Thinking about Thinking: Modes and Developments of Meta-Thinking in the Hebrew Bible

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Abstract: In 1986, the philosopher of science Yehuda Elkana published his article “The Emergence of Second-Order Thinking in Classical Greece” which dealt with the development of conceptual and critical thinking in ancient philosophy. This paper aims to ask a similar question for the Hebrew Bible: When, how and why did “thinking about thinking” became an issue in ancient Israel?