

Alin Suciu

The Berlin-Strasbourg Apocryphon

A Coptic Apostolic Memoir

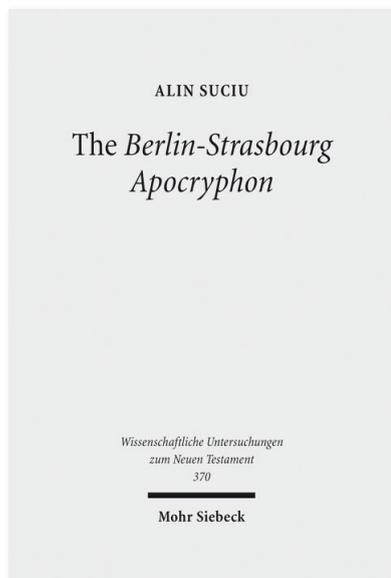
[The Berlin-Strasbourg Apocryphon]

Published in English.

The present volume offers a new edition, English translation, and interpretation of the *Berlin-Strasbourg Apocryphon*, previously known as the *Gospel of the Savior*. An apocryphal story about Jesus probably transpiring shortly before the Crucifixion, the *Berlin-Strasbourg Apocryphon* claims to recount the narrative as told by the apostles themselves. The text also includes a long hymn sung by Christ to the cross on which he will soon be crucified.

The *Berlin Strasbourg-Apocryphon* is exclusively preserved in Coptic by two fragmentary manuscripts, Papyrus Berolinensis 22220 and Strasbourg Copte 5-7. Additionally, a Coptic manuscript discovered at Qasr el-Wizz in Christian Nubia contains a short version of the Hymn of the Cross.

Until now, it has been almost unanimously accepted that the *Berlin Strasbourg-Apocryphon* is an ancient Christian gospel - probably datable to the second century CE - which was bypassed in the formation of the Christian canon. Approaching the text from the angle of Coptic literature, Alin Suciu rejects this early dating, showing instead that its composition must be located following the Council of Chalcedon (451 CE), whose theological deliberations gradually alienated Egypt from the Byzantine world. The author argues that the *Berlin-Strasbourg Apocryphon* is one of numerous »apostolic memoirs,« a peculiar genre of Coptic literature, which consists of writings allegedly written by the apostles, often embedded in sermons attributed to famous church fathers.



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