

Recommended Reading for SHWEP Episode 210: Martha Himmelfarb on the *Sefer Zerubbabel*

Earl Fontainelle

27th September 2025

1 Relevant to the *Sefer Zerubbabel* in Various Ways

David Biale. Counter-History and Jewish Polemics Against Christianity: The Sefer toldot yeshu and the Sefer zerubavel. *Jewish Social Studies*, 6: 130–45, 1999.

Martha Himmelfarb. The Mother of the Messiah in the Talmud Yerushalmi and Sefer Zerubbabel. In Peter Schäfer, editor, *The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture, III*, volume 93 of *Texte und Studien zum antiken Judentum*, pages 369–89. Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2002.

Martha Himmelfarb. *Jewish Messiahs in a Christian Empire: A History of the Book of Zerubbabel*. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, MA/London, 2017.

Martha Himmelfarb. The Eschatological Calendar of Sefer Zerubbabel. In Naftali S. Cohen and Katrin Kogman-Appel, editors, *Beloved David—Advisor, Man of Understanding, and Writer: A Festschrift in Honor of David Stern*, pages 311–28. Brown Judaic Studies, Providence, RI, 2024.

Hillel I. Newman. Dating Sefer Zerubavel: Dehistoricizing and Rehistoricizing a Jewish Apocalypse of Late Antiquity. *Adamantius*, 19:324–36, 2013 [argues for an early-to-mid-sixth-century dating].

John C. Reeves. *Trajectories in Near Eastern Apocalyptic: A Postbiblical Jewish Apocalyptic Reader*, volume 45. Society of Biblical Literature, Atlanta, GA, 2005 [this is a great sourcebook, and has cool thematic essays

as well].

Anthony J. Saldarini. Apocalypses and ‘Apocalyptic’ in Rabbinic Literature and Mysticism. *Semeia*, 14:187–205, 1979.

Alexei M. Sivertsev. *Judaism and Imperial Ideology in Late Antiquity*. The University Press, Cambridge, 2011.

2 The Messiah, Armilus, and Metatron anent the *Sefer Zerubbabel*

Aaron Zeev Aescoly. *Messianic Movements in Israel, Volume One: From the Bar-Kokhba Revolt until the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain*. Mosad Bialik, Jerusalem, 2 edition, 1987.

David Berger. Three Typological Themes in Early Jewish Messianism: Messiah Son of Joseph, Rabbinic Calculations, and the Figure of Armilus. *AJS Review*, 10:141–64, 1985.

Dan Cohn-Sherbok. *The Jewish Messiah*. Clark, Edinburgh, 1997.

Joseph Dan. Armilus: The Jewish Antichrist and the Origins and Dating of the *Sefer Zerubbabel*. In Peter Schäfer and Mark Cohen, editors, *Toward the Millennium: Messianic Expectations from the Bible to Waco*, pages 73–104. Brill, Leiden, 1998.

Andrei A. Orlov. *The Enoch-Metatron Tradition*. Mohr Siebeck, Tübingen, 2005 [a much broader-scale overview than just a treatise on Metatron in the *Sefer Z.*, but essential reading].

Agata Paluch. Enoch-Metatron Revisited: Prayers, Adjurations, and Metonymical Hermeneutics in Premodern Jewish Mystical and Magical Texts. *Entangled Religions*, 13(6), 2022 [again, not very Zerubbabelish, but cool stuff on metatron].

Yakir Paz. Metatron is not Enoch: Reevaluating the Evolution of an Archangel. *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, 50:1–49, 2019.