

Introduction to the Old Testament (TMM1021)

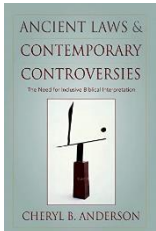
Common Awards



Level 4 Module

Diversifying the Curriculum

Books



Anderson, Cheryl (2009) *Ancient Laws and Contemporary Controversies: The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

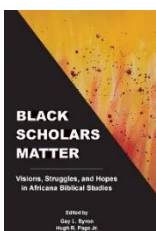
Content:

This book looks at the Old Testament specifically through the intersectional lens of the race, gender, class. It aims to amplify the questions of those who have historically been overlooked in Old Testament studies, such as feminist/womanist and postcolonial perspectives. In Chapter 1: 'The Need for Inclusive Biblical Interpretation' (1-11) Anderson explains why it is essential for students to engage with GMH (Global Majority Heritage) perspectives when reading the Old Testament. Chapter 6: 'Biblical Authority and the Ethics of Biblical Interpretation' addresses the current dominance of European and North American perspectives in Old Testament scholarship, and calls us all to adopt a more ethical and multiethnic approach to Old Testament scholarship.

Author:

Cheryl Anderson is an African-American woman and an Old Testament professor at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Book Chapters



Masenya, Madipoane (2022) 'Navigating a Foreign Terrain? Ruminations on Old Testament: Studies from African-South Africa.' In: Byron, Gay L. and Page, Hugh R. (eds.) *Black Scholars Matter: Visions, Struggles, and Hopes in Africana Biblical Studies*. Atlanta, GA: SBL Press.

Content:

In this vulnerable and powerful chapter Masenya details her journey of moving beyond a dominant male Western lens when reading the Old Testament (focused mainly on the historicity of the Bible), towards an African lens that speaks directly into the current oppressive realities that Africa is facing. Rooted in her personal experience of growing up during the apartheid regime in South Africa, this chapter inspires Western readers to move beyond a distant "pie in the sky" (32) historical focus when reading the Old Testament, and towards a more practical application of the Bible that speaks to modern day oppressive systems and injustices.

Author:

Madipoane Masenya (Ngwan'a Mphahlele) is Professor of Old Testament Studies in the Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies at the University of South Africa, Pretoria.



García-Treto, Francisco (2009) 'Exile in the Hebrew Bible: A postcolonial look from the Cuban Diaspora.' In: Bailey, Randall C., Liew, Tat-siong B. and Segovia, Fernando F. (eds.) *They Were All Together in One Place? Toward Minority Biblical Criticism*.

Atlanta, GA: SBL Press.

Content:

In this chapter García-Treto uses his autobiographical experience of growing up in 'pre-Castro Havana' (65) and then moving to the US as new lens from which to look at the Old Testament. By juxtaposing Cuban exile literature written by Daína Chaviano with the book of Lamentations, García-Treto explores how his bilingual

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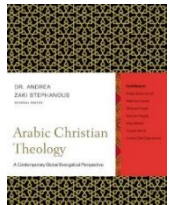
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Cuban and American culture (in which he can speak both Spanish and English) offers a unique window into this Old Testament book.

Author:

Francisco O. García-Treto is a Cuban-American biblical scholar based in the US.



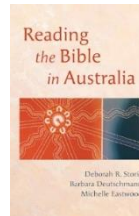
Gendi, Magdi S. (2019) 'Arab Christians and the Old Testament.' In: Stephanous, Andrea Zaki *Arabic Christian Theology: A Contemporary Global Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Content:

In this chapter Gendi invites readers to go beyond a superficial exploration of the Old Testament and to take a deeper and more nuanced approach. Written from an evangelical Arab Christian perspective, this chapter places the Old Testament in the wider context of the New Testament and proposes three underlying assumptions and principles that must be taken into consideration when you read the Old Testament. Ultimately Gendi explores questions such as “is he really a God of bloodshed? Is he racist, choosing one nation for himself and favouring them over the rest of the world?” (12-13).

Author:

Magdi Sadiq Gendi is a Middle Eastern scholar who serves as Middle Eastern Regional Director for the Overseas Council International (OCI).



Wolfe, Naomi (2024) 'Reading the Bible in Australia: A Place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples?' In: Storie, Deborah R., Deutschmann, Barbara, and Eastwood, Michelle (eds.) *Reading the Bible in Australia*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock

Publishers.

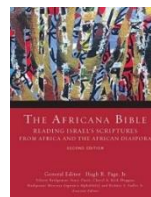
Content:

In this chapter Wolfe explores what it might look like for Aboriginal people to read the Hebrew Bible from their own indigenous worldviews and cosmologies. She urges students at theological colleges to engage with Aboriginal “perspectives” (20) in their biblical studies education in order to see the Hebrew Bible in a whole new and fresh way.

Author:

Naomi is an Aboriginal woman who grew up in Tasmania, Australia

Edited Volumes



Bridgeman, Valerie et al. (2023) *The Africana Bible: Reading Israel's Scriptures from Africa and the African Diaspora*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Content:

This amazing new commentary, containing a wide variety of contributions from authors all over the African continent, explores the Old Testament from a variety of African perspectives. With individual chapters on each book of the Old Testament, split into the helpful sections of ‘Torah’, ‘Prophets’ and ‘Writings’, this volume has been highly recommended and requested by TEIs. It is an invaluable resource that will help Level 4 students to encounter the Old Testament through African and

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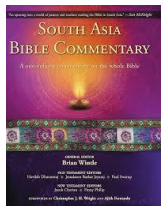
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African diasporic perspectives and epistemologies.

Editor:

Valerie Bridgeman is an African-American woman and Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible at Methodist Theological School of Ohio, US.



