

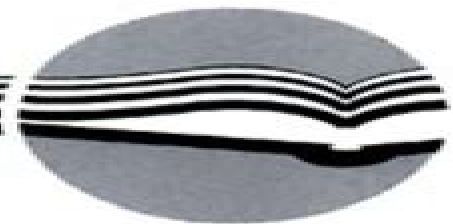
KENNETH CRAIG

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# Reading Esther

A Case for the  
Literary Carnivalesque

  
LITERARY CURRENTS IN BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION



# Reading Esther A Case For The Literary Carnavalesque Literary Currents In Biblical Interpretation

**James L. Resseguie**



## **Reading Esther A Case For The Literary Carnavalesque Literary Currents In Biblical Interpretation:**

**Reading Esther** Kenneth M. Craig, 1995-01-01 In this original interpretation of the book of Esther Kenneth Craig offers to interpreters a new way of reading this story According to Craig Esther has been undervalued and misunderstood because its true genre the literary carnivalesque has not been considered The Literary Currents in Biblical Interpretation series explores current trends within the discipline of biblical interpretation by dealing with the literary qualities of the Bible the play of its language the coherence of its final form and the relationships between text and readers Biblical interpreters are being challenged to take responsibility for the theological social and ethical implications of their readings This series encourages original readings that breach the confines of traditional biblical criticism Esther Carol Bechtel, 2004 The biblical queen Esther is one of Scripture's most fascinating persons and the drama of the book bearing her name is clearly captured in this superb commentary Carol Bechtel expertly explores the historical settings literary structures and theological themes that emerge in the book of Esther Interpretation A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching is a distinctive resource for those who interpret the Bible in the church Planned and written specifically for teaching and preaching needs this critically acclaimed biblical commentary is a major contribution to scholarship and ministry *Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries: Esther* Prof. Linda M. Day, 2005-11-01 The Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries provide compact critical commentaries on the books of the Old Testament for the use of theological students and pastors The commentaries are also useful for upper level college or university students and for those responsible for teaching in congregational settings In addition to providing basic information and insights into the Old Testament writings these commentaries exemplify the tasks and procedures of careful interpretation to assist students of the Old Testament in coming to an informed and critical engagement with the biblical texts themselves In this commentary Day addresses both perennial and contemporary concerns pertinent to the book of Esther Attention is given to literary linguistic and thematic features of the biblical text Day considers the book of Esther with an eye to concerns of gender and ethnicity as well as the theological concerns raised by divine absence in the story *Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries | Esther* Linda Day, 2005 The Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries provide compact critical commentaries on the books of the Old Testament for the use of theological students and pastors The commentaries are also useful for upper level college or university students and for those responsible for teaching in congregational settings In addition to providing basic information and insights into the Old Testament writings these commentaries exemplify the tasks and procedures of careful interpretation to assist students of the Old Testament in coming to an informed and critical engagement with the biblical texts themselves In this commentary Day addresses both perennial and contemporary concerns pertinent to the book of Esther Attention is given to literary linguistic and thematic features of the biblical text Day considers the book of Esther with an eye to concerns of gender and ethnicity as well as the theological concerns raised by divine absence in the story **An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry**

