

Carlos A. Segovia

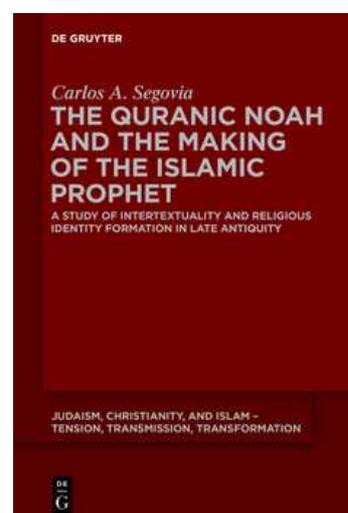
THE QURANIC NOAH AND THE MAKING OF THE ISLAMIC PROPHET

A STUDY OF INTERTEXTUALITY AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITY FORMATION IN LATE ANTIQUITY

The field of early Islamic and Quranic studies is still in its infancy due to the conservative views and methods assumed by the majority of scholars working in it since the mid-19th century. Thus very basic questions must now be decisively addressed. Accordingly, this book places the Qur'ān at the crossroads of conversations with Parabiblical narratives. It explores how Muḥammad's image – which was apparently modelled after that of the anonymous prophet repeatedly alluded to in the Qur'ān – originally matched that of distinctive prophets and/or charismatic figures in the late-antique sectarian milieu out of which Islam gradually emerged. Moreover, the book contends that the Quranic Noah narratives provide a first-hand window into the making of Muḥammad as an eschatological prophet. Therefore Segovia examines the form, content, purpose, and sources of these narratives as a means to decipher the scribal and intertextual nature of the Qur'ān as well as the Jewish-Christian background of the messianic controversy that gave birth to the new Arab religion. The neglected view that Muḥammad was once tentatively thought of as a new Messiah challenges our common picture of Islam's origins.

Biblical and Quranic scholars will find in this book new insights on the influence of Jewish-Christian Parabiblical literature upon Muslim scripture as well as an original inquiry into the messianic shaping of Muḥammad in early Islam.

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