



“Therefore... To This Day” - The Function of the Objective Facts Interwoven in the Biblical Narrative

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Abstract

Many biblical stories exhibit an intentional association between “subjective facts” deriving from the narrative and “objective facts” belonging to external historical reality. This article examines stories belonging to the “departure on a journey” pattern which contain references to objective facts which follow a virtually fixed formula and occur at a standard location in the narrative. Both the frequency with which these facts are adduced and their formulaic nature, make it difficult to adopt external criteria such as those proposed by either of the two conventional models (etioloical and communication), suggesting rather an inner – literary – link between the two sets of facts.