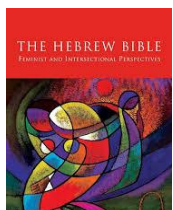
Wintle, Brian. et al. (2015) *South Asia Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic.

Content:

This volume contains a collection of works written exclusively by South Asian scholars. It explores every book of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation from the cultural context of South Asia. Dharamraj specifically writes a short accessible section entitled Introduction to the Old Testament where she outlines an overview of the Old of all the sections in the Old Testament canon. After this, a brief overview of each Old Testament book is given, followed by a detailed verse by verse commentary.

Editors:

Brian Wintle was a British born theologian who lived most of his life in India and taught at the Faculty of the Union Biblical Seminary.



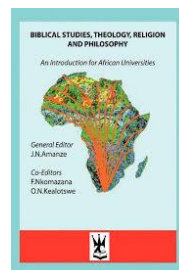
Yee, Gale (2018) *The Hebrew Bible: Feminist and Intersectional Perspectives*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.

Content:

This edited volume aims to explore what it can look like to explore the Hebrew Bible from intersecting feminist perspectives. In the Introduction, Yee (an Asian American scholar) sets the scene for the volume by outlining what intersectional feminism means in relation to studying the Hebrew Bible. It then contains contributions from scholars of GMH (Global Majority Heritage) such as Venessa Lovelace's chapter entitled 'Intersections of Ethnicity, Gender, Sexuality and Nation', that will raise new questions to ask of the Hebrew Bible through themes of race, gender and sexuality.

Editor:

Gale A. Yee is an Asian American scholar of the Hebrew Bible.



Amanze, James (2010) *Biblical Studies, Theology, Religion And Philosophy. An Introduction For African Students*. Eldoret, Kenya: Zapf Chancery.

Content:

This book introduces the study of the Bible specifically through African concerns and questions. Of relevance to Common Awards Level 4 students is Chapter 2: 'An Overview of the New Testament', written by Lovemore Togarasei, which provides an accessible introduction to Old Testament study from an African perspective.

Editor:

James N. Amanze is a Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Botswana. Lovemore Togarasei is a Zimbabwean scholar

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and Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Botswana.

Podcasts

[Wil Gafney on her book *Womanist Midrash A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne* \(2017\)](#)



Content:

In this 40-minute podcast, Gafney begins by sharing her personal journey of wrestling with the Old Testament text as a Black Woman. From 11:00 minutes in, Gafney talks about her book *Womanist Midrash A Reintroduction to Women of the Torah and of the Throne* (now available on the Hub) where she uses classical Rabbinic Midrash (that interrogates the interpretation of the Hebrew Bible) to look deeper into the untold lives and stories of the women in the Old Testament. She gives an example of what this looks like in practice from 15:00 using verses from Genesis 1 and Genesis 2.

Author:

Wilda C. Gafney is an American biblical scholar and Episcopal priest based in the US.

Videos

[Introduction to the Old Testament with Suzie Park – A series of 5x videos \(Ranging from 24 to 60 mins each\)](#)



Content:

[Video 1 – Canon, Terminology, and Divisions of the Text \(24:42\)](#)

[Video 2: Constructing the Pentateuch \(25:39\)](#)

[Video 3: Creation, Exodus & Settlement \(57:52\)](#)

[Video 4: Prophets & Kings \(38:44\)](#)

[Video 5: Divided Monarchy, Exile & Diaspora \(40:16\)](#)

In this 5-part free video series recorded as part of the online Presbyterian [Theoacademy](#) course, renowned scholar Park teaches an accessible overview of the Old Testament. Journeying from the Gospel of Genesis all the way through to the book of Malachi, Park provides a great resource for working students to listen to 'on the go' that will provide them with a great foundation for beginning to study the Old Testament.

Speaker:

Suzie Park is an Asian American scholar based in the US.

Journal Articles

[Mathew, Shiju \(2016\) 'Law, Land, and Gender in the Hebrew Bible: A Postcolonial Womanist Reading.' *Asia Journal of Theology* 30\(2\): 177-192.](#)



Content:

In this accessible article, Mathew offers an insight into the Hebrew Bible through the lens of postcolonial womanist thought. By doing so Mathew demonstrates that questions of power, land, patriarchy and imperial oppression are important for people of all genders to consider when reading the Bible. Mathew begins by outlining the seven unique components to postcolonial womanist biblical interpretation and then proceeds to highlight how deeply entrenched patriarchal, colonial ideologies are within the Hebrew Bible (dating back to the ancient social-cultural climate of the time). The article ends with a 'Reflection' in which Mathew raises helpful questions for students to consider when applying this article to modern day 21st century biblical interpretation. Echoing the words in Micah 6:6-8

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Mathew asks, “what does the Lord require?” (192).

Author:

Revd Dr Shiju Mathew is an Associate Professor and Dean of Doctoral Studies at Union Biblical Seminary in India

Artuso, Vicente and Caldeira, Cleusa (2020)
'African Priestesses in the Biblical World.
Decolonial Reading of Exodus 4: 24-26.'
Estudos Feministas 28(3).



Content:

This article outlines the rich contribution that female Black and postcolonial interpretations have made to the field of biblical studies. By deconstructing colonial and racist interpretations of the Bible, this approach allows African realities to be seen within the biblical text. Using the character of Zipporah in Exodus 4:24-26 as a practical example, this paper explores the possibility that Moses' wife was a Black woman from Cush

Author:

Cleusa Caldeira is an Afro-Brazilian theologian based in Brazil. Vicente Artuso is based at the Studium Theologicum Claretiano in Curitiba.