David R. Bauer, 2011-04-01 An Annotated Guide to Biblical Resources for Ministry evaluates over 2 000 books that were chosen because of their usefulness for the theological interpretation of the Bible within the context of the faith of the church significance in the history of interpretation and representation of evangelical scholarship This is one of those rare bibliographic guides that every student of religion seminarian and minister will want to have on his or her bookshelf The focus of this guide is on biblical studies It contains entries on 2 200 books written by 1 300 scholars Annotations describe and evaluate books that are highly recommended Virtually every topic in biblical studies is noted commentaries on each book of the Bible biblical histories theologies and ethics books on the canon archaeology early Judaism and interpretive methods and technical books such as grammars concordances Bible dictionaries and atlases The great strength of this guide is not only that it provides the reader with a wealth of information but also that the format it follows is eminently reader friendly The Guide is invaluable for assisting the student seminarian or minister in building a personal library I highly recommend it Jack Dean Kingsbury Professor Emeritus of Biblical Theology Union Theological Seminary in Virginia [Narrative and Other Readings in the Book of Esther](#) Else K. Holt, 2021-04-08 This collection of essays considers the Book of Esther from a literary and sociological perspective In part one Else Holt outlines the main questions of historical critical research in the Book of Esther She also discusses the theological meaning of a biblical book without God and examines how the book was transmitted through the last centuries BCE She also explores how the Hebrew and Greek variants of the Book of Esther picture its main character Esther the Jewish queen of Persia In part two Holt offers deconstructive reading of themes hidden under the surface levels of the book Chapters include discussions of Esther s initiation into her role as Persian queen the inter textual conversation with two much later texts The Arabian Nights and The Story of O and the relationship between Mordecai the Jew and his opponent Haman the Agagite as a matter of mimetic doublings The last part of the book introduces the sociological concept of ethnicity construction as the backdrop for perceiving the instigation of the Jewish festival Purim and the violence connected to it and looks at the Book of Esther as an example of trauma literature The concluding chapter analyses the moral quality of the book of Esther asking the question Is it a bedtime story [The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Narrative](#) Danna Fewell, 2016-05-30 Comprised of contributions from scholars across the globe The Oxford Handbook of Biblical Narrative is a state of the art anthology offering critical treatments of both the Bible s narratives and topics related to the Bible s narrative constructions The Handbook covers the Bible s narrative literature from Genesis to Revelation providing concise overviews of literary critical scholarship as well as innovative readings of individual narratives informed by a variety of methodological approaches and theoretical frameworks The volume as a whole combines literary sensitivities with the traditional historical and sociological questions of biblical criticism and puts biblical studies into intentional conversation with other disciplines in the humanities It reframes biblical literature in a way that highlights its aesthetic characteristics its ethical and religious appeal its organic qualities as communal literature its witness to various forms of

social and political negotiation and its uncanny power to affect readers and hearers across disparate time frames and global communities      **The Book of Esther in Modern Research** Leonard Jay Greenspoon, Sidnie White Crawford, 2003-01-01

The proceedings of a symposium entitled Esther 2000 held in Lincoln and Omaha Nebraska in April 2000 the book contains a collection of essays that engages all aspects of the biblical book of Esther From questions of textual criticism to the history of rabbinic interpretation to speculation on the modern form of commentary this collection is sure to contain something for everyone interested in the book of Esther Contributors include such well known Esther scholars as Michael Fox David Clines and Carey Moore      **Character and Ideology in the Book of Esther** Michael V. Fox, 2010-04-01

Widely praised as a seminal contribution to the study of the Old Testament when it first appeared Michael V Fox's Character and Ideology in the Book of Esther is now available in a second edition complete with an up to date critical review of recent Esther scholarship Fox's commentary based on his own translation of the Hebrew text captures the meaning and artistry of Esther's inspiring story After laying out the background information essential for properly reading Esther Fox offers commentary on the text that clearly unpacks its message and relevance Fox also looks in depth at each character in the story of Esther showing how they were carefully shaped by the book's author to teach readers a new view of how to live as Jews in foreign lands

*Comedy and Feminist Interpretation of the Hebrew Bible* Melissa Jackson, 2012-07-26 This book explores the Hebrew Bible for evidence of comedy and further asks how reading the Hebrew Bible through a comic lens might positively inform feminist interpretation The exploration is conducted with a number of Hebrew Bible narratives all of which prominently involve female characters      **Berit Olam: Ruth and Esther** Tod Linafelt, Timothy K. Beal, 2023-07-14

Some ancient works of literature survive in fragments that appear so simple and complete it's hard to imagine them as being part of a larger narrative Such is the case with Ruth and Esther On first reading they appear so simple so whole and their meanings so completely self evident Yet the closer you look the more perplexing they become Ruth and Esther offers that close look enabling readers to discover the uncertainties of the texts and demonstrating how these uncertainties are not problems to be solved but rather are integral to the narrative art of these texts In Ruth the first part of this volume Tod Linafelt highlights the most unresolved and perplexing aspects of Ruth In doing so he offers an interpretation he calls unsettling Linafelt states that it is unsettling in the sense that he often refuses to settle on a single unequivocal meaning of a particular word phrase or theme Rather he prefers to underscore the dual or even multiple meanings that the narrative so often has Another way Ruth differs from other interpretations is that Linafelt entertains the possibility that there might be complexity or ambiguity with regard to the various characters motivations the presentation of God or the book's purpose In this commentary Linafelt explores the ambiguities of meaning built into the grammar syntax and vocabulary of the story to discover how these ambiguities carry over to the larger interpretive issues of characterization theology and purpose He also lays forth an argument that the book of Ruth is intended to be read as an interlude between Judges and Samuel The second part of this

volume focuses on Esther a story of anti Judaism that raises strikingly contemporary questions concerning relations between sexism ethnocentrism and national identity In Esther Timothy Beal guides readers into the meaning of the story using rhetorical criticism He asks questions without assuming that there must be answers and allows for complexity perplexity and the importance of accidents in the text In essence Beal emphasizes the particular over the general and the tentative over the continuous however he does not altogether dismiss the importance of broader interpretations of Esther especially those focusing on narrative structure

