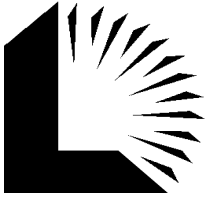


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*A Womanist Reading of Hebrew Bible Narratives as the Politics of Belonging from an Outsider Within*

By Vanessa Lovelace

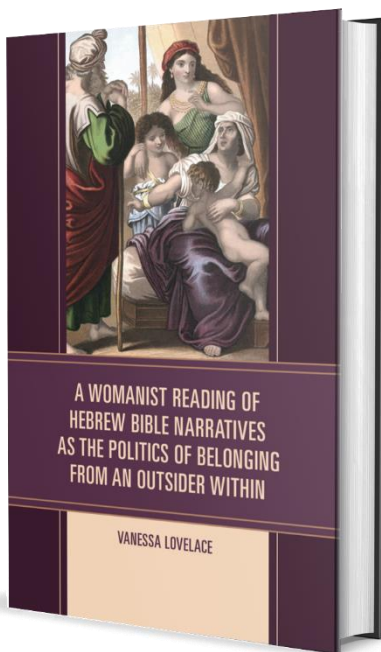


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ABOUT THIS BOOK

*A Womanist Reading of Hebrew Bible Narratives as the Politics of Belonging from an Outsider Within* analyzes select biblical narratives, including Noah’s curse in Genesis 9; Sarah and Hagar in Genesis 16 and 21; Mother in Israel in Judges 5; and Jezebel, Phoenician Princess and Queen of Israel in 1 and 2 Kings. This analysis demonstrates how these narratives were first used by ancient biblical writers to include some and exclude others as members of the nation of Israel and then appropriated by White supremacists in the antebellum era and the early twentieth century to do the same in America. The book analyzes the simultaneously intersecting and interconnecting dynamics among race, gender, class, and sexuality and biblical narratives to construct boundaries between “us versus them,” particularly the politicization of motherhood to deny certain groups’ inclusion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Vanessa Lovelace** is associate dean and associate professor of Hebrew Bible Old Testament at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

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#### *PRAISE FOR A WOMANIST READING OF HEBREW BIBLE NARRATIVES AS THE POLITICS OF BELONGING FROM AN OUTSIDER WITHIN*

“Dr. Vanessa Lovelace offers a valuable overview of the historical trajectory in the evolution of the term womanist and describes its gradual entrance into Biblical Studies. Then, through a womanist lens, she foregrounds the politics of belonging as a key framework to expose the complexities involved in the reading and interpretation of some biblical stories that emphasize the ideation of motherhood, nation, blackness, slavery, and citizenship. This is a must read for scholars and students who want to expand and deepen their horizons of reflection in the understanding of biblical interpretation and to see the impact of intersectionality (race, ethnicity, gender, class, etc.) in the ancient, modern, and contemporary worlds.”

— **Ahida Calderón Pilarski, President, Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS), Professor of Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, Saint Anselm College**

“This book is a courageous, rich, and intellectually stimulating offering to the growing and expanding literature on womanist readings of the Bible. Lovelace critically analyzes the complexities surrounding the politics of inclusion and belonging as portrayed in select texts in Genesis and Deuteronomistic narratives. Topical and comprehensive, these essays add to our understanding of these select biblical texts and the troubled and sensitive questions surrounding biblical authority, intersectionality, race, gender, motherhood, boundaries, nation, citizenship and belonging when viewed through and in conversation with the history and experience of African American women. The detailed and exhaustive introduction, an overview of womanism and womanist interpretation of the Bible, is informative and extremely helpful. The book is essential reading for scholars and researchers in Hebrew Bible, womanist approaches and hermeneutics, cultural studies, and postcolonial studies.”

— **Monica Jyotsna Melanchthon, University of Divinity, Australia**