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"Crossing the Border from Scripture (Rewritten) to 'Rewritten Scripture'"

Recent scholarship recognizes two undisputed facts: (1) Virtually all the books of the Hebrew Scriptures are the late literary results of a complex evolutionary process of composition. (2) There were other interpretive books authored in the late Second Temple period that were composed using the Scriptures as their basis. The latter had a double function: (a) to acknowledge and proclaim that a certain book recognized as scriptural was an important basic text for updated interpretation on the one hand, and (b) on the other hand to steer current and future interpretive views in a certain direction. That is, there were books clearly considered Sacred Scripture (though their text could still develop), and there were new compositions based on the scriptural text but understood by the author, and presumably the community, as a new non-scriptural work. This paper seeks to explore the two types of works, and to discern the boundaries between them and the criteria for distinguishing them from each other.