CONTENTS

Acknowledgments i Abbreviations x INTRODUCTION
Introduction
Chapter 1
POETICS AND INTERPRETATION
1.1. A Literary Study of the Biblical Narratives 1
1.1.1. A Literary and Synchronic Approach
1.1.2. Biblical Literary Criticism and the
Historical Method 1
1.1.3. A Literary Approach and the "Character"
of the Biblical Narratives
1.1.4. Poetics and Interpretation 1
1.1.5. Specific and General Poetics 2
1.2. A Close Reading of Three Interpretations 2
1.2.1. The Story about Hannah
1.2.2. Robert Polzin's Interpretation of 1 Samuel 1
1.2.2.1. Polzin's Method 3
1.2.2.2. A Narrative about the Birth of Kingship 3
1.2.2.3. Polzin's Reading: A Non-literary Suggestion 3
1.2.3. Walter Brueggemann's Interpretation of 2 Samuel 21
1.2.3.1. 2 Samuel 21: An Ironic Text 4
1.2.3.2. Brueggemann's Reasons for an Ironic Reading
of 2 Samuel 21
1.2.3.3. A Suspicious Reading of 2 Samuel 21 4
1.2.3.4. Brueggemann's Reading: A Non-literary Suggestion 4
1.2.4. J. P. Fokkelman's Interpretation of 2 Kings 4 1.2.4.1. Fokkelman's Method 4
1.2.4.1. Forkerman's Method 1.2.4.2. A Story about a Heroic Mother 5
1.2.4.2. A Story about a Fieroic Mother 1.2.4.3. A Literary and Narrative Reading of 2 Kings 4
1.2.4.5. A Energy and Narrative Reading of 2 Kings 4 1.2.5. "New" Readings of Ancient Texts 5

1.3. P	oetics, Narratology, Criticism, and Interpretation	58
1.3.1.		59
1.3.2.	Classical Narratology and Postclassical Narratologies:	
	Object, Methods, and Aims	62
1.3.3	Discourse Narratology	65
1.3.4.	Gérard Genette's Analysis of Proust	69
Chapter 2		
	e-Governing Intent of Biblical Narratives	72
2.1. T	he Character of a Narrative—A Salient Issue	78
	n Outline of the Present Chapter	80
2.3. T	he Books of Samuel and the "Succession History	
0	f David"	81
2.3.1	The Composition of the Books of Samuel	