

CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	7
Abbreviations	9
Chapter 1	
INTRODUCTION	13
1. The Problem	16
2. Description and Delimitation of the Textual Base of this Study	27
3. Definitions and Observations on Method	28
4. The Role of this Study	41
Chapter 2	
GREEK ESTHER	42
1. Mordecai's Dream (LXX A 1-11)	44
2. First (Partial) Fulfillment of Dream (LXX A 12-17)	51
3. Second (Complete) Fulfillment of Dream (LXX 1.1-10.3)	55
A. Frame Prolog (LXX 1.1-3)	55
B. Novella Proper (LXX 1.4-9.19)	59
C. Etiology of Purim (<i>Phourai</i>) (LXX 9.20-31)	205
D. Frame Epilog (LXX 10.1-3)	211
4. Concluding Sections (LXX F 1-11)	215
Chapter 3	
HEBREW ESTHER	226
1. Frame Prolog (MT 1.1-4)	228
2. Rescue Novella Proper (MT 1.5-9.19)	230
3. Etiology of Purim (MT 9.20-32)	266
4. Frame Epilog (MT 10.1-3)	271

Chapter 4

REDACTION, SOURCES AND TEXT HISTORY	276
1. The Frame	276
2. The Royal Novella and the Book of Esther	302
3. Purim (Esther 9)	313
4. The Rescue Novella (Esther 1–8)	320
5. A Proposed Text History	327

Chapter 5

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS	335
1. The Background of the Texts	335
2. Redaction and Transmission	335
3. Setting, Style and Intention	349
4. Textual Integrity	357
5. Final Conclusion	360

Bibliography	361
Index of References	372
Index of Authors	383