

# The Intertestamental Period



An Open Seminar  
Sheldon Greaves, Ph.D.  
Denise Greaves, Ph.D.

# The Wisdom of Solomon



# Sophia and the Logos

- Present at Creation
- Accomplished the Creation
- Intimately associated with God
- Spoken of as separate entities



# Philo's Logos

“Whereas the voice of mortals is judged by hearing, the sacred oracles intimate that the words of God are seen as light is seen, for we are told that *all of the people saw the Voice* [Exo. 20:18], not that they heard it; for what was happening was not an impact of air made by the organs of mouth and tongue, but the radiating splendor of virtue indistinguishable from a fountain of reason... But the voice of God which is not that of verbs and names yet seen by the eye of the soul, he [Moses] rightly introduces as “visible.”” (Migr. 47-48)

# Memra of the Targums

- Creates, specifically the light of creations
- Speaks to humans; “And the voice of the Memra called out to them...”
- Reveals the Divine Self to humans
- Saves; the Memra of God led the Children of Israel in a pillar of cloud
- Redeems; “When the Memra of God shall be revealed to redeem his people” Deut. 32:39



# The “Two Powers in Heaven” Heresy

- The idea of a second divine presence, apart from God
- Pre-dates Christianity
- Jewish in origin, not derived from Zoroastrian dualism
- Possible throwback to ancient popular Israelite religion
- Heresy was part of the Jewish rejection of Christianity
- Grew out of a Jewish sense of helplessness

