

ABSTRACT. Pietras Henryk, *Żydowski apokryf „Modlitwa Józefa” w interpretacji Orygenes* [The Jewish Apocrypha “The Prayer of Joseph” in the interpretation of Origen]. *O wielowymiarowości badań religioznawczych* [On multidimensionality of the research of religion] edited by Z. Drozdowicz – „Człowiek i Społeczeństwo” vol. XXIX, Poznań 2009, pp. 31-44. Adam Mickiewicz University Press. ISBN 978-83-232-1972-9. ISSN 0239-3271.

Origen in his Commentary on the Gospel of John quotes several lines from an otherwise unknown apocryphon, *The Prayer of Joseph*. The origin and the character of the whole book is unknown. The paper briefly surveys the results of recent research on the book, but its main concern is with the meaning ascribed to the text by Origen. He treats the text as a Jewish authority to support his hypothesis of the preexistence of rational beings, among them such that never depart from God, exercise their free will only for doing good (contrary to the notion of original fall), and co-operate with God for the salvation of those who depart from Him. Such reading makes it possible to correct the hypothesis on the final destination of the world according to Origen. It would not be just a return to the beginning, since for rational beings, growing in the knowledge of God, with no sin, such return would not constitute anything good, but rather simply their return to God, where there is no sin and each *logikos* is what they want to be.

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