The Art Of Biblical Narrative Robert Alter

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The Art of Biblical Narrative has radically expanded the horizons of biblical scholarship by recasting the Bible as a work of literary art deserving studied criticism. In this seminal work, Alter describes how the Hebrew Bible's many authors used innovative literary styles and devices such as parallelism, contrastive dialogue, and narrative tempo to tell one of the most revolutionary stories of all time: the revelation of a single God. In so doing, Alter shows how Nabokov was passionately concerned with the real world and its complexities, from love and loss to exile, freedom, and the impact of contemporary politics on our lives. In these illuminating and exquisitely written essays, Alter spans the breadth of Nabokov's writings, from his memoirs, lectures, and short stories to major novels such as Lolita. He demonstrates how the self-reflexive artifice and the many codes and puzzles he devises in his fiction. Nabokov himself spoke a number of times about reality as a term that always has to be put in scare quotes. Consequently, when we think about Nabokov's writing in the world outside literature, we have to be careful deeply about human relationships and the burden of loss, and who was acutely sensitive to the ways political ideologies distort human values. Offering timeless insights into literature's most farrago artifice, Nabokov and the Real World makes an elegant and compelling case for Nabokov's relevance today.

In his second companion volume with Commentary, Robert Alter 2009-10-19 A Commented new translation of the Book of Psalms seeks to preserve and convey its powerful message and musical rhythms while lending insight into the text's obscurities, in a volume by the acclaimed translator of the Five Books of Moses, 30,000 first printing. Biblical Narrative and the Death of the Rhapsode Robert S. Kawashima 2004-12-09 Informed by literary theory and modern scholarship, Biblical Narrative and the Death of the Rhapsode sheds new light on the Hebrew Bible and, more generally, on the possibilities of narrative form. Robert S. Kawashima compares the narratives of the Hebrew Bible with Homeric and Ugaritic epic in order to account for the "novelty" of biblical prose narrative. Long before Herodotus or Homer, Israelite writers practiced an innovative narrative art, which anticipated the modern novelist's craft. Though their work is undeniably linked to the linguistic tradition of the Ugaritic narrative poems, the biblical view of the world is profoundly removed from the origin of a specifically written verbal art that we should counterpose to the oral-traditional art of epic. Beyond this strictly historical thesis, the book includes pedagogical implications for the study of narrative, literature, and oral tradition. Indiana Studies in Biblical Literature -- Herbert Marquis, General Editor.

Reading Biblical Narrative Yair A. Amit 2001 Based on a series of lectures given in Israel, Amit introduces the reader to the subtle ways of the biblical narrators. Covering issues of character, plot development, catchword association, narration, and dialogue, she brings the biblical text to life, helping the reader enter the stories from new vantage points.


Ethics and Politics of Translating Henri Meschonnic 2011-07-12 If meaning were the last thing that mattered in language, this essay, Meschonnic explains, "translates" what it means to translate the sense of language and how to do it. The theoretical and practical problems of a hermeneutical approach based on the dualistic view of the linguistic sign and against its separation into a meaningful sign and a meaningless signifier, Meschonnic argues for a poetics of translating. Because texts generate meaning through their power of expression, to translate ethically involves listening to the various rhythms that characterize them: prosodic, consonantal or vocalic patterns, syntactical structures, sentence length and punctuation, among other discursive means. However, as the book illustrates, such an endeavour goes against the grain and, more precisely, against a 500-year-old tradition in the case of biblical translation. The inability of translators to give ear to rhythm in language results from a culturally transmitted deafness. Henri Meschonnic decry the generalized unwillingness to remedy this cultural condition and discusses the political implications for the subject of discourse.

The Art of Biblical Narrative Robert Alter 1997-09-17 "[H]ere is the Genesis for our generation and beyond."--Robert Fagles Genesis begins with the making of heaven and earth and all life, and ends with the image of a mummy--"Joseph"--in a coffin. In between come many of the primal stories in Western culture: Adam and Eve's expulsion from the garden of Eden, Cain's murder of Abel, Noah and the Flood, the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Abraham's binding of Isaac, the covenant of God and Abraham, Isaac's blessing of Jacob in place of Esau, the saga of Joseph and his brothers. In Robert Alter's brilliant translation, these stories cohere in a powerful narrative of the tortured relations between fathers and sons, husbands and wives, eldest and younger brothers, God and his chosen people, the people of Israel and their neighbors. Alter's translation honors the meanings and literary strategies of the ancient Hebrew and conveys them in fluent English prose. It recovers a Genesis with the continuity of theme and motif of the ancient text, while bringing the stories together in a narrative format that makes it read more like a fully integrated book.

Poetics and Interpretation of Biblical Narrative Adele Berlin 1994-06-30 Poetics, the "science" of literature, makes us aware of how texts achieve their meaning. Poetics adds interpretation. If we know how texts mean, we are in a better position to appreciate how they achieve their meaning, and to understand how they have come to mean what they do.
position to discover what a particular text means. This is a book which offers fundamental guidelines for the sensitive reading and understanding of biblical stories. - Back cover.

The World Of Biblical Literature Robert Alter 1992-03-17 Discusses the implications involved in studying the Bible as a literary text, comments on the new wave of literary biblical studies, and reexamines the verses that have dictated an entire culture.


Pen of Iron Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature Robert Alter 2010-02-28 Examines the way that the King James version of the Bible—especially the Old Testament—has influenced literary style in the works of Melville, Hemingway, Faulkner, Bellow, Marilynne Robinson, and Cormac McCarthy.