The book of Samuel: Its composition, structure and significance as a historiographical source

Moshe Garsiel

Abstract

The book of Samuel contains ancient and original materials and both main versions were composed as early as the tenth century BCE. But the earlier of the two versions was edited and integrated within the latter enlarged one, and eventually lost its separate existence. Despite some late additions, minor changes, and even copyists’ errors; despite the slight and limited interventions of the Deuteronomistic editorial work; and despite the difference in the theological and social agenda of its two earlier authors, the book of Samuel in its last version still remains the earliest comprehensive source which integrates various original documents and testimonies of ancient time and especially of the transition from the period of the Judges to the period of the united monarchy.

Published
2011-08-19

Issue
Vol 10 (2010): Volume 10

Section
Articles

Open Journal Systems

Language
English
Français (Canada)

Information
For Readers
The historical reports depict the island and its inhabitants' status as having vacillated wildly in allegiance throughout this period, presenting great difficulty for the modern-day scholar attempting to reconstruct the history of the island at a vital crossroads. At the center of the challenges created by this region in the historiographical record are two major incidents that followed the arrival of Muslim influence on the island. It seems to have created a difficult circumstance that needed to be coped with by the legal and secretarial classes of the day, however, and Kitab al-Amwal (The Book of Revenue) of Abu 'Ubayd al-Qasim b. Despite the silence of non-Muslim sources on issues with the island during the early The Book of Samuel: Its Composition, Structure and Significance as a Historiographical Source. 10. 5. Revisiting the Composition of Ezra-Nehemiah: In Conversation with Jacob Wright's Rebuilding Identity: The Nehemiah Memoir and its Earliest Readers (BZAW, 348; Berlin: de Gruyter, 2004). 7. 12. A series of significant scholarly achievements over the last twenty years have contributed to the development of more-or-less well defined scholarly fields of research concerning the medieval Latin, Arabic, and Jewish philosophical traditions. The increasing attention to the philosophy taught in the Faculties of Arts and to the sometimes tortuous events related to the so-called Latin Averroism - for example, the condemnations of 1277 - surely represent one of the relevant directions for approaching the history of medieval Western philosophy in a scholarly way.