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Pharaoh's Daughter in Patristic Reception

Abstract: Pharaoh's daughter plays an important part in Moses' nativity story, as she saves him from drowning in the Nile. This positive perspective is also prevalent in early Christian interpretation. Two different texts will be presented: Origen interprets Pharaoh's daughter allegorically as prefiguration of the Church from the gentiles who takes Moses, the law, for herself. Ephrem the Syrian interprets Exodus in the tradition of the Jewish Bible interpretation. He uses methods also found in rabbinic midrash and picks up motives from Philo, Josephus and others Jewish texts. He appreciates Pharaoh's daughter as the one who saves the future savior of the Hebrews.