

“On the third day”: a life-and-death bridge from Genesis to the Deuteronomistic History

GENESIS

22.4: On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away.

31.22: On the third day Laban was told that Jacob had fled.

34.25: On the third day, when they were still in pain, two of the sons of Jacob, Simeon and Levi, Dinah's brothers, took their swords and came against the city unawares, and killed all the males.

40.20: On the third day, which was Pharaoh's birthday, he made a feast for all his servants, and lifted up the head of the chief cupbearer and the head of the chief baker among his servants.

42.18: On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God:

DEUTERONOMISTIC HISTORY

Joshua 9.17: So the Israelites set out and reached [the Hivites'] cities on the third day. Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.

Judges 20.30: Then the Israelites went up against the Benjaminites on the third day, and set themselves in array against Gibeah, as before.

1 Samuel 20.12: Jonathan said to David, "By YHWH, the God of Israel! When I have sounded out my father, about this time tomorrow, or on the third day, if he is well disposed toward David, shall I not then send and disclose it to you?"

1 Samuel 30.1: Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid on the Negeb and on Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag, burned it down...

2 Samuel 1.2: On the third day, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head.

1 Kings 3.18: Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth.

1 Kings 12.12: So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had said, "Come to me again the third day."

2 Kings 20.5-6a: "Turn back, and say to Hezekiah prince of my people, Thus says YHWH, the God of your ancestor David: I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; indeed, I will heal you; on the third day you shall go up to the house of YHWH. I will add fifteen years to your life.