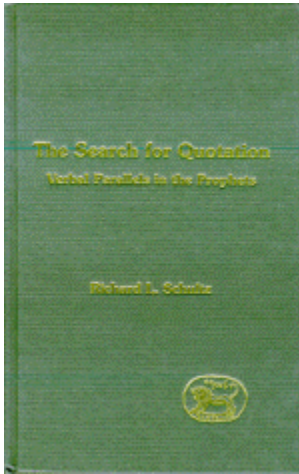


RBL 07/24/2000



Schultz, Richard L.

The Search for Quotation: Verbal Parallels in the Prophets

JSOTSup 180

Sheffield, England: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999. Pp. 395, Cloth, \$85.00, ISBN 1850754969.

Michael Pietsch
University of Kiel
24098 Kiel, Germany

This very welcome study of the nature and function of quotation in the prophets represents a thoroughly updated revision of a 1989 Yale University dissertation supervised by Brevard S. Childs. Its aim is to overcome the current methodological impasse regarding the phenomenon of prophetic quotation by a systematic re-evaluation of the past scholarly debate on the subject combined with a fresh examination of non-biblical evidence (e. g., in the field of comparative literature).

The study is divided into three main parts: The first part (chs. 1-2) contains a selective but instructive survey of former scholarship wrestling with the methodological issues of prophetic quotation (pp. 18-61) and of its assessment, respectively (pp. 62-114). In sum, little or no consensus has emerged among scholars regarding the nature and function of prophetic quotation. Rather, a systematic reflection of the methodological issues has hardly been undertaken in previous scholarship. As a result, neither the problem of identifying a 'true' quotation nor of determining the direction of a literary borrowing has been satisfactorily resolved yet.

The second part (chs. 3-6) is devoted to the phenomenon of quotation in non-prophetic literatures: quotation in ancient Near Eastern literatures (pp. 116-143), early Judaism (pp. 144-171), non-prophetic parts of the Old Testament (pp. 172-180), and western literature (pp. 181-207). With regard to the ancient Near Eastern literatures (Egyptian, Mesopotamian, and Ugaritic), it is important to observe that literary borrowing is a

widespread phenomenon and not to be considered generally as a secondary feature. Additionally a distinction has to be made between 'verbal parallels' such as formulaic language, common topics, or imagery and proverbial sayings on the one hand and quotation on the other (even if both share some of their rhetorical functions). With regard to quotation the verbal divergence is of special importance to assess its function; but even a verbatim repetition bears the marks of interpretation by way of recontextualization. After examining the evidence in early Jewish literature (Sirach, Qumran *Hodayoth*) and a brief sketch of the phenomenon in the non-prophetic portions of the Old Testament, Schultz turns to a survey of modern comparative literature studies in order to improve understanding of the literary functions of quotation. The most remarkable results of this survey are on the one hand the awareness of a quotation's context both in its original and recontextualized form as it is essential to an adequate understanding of its function (cf. that the link of two texts through quotation has an impact both on the understanding of the quoted and the quoting text). On the other hand 'internal quotations' are to be distinguished from 'external quotations' due to their structural function within a literary unit (e. g., the book of Isaiah).

The third and most intriguing part of the book sets out the author's own approach to the subject of prophetic quotation. After some terminological reflections he proposes a new model for 'quotation criticism' (pp. 210-239) accompanied by five case studies on the book of Isaiah (pp. 240-329). With regard to the problem of terminology, Schultz distinguishes between 'verbal parallels' (when actual dependence is impossible or unnecessary to demonstrate), 'verbal dependence' and 'quotation', the latter being reserved "for those examples in which an exegetical purpose in reusing earlier material can be demonstrated or where an understanding of the earlier text and context is helpful, if not essential, for a proper interpretation of the new text" (p. 221). However, this last distinction goes not without problems. The new model for 'quotation criticism' set out by Schultz consists of three components: 1) criteria for identifying quotation (verbal and syntactical correspondence, i. e. correspondence of phrases, not just words; contextual awareness). Every analysis has 2) to be twofold, diachronic (author-centered) and synchronic (reader-centered). Schultz rightly observes that diachronic analysis is indispensable for quotation as it is 'pre-eminently a historical phenomenon' (p. 227). Diachronic analysis, according to Schultz, is concerned both with the historical setting of a quoted/quoting passage and the literary analysis of prophetic literature ('redactional-criticism'). On the other hand a complementary synchronic analysis examining the literary workings of quotation within a textual unit is also essential to assess the nature and function of quotation adequately. 3) The multifunctionality of quotation as a rhetorical device (exegesis, rhetoric-criticism).

The following five case studies are concerned both with verbal parallels within the book of Isaiah and between the book of Isaiah and other prophetic books. Here just a few remarks can be given. In most of the cases discussed the diachronic analysis turns out to be unable to determine the direction of the dependence of a verbal parallel while the

synchronic analysis proves to be more fruitful in assessing a quotation's function. For example, in the case of the verbal parallel Is 11:6-9 // 65:25 the synchronic analysis makes one understand Is 65:25 as the quoting text actualizing the older promise and applying it to Yahweh's intervention in favour of Jerusalem. On the other hand Is 65:25 seems to be clearly understandable even without the knowing Is 11:6-9. This last point leads Schultz to the conclusion that the quotation wasn't made for reinterpretation. However, since recontextualization is itself a mode of interpretation, as Schultz states (p. 213), this conclusion seems to be unwarranted. Another example is the much debated verbal parallel between Is 2:2-4 and Mic 4:1-3; a synchronic perspective stresses that to both prophets has been revealed essentially the same message, i. e., the word of Yahweh for this generation. This intertextual relationship calls for a complementary reading of both prophetic books although the direction of dependence cannot sufficiently be demonstrated—both messages are not to be fused, yet they shall be read together for mutual enrichment within the larger corpus of prophecy. On the other hand, a synchronic analysis of the verbal parallel between Is 15-16 and Jer 48 reveals the latter to be the borrowing text (cf. selection and reordering of the material) but, according to Schultz, rather for reasons of style in order to enrich the prophet's own oracle against Moab than for the means of interpretation (however, does the anthological style of Jer 48 really sustain this interpretation?).

The concluding chapter contains a brief summary pointing to persistent problems, perspectives, and prospects of further studies on the phenomenon of prophetic quotation. Schultz rightly states that on the one hand diachronic analysis is often unable to determine the direction of dependence of a verbal parallel while on the other hand synchronic analysis is in danger of overinterpreting textual evidence or diminishing its historic dimension. Therefore the complementary approach proposed by Schultz is the most promising. Another important result is that quotation is not to be considered generally as secondary (i.e., belonging to a later redactional level) but as a prophetic rhetoric element. This is especially important with regard to the current debate on redaction-criticism (e.g., within the book of the Twelve).

In an appendix Schultz adds a list of all verbal parallels within the book of Isaiah (according to his criteria) which contains some remarkable data (e.g., out of 50 verbal parallels there are only 5 that link Is 1-39 with Is 40-66!). An extensive bibliography and indexes of references and authors conclude this valuable work. Despite many persisting problems Schultz has set out a methodological standard that future studies of the phenomenon of quotation can rely on.