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978-0-521-87869-2 - Memory and Tradition in the Book of Numbers

Adriane Leveen

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MEMORY AND TRADITION IN THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

In *Memory and Tradition in the Book of Numbers*, Adriane Leveen offers an imaginative rereading of the fourth book of Moses. Leveen examines how the editors of Numbers crafted a narrative of the forty-year journey through the wilderness in order to shape Israelite understanding of the past and influence the world-view of future generations. Leveen's book explores religious politics, the complexities of collective memory, and the literary strategies used by the editors of Numbers to convince the children of Israel to accept priestly rule. Leveen considers how this process took place in the face of the horrifying memory at the heart of the Book of Numbers: the death of an entire generation of Israelites in the wilderness, struck down before their children's eyes by divine decree.

Adriane Leveen joined the faculty of Hebrew Union College in 2007 after three years as a senior lecturer in Hebrew Bible in the Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University. She has published in the *Journal for the Study of the Old Testament* and *Prooftexts*, and she is a contributor to the forthcoming volumes: *Women Remaking American Judaism* (2007), *Healing in the Jewish Imagination* (2007), and *The Torah: A Women's Commentary* (2007).

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To Three Generations:

Pauline and Seymour Leveen

Arnold Eisen, Shulamit and Nathaniel Eisen



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We have found a way to transcend the limitations of our individual minds and brief life spans through our scribbles and inscriptions, our runes and hieroglyphs, our palimpsests, holographs, and multiple printings, our *furor scribendi*.

Tony Eprile, *The Persistence of Memory* (2004)

Contents

	<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>page</i> ix
ONE	Desert Bound	1
TWO	Weaving by Design	25
THREE	Priestly Purposes	47
FOUR	Variations on a Theme: Shaping Memory in the Wilderness	65
FIVE	Crisis and Commemoration: The Use of Ritual Objects	97
SIX	Falling in the Wilderness: The Politics of Death and Burial	140
SEVEN	Inheriting the Land	166
APPENDIX A	The Priestly Sphere of Activity in the Book of Numbers	183
APPENDIX B	The Use and Variation of God’s Address to Moses and to Aaron	185
APPENDIX C	Death Reports	187

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978-0-521-87869-2 - Memory and Tradition in the Book of Numbers
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Frontmatter
[More information](#)

Contents

APPENDIX D	Proper and Improper Treatment of the Dead	189
	<i>Notes</i>	193
	<i>Bibliography</i>	227
	<i>Index</i>	235
	<i>Scriptural Index</i>	241
	<i>Selected Hebrew Index</i>	245

Cambridge University Press

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Adriane Leveen

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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Frontmatter

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