

## Citation metadata

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## Main content

Article Preview :

JOSHUA. By L. Daniel Hawk. Berit Olam. Pp. xxxii + 303. Collegeville, Minn.: The Liturgical Press, 2000. Cloth, \$39.95.

The interpreter of the book of Joshua faces a daunting task. Knotty historical problems and textual obscurities abound, as does terrible violence toward the Canaanites. Troubling questions surface concerning the ethics of the conquest and the morality of the God who achieved it. The book's diverse contents--that is, battle reports, cultic ceremonies, boundary lists, etc.--require the scholar to command a wide range of archaeological, geographical, literary, cultural, and theological details. Its diversity also severely taxes attempts to discern internal literary coherence. At one crucial point the book seems to contradict itself, celebrating that "Joshua took the whole land" (Josh 11:23) and then listing "the land that remains" (Josh 13:2). The present volume capably navigates the complex landscape and, for the most part, succeeds admirably, if not persuasively, in offering a coherent literary reading of the whole book.

In the introduction (pp. xi-xxxii), Hawk sketches the background to his reading of Joshua. Typical commentary introductions treat technical issues of textual criticism, history of composition, historical and cultural background, and theology. Consistent with his literary focus, however, Hawk introduces the literary basis for his interpretation. He immediately orients the reader to the book's main themes (see below), summarizes the literary devices that give it coherence, introduces the book's main characters as literary figures and its author as "narrator," and explains Joshua's relationship to Deuteronomy. Hawk's primary thematic interest soon becomes apparent in his important discussion of how a narrative helps people construct their identity (pp. xxviii-xxxi). Thirteen chapters of commentary, each chapter treating a context, follow and comprise the bulk of the book (pp. 1-281). The reader will immediately notice Hawk's use of clever chapter titles and subtitles (e.g., "Strangers in the Night" about Rahab [chap. 2], "Ai Spy" about the battle for Ai [chap. 7], etc.). Some will probably soon find their way into the titles of scholarly papers and religious homilies, in itself a small contribution.

More importantly, the author prefaces his commentary on Joshua 2-12 (Hawk, chapters 3 to 9) with a chapter highlighting their different genres, important motifs, common plot structures, and use of rituals (pp. 19-33). It benefits readers by providing an interesting, insightful overview of the "forest" (i.e., the whole section) before leading them through the "trees" (the individual narratives). But in my view the author's strategy stumbles slightly because the latter tend to repeat too much content of the former. I highly commend the strategy of such overviews and wish that a similar chapter had prefaced the book's second half (Joshua 13-24) or whatever smaller section that Hawk might deem a unit. I also applaud another authorial strategy, his incorporation of twelve charts within the commentary chapters to help readers grasp, for example, the motif of command-execution which recurs in several narratives (pp. 60-61, 88-89) and the chiasmic structures of chapters 13-21 (p. 181) and chapter 22 (p. 231).

Several charts allow the author to compare...

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Anthony Joshua won his first 22 pro fights and was heavyweight champion of the world between 2016 and 2019 until a stunning loss to Andy Ruiz Jr. The Brit avenged the loss later in 2019 with a unanimous decision that was worth more than \$35 million. Anthony Joshua won his first 22 pro fights and was heavyweight champion of the world between 2016 and 2019 until a stunning loss to Andy Ruiz Jr. The Brit avenged the loss later in 2019 with a unanimous decision that was worth more than \$35 million. Anthony Joshua news, fight information, videos, photos, interviews, and career updates, Page 1. IBF, WBO, WBA, IBO heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua is looking forward to the moment when Deontay Wilder breaks his silence. Wilder has been unusually quiet for several months, without any statemen Read More. Anthony Joshua: I Want To Steamroll Through Pulev, Fight Fury! Anthony Joshua. ID# 659461. Pro Boxing. Am Boxing. All Sports. 23. 1. birth name. Anthony Oluwafemi Olaseni Joshua. alias. 'AJ'. born. 1989-10-15 / age 31. nationality. United Kingdom. Joshua 'hopeful' fans can attend world title defence against Pulev. Boxing. Date set for Joshua's heavyweight world title defence against Pulev. Boxing. Fury has 'moved on' from trilogy bout with Wilder amid further delays.