Bernard M. Levinson

»The Right Chorale«: Studies in Biblical Law and Interpretation

[»The Right Chorale«: Studien zur biblischen Rechtshermeneutik.]

Published in English.
This book presents twelve selected investigations of textual composition, interpretation, revision, and transmission. With these studies, Bernard Levinson draws upon the literary forebears of biblical law in cuneiform literature and its reinterpretation in the Second Temple period to provide the horizon of ancient Israelite legal exegesis. The volume makes a sustained argument about the nature of textuality in ancient Israel: Israelite scribes were sophisticated readers, authors, and thinkers who were conscious of their place in literary and intellectual history, even as they sought to renew and transform their cultural patrimony in significant ways. Originally published over a decade and a half, the significantly revised and updated studies gathered here explore the connections between law and narrative, show the close connections between Deuteronomy and the Neo-Assyrian loyalty oath tradition, address the literary relationship of Deuteronomy and the Covenant Code, reflect upon important questions of methodology, and explore the contributions of the Bible to later western intellectual history. The volume offers essential reading for an understanding of the Pentateuch and biblical law.

»This collection of essays is a testimony to Levinson's methodological brilliance and broad perspective as a bridge-builder between the various factions of Hebrew Bible scholarship.«
Armin Lange in Journal of Ancient Judaism 1 (2010), S. 122

»The collection as a whole triumphantly vindicates the significance of biblical law, the essential function of diachronic analysis (source and redaction criticism, and historical contextualization) in interpretation, and, especially in the last section, the established positions of the critical tradition in the succession of Wellhausen. The footnotes and bibliography are a superb resource for the study of biblical law. And the publishers have produced a beautiful volume worthy complementing a fine text.«
Walter J. Houston in Journal of Semitic Studies 55 (2010), S. 312–313

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Bernard M. Levinson is Professor of Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible and of Law at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Order now:
order@mohrsiebeck.com
Phone: +49 (0)7071-923-17
Fax: +49 (0)7071-51104

Mohr Siebeck GmbH & Co. KG
Postfach 2040
D-72010 Tübingen
info@mohrsiebeck.com
www.mohrsiebeck.com