

# The Art Of Biblical Narrative Robert Alter

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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 aids interpretation. If we know how texts mean, we are in a better 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.

Genesis Robert Alter 1997 A new translation of the first book of the Bible honors meanings and literary strategies of the ancient Hebrew language, while bringing the stories together in a narrative format that makes it read more like a fully integrated book

Genesis: Translation and Commentary Robert Alter 1997-09-17 "[Here 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's—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 tortuous 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 a wholly conceived and fully realized book. His insightful, fully informed commentary illuminates the book in all its dimensions.

The Art of Biblical Poetry Robert Alter 1985 Analyzes the structure, functions, and metaphors of the poetry in Psalms, Job, Proverbs, and other books of the Old Testament

The Art of Bible Translation Robert Alter 2020-09-08 From the recipient of the National Jewish Book Award for Lifetime Achievement, a "hugely entertaining and irreverent" (Adam Gopnik, New Yorker) account of the

art of translating the Hebrew Bible into English In this brief book, award-winning biblical translator Robert Alter offers a personal and passionate account of what he learned about the art of Bible translation during the two decades he spent completing his own English version of the Hebrew Bible. Showing why the Bible and its meaning can be brought to life in English only by re-creating the subtle and powerful literary style of the original text, Alter discusses the principal aspects of biblical Hebrew that any translator should try to reproduce: word choice, syntax, word play and sound play, rhythm, and dialogue. In the process, he provides an illuminating and accessible introduction to biblical style that also offers insights about the art of translation far beyond the Bible.

*The Art of Biblical Poetry* Robert Alter 2011-09-06 Three decades ago, renowned literary expert Robert Alter radically expanded the horizons of biblical scholarship by recasting the Bible as not only a human creation but a work of literary art deserving studied criticism. In *The Art of Biblical Poetry*, his companion to the seminal *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, Alter takes his analysis beyond narrative craft to investigate the use of Hebrew poetry in the Bible. Updated with a new preface, myriad revisions, and passages from Alter's own critically acclaimed biblical translations, *The Art of Biblical Poetry* is an indispensable tool for understanding the Bible and its poetry.

*Necessary Angels* Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature Robert Alter 1991 An exposition of the relationship between tradition and modernity reflected in the writings of three Jewish scholars

**Literary Approaches to the Bible**  
Douglas Mangum 2018-03-14 The study

of the Bible has long included a literary aspect with great attention paid not only to what was written but also to how it was expressed. The detailed analysis of biblical books and passages as written texts has benefited from the study of literature in classical philology, ancient rhetoric, and modern literary criticism. This volume of the *Lexham Methods Series* introduces the various ways the study of literature has been used in biblical studies. Most literary approaches emphasize the study of the text alone--its structure, its message, and its use of literary devices--rather than its social or historical background. The methods described in *Literary Approaches to the Bible* are focused on different ways of analyzing the text within its literary context. Some of the techniques have been around for centuries, but the theories of literary critics from the early 20th century to today had a profound impact on biblical interpretation. In this book, you will learn about those literary approaches, how they were adapted for biblical studies, and what their strengths and weaknesses are.

**The Dynamics of Biblical Parallelism**  
Adele Berlin 1992 For years scholars of biblical poetry have defined parallelism as the simple correspondence of one verse, phrase, or word with another. In this book, Adele Berlin approaches biblical parallelism as a linguistic phenomenon, as a complex interplay among all aspects of language. Her goal is to get at the basics of what biblical parallelism is and how it works. Berlin's examination of the grammatical, lexical, semantic, phonetic, structural, and psychological aspects of parallelism yields an elegantly simple model that reveals the complex workings of this phenomenon. Her book will be a

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valuable guide for both scholars and students of biblical poetry.

**Ancient Israel: The Former Prophets: Joshua, Judges, Samuel, and Kings: A Translation with Commentary** Robert Alter 2013-04 Chronicles the ancient history of Israel and its prophets, from Samson to Elijah.

