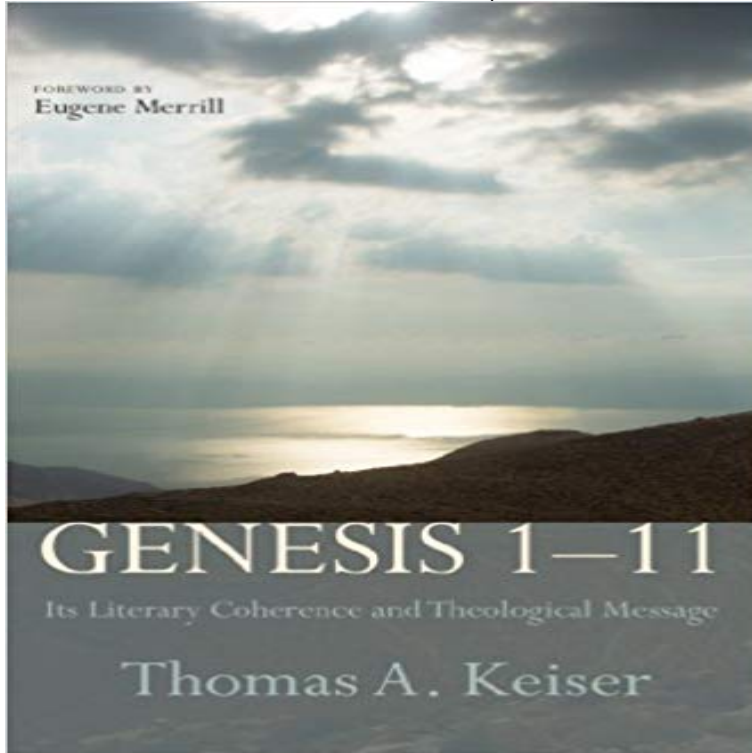


Genesis 1-11: Its Literary Coherence and Theological Message



Although the object of centuries of study, only relatively recently has Genesis 111 been analyzed with attention to its literary unity and theological purpose. With the latter twentieth century's increased attention to synchronic approaches, many scholars began to consider Genesis 111 from the perspective of a literary unity in its final form and, therefore, to consider matters of intent and theological content. Yet, in spite of these treatments, there have been virtually no attempts to view the entire section of Genesis 111 as a literary and theological unity presenting a coherent message. This book begins to fill this void by seeking to identify the message of these chapters through utilization of a literary-theological approach. The study focuses on literary features, including the broader issues of surface and deep structure, while other topics of special concern include rhetoric as the art of composition for the purpose of communication and persuasion, and the use of speech as an important indicator of key issues in Hebrew narrative. It is rare to encounter a volume that allows the text the weight of interpretative value accorded here. This is a singular achievement, rooted in serious scholarship and reflection, and comes with the highest accolades as a wonderful contribution to our understanding of not only the initial chapters of the Bible, but perhaps, the key to understanding the Bible as a whole. John D. Hannah, Dallas Theological Seminary
Thomas Keiser's application of literary-theological exegesis of the opening chapters of the Torah demonstrates the effectiveness of a text-centered approach for discerning the verbal meaning of Scripture. His careful and contextual reading confirms the literary coherence of Genesis 111 and brings with it many enlightening exegetical and theological insights. Seth D. Postell, Israel College of the Bible
In this well-researched, clearly

written, exegetically sound study, Keiser challenges us to read these chapters as God intended them to be read. He demonstrates that there is a theological message here that is foundational to our understanding of all that comes later. I heartily recommend this important work. Robert B. Chisholm Jr., Dallas Theological Seminary Thomas Keiser is Professor of Biblical Languages at Virginia Beach Theological Seminary. The concentration of his studies has been on biblical theology derived from a literary-theological approach to Scripture, with a special focus upon discourse analysis.

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