



Dangerous Emotions: A Multi-Disciplinary Look at Anger, Jealousy, and Hate in the Hebrew Bible

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Are emotions universal? The current consensus is that some elements of emotions are shared by all people, while others are culturally bound. It is, therefore, improbable that the concept of hate reflected in the ancient Bible is wholly equivalent to the concept of hate held by readers today.

In an attempt to bridge the gap between modern interpreters and the text we seek to interpret, we bring together a variety of approaches and consider the question through multiple lenses. The combined results of our collective effort will help us understand more accurately what the Bible means when it uses language and recounts behaviors that resemble modern conceptions of hate. What does Malachi 1:3 really mean when it describes God “hating” Esau? What does 2 Samuel 13:15 really mean when it states that Amnon “hates” Tamar intensely?

Ultimately, we aim to better understand the broader biblical concept of emotion (a term absent from the Hebrew Bible) when we uncover the extent to which the hate described in the Bible means what we think it means, and the extent to which it does not.





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