

INTRODUCING A NEW MONOGRAPH IN THE

# Intercultural Biblical Hermeneutics Series

The Intercultural Biblical Hermeneutics Series is offered to Bible scholars and interested practitioners with a twofold purpose: to present the fruits of ongoing research in the new field of empirical intercultural hermeneutics, and to foster further conversation and collaboration.

IBHS Monograph No. 2 | 2014

## Toward a Communal Reading of 2 Samuel 13: Ideology and Power within the Intercultural Bible Reading Process

Charlene van der Walt

In the pages of this second monograph in the Intercultural Biblical Hermeneutics Series, the reader witnesses women on a journey with the “other,” unlocking new interpretive realities, finding new paths through old biblical landscapes, and uncovering new perspectives on their own experience. *Toward a Communal Reading of 2 Samuel 13: Ideology and Power within the Intercultural Bible Reading Process* recounts Charlene van der Walt’s use of a shared reading of the biblical story of Tamar’s silencing to facilitate intercultural conversation on difficult subject matter—rape and violence against women. Participants in the intercultural Bible reading project, all of them residents of Stellenbosch, South Africa, speak from a diversity of cultural backgrounds. The intercultural Bible reading process allows for a creative interaction among these differing perspectives, and van der Walt documents ways it issues in greater social awareness, particularly among those occupying more privileged positions in society.

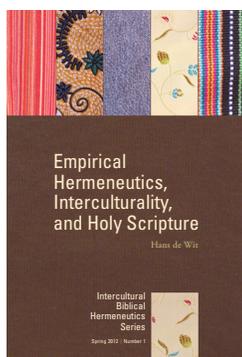
© 2014. 168 pages. Paper. ISBN: 0-936273-81-X

Charlene van der Walt coordinates a master’s degree program at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, exploring the intersection of gender, health, and theology in the African context. She earned a ThD at the university in 2010, and in a postdoctoral fellowship there she studied reading strategies of contemporary Bible readers. She is an ordained minister in the Dutch Reformed Church and serves as pastor for Maitland Community Church, Cape Town.

IBHS Monograph No. 1 | 2012

## Empirical Hermeneutics, Interculturality, and Holy Scripture

Hans de Wit



This monograph addresses whether the process of reading Bible stories jointly, undertaken by groups from radically different cultural and sociopolitical contexts, can contribute to participants’ transformation and changed perspectives. Can intercultural dialogue on the meaning of fundamental narratives—Holy Scripture—contribute to justice and liberation? Can cultural differences, when rendered hermeneutically operative, give depth to dialogue on the meaning of these stories, so that faith becomes what it is meant to be, a searching and reaching for truth?

© 2012. 97 pages. Paper. ISBN: 0-936273-80-1

Hans (J. H.) de Wit is a member of the Faculty of Theology, VU University Amsterdam, and holds the Dom Hélder Câmara chair for liberation and peace.

“The launching of this new series in intercultural biblical hermeneutics is to be warmly welcomed. For quite some years now, this critical project, which was first given expression in the volume *Through the Eyes of Another*, has yielded impressive results. Indeed, it has established itself as a highly innovative and sophisticated approach in biblical criticism by way of its focus on real readers in small communities reading the same text and exchanging such readings with other communities and readers around the world—all in the wake and interest of a global Christianity.

Fernando F. Segovia  
Oberlin Graduate Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity  
Vanderbilt University

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Hans de Wit, Mary H. Schertz



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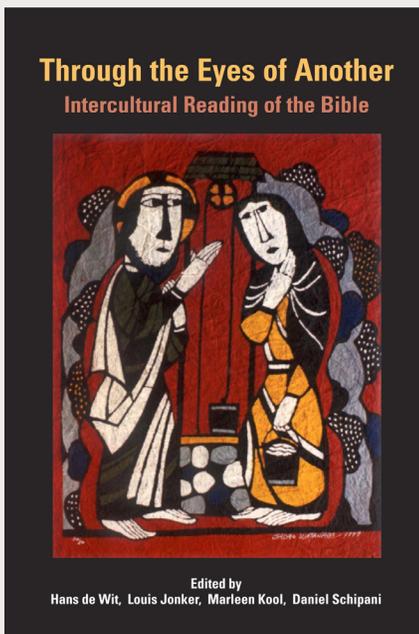
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### Through the Eyes of Another: Intercultural Reading of the Bible



Edited by Hans de Wit, Louis Jonker,  
Marleen Kool, and Daniel S. Schipani

This book documents an unprecedented three-year research study centered on the story of the encounter of Jesus with a Samaritan woman. The study involved a unique partnership of committed and creative ordinary readers, expert teachers and other pastoral leaders, and Bible and theology scholars, representing many countries in five continents.

The book starts with a thorough description of the research project together with colorful windows on the actual experience of groups who read the John 4 story and interacted with other readers from very different cultural backgrounds. It continues with several case studies that helpfully focus and deepen those observations, with special attention to contextual and intercontextual dynamics. Then follow critical analyses of various dimensions of the hermeneutical and communication processes involved in the experience. Finally, a

“Quietly, almost imperceptibly, biblical study has been undergoing a Copernican revolution. Much of the impetus comes from the Southern hemisphere, but Eurocentric methods are also undergoing change. People are recovering the Bible’s capacity to act as a catalyst for self-criticism and transformation. They are learning to read scripture from multicultural perspectives, and have their own preconceptions challenged by the authenticity of the experience of others’ encounters with the text. Brilliantly conceived and painstakingly presented, this *tour de force* might just save biblical study from its Babylonian captivity to dogmatism and cultural isolation.”

Walter Wink  
Professor of Bible Interpretation  
Auburn Theological Seminary

number of implications are drawn for practical theology and theological education, hermeneutical practices and studies, and ecumenical and missiological endeavors.

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