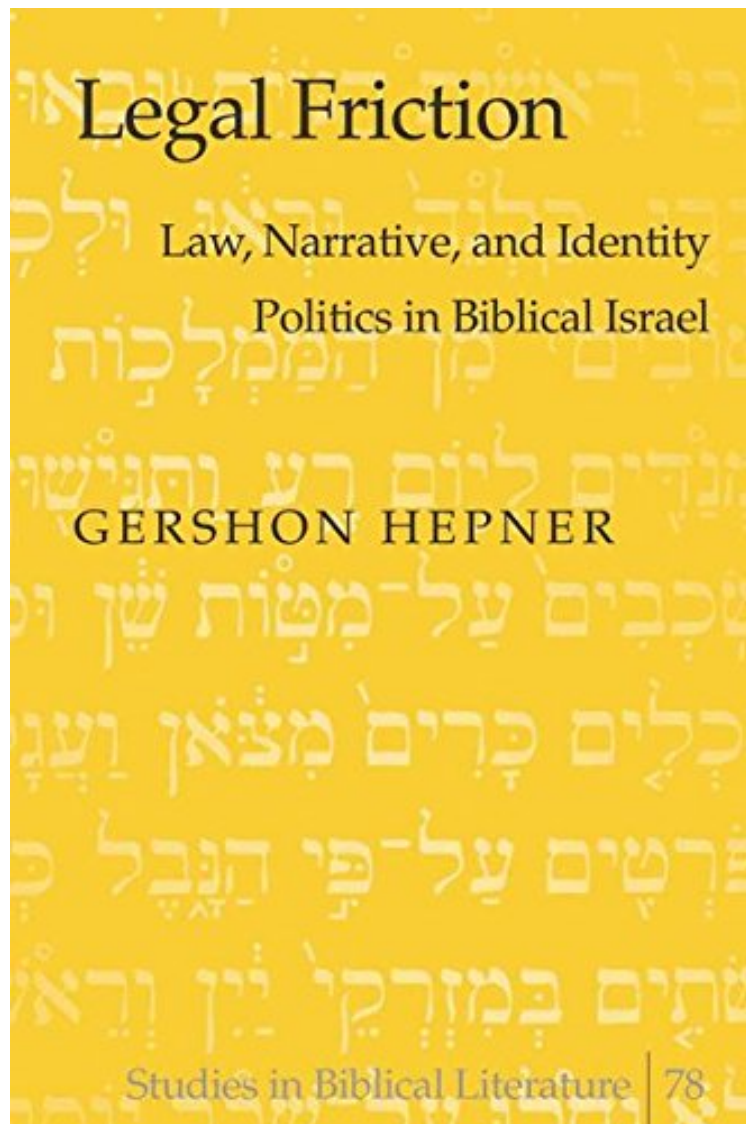


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Legal Friction: Law, Narrative, and Identity Politics in Biblical Israel (Studies in Biblical Literature)

Linda Hepner

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Linda Hepner : Legal Friction: Law, Narrative, and Identity Politics in Biblical Israel (Studies in Biblical Literature) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Legal Friction: Law, Narrative, and Identity Politics in Biblical Israel (Studies in Biblical Literature):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The heart of the matterBy Ejcl IsaacsBe impressed and a little afraid.

Impressed, because unlike most modern commentators, Gershon Hepner is a genuine, independent minded, highly imaginative writer not concerned with appeasing members of the academy or following scholars blinkered by a system. Although, clearly familiar with both ancient and modern scholarship. Dr Hepner's commitment is to the Biblical text. It is this which he turns and turns compelling the reader to think and to think again. As a poet, he weighs each word and the tone of each phrase. As a physician, he conducts a forensic investigation into every aspect of his subject. This book adds his name to the small fistful of key contemporary Torah scholars such as Aviva Zornberg, Diana Lipton, Catherine Madsen and W, Gunter Plaut. Don't miss it !Jane Liddell-King

Legal Friction: Law, Narrative, and Identity Politics in Biblical Israel tracks the mystery of narratives in the Hebrew Bible and their allusions to Sinai laws by highlighting intertextual allusions created by verbal resonances. While the second and the third parts of the volume illustrate allusions to Sinai narratives made by some narratives occurring in the post-Sinaitic era, twenty-three Genesis narratives are analyzed to show that the protagonists were bound by Sinai Laws before God supposedly gave them to Moses, anticipating the Book of Jubilees. Legal Friction suggests that most of Genesis was composed during or after the Babylonian exile, after the codification of most Sinai laws, which Genesis protagonists consistently violate. The fact that they are not punished for these violations implies to the exiles that the Sinai Covenant was unconditional. In addition, the author proposes that Genesis contains a hidden polemic, encouraging the Judean exiles to follow the revisions of laws of the Covenant Code by the Holiness Code and Deuteronomy. Genesis narratives, like those describing post-Sinai events, often cannot be understood properly without recognition of their allusions to biblical laws.

About the AuthorThe Author: Gershon Hepner was born in Leipzig, Germany. His family emigrated to England days before the outbreak of World War Two. He graduated with his M.B. and his B.S. from medical school at St. Marys Hospital in London. Hepner came to the United States where he first followed a career as a hepatologist in academic medicine, then later changed to private practice. Since 2000 he has published much of his research on texts of the Hebrew Bible. When not studying the Bible or rabbinic texts, he is often writing poems, whose topics range from the Bible to Bertolt Brecht to Bob Dylan. Many of them can be found on the Web.