

メソポタミアからレビ記への「語りかけ」
—債務による拘束をめぐる—

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ABSTRACT Izumi YODA, “Tips for Leviticus from Mesopotamia — On Debts Resulting in Enslavement.” Some topics dealt with in Lev. 25:35-54 have parallels in ancient west Asiatic records, as illustrated by E.A. Speiser, who limits himself, however, to citing texts from Alallah and Nuzi. This paper gives several instances of the older Mesopotamian, ie., Old-Babylonian and Sumerian periods, at least, with regard to the following subjects: 1) a custom of debts requiring labor for interest payment, 2) terms related to interest, 3) expressions for liberation, and 4) measures nullifying debts owed by the ruler. The oldest example referred to here dates as far back as the second half of the third millennium, B.C. It seems inadequate, therefore, to categorically deny the possibility of the Biblical book having been complete early and to ascribed it to such late times as the second half of the first millennium, B.C.