

Editorial: Biblical Politics

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This issue of the Bible and Critical Theory emerged from a conference sponsored by the Danish Research Council on the topic of 'Religion and Political Thought'. It was held in the beautiful city of Copenhagen, at the University on 24-25 September, 2010. Over those two days participants from around the world – China, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, France, Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Australia – discussed and debated a range of issues at the intersections between religion and politics. Some of the papers from that conference have appeared in *Sino-Christian Studies*, Volume 11 (2011). Those that focused more specifically on the intersections between the Bible and politics are published here. They deal with contemporary issues relating to the Bible in the public sphere (Sherwood), dimensions on the continued debates over Paul (Crossley, Ojakangas and Boer), or the subtle patterns of power in the narratives of King Saul (Kirova). The article by Rudolf Siebert, edited by Mike Ott, was not presented at the conference, but it has a natural home here. It deals with the deeper political patterns of the religions that claim parts of the Bible as their sacred scripture, specifically from the perspective of the Critical Theory of Religion (www.criticaltheoryofreligion.org). Siebert has for the last 35 years convened an annual, week-long conference on 'The Future of Religion'. This thoroughly enthralling event, drawing on participants from Eastern and Western Europe, as well as further afield, is held in the ancient walled port of Dubrovnik, formerly in Yugoslavia and now in Croatia.

This issue has eight book reviews.

Daniel Langton, *The Apostle Paul in the Jewish Imagination: A Study in Modern Jewish-Christian Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. Reviewed by Jay Twomey.

Colin Davis, *Critical Excess: Overreading in Derrida, Deleuze, Levi-nas, Žižek and Cavell*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010. Reviewed by Christine Mitchell.

Daniel Bodi, *The Demise of the Warlord: A New Look at the David Story*. Hebrew Bible Monographs, 26. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix, 2010. Reviewed by Peter Miscall.

Tim Frank, *Daughter of Lachish*. Eugene: Resource Publications, 2010. Reviewed by Judith McKinlay.

Ovidiu Creangă, ed. *Men and Masculinity in the Hebrew Bible and Beyond*. The Bible in the Modern World 33. Sheffield: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2010. Reviewed by Milena Kirova.

Keith Bodner, *1 Samuel: A Narrative Commentary*. Hebrew Bible Monographs 19. Sheffield Phoenix Press 2009. Reviewed by Benjamin J.M. Johnson.

Gail P. C. Streete, *Redeemed Bodies: Women Martyrs in Early Christ-ianity*. Westminster John Knox, 2009. Reviewed by Philip Michael Forness.

Warren Carter, *John and Empire: Initial Explorations*. New York: T&T Clark International, 2008. Reviewed by Coleman A. Baker.



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