

On the Road to Dante:
Resurrection according to some Early Christian Tours of Heaven and Hell

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While the New Testament texts are quite cautious in describing the future fate of the dead, ancient Christian Tours of Heaven and Hell like the (Greek and Ethiopic) *Revelation of Peter*, the different versions of the Greek *Apocalypse of Paul*, the *Visions of Ezra*, the *Apocalypse of Mary* and many others tend to describe otherworldly places (and their inhabitants) in great detail. The means, of course, that they presuppose and develop ideas of (mainly bodily) “resurrection” of both sinners and believers.

The paper will discuss the question which ideas of Jesus’, his followers’, but also the sinners’ resurrection are behind the images in some of the texts mentioned above. What can be said about the background of these ideas, and how are they developed to fit into the new contexts? What is their role in the development of Christian hope for (and fear of) eschatological future.