*The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and American Popular Culture* Dan W. Clanton, Jr., Terry R. Clark, 2020-11-24 The study of the reciprocal relationship between the Bible and popular culture has blossomed in the past few decades and the time seems ripe for a broadly conceived work that assesses the current state of the field offers examples of work in that field and suggests future directions for further study This Handbook includes a wide range of topics organized under several broad themes including biblical characters such as Adam Eve David and Jesus and themes like Creation Hell and Apocalyptic in popular culture the Bible in popular cultural genres for example film comics and Jazz and lived examples such as museums and theme parks The Handbook concludes with a section taking stock of methodologies and the impact of the field on teaching and publishing The Oxford Handbook of the Bible and American Popular Culture represents a major contribution to the field by some of its leading practitioners and will be a key resource for the future development of the study of both the Bible and its role in American popular culture

[Global Bible Commentary](#) Dr. Daniel Patte, 2004-10-01 The Global Bible Commentary invites its users to expand their horizon by reading the Bible with scholars from all over the world and from different religious persuasions These scholars have approaches and concerns that often are poles apart Yet they share two basic convictions biblical interpretation always matters and reading the Bible with others is highly rewarding Each of the short commentaries of the Global Bible Commentary is a readily accessible guide for reading a biblical book Written for undergraduate and seminary students and their teachers as well as for pastors priests and Adult Sunday School classes it introduces the users to the main features of the biblical book and its content Yet each short commentary does more It also brings us a precious gift namely the opportunity of reading this biblical book as if for the first time By making explicit the specific context and the concerns from which she he reads the Bible the scholar points out to us the significance of aspects of the biblical text that we simply took for granted or overlooked Need more info Download Global Bible Commentary Marketing Brochure PDF Free Adobe Acrobat Reader If any book demonstrates the value of cultural criticism and the importance of particularity in interpretation this is it Scholars from diverse social locations in every continent bring their distinctive context to bear on the act of interpreting In so doing they shed eye opening light on the biblical texts The resulting critical dialogue with the Bible exposes the oppressive as well as the liberating dynamics of the texts while at the same time showing how the Bible might address the social political cultural and economic dynamics of our world today This collection can change the way you read the Bible scholars and students clergy and laity alike David Rhoads

Professor of New Testament Lutheran School of Theology Chicago IL Contributors Daniel Patte Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at Vanderbilt University Nashville TN USA A French Huguenot glise R form e de France he taught two years in Congo Brazzaville and read the Bible with people in France Switzerland South Africa Botswana the Philippines as well as in the USA His publications include books on hermeneutics and semiotics such as Early Jewish Hermeneutics 1975 The Religious Dimensions of Biblical Texts 1990 on Paul and Matthew such as Paul s Faith and the Power of the Gospel 1983 The Gospel according to Matthew A Structural Commentary on Matthew s Faith 1987 as well as most directly related to the GBC Ethics of Biblical Interpretation 1995 The Challenge of Discipleship 1999 Reading Israel in Romans Legitimacy and Plausibility of Divergent Interpretations ed with Cristina Grenholm 2000 The Gospel of Matthew A Contextual Introduction with Monya Stubbs Justin Ukpong and Revelation Velunta 2003 Jos Severino Croatto Professor of Exegesis Hebrew and Religious Studies at Instituto Superior Evang lico de Estudos Teol gicos ISEDET A contributor to Revista de Interpretaci n B blica Latinoamericana RIBLA and the Movement of Popular Reading of the Bible he published 22 books including three volumes on hermeneutics Exodus A Hermeneutics of Freedom 1981 Biblical Hermeneutics Toward a Theory of Reading as the Production of Meaning 1987 Hermen utica Pr ctica Los principios de la hermen utica b blica en ejemplos 2002 three volumes on G nesis 1 11 1974 1986 1997 the last one Exilio y sobrevivencia Tradiciones contraculturales en el Pentateuco three volumes on the book of Isaiah 1988 1994 2001 the last one Imaginar el futuro Estructura ret rica y querigma del Tercer Isa as Isa as 56 66 two volumes on Religious Studies 1994 2002 the last one Experiencia de lo sagrado y tradiciones religiosas Estudio de fenomenolog a de la religi n 2002 Rev Dr Nicole Wilkinson Duran after teaching New Testament in the USA South Africa Zululand in Turkey is currently teaching part time at Rosemont College and Villanova University and with her husband raising twin sons in the suburbs of Philadelphia PA She has published articles on topics ranging from gender and race in Esther to the unread Bible in Toni Morrison s novels to body symbolism in the story of John the Baptist s execution and edited with G Phillips Reading Communities Reading Scripture 2002 She is an ordained Presbyterian minister and does occasional preaching and adult Christian education Teresa Okure SHCJ a graduate from the University of Ibadan La Sorbonne cole Biblique of Jerusalem and Fordham University Ph D is Professor of New Testament and Gender Hermeneutics at the Catholic Institute of West Africa Port Harcourt Nigeria She is or has been a member of the executive committees of several associations including EATWOT Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians as Executive Secretary the International Association for Mission Studies IAMS and the Society for New Testament Studies SNTS She published more than 100 articles and six books including The Johannine Approach to Mission a Contextual Study of John 4 1 42 1988 ed Evaluating the Inculturation of Christianity in Africa 1990 and ed To Cast Fire upon the Earth Bible and Mission Collaborating in Today s Multicultural Global Context 2000 Archie Chi Chung Lee Professor of Hebrew Bible Department of Cultural and Religious Studies The Chinese University of Hong Kong A specialist of cross textual hermeneutics especially

