



The Covenant and Its Different Interpretations from Perspective of the Prophets of Israel

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Abstract

Jews in exile were relatively aware due to the numerous warnings they had received from pre-exile prophets. The appearance of eight prophets and their their teachings brought about significant changes in the religious life of Jews. Among them, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, and Jeremiah invited Jews to a deep understanding of God and adherence to a new ethical system and revived the covenant with clear implications. The aim of this study is to examine the interpretations and perspectives of these four prophets on the covenant using written sources, comparing and analyzing them. The findings indicate that although there is agreement in principle regarding the covenant, there are differences in interpretation among these four prophets.

Keywords: Amos, Covenant, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah.

Introduction

The prophets of Israel were the messengers of salvation and the revivers of the covenant. Each of these prophets sought to explain their interpretation of the covenant; Amos explained the concept of the covenant based on divine justice, seeing it as a manifestation of God's nature, in which His wrath and punishment were inevitable consequences of His justice. In contrast, Hosea saw the covenant as being closely related to deep emotional feelings. Isaiah emphasized the sanctity of the covenant, while Jeremiah went beyond the previous prophets to emphasize the spiritual renewal of the covenant.

The covenant of the Lord with the children of Israel was based on a special relationship between them. The main mediator of this relationship was God Himself. The special position that the Lord had granted to the Jews was not based on their qualifications or merits, but rather on the fact that God had willed for them to recognize the real God instead of worshiping natural and imaginary gods, and to have a close relationship with Him. The covenant with Yahweh led to the creation of a community with special characteristics; common desires, clear goals, and coordinated will. From then on, Judaism transformed into a "people" in the true sense of the word. By "people," it is meant a community with a collective entity and unity, whose members are united in a common direction; therefore, the covenant was a social relationship with a people, not with an individual. The prophets who tirelessly tried to guide their people according to divine teachings were not against social interactions or individuals isolated from society who could not adapt themselves to



the cultural, political, economic, and religious patterns of their time. Their entire effort was to make the children of Israel aware of the consequences of violating the covenant through their teachings, warnings, and prophecies.

Research Findings

The aim of this study is to examine the interpretation of the covenant by these four prophets and to explain the similarities and differences between them in their interpretation of the covenant using written sources, especially the Old Testament, by comparing and analyzing them. The findings indicate that despite agreement in principle on the subject of covenant, there were differences in interpretation among these four prophets.

Conclusion

Overall, the interpretation of the covenant by these prophet highlights the multifaceted nature of the relationship between God and humanity. Justice, emotions, sanctity, and spiritual renewal are all important aspects of the covenant, representing different dimensions of the same divine relationship. By studying the interpretation of the covenant by these prophets, we gain a deeper understanding of the complexity and richness of the biblical tradition, as well as its ongoing relevance for contemporary religious and ethical discourse. This research contributes to a better understanding of the significance of the covenant in Judaism and its impact on the development of religious thought and ethics.

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