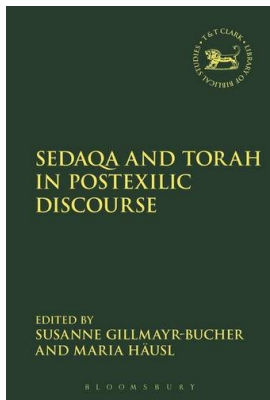


[PDF] Sedaqa And Torah In Postexilic Discourse (The Library Of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies)

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Description:

The chapters in this volume clarify crucial aspects of Torah by exploring its relationship to sedaqa (righteousness). Observing the Torah is often considered to be the main identity-marker of Israel in

the post-exilic period. However, *sedaqa* is also widely used as a force of group cohesion and as a resource for ethics without references to *torah*. The contributors to this volume explore these crucial themes for the post-exilic period, and show how they are related in the key texts that feature them.

Though *torah* and *sedaqa* can have some aspects in common, especially when they are amended by aspects of creation, both terms are rarely linked to each other explicitly in the Old Testament, and if so, different relations are expressed. These are examined in this book. The opening of the book of Isaiah is shown to integrate *torah*-learning into a life of righteousness (*sedaqa*). In Deuteronomy *sedaqa* is shown to refer to *torah*-dictacticism, and in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah *torah* can be understood as symbol of *sedaqa* meaning the disposition of each individual to accept *torah* as prescriptive law. However, the chapters also show that these relationships are not exclusive and that *sedaqa* is not always linked to *torah*, for in late texts of Isaiah *sedaqa* is not realized by *torah*-observance, but by observing the Sabbath.

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