

主なる神の唯一性について
-申命記 4 章 35 節および 39 節-

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ABSTRACT Kenichi OKUDA, “The Uniqueness of YHWH: Deuteronomy 4:35 and 39.” The statements in Deuteronomy 4:35 and 4:39 are crucially important in the discussion of monotheism. In this study, I focus on what they say about the uniqueness of YHWH and the existence of other gods, and in particular how they function in Deuteronomy 4:1-40.

First, I discuss the meanings of יהוה הוא האל הים and אין עוד. The expression יהוה הוא האל הים אין עוד suggests the uniqueness of YHWH. It is difficult to determine only from the words, however, whether these verses express ontological uniqueness or incomparability.

Next, I focus on the function of Deuteronomy 4:35 and 39 in the context of Deuteronomy 4, and in particular that of vv. 32-40. My conclusions are as follows.

- (1) In Deuteronomy 4, Moses, who is the speaker, understands the polytheistic background of Israel. Namely, Moses speaks about the uniqueness of YHWH to the people with the assumption that they acknowledge the existence of other “gods”.
- (2) In verses 35 and 39 the speaker is asserting a denial of the existence of other gods. The purpose of the exodus and the revelation of YHWH at Horeb was that Israel should come to know both the ontological uniqueness of YHWH and the unreality of other gods.
- (3) It is concluded from the context, that the statement in verse 35 emphasizes the denial of the existence of other gods, while by contrast, the statement in verse 39 emphasizes the personal relationship between YHWH and Israel that exists when they love God and keep his commandments.