

B - 32. - a - 341

## Bible and Theology in Africa

Knut Holter  
*General Editor*

Vol. 2

## Interpreting the Old Testament in Africa

Papers from the International  
Symposium on Africa and the  
Old Testament in Nairobi,  
October 1999

Edited by  
Mary Getui, Knut Holter,  
& Victor Zinkurati



PETER LANG

New York • Washington, D.C./Baltimore • Boston • Bern  
Frankfurt am Main • Berlin • Brussels • Vienna • Oxford



PETER LANG

New York • Washington, D.C./Baltimore • Boston • Bern  
Frankfurt am Main • Berlin • Brussels • Vienna • Oxford

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

International Symposium on Africa and  
the Old Testament (1999: Nairobi, Kenya)

Interpreting the Old Testament in Africa: papers from the International  
Symposium on Africa and the Old Testament in Nairobi,  
October 1999 / edited by Mary Getui, Knut Holter, and Victor Zinkuratiire.

p. cm. — (Bible and theology in Africa; vol. 2)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Bible. O.T.—Criticism, interpretation, etc.—Africa, Sub-Saharan—  
Congresses. I. Getui, Mary N. II. Holter, Knut.

III. Zinkuratiire, Victor. IV. Title. V. Series.

BS1188 .I54 221.6'096—dc21 00-059987

ISBN 0-8204-4978-4

ISSN 1525-9846

**Die Deutsche Bibliothek-CIP-Einheitsaufnahme**

Interpreting the Old Testament in Africa: papers from the International  
Symposium on Africa and the Old Testament in Nairobi,  
October 1999 / ed. by: Mary Getui....

—New York; Washington, D.C./Baltimore; Boston; Bern;  
Frankfurt am Main; Berlin; Brussels; Vienna; Oxford: Lang.  
(Bible and theology in Africa; Vol. 2)  
ISBN 0-8204-4978-4

The paper in this book meets the guidelines for permanence and durability  
of the Committee on Production Guidelines for Book Longevity  
of the Council of Library Resources.



U BO 3690235

© 2001 Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., New York

All rights reserved.

Reprint or reproduction, even partially, in all forms such as microfilm,  
xerography, microfiche, microcard, and offset strictly prohibited.

Printed in the United States of America

## **Table of Contents**

### **Preface**

ix

*Mary Getui, Knut Holter, Victor Zinkuratiire:*

1

### **Introduction**

### **Mapping the Context of Old Testament Studies in Africa**

5

*Jesse Mugambi:*

7

### **Africa and the Old Testament**

*Knut Holter:*

27

### **The Current State of Old Testament Scholarship in Africa: Where Are We at the Turn of the Century?**

27

### **Finding Africa in the Old Testament**

41

*Marta Høyland Lavik:*

43

### **The “African” Texts of the Old Testament and Their African Interpretations**

*Tewoldemedhin Habtu:*

55

### **The Images of Egypt in the Old Testament: Reflections on African Hermeneutics**

*David Tuesday Adamo:*

65

### **The Images of Cush in the Old Testament: Reflections on African Hermeneutics**

<b>Using Africa to Interpret the Old Testament</b>	75
<i>Louis Jonker:</i> Towards a “Communal” Approach for Reading the Bible in Africa	77
<i>Aloo Osotsi Mojola:</i> The Social Sciences and the Study of the Old Testament in Africa: Some Methodological Considerations	89
<i>Hendrik Bosman:</i> All Past and Present But Little Future? African and Old Testament Concepts of Time and History	101
<i>Sammy Githuku:</i> Taboos on Counting	113
<i>Jonathan Gichaara:</i> What’s in a Name? African Versus Old Testament Nomenclature	119
<i>Joseph Muutuki:</i> Using the Kamba Culture to Interpret Old Testament Covenants	125
<b>Using the Old Testament to Interpret Africa</b>	131
<i>Madipoane Masenya (ngwana’ Mphahlele):</i> Wisdom and Wisdom Converge: Selected Old Testament and Northern Sotho Proverbs	133
<i>Constance Shisanya:</i> A Reflection on the Hagar Narratives in Genesis Through the Eyes of a Kenyan Woman	147
<i>Bungishabaku Kaiho:</i> Jeremiah 22: Implications for the Exercise of Political Power in Africa	153
<i>Pauline Otieno:</i> Interpreting the Book of Psalms in the Coptic Orthodox Church of Kenya	159
<i>Philomena Mwaura:</i> The Old Testament in the Nabii Christian Church of Kenya	165

<i>Margaret Aringo:</i> Work in the Old Testament and in African Tradition: Implications for Today	171
<i>Anne Nasimiyyu Wasike:</i> Genesis 1–2 and Some Elements of Diversion From the Original Meaning of the Creation of Man and Woman	175
<i>Mary Getui:</i> The Bible in African Theology	181
<i>Serapio Kabazzi Kisirinya:</i> Interpreting the Old “Testament” in Africa: Last Will, Contract or Covenant?	189
<b>Translating the Old Testament in Africa</b>	193
<i>Peter Renju:</i> United Bible Societies’ Strategies for Old Testament Translation in Africa	195
<i>Leonidas Kalugila:</i> Central Issues of Old Testament Translation in Africa	205
<i>Victor Zinkuratire:</i> Morphological and Syntactical Correspondences Between Hebrew and Bantu Languages	217
Index of Authors	227
Index of Subjects	233
Index of Biblical References	237
List of Contributors	245