

Summary

This work deals with the introduction and definition of the Jewish Christian stream of Jesus' followers based on the analysis of fragments of Jewish Christian gospels, Jewish Christian passages in pseudoclementine *Recognitions* and of testimonies of church fathers – especially Irenaeus, Origen, Eusebius, Epiphanius and Jerome. By Jewish Christianity, this work means those groups of Jesus' followers who believed in Jesus and at the same time continued the Jewish way of life and insisted on continuity with the history of Israel. It is thus an umbrella term for a phenomenon which, according to surviving testimonies, includes at least three basic streams – the early Jerusalem community of Jesus' followers, Nazarenes and Ebionites. The early Jerusalem community must be understood as a founding phenomenon of the later Jewish Christian streams on which they originated and which gave them an awareness of the legitimacy of their way of following Jesus.

Keywords

Jewish Christianity, Early Christianity, Jerusalem Community, Ebionites, Nazarenes, *Gospel according to the Hebrews*, *Gospel according to the Nazoreans*, *Gospel according to the Ebionites*, *Recognitions*, Church Fathers.