

Preface

This study is based on my PhD thesis, which was submitted to the University of Manchester in January of 2008. It examines the phenomenon of verbal repetition as a versatile narrative tactic, and uses literary theory and narrative film theory to analyze repetitions involving 1 Samuel 28.

Chapter 2 outlines how biblical scholars have considered repetition, revealing progress but also large gaps. Chapters 3 and 4 summarize literary theory and narrative film theory on various types and effects of repetition, applying these to biblical examples and concluding that biblical studies should appropriate these theories. Chapter 4 also considers theological analyses of film, but finds that few if any have applied narrative film theory to reading the biblical text.

Chapter 5 notes theological studies of 1 Samuel 28, but does not find any that utilize literary theory to potential, that study repetition, or that utilize film theory. It finds that more recent literary studies use a narrow range of theoretical tools, or use under-developed theories, or apply no theory but intuitive approaches.

Chapter 6, after translating 1 Samuel 28:3–25, applies film theory alongside literary theory to perform a synchronic exegesis, exploring the web of repetitions involving this pericope. It considers the repetition of sounds, elements of *mise-en-scène*, entire scenes, and keywords; mysterious repetition; repetition, and non-repetition in characterization; inter-textual repetition of Deuteronomic warnings; repetition in prophetic fulfillment; focalized repetition; repetition producing expanding symbols; and repetition in foreshadowing. It shows that repetition is part of the artistry that helps create ideology in biblical narrative. It also

demonstrates that applying film theory to biblical narrative yields a range of fresh insights into characterization, plot, structure, and themes.

The study concludes that narrative film theory, like literary theory, offers to biblical studies a wider repertoire of tools, new questions, and techniques promising fresh textual understandings, and that it should be utilized to full potential.

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