

Abstract

The subject of this thesis is the development of the concept of the underworld and its function in Jewish notion, especially one essential developmental segment — the redesignation of its name from “Sheol” to “Hades” in Hellenistic Judaism. One of the goals of this thesis is to find out to what extent Hades is a suitable term for the translation of Sheol. Firstly, both terms are explained in their original context, Sheol as a realm in which the shadows of the dead reside in the Old Testament cosmology, and Hades as the underworld and god in a purely Greek environment. In addition, several terms related to both concepts are also explained, especially the characteristics of the inhabitants of both realms, their fate after death and the substance of their posthumous dwelling. Since the most important document of Hellenistic Judaism is the Septuagint, the main part of this thesis is dedicated to the analysis of its Greek translations of Sheol and terms related to it. Increased attention is paid to tracking the consistency of these translations and the Greek influences that manifest in them. In the final chapter Sheol and Hades are compared, the elements which they have in common and those which differ, and the results of the analysis of LXX translations are assessed.