



The Hebrew Bible, Race, and Racism

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Message from the Guest Editor

In the history of its interpretation, and in the history of scholarship, the Hebrew Bible has been a consistent locus of discourse around race, racism, enslavement, and colonialism. Texts from the Hebrew Bible have been taken up in the service of both racist and anti-racist causes, both pro- and anti-slavery, both colonialist and postcolonialist: the curse of Ham, the Exodus, and the conquest of Canaan, to name but a few of the more prominent examples. Biblical scholarship, for its part, has often reinscribed, wittingly or unwittingly, hierarchies derived from the biblical text. The field as a whole is only recently coming to terms with its own history of neglecting, and often outright rejecting, approaches to the biblical text that do not conform to “traditional” white European intellectual modes. This volume is intended to explore these issues, to note the ways that the Hebrew Bible and its interpretation have been appropriated in discourses of race and racism, and that critical scholarship of the Hebrew Bible has participated in racist and colonialist ways of thinking about the biblical text.





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