God and the Origin of Evil: A Contextual Analysis of Alleged Monistic Evidence in the Old Testament


Abstract
This book is dedicated to the study of a problem which Biblical research has regarded as a central aspect of the OT understanding of God, namely, the thesis that the Deity was held to be the immediate author of all evils affecting both the individual and the nation of Israel as a whole. Examination of the exegetical literature dealing with this problem reveals that scholars have thought to find support for this view in passages of two types, in part in texts which explicitly place responsibility for evil with God, and in part in texts which seem to indicate that a demonic element was incorporated into the Deity via a process of identification. In the first part of Lindström's study the latter supposition is examined by means of a critical... (More)

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Although there is overwhelming evidence that the New Testament is an accurate and trustworthy historical document, many people are still reluctant to believe what it says unless there is also some independent, non-biblical testimony that corroborates its statements. In the introduction to one of his books, F.F. Bruce tells about a Christian correspondent who was told by an agnostic friend that "apart from obscure references in Josephus and the like," there was no historical evidence for the life of Jesus outside the Bible.[1] This, he wrote to Bruce, had caused him "great concern... What can we learn from this ancient (and rather unsympathetic) reference to Jesus and the early Christians?"