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1440. [Exod 20:1-17] DEBORA TONELLI, *Il Decalogo: Un sguardo retrospettivo* (Scienze Religiosi N.S. 25; Bologna: EDB, 2010). Pp. 235. €16.50. ISBN 978-88-10-41521-4.

T.'s monograph derives from her 2005 Rome interdisciplinary dissertation, co-directed by G. Marramao and J. L. Ska. It focuses on the version of the Decalogue in Exodus 20 (which T. views as postexilic in origin and later than the version in Deuteronomy 5). Whereas the Decalogue has often been understood as a set of timeless laws prescribed by God, T. emphasizes the importance of viewing the complex in relation to the narrative history preceding its promulgation by Yhwh, a history in which, just previously, Yhwh delivers the Hebrews from their slavery in Egypt. Against this background, the prescriptions of the Decalogue have as their goal to guide and orient the Israelites in maintaining the relationship with Yhwh he has initiated with them and preserving the freedom he has conferred upon them. Understood this way, the Decalogue (and the various conceptions operative within it, e.g., covenant, equality, and the guardianship of political life) have significant differences—as well as similarities—with the law codes (and associated understandings of the nature of law) in the ancient Near East, ancient Athens, and modern, democratic societies that T. devotes a large part of her work to elucidating. At the same time, she suggests that the Decalogue continues to have much to offer as a source of reflection for cotemporary legal and political thinking.—C.T.B.