

Christoph Koch

Gottes himmlische Wohnstatt

Transformationen im Verhältnis von Gott und Himmel in tempeltheologischen Entwürfen des Alten Testaments in der Exilszeit

[God's Heavenly Abode. Transformations in the Relationship between God and Heaven in Old Testament Exilic Period Temple Theology.]

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The question of where God abides found various answers in the Old Testament, and it was not until relatively late that this was localized to the heavens. Where and when did this idea first occur and in which religio-historical context? How does God's dwelling in heaven relate to other ideas, such as his throne in the temple? And what were the reasons for this change in thinking? Christoph Koch analyses conceptions of Old Testament temple theology from the Assyrian and Babylonian eras and identifies a profound change during the exile in Babylon. However, this is not to be understood as either just a reaction to the temple's destruction, nor as a unilinear progression from temple to heaven, for instance. Rather, there is a great continuity between the younger and older versions, and the explication of the heavenly abode is to be seen together with shifts in how the world was perceived in the ancient Orient.

Christoph Koch Geboren 1975; Studium der Ev. Theologie; 2006–08 Vikariat; 2007 Promotion; 2017 Habilitation; derzeit Privatdozent für Alttestamentliche Theologie an der Theologischen Fakultät der Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg und Gemeindepfarrer in der Evangelischen Kirche von Kurhessen-Waldeck.



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