Chinese text and the post exilic biblical tradition He is the author of several books including *A Commentary on the Book of Koheleth in Chinese* 1990 *Doing Theology with Asian Resources Ten Years in the Formation of Living Theology in Asia* 1993 *ed and Interpretation of the Megilloth in Chinese* 2003 and numerous articles including *Genesis One and the Plagues Tradition in Ps 105 Vetus Testamentum* 40 1990 257 263 *Biblical Interpretation in Asian Perspective Asia Journal of Theology* 7 1993 35 39 *The Chinese Creation Myth of Nu Kua and the Biblical Narrative in Genesis 1 11 Biblical Interpretation* 2 1994 312 324 *Cross Textual Hermeneutics on Gospel and Culture Asia Journal of Theology* 10 1996 38 48 and *Biblical Interpretation of the Return in the Postcolonial Hong Kong Biblical Interpretation* 9 1999 164 173

*The Dynamics of Violence and Revenge in the Hebrew Book of Esther* Francisco-Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, 2017-03-13 This volume offers a thematic study of an integral part of the Hebrew text of Esther namely violence In *The Dynamics of Violence and Revenge in the Hebrew Book of Esther* Francisco Javier Ruiz Ortiz makes the first ever monographic research on the topics of hostility and the mechanisms of revenge as expressed by the author of the Hebrew book of Esther The present book is divided into two parts consisting of three chapters each After an introductory chapter reviewing previous studies on the book of Esther the author analyses the main vocabulary of violence and revenge in this biblical text before studying the narrative of Esther from the point of view of violence The results of these two avenues of research are then applied on three pericopes which are representative of the dynamics of violence Each of the chosen texts illustrates how violence and revenge are used by the author to express the message of survival and the importance of the Jewish people

**Narrative Criticism of the New Testament** James L. Resseguie, 2022-10-25 Narrative criticism is a relatively recent development that applies literary methods to the study of Scripture James Resseguie suggests that this approach to reading the Bible treats the text as a self contained unit and avoids complications raised by other critical methods of interpretation Resseguie begins with an introductory chapter that surveys the methods of narrative criticism and how they can be used to discover important nuances of meaning through what he describes as a close reading of the text He then devotes chapters to the principal rhetorical devices setting point of view character rhetoric plot and reader Readers will find here an accessible introduction to the subject of narrative criticism and a richly rewarding approach to reading the Bible

**Esther and Her Elusive God** John Anthony Dunne, 2014-02-12 What if the way the book of Esther has been taught to us in church and retold to us in films cartoons and romance novels has missed the original point of the story Far from being models of piety and devotion Esther and Mordecai seem indifferent to the faith of their ancestors How then did this story become part of the Bible and gain the broad acceptance that it has If the church should not neglect the story how should it be read Esther and Her Elusive God calls Christians to avoid the common attempts to make Esther more palatable and theological and to reclaim this secular story as Scripture Readers will be encouraged to see in Esther a profound message of God's grace and faithfulness to his wayward people

