

「汝殺すなかれ (לֹא תִרְצַח) 」における「殺す (רָצַח) 」の意味

田村 将

ABSTRACT Masashi TAMURA, “The Meaning of ‘To Kill’ in Exodus 20:13.” It is argued by Yoshinobu Endo that while a specific meaning of the sixth commandment of the Decalogue fully depends on the later context (i.e. later detailed stipulations recorded in Exodus 21 onwards), it is therefore by no means possible to ascertain what Hebrew verb רָצַח means in the sixth command by itself.

This been said, it arises a question concerning the reason why a specific verb רָצַח had to be chosen in this context (i.e. in Decalogue), rather than other common verbs that share the same semantic feature (e.g. מוֹת, הָרַג [hiphil form]) if this verb had no peculiar meaning at all except for a general meaning “to kill.”

This exegetical note would first review Endo’s analysis of the verb רָצַח (its meanings and usages), and evaluate his conclusion. Then, it will attempt to deal with its peculiar meaning of רָצַח in its context within the Decalogue and tries to unpack its inherent meanings. In doing so, this research has been led to a conclusion that the Hebrew verb רָצַח has, as its meaning, “to take man’s life in a manner not acceptable in God’s sight, i.e., to do evil in the sight of the Lord God.” From this definition, one may say that the verb רָצַח has, as its meaning, an act which inherently has a notion of evil within itself.