusion, but only that this discussion has gained a new dimension in the light of the Arabic interpretation.

In the Introduction the editors try to give a first and preliminary evaluation of the Arabic text. Special attention is paid to the question whether previous emendations of the Syriac text since its *editio princeps* in 1866 are supported by the newly discovered Arabic version.

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handwritten notes of F. Schulthess, in which Professor B. Reicke acted as an indispensable intermediary. Finally Dr. G. J. Reinink has to be thanked for his constant willingness to watch over the translation and edition of the Syriac text.