COMMUNITY RULES
1. Introduction

The main part of the Rule of the Community is a catalogue of rules for the Yahad, both for its members as individuals, and for the Community as a whole. Its various versions indicate a composite work of different literary and historical layers, which were redacted to a reasonable composition, the most comprehensive version of which is preserved in 1QS. Notwithstanding its composite nature, one may discern in 1QS 5:1–9:11, and to an extent also in its 4Q parallels, the basic pattern of a set of ten principles (decalogue) that was elaborated and adapted for practical implementation according to its order. These rules are not the biblical ones, but those of the sectarian principles of life within the Community, and as opposed to its opponents.

Catalogues of variegated items is a known literary genre within Ancient Near Eastern literature, including the Bible and post-biblical literature. For example, in Egyptian onomastica there are all sorts of lists, with varying contents and principles of organization—medical, zoological, religious, geographical, and more—whose purpose may have been for teaching. Different types of catalogues appear in the Bible and in post-biblical literature. Some are written in definite

---
