Holy Places and Cult

Investigation of biblical stories and psalms rewritten by Jews, Christians, and Moslems is a rapidly growing field in religious studies. However, people also rewrote holy texts speaking of cult and holy places, especially when new ideas had changed their daily religious life. There are hardly any investigations of these subjects. The present volume fills this gap.

Biblical texts about holy places and cult were rewritten for different reasons. Original holy places could have lost their importance for the writer and its addressees; or they could gain or regain their importance. What applies to rewriting texts about holy spaces also applies to rewriting texts about cult. Throughout the ages and throughout the changes in the religious field, concepts about holiness and pureness have changed, influencing cultic prescriptions and performance. This influenced interpretation of holy texts and made people to rewrite them.

The fifth volume of the multidisciplinary series, SRB, now Studies in the Reception History of the Bible, investigates how texts on cult and holy places were rewritten over centuries. The core of the volume consists of the contributions of the Rewritten Bible conference in Karkku, Finland, from 25–28 August 2010. The contributors to this volume represent various fields of scholarship from different European countries.