**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.

*The David Story: A Translation with Commentary of 1 and 2 Samuel* Robert Alter 2009-10-21 "A masterpiece of contemporary Bible translation and commentary."--Los Angeles Times Book Review, Best Books of 1999 Acclaimed for its masterful new translation and insightful commentary, *The David Story* is a fresh, vivid rendition of one of the great works in Western literature. Robert Alter's brilliant translation gives us David, the beautiful, musical hero who slays Goliath and, through his struggles with Saul, advances to the kingship of Israel. But this David is also fully human: an ambitious, calculating man who navigates his life's course with a flawed moral vision. The consequences for him, his family, and his nation are tragic and bloody. Historical personage and full-blooded imagining, David is the creation of a literary artist comparable to the Shakespeare of the history plays.

Modern Hebrew Literature Robert Alter 1975 "Mendele Mocher Sforim. Shem and Japheth on the train.--Peretz, Y. L. Scenes from Limbo.--Feierberg, M. Z. In the evening.--Ahad Ha-Am. Imitation and assimilation.--Bialik, H. N. The short Friday. Revealment and concealment in language.--

Brenner, Y. H. The way out.--Barash, A. At heaven's gate.--Agnon, S. Y. Agunot. The lady and the peddler. At the outset of the day. Forevermore.--Hazaz, H. Rahamim. The sermon.--Yizhar, S. The prisoner.--Amichai, Y. The times my father died.--Oz, A. Before his time.--Yehoshua, A. B. Facing the forests."

*Nabokov and the Real World* Robert Alter 2021-03-16 From award-winning literary scholar Robert Alter, a masterful exploration of how Nabokov used artifice to evoke the dilemmas, pain, and exaltation of the human condition Admirers and detractors of Vladimir Nabokov have viewed him as an ingenious contriver of literary games, teasing and even outsmarting his readers through his 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, many critics and readers have thought of him as a writer uninterested in the world outside literature. Robert 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 memoir, lectures, and short stories to major novels such as *Lolita*. He demonstrates how the self-reflexivity of Nabokov's fiction becomes a vehicle for expressing very real concerns. What emerges is a portrait of a brilliant stylist who is at once serious and playful, who cared deeply about human relationships and the burden of loss, and who was acutely sensitive to the ways political ideologies can distort human values. Offering timeless insights into literature's most

fabulous artificer, Nabokov and the Real World makes an elegant and compelling case for Nabokov's relevance today.

*The Women of Genesis* Sharon Pace Jeansonne 1990 The women of Genesis 12-50 function as much more than ancillary characters to men. Through close attention to the literary features of the text, Jeansonne depicts Sarah, the daughters of Lot, Hagar, Rebekah, Rachel and Leah, Dinah, Tamar, and Potiphar's wife as integral persons who shaped Israel's destiny, revealed perspectives on God's involvement in the course of history, and portrayed human failure, freedom, and strength.

**The Art of Biblical Poetry** Robert Alter 2011-09-06 Three decades ago, renowned literary expert Robert Alter radically expanded the horizons of biblical scholarship by recasting the Bible as not only a human creation but a work of literary art deserving studied criticism. In *The Art of Biblical Poetry*, his companion to the seminal *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, Alter takes his analysis beyond narrative craft to investigate the use of Hebrew poetry in the Bible. Updated with a new preface, myriad revisions, and passages from Alter's own critically acclaimed biblical translations, *The Art of Biblical Poetry* is an indispensable tool for understanding the Bible and its poetry.

*1, 2 Kings* Paul R. House 1995 One in an ongoing series of esteemed and popular Bible commentary volumes based on the New International Version text.