**Empire and Gender in LXX Esther** Meredith J. Stone, 2018-11-09 A new perspective on essential



aspects of Esther's plot and characters for students and scholars Empire and Gender in LXX Esther foregrounds and highlights empire as the central lens in this provocative new reading of Esther This book provides a unique synchronic reading of LXX Esther with the Additions allowing the presence and negotiation of imperial power to be further illuminated throughout the story's plot Stone explores and demonstrates how performances of gender are inextricably intertwined with the exertion and negotiation of imperial power portrayed in LXX Esther and offers examples of connections to the range of imperial power experienced by Jewish people during the late Second Temple period Features An exploration of the tenets and methodology of imperial critical approaches Focused attention to the final form of LXX Esther Construction of early audiences for LXX Esther in first century BCE Ptolemaic Alexandria and Hasmonean Judea **Ruth** Tod Linafelt, David W. Cotter, Jerome T. Walsh, Chris Franke, 1999 In Ruth Tod Linafelt offers an interpretation of the book which he calls unsettling in that he refuses to settle on a single meaning in a book so fraught with complexity and ambiguity Ambiguity built into grammar syntax and vocabulary carried over into the larger issues of characterization theology and the book's purpose He also argues that Ruth is intended to read as an interlude between Judges and Samuel Esther by Timothy Beal focuses on a story of anti Judaism in an ancient world that raises contemporary questions about sexism ethnocentrism and national identity Beal questions the text without assuming that there will be univocal answers allowing for complexity perplexity and the importance of accidents Beal emphasizes the general and the tentative over the continuous Using rhetorical criticism as a way into the text Beal also focuses on its narrative structure Handel's Israelite Oratorio Libretti Deborah W. Rooke, 2012-02-23 Handel's Israelite oratorios are today little known among non specialists but in their own day they were unique pioneering and extremely popular Dating from the period 1732-1752 they combine the musical conventions of Italian opera with dramatic plots in English that are adaptations of Old Testament narratives They constitute a form of biblical interpretation but to date there has been no thoroughgoing study of the theological ideas or the attitudes towards the biblical text that might be conveyed in the oratorios libretti This book aims to fill that gap from an interdisciplinary perspective Combining the insights of present day biblical studies with those of Handelian studies Deborah W Rooke examines the libretti of ten oratorios Esther Deborah Athalia Saul Samson Joseph and his Brethren Judas Macchabaeus Solomon Susanna and Jephtha and evaluates the relationship between each libretto and the biblical story on which it is based Rooke comments on each biblical text from a modern scholarly perspective and then compares the modern interpretation with the version of the biblical narrative that appears in the relevant libretto Where the libretto is based on a prior dramatic or literary adaptation of the biblical narrative she also discusses the prior adaptation and how it relates to both the biblical text and the corresponding oratorio libretto In this way the distinctive nuances of the oratorio libretti are highlighted and each libretto is then analysed and interpreted in the light of eighteenth century religion scholarship culture and politics The result is a fascinating exploration not only of the oratorio libretti but also of how culture and context determines the nature of biblical

interpretation     Performances of Ancient Jewish Letters Marvin Lloyd Miller, 2015-09-16 This ambitious and engaging book sets itself the task of combining a wide range of approaches to cast new light on the form and function of several ancient Jewish letters in a variety of languages The focus of *The Performance of Ancient Jewish Letters* is on applying a new emerging field of performance theory to texts and arguing that letters and other documents were not just read in silence as is normal today but were performed especially when they were addressed to a community A distinctive feature of this book consists of being one of the first to apply the approach of performance criticism to ancient Jewish letters Previous treatments of ancient letters have not given enough consideration to their oral context however this book prompts the reader to listen sympathetically with the audience The Performance focuses close attention on the ways in which the engagement of the audience during the performance of a text might be read from traces present in the text itself This book invites the audience to hear a fresh reading of a family letter from Hermopolis concerning ugly tunics and castor oil festal letters about issues surrounding the celebration of Passover Purim and Hanukkah a diaspora letter on how to live in a foreign land and also an official letter concerning the building of the Jerusalem temple These letters will help us understand a text from the Dead Sea Scrolls namely MMT Marvin L Miller argues for the centrality of performance in the life of Jews of the Second Temple period an area of study that has been traditionally neglected The Performance advances the fields of orality and epistolography and supplements other scholars works in those fields

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