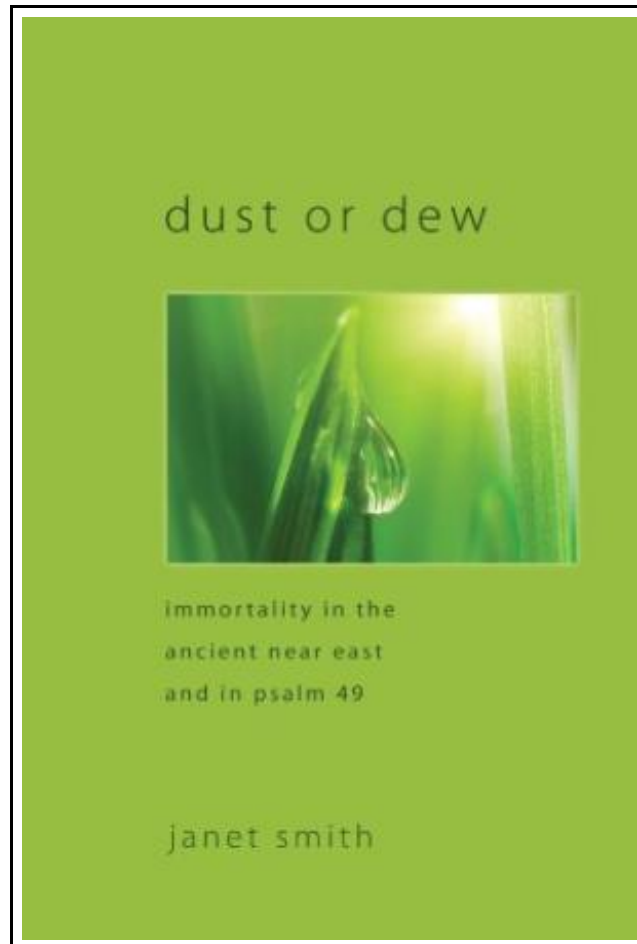


Dust or Dew: Immortality in the Ancient Near East and in Psalm 49



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DUST OR DEW: IMMORTALITY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST AND IN PSALM 49



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Wipf Stock Publishers, United States, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 226 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Synopsis: Dust or Dew addresses the question of Israel s unique contribution to beliefs about afterlife in the Ancient Near East as hinted at in Psalm 49. Reading this obscure psalm separately from other diverse contexts is often unrewarding. Dust or Dew shows which other readings, from the literature of both ancient Israel and its neighbors, enriches our understanding not only of the psalm and but also of Israel s developing concepts of sheol and redemption for the righteous. The Korahite clan of Israel emerges from the historical shadows. Finally, new light on Genesis 1-3 enriches understanding of the Psalm 49, while a survey of the icons of ancient goddess worship informs our understanding of Genesis 1-3. Endorsements: Janet Smith offers a fresh perspective on the difficult and complex question of death and life after death in the ancient world of the Bible. She has in purview the large sweep of Ancient Near Eastern religion. But she goes about the issue in a proper way, focusing on texts (the Psalms and particularly Psalm 49) and on the sub-community from which these Psalms arose. She studies the Psalms of Korah, a group whom she identifies as the custodians of the hope of a future redemption for the soul from sheol. Her work leads her to conclude, against mythological speculation, that life after death in ancient Israel concerns the victory of God in the world. Her careful reading of texts will serve well a rethinking of the this-worldly, bodily form of Israel s faith in the God of life. The last word, she affirms, belongs not to death, but to life! -Walter Brueggemann Columbia Theological Seminary Janet Smith...



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