PART THREE

ANALYZING *LIBER ANTQVITATUM BIBLICARUM*
WITH COGNITIVE METHODS
CHAPTER FIVE

REWITTEN BIBLE AS CONCEPTUAL BLEND: ESTABLISHING AUTHORITY IN PSEUDO-PHILO

5.1 Introduction

Having discussed the contemporary theory of conceptual blending and analyzed both narrative and rhetorical strategies in terms of the kinds of conceptual blends that they construct, it is now time to focus on how Pseudo-Philo’s Liber Antiquitatum Biblicarum makes meaning, and what meaning it makes. What kinds of blends epitomize this text, and what are the implications of such blends?

The purpose of this monograph is to identify to whom authority is awarded, how authority is retained and expressed, and how the stories of women relate to this broad theme. I will begin to address these issues by analyzing how the overall structure of the text itself evokes authority (Chapter Five). I will then demonstrate how retelling biblical stories in a new setting (Chapter Six) and reshaping common biblical metaphors (Chapter Seven) presents the author’s theological insights as authoritative.

In Chapter Eight, I will examine how acknowledged leaders are portrayed, looking at the phenomena of quotation, allusion, and commentary, while Chapter Nine will explore the nature of humility appropriate to leaders in LAB, and include a brief survey of the text’s view of humanity and Israel in general, and the need for repentance.

Chapter Ten will recap the arguments of scholars regarding the women of Pseudo-Philo, and develop a “local definition” of mater as defined by this text.

In Chapter Eleven, I will present my conclusions, along with final arguments on the efficacy of cognitive theory on an ancient text. In light of the definition of mater that resulted from the research outlined in the previous chapter, I will argue that women’s stories are central to the message of Pseudo-Philo. It is my contention that even those women who are not represented as authorities in the Bible will show characteristics of authority in Pseudo-Philo, and that their stories are used to shed light on important theological and ideological concepts in this text.