

Portraying Violence in the Hebrew Bible

Most studies on violence in the Hebrew Bible focus on the question of how modern readers should approach the problem. But they fail to ask how the Hebrew Bible thinks about that problem in the first place. In this work, Matthew J. Lynch examines four key ways that writers of the Hebrew Bible conceptualize and critique acts of violence: violence as an ecological problem; violence as a moral problem; violence as a judicial problem; and violence as a purity problem. These four ‘grammars of violence’ help us interpret crucial biblical texts where violence plays a lead role, such as Genesis 4–9. Lynch’s volume also offers readers ways to examine cultural continuity and the distinctiveness of biblical conceptions of violence.

Matthew J. Lynch is Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Regent College in Vancouver, and until 2020 was Academic Dean at Westminster Theological Centre, UK. He is the author of *Monotheism and Institutions in the Book of Chronicles: Temple, Priesthood, and Kingship in Post-Exilic Perspective* (Mohr Siebeck, 2014). He is a founding co-host of the OnScript podcast.

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A Literary and Cultural Study

MATTHEW J. LYNCH

*Regent College, Vancouver
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Abbreviations

- ABD** *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*. Edited by David Noel Freedman. New Haven, CT; London: Yale University Press, 1992.
- BDAG** *A Greek–English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*. Edited by Walter Bauer, Frederick W. Danker, William F. Arndt, and F. Wilbur Gingrich. Based on Walter Bauer’s *Griechisch–Deutsches Wörterbuch zu Den Schriften Des Neuen Testaments und Der Frühchristlichen Literatur*. Sixth Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000.
- DCH** *The Dictionary of Classical Hebrew*. Edited by David J. A. Clines. 6 Vols. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1995.
- EncRel** *Encyclopedia of Religion*. 2nd ed. Edited by Lindsay Jones and Mircea Eliade. Detroit: MacMillan, 2005.
- HALOT** *The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Edited by L. Koehler, W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm. Translated and edited under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. 4 Vols. Leiden, 1994–1999.
- NIDB** *New Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible*. Edited by Katharine Doob Sakenfeld. 5 Vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 2006.
- NIDOTTE** *New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis*. Edited by William Van Gemeren. 5 Vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- OED** *Oxford English Dictionary Online*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019–. www.oed.com.

- TDOT* *Theological Dictionary of the Old Testament*. Edited by G. Johannes Botterweck and Helmer Ringgren. 16 Vols. Translated by David E. Green. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1975–.
- THAT* *Theologisches Wörterbuch zum Alten Testament*. Edited by Gerhard Johannes Botterweck and Heinz-Josef Fabry. 16 Vols. Stuttgart : Kohlhammer, 1973–.
- ThWQ* *Theologische Wörterbuch zu dem Qumrantexten*. Edited by Josef Fabry, Ulrich Dahmen, et al.; Bonn: Kohlhammer, 2011.
- TLOT* *Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Edited by E. Jenni, with assistance from C. Westermann. Translated by M. E. Biddle. 3 Vols. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1997.
- TWOT* *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Edited by R. L. Harris and G. L. Archer Jr. 2 Vols. Chicago: Moody, 1980.