**The Invention of Hebrew Prose** Robert Alter 1988

*The Five Books of Moses: A Translation with Commentary* Robert Alter 2008-10-17 "A modern classic....Thrilling and constantly illuminating."—Michael Dirda, *Washington Post Book World* Through a

distinguished career of critical scholarship and translation, Robert Alter has equipped us to read the Hebrew Bible as a powerful, cohesive work of literature. In this landmark work, Alter's masterly translation and probing commentary combine to give contemporary readers the definitive edition of *The Five Books*. Winner of the PEN Center USA Literary Award for Translation and the Koret Jewish Book Award for Translation, a *Newsweek* Top 15 Book, *Los Angeles Times* Favorite Book, and *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book.

*Canon and Creativity* Robert Alter 2000-01-01 Alter explores the ways in which a range of iconoclastic 20th century authors have put to use the stories, language, and imagery found in the Hebrew Bible. Includes attention on Franz Kafka's "Amerika" and James Joyce's "Ulysses".

**The Literary Guide to the Bible** Robert Alter 1987 Offers guidance for reading and studying each book of the Old and New Testament.

**Biblical Narrative and the Death of the Rhapsode** Robert S. Kawashima 2004-12-09 Informed by literary theory and Homeric scholarship as well as biblical studies, *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, there are substantive differences between the bodies of work. Kawashima views biblical narrative as the result of a

specifically written verbal art that we should counterpose to the oral-traditional art of epic. Beyond this strictly historical thesis, the study has theoretical implications for the study of narrative, literature, and oral tradition. Indiana Studies in Biblical Literature -- Herbert Marks, General Editor

**The Art of Biblical Narrative** Robert Alter 2011-04-26 From celebrated translator of the Hebrew Bible Robert Alter, the classic study of the Bible as literature, a winner of the National Jewish Book Award. Renowned critic and translator Robert Alter's *The Art of Biblical Narrative* has radically expanded our view of the Bible by recasting it 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, these writers reshaped not only history, but also the art of storytelling itself.

**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

**Ethics and Politics of Translating** Henri Meschonnic 2011-07-12 What if meaning were the last thing that mattered in language? In this essay, Henri Meschonnic explains what it means to translate the sense of language and how to do it. In a radical stand against a hermeneutical approach based on the dualistic view of the linguistic sign and against its separation into a meaningful signified and a meaningless

signifier, Henri 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 2500-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 decries the generalized unwillingness to remedy this cultural condition and discusses the political implications for the subject of discourse.

**The Pleasures of Reading** Robert Alter 1996 A distinguished critic rescues literature from the ivory tower and reestablishes reading as a personal source of complex pleasure and insight.

**The Face of Old Testament Studies** David W. Baker 2004-10-01 Leading scholars provide an overview of current issues in Old Testament studies.

**Reading Biblical Narrative** J. P. Fokkelman 2000-03-01 Narrator, characters, action, hero, quest, plot, time and space, entrances and exits--these are the essential components of all narrative literature. This authoritative and engaging introduction to the literary features of biblical narrative and poetry will help the reader grasp the full significance of these components, allowing them to enter more perceptively into the narrative worlds created by the great writers of the Bible.

**The Art of Biblical Narrative** Robert

Alter 2011-04-26 Since it was first published nearly three decades ago, *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. Renowned critic and translator Robert Alter presents the Hebrew Bible as a cohesive literary work, one whose many authors used innovative devices such as parallelism, contrastive dialogue, and narrative tempo to tell one of the most revolutionary stories of human history: the revelation of a single god.

The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary (Vol. Three-Volume Set)

Robert Alter 2018-12-18 A landmark event: the complete Hebrew Bible in the award-winning translation that delivers the stunning literary power of the original. A masterpiece of deep learning and fine sensibility, Robert Alter's translation of the Hebrew Bible, now complete, reanimates one of the formative works of our culture. Capturing its brilliantly compact poetry and finely wrought, purposeful prose, Alter renews the Old Testament as a source of literary power and spiritual inspiration. From the family frictions of Genesis and King David's flawed humanity to the serene wisdom of Psalms and Job's incendiary questioning of God's ways, these magnificent works of world literature resonate with a startling immediacy. Featuring Alter's generous commentary, which quietly alerts readers to the literary and historical dimensions of the text, this is the definitive edition of the Hebrew Bible.

