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ENGLISH ABSTRACTS

THE FINAL FORM OF THE STORY OF THE RAPE OF DINAH IN LIGHT OF TEXTUAL AND REDACTION CRITICISM

David Frankel

This article deals with the final form of the narrative of the rape of Dinah in Genesis 34, incorporating new insights from the realms of textual and higher-critical analysis in the discussion of the story's final form and its agenda. The analysis, following other scholars, shows that the final editor created a new story on the basis of an earlier one, which he interpreted in light of Genesis 49:5-7. It also uncovers new aspects of editing that have not been recognized until now. The analysis makes it clear that the story in its present form is quite late and exhibits influence from Priestly as well as Deuteronomic and Deuteronomistic literature. Contra many, the story neither supports the actions of Simeon and Levi nor supports openness toward foreigners who express interest in affiliating with Israel. The story plays a role within the literary context of the Pentateuch and provides an explanation for the future laws against intermarriage with the local population in the land, who are corrupt, dangerous and untrustworthy. Although one must not embark on dangerous military ventures based on anger or the desire for vengeance, one must be wary of the locals and keep them at a safe distance. An appendix to the article presents a reconstruction of the original form of the story in Genesis 34.

English Abstracts

From Wisdom to Hymn: The Literary, Textual and Linguistic Development of Jer 10:12-13

Noam Mizrahi

The prophetic unit of Jer 10:1-16 has drawn much scholarly attention due to its complex literary composition, which combines a harsh polemic against idolatry and hymnal praises to YHWH. This study focuses on vv. 12-13, and traces their compositional history. It is usually assumed that these verses form a crystallized literary unit, which also plays a pivotal role in the textual and literary development of the prophetic unit as a whole. The present analysis, however, suggests that this passage too is a product of quite a complicated process of literary growth, and its function within the prophetic unit is different and more limited than previously assumed. The discussion is based on literary, textual and linguistic analysis of the passage under scrutiny, paying special attention to its variant forms.

THE POET BEFORE GOD, AGAINST HIS ENEMIES AND FACING HIS CONGREGATION

Miriam Sklarz

Psalm 142 has the general characteristics of the individual laments and also specific similarities to psalms 140, 141 and 143. Rather than bring out the uniqueness of its structure, the research literature accentuates the simplicity of the psalm and its conventional form. Contrary to that approach, the present article shows that the psalm has a unique and sophisticated structure, reflecting the unique and personal distress of the poet.

English Abstracts

DRAMATIC IRONY AND DOUBLE ENTENDRE IN THE BOOK OF JOB

Naphtali S. Meshel

This paper offers a reading of Job based on a specific type of *double entendre*, namely double-edged wording – the formulation of two diametrically opposite expressions by means of a single phonetic and/or graphic sequence. This technique is used systematically in key passages in Job, and couples with dramatic irony to serve as an organizing principle in the book. These two techniques converge to create two systematically opposite readings that stretch over extended passages, and, substantially, throughout entire dialogues. On rare occasions, linguistic compromises and the use of rough grammar disclose that the author was straining to retain the text's two contradictory denotations.

Plural Forms Referring to 'Elohim' and the Israelite Cultic Proclamation Recurring in the Cult of the Calf

Amitai Baruchi-Unna

This article addresses the authenticity of the plural adjectives and verbs agreeing with the word *elohim* (lit. gods) in the invocation recurring in the cult of the calf in Exodus 32:4, 8 and 1 Kings 12:28. It examines all the cases in which the word *elohim*, functioning as an epithet of the God of Israel, is associated with plural declensions and conjugations, suggesting that this grammatical pattern was common in First Temple period and possibly specifically in the northern kingdom.

English Abstracts

'THAT (NO) PLAGUE MAY COME UPON THEM FOR BEING REGISTERED' (EXOD 30:12): CENSUS AND PLAGUE IN THE BIBLE IN LIGHT OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Shira J. Golani

The article discusses the Biblical pericopes that reflect the belief that a census may cause a plague: Exod 30:11-16 and 2 Samuel 24. These two pericopes and the bond they present between census and plague are examined in light of other pertinent Biblical writings and ancient Near Eastern texts – from Ancient Judah up to second millennium BCE Mari. The paper explores the intriguing negative perception of the administrative procedure of the census, reexamines extant scholarly theories relating to it, and assesses the place these two unique Biblical pericopes hold within their ancient Near Eastern environment.

RESTORING THE EMPIRE: SARGON II'S CAMPAIGN TO THE WEST IN 720/19 BCE

Mordechai Cogan

Following the unexpected death of Shalmaneser V in the winter of 722/21, Sargon usurped the throne in Assyria and threw the empire into upheaval. Recent additions to the corpus of Sargon's texts relating to the West point up the seriousness of the situation he faced. Not before the second year of his reign (720/19), after having secured his position within the Assyrian homeland, did Sargon undertake foreign military actions; but he failed to retake Babylon, a setback that made the campaign to the West critical for the empire. Without control of northern Syria, the Phoenician cities and the Land of Israel, Assyria would revert to its pre-imperial stage.

The western rebels were led by Yau-bi'di of Hamath, and among them were Arpad, Ṣimirra, Damascus and Samaria. Sargon defeated the rebellious provinces, conquered Samaria, turning it into an Assyrian province, and retook control of the Philistine coast. But the reports of 720/19 make no reference to the kingdom of Judah, and its position vis-à-vis Assyria at this juncture is the subject of much debate. Questions have been raised as to whether Hezekiah rebelled along with the other western rulers or chose to maintain Judah's vassal relationship with Assyria, which had been undertaken by Ahaz. The article discusses the implications of