

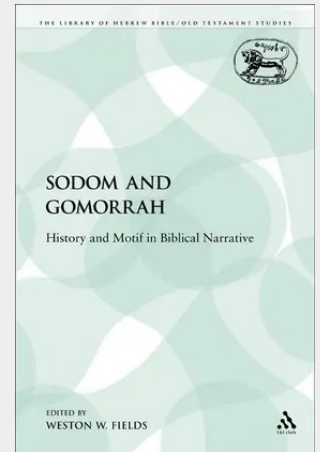
Fields

Sodom and Gomorrah

History and Motif in Biblical Narrative

According to Fields, biblical narrative is didactic socio-religious commentary on human experience, reflected in 'history', and that such 'history' is a way of describing the conceptual universe of the ancient authors. Biblical narrative is strikingly free of abstract formulations but encapsulates abstract reflections, within recurring literary motifs, and by the reporting of 'historical information'. This perception of biblical narrative is strikingly illustrated by an analysis of the story of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). The motifs of the Sodom tradition are compared with those in the stories about the concubine in Gibeah (Judges 19) and about the destruction of Jericho (Joshua 2).

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52,10 €

52,10 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9780567602503

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-0-567-60250-3

Verlag: Continuum-3PL

Erscheinungstermin: 01.02.2009

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2009

Serie: The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 363 g

Seiten: 228

Format (B x H): 156 x 234 mm

