

Philip Esler, Babatha's Final Days: New Light from Papyrus Starcky.

JBL 141 (2022) pp. 491-512.

1. The questions raised and current discussion: a. The nature and significance of Papyrus Starcky; - b. Babatha's connection with P. Starcky [= P. Nahal Hever Inv. XHev/Se Nab 1]; - c. Who brought P. Starcky into the cave?; - d. Given the Nature of P.XHev/Se Nab, who brought it into the cave?; - e. Babatha in the cave in Wadi Hever. - 2. Conclusion. - P.Starcky is analyzed as a title document relating to a date orchard in her hometown of Maoza in Arabia that passed by patrilineal succession to Judah, Babatha's second husband. Explains the relevance of P.Starcky to Babatha in relation to her seizing that orchard after Judah's death, in spite of the claim of his orphaned nephews to the property. The nephews' close connection with an elite woman of Roman citizenship explains why, at the end of the Bar Kokhba revolt, it was Babatha and not the nephews who carried P.Starcky into the cave.

2022-0296