

The Covenant Code – Composition and Context within the Pentateuch

Abstract

This work deals with the composition and context of the Book of the Covenant (the Covenant Code), which is a traditional name for Exodus 20:22 to Exodus 23:33. The study also takes into account a fuller extent of the unit of Exodus 19:1 to Exodus 24:11 which is the narrative framework of the Book of Covenant. First (Chapter 1) the author delineates the ten subunits to the unit under investigation. Chapter 2 considers possible concentric structure into which the ten subunits can be built. In Chapter 1 the contribution of speech act theory is discussed for each of the subunits. Attention is paid also to the division points *setuma* and *petucha* in the Hebrew text; some other literary aspects of the division points are taken into consideration, especially *inclusio*, which is important for delineation of subunits: Ex 19:9 to Ex 20:21; Ex 21:12 to Ex 22:19; Ex 22:20 to Ex 23:9. In Chapter 3 assets and weaknesses of some other divisions into subunits well-known from the literature are discussed. In Chapter 4 the context of the Sinai Covenant is delineated. Considerations aiming at the interpretation are given in the Conclusion.