

Qur'ānic Uses of Biblical and Rabbinic Law

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This paper will survey and categorize the Qur'ān's allusions to Biblical and Rabbinic law. My primary aim is to illuminate understudied aspects of both Qur'ānic law and Qur'ānic theology. A secondary aim is to consider the importance of these allusions with regard to sura form and composition. Although older scholarship on the Qur'ān plumbed Rabbinic and Biblical literature intensively for sources of borrowing and influence, including in the area of law, that older scholarship was complexly intertwined with the emerging Wissenschaft des Judentums. Consequently, it paid less attention to the Qur'ān's literary form and its characteristic modes of expression. More recent scholarship has shown an intense interest in the Qur'ān's literary form, especially the literary form of individual suras. And yet, the recent structural(ist) approaches to literary form evince remarkably little interest in law. The Qur'ān's allusions to Biblical and Rabbinic law contain important clues to Qur'ānic theology, and the Qur'ān's deployments of references to Biblical and Rabbinic law often mark key structural moments in the suras in which those references occur.

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