
This volume stems from the Union Theological Seminary dissertation of the author and analyzes child-centered socio-historical hermeneutics as it relates to the HB. The first chapter reviews the secondary literature, introduces the interdisciplinary field of childhood studies, and begins to discuss the notion of biblical childhoods, concluding that children (defined as two- to three-year-olds to twelve- to thirteen-year-olds) had economic value in the ancient world. Koepf-Taylor then examines infertility as a biblical trope (in Gen 29–30 and Isa 54 particularly) and argues that in a subsistence agricultural economy children are needed for survival. In another chapter, the author argues that the HB emphasizes the education of children as vital to communal survival (e.g., Ps 78). In a final chapter, she deals with biblical language of child death and suffering and notes that a threat to children in the ancient world is a threat to the community, not an attack on an innocent. Overall the book makes a valuable contribution to this burgeoning field within biblical scholarship by introducing some of the major issues at stake.

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