The book of Esther is one of the most challenging books in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, not only because of the difficulty of understanding the book itself in its time, place, and literary contexts, but also for the long and tortuous history of interpretation it has generated in both Jewish and Christian traditions. In this volume, Isaac Kalimi addresses both issues. He situates “traditional” literary and textual, theological, and historical-critical discussions of Esther alongside comparative Jewish and Christian interpretive histories, showing how the former serves the latter. Kalimi also demonstrates how the various interpretations of the book of Esther have had an impact on its reception history, as well as on Jewish–Christian relations. Based on meticulous and comprehensive analysis of all available sources, Kalimi’s volume fills a gap in biblical, Jewish, and Christian studies and also shows how and why the book of Esther became one of the central books of Judaism and one of the most neglected books in Christianity.

Isaac Kalimi is Research Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament studies and Ancient Israelite history (emeritus) at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany. He is one of the most important and influential scholars in our time. His scholarly output has been prodigious and has encompassed a wide variety of fields. He is an ordinary member of the Academia Europaea and author of numerous books and articles, including The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles (2005, reprinted 2012; R. B. Y. Scott Book Award of the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies 2006); An Ancient Israelite Historian (2003); The Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature (2009); Fighting over the Bible (2017); Metathesis in the Hebrew Bible (2018); Untersuchungen zur Jüdischen Schriftauslegung und Theologie (2018; Franz Delitzsch Prize 2019); and Writing and Rewriting the Story of Solomon in Ancient Israel (2018).
The Book of Esther between Judaism and Christianity

The Biblical Story, Self-Identification, and Antisemitic Interpretation

Isaac Kalimi
Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
“וללקט שושנים” – לשלק את הצדיקים שבישראל. מה בין מיתת זקנים למיתת נערים? רבי יהודה ורבי אבהו, ר׳ יהודה אומר: הנר הזה בזמן שהוא כבה מאליו יפה לו ויפה לפתילה, ובזמן שאינו כבה מאליו רע לו ורע לפתילה. רבי אבהו אומר: התאנה הזו בזמן שנלקטת בעונתה יפה לה ויפה לתאנה, ובזמן שאינה נלקטת בעונתה רע לה ורע לתאנה” (שיר השירים רבה ו,ח).

לשמת אמי חוה (אנג'ן) אחוהי תקנת, עלית השם,
שנוקם באיצנים בראים נברכים.
לא זכוلدול ברבים ובנים, לא זכוلدול בתכני止めות אבותם וممתקות.
והיה שממתי זרותו בבראיהびן הקמים עלולים ע"ד.
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<td>Song</td>
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# Frequently Cited Reference Works and Periodicals

- **AHR** *American Historical Review*
- **AJP** *American Journal of Philology*
- **BASOR** *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
List of Abbreviations

BBR  Bulletin for Biblical Research
BibInt  Biblical Interpretation
BibSac  Bibliotheca Sacra
BSOAS  Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies
DSD  Dead Sea Discoveries
ET  English translation (where verse numbering differs from the Hebrew)
HAR  Hebrew Annual Review
HTR  Harvard Theological Review
HUCA  Hebrew Union College Annual
IEJ  Israel Exploration Journal
JAJ  Journal of Ancient Judaism
JBL  Journal of Biblical Literature
JBTb  Jahrbuch für Biblische Theologie
JNES  Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JQR  Jewish Quarterly Review
JR  Journal of Religion
JTS  Journal of Theological Studies
LB  Linguistica Biblica
LXX  Septuagint (the Greek version of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament)
MT  The Masoretic Text (the traditional Jewish text of the Hebrew Bible)
NETS  A. Pietersma and B. G. Wright (eds.), *A New English Translation of the Septuagint and the Other Greek Translation Traditionally Included under that Name* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)
NRTh  La nouvelle revue théologique
PAAJR  Proceedings of the American Academy of Jewish Research
RevQ  Revue de Qumran
RRJ  Review of Rabbinic Judaism
SAK  Studien zur altägyptischen Kultur
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<td>VT</td>
<td>Vetus Testament</td>
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