

Bernard M. Levinson:

Born 1952; Berman Family Chair of Jewish Studies and Hebrew Bible at the University of Minnesota (Classical & Near Eastern Studies and Law School); Fellowships at the Institute of Advanced Study (Princeton, New Jersey) in 1997 and the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin/Berlin Institute for Advanced Study (2007–2008).

Main audience:

Biblical scholars (pentateuchal theory, biblical law, literary revision/inner-biblical exegesis); Dead Sea Scrolls/Second Temple specialists; academic Jewish Studies; cuneiform law; legal historians; relevant institutes and libraries, including law libraries.

This book contains twelve essays by Bernard Levinson on biblical law, treating it from the perspective of the ancient Near East and the reinterpretation of the Bible in Second Temple literature. His studies are essential for an understanding of the Pentateuch and the Bible's contribution to later western intellectual history.

BERNARD M. LEVINSON

**“The Right Chorale”:
Studies in Biblical Law
and Interpretation**



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Mohr Siebeck

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, these 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.

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“The Right Chorale”: From the Poetics of Biblical Narrative to the Hermeneutics of the Hebrew Bible

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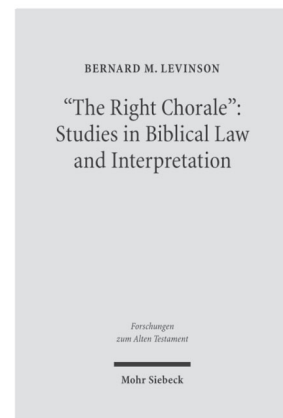
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„The Right Chorale“: Studien zur biblischen Rechtshermeneutik.

Der Band vereint zwölf Studien zur Komposition, Deutung, Bearbeitung und Weiterüberlieferung des alttestamentlichen Rechts. Bernard Levinson schlägt einen weiten Bogen, der sich von den literarischen Vorstufen im Keilschriftrecht bis zu der Neuinterpretation erstreckt, die das biblische Recht in der Epoche des zweiten Tempels erfahren hat. Es entsteht ein fundiertes Bild der Schriftkultur des Alten Israel. Die israelitischen Schreiber waren gebildete Leser, Denker und Schriftsteller, die sich ihrer Stellung in der Literatur- und Geistesgeschichte bewusst waren, so wie sie ihrerseits das überlieferte kulturelle Erbe sich immer von neuem angeeignet und in neue Formen gegossen haben. Die im Laufe von anderthalb Jahrzehnten entstandenen Studien sind umfassend aktualisiert und werden durch eine neue Einleitung erschlossen. Im einzelnen werden behandelt: die Verknüpfung zwischen Gesetz und Erzählung; die engen Verbindungen zwischen dem Deuteronomium und den neoassyrischen Loyalitäts-Eiden; das Verhältnis des Deuteronomiums zum Bundesbuch. Fragen der Methodologie werden erörtert und der Beitrag der Bibel zur Rechtsauffassung der westlichen Welt. Die Sammlung ist ein grundlegender Beitrag zur Entstehung des Pentateuchs und zur Geschichte des biblischen Rechts.