

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.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-108-71447-1 — Portraying Violence in the Hebrew Bible
A Literary and Cultural Study
Matthew J. Lynch
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A Literary and Cultural Study

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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi - 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108714471

DOI: 10.1017/9781108637558

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First published 2020

First paperback edition 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

NAMES: Lynch, Matthew, 1979– author.

TITLE: Portraying violence in the Hebrew Bible : a literary and cultural study / Matthew J. Lynch, Regent College, Vancouver.

DESCRIPTION: New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press, 2020. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2019051266 (print) | LCCN 2019051267 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781108494359 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108714471 (paperback) |

ISBN 9781108637558 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Violence in the Bible. | Bible. Old Testament—Criticism, interpretation, etc.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC BS1199.V56 L96 2020 (print) | LCC BS1199.V56 (ebook) |

DDC 221.8/3036—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019051266>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2019051267>

ISBN 978-1-108-49435-9 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-71447-1 Paperback

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For Abi

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Acknowledgements

I have many to thank for making this book possible. First, Westminster Theological Centre, UK (WTC) has been a wonderful environment in which to carry out research for this book. Though I am now moving to Regent College, I owe a debt of gratitude to WTC for their support. WTC gave me research weeks and a summer sabbatical to research and write. I am especially grateful to WTC's principal Lucy Peppiatt for supporting my research. I hear of small colleges that do not value research, but that has not been my experience at WTC. I am also grateful to the many students at WTC who kept the issue of violence in the Hebrew Bible 'live' through their questions and reflections. Second, I am grateful to friends and colleagues who read chapters or drafts of this book. Special thanks to Abi Lynch, Lucy Peppiatt, Ken Brown, Richard Middleton, Jonathan Burnside, David Lambert, and Mark Smith. Thanks also to Eric Christianson for his expert copyediting, to the reviewers at CUP for their feedback, as well as the rest of their editorial staff. Most of all, I thank my wife Abi, to whom this book is dedicated. Abi is a constant support and encouragement.

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.