

ABSTRACT

THE BOOK OF JUDGES FROM A EUROPEAN ARCHIVE

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‘The Hidden Treasures from Europe’ are pages from Hebrew manuscripts found in the bindings of books and files of documents in European libraries and archives. Thousands of pages have been discovered so far in several European locations in Italy, Germany, Austria, and elsewhere, and they are gradually being studied and published by scholars of Jewish Studies in different centers in Europe and in Israel. Included among these fragments are some works in the field of biblical exegesis. In comparison with other fields of Jewish literature, the scope of the fragments of biblical commentaries is relatively small. Even so, they shed important light on various aspects of medieval biblical exegesis.

The present article deals with one of these works, a commentary on Judg 13:5–15:2 which was discovered in the binding of a book in the library of the monastery in Melk, Austria. The fragment was published by Simcha Emanuel in *Hidden Treasures from Europe*, Volume 1, Jerusalem 2015, 67–79, with a detailed introduction. The purpose of the present article is to examine the nature of this work and its relationship to some commentators of the French school of exegesis, to define its literary genre, and clarify its place in the history of medieval biblical exegesis.