Text in Context A. D. H. Mayes

2000-09-07 The scholarly study of the Old Testament is now marked by a rich diversity of approaches and concerns. In the last two decades, an interest in the text and the implications for

its interpretation is no longer the preserve of a single scholarly community, while the reconstruction of the history of the people from whom it derived has been transformed by new methods. This new book published under the auspices of the Society for Old Testament Study reflects these new approaches and developments, and has a particular concentration on literary and historical study. Thus, it not only clearly recognizes the diversity now inherent in 'Old Testament study', but also welcomes the integration into its field of the wide range of approaches available in current literary and historical investigation. The study of the biblical text and how it is received and interpreted by its various readerships has a certain logical priority over the study of its historical background and authorship. Yet an ongoing investigation of issues relating to the latter cannot await definitive conclusions on the former. So, essays on the text and its reception discuss primary issues which arise in Old Testament study, while those on background and authorship reflect the continued vitality of, and the fresh perspective possible in, more traditional scholarly concerns.

**The Book of Psalms: A Translation 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.

**The Art of Biblical Narrative** Robert Alter 2011-04-26 From celebrated translator of the Hebrew Bible Robert Alter, the classic study of the Bible as literature, a winner of the

National Jewish Book Award. Renowned critic and translator Robert Alter's *The Art of Biblical Narrative* has radically expanded our view of the Bible by recasting it 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, these writers reshaped not only history, but also the art of storytelling itself.

**Strong As Death Is Love: The Song of Songs, Ruth, Esther, Jonah, and Daniel, A Translation with Commentary** 2015-03-02 "A pleasure to read. . . . Alter has given fresh life to some of the most beloved . . . books in our heritage."—Philadelphia Inquirer *The Song of Songs; Ruth; Esther; Jonah; and Daniel* offer readers a range of pleasures not usually associated with the Bible. As distant in time from the Five Books of Moses as Updike is from Shakespeare, these Late Biblical books are innovative, entertaining literary works. Women often stand center stage. *The Song of Songs* is a celebration of young love, frankly sensuous, with no reference to God or covenant. It offers some of the most beautiful love poems of the ancient world. The story of Queen Esther's shrewd triumph is also a secular entertainment, with clear traces of farce and sly sexual comedy. The character of Ruth embodies the virtues of loyalty, love, and charity in a harmonious world. Enigma replaces harmony in Daniel's feverish night dreams. The apocalyptic strangeness of Daniel echoes in works from the New Testament's Book of Revelations to the lyrics of Bob

Dylan. And Jonah, the tale of a giant fish who, on God's command, swallows the prophet and imprisons him in his dark wet innards for three days, ends with a question that lingers, unanswered, leaving the reader to ponder the many limitations of humankind.

*The Wisdom Books: Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes: A Translation with Commentary* Robert Alter 2011-10-03 Presents a modern translation of the books of Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes in the Old Testament, providing an annotation and commentary for each verse.

*A Lion for Love* Robert Alter 1986 Traces the life of the nineteenth century French novelist, attempts to portray his complex personality, and analyzes his major works.

**The Art Of Biblical Narrative** Robert Alter 1981-07-30 Analyzes the Old Testament in terms of conventions, narration, dialogue, characterization, and literary technique

*The Art Of Biblical Narrative* Robert Alter 1983-08-03 In what is both a radical approach to the Bible, and a fundamental return to its narrative prose, Robert Alter reads the Old Testament with new eyes—the eyes of a literary critic. Alter takes the old yet simple step of reading the Bible as a literary creation.

*Reading the Old Testament* John Barton 1984-01-01 John Barton's revised classic text is intended for students who have already learned some of the techniques of biblical study and who wish to explore the implications and aims of the various critical methods currently in use. Chapters include: form criticism, redaction criticism, canonical criticism, structuralism, reader-response criticism, and postmodern approaches. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.  
*Rogue's Progress* Robert Alter 1964