Abstract

In the book of numbers, the people of Israel are journeying to the so-called Promised Land, the land that flows with milk and honey. Getting there, though, takes them through another place, known to modern readers as 'the wilderness'. This setting gives the book its traditional title, In the Wilderness, and invites a reading of the material from the perspective of that arid and desolate habitat. This explicit identification of a biblical book with a place makes Numbers unique among the canonical books. Yet the wilderness is not a single place. It is a place of remarkable variety and surprising subtlety. Ultimately, the story is one of discontent: the wilderness is rejected as a place, with the promised land that lies ahead seen as a true home, the land of milk and honey, as contrasted with the meagre fare of the wilderness soils. Despite this clear identification with place, Numbers has remained hitherto almost unexplored from the perspective of ecological hermeneutics. Rees attempts to fill this gap, exploring the ways in which the wilderness is rejected in the biblical book and reclaiming its voices. The soils of the wilderness, the foods of the wilderness, the animals of the wilderness, the waters of the wilderness, each rejected in the narrative at various points, are here foregrounded in order to identify the anthropocentrism at the heart of the story. What unfolds, from the opening narrative of the census onward to the final adjustments to land inheritance, is a near complete disregard in Numbers for the non-human creation.

Fingerprint

Dive into the research topics of 'Voices of the wilderness: an ecological reading of the book of numbers'. Together they form a unique fingerprint.
EU Guidance on the management of wilderness and wild areas in Natura 2000. Contents. 1.1 Introduction 1.2 Definition of wilderness 1.2.1 Ecological aspects of the definition 1.2.2 Wilderness continuum 1.2.3 Use of the definition in the guidance document 1.3 Other existing definitions 1.4 Legislative and statutory measures in EU Member States to protect wilderness 1.4.1 Strict nature reserve and wilderness (IUCN categories Ia and Ib). Voice in the Wilderness or a lone voice in the wilderness is an English idiom for someone who expresses an idea or opinion that is not popular or that the individual is the sole person expressing that particular opinion with the suggestion that the opinion is then ignored. It is from the King James Bible, Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 3:4, John 1:23 “voice of one crying in the wilderness ...” and Isaiah 40:3 “The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness ...”. Voice in the Wilderness may refer to The children of Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. The book of Numbers tells us why. When the people complain, God hears them—and it doesn't go well. The book of Numbers has stories of God killing rebellious Israelites with fire, plague, and snakes. Sometimes Moses calls to God for help when the people turn on him—sometimes God punishes them directly. Divine provision. Voices of the Wilderness book. Read reviews from world’s largest community for readers. In the book of Numbers, the people of Israel are journeying to th... This explicit identification of a biblical book with a place makes Numbers unique among the canon. Yet the wilderness is not a single place. It is a place of remarkable variety and surprising subtlety. Ultimately, the story is one of discontent: the wilderness is rejected as a place, with the promised land that lies ahead seen as a true home, the land of milk and honey, as contrasted with the meagre fare of the wilderness soils. Despite this clear identification with place, Numbers has remained hitherto almost unexplored from the perspective of ecological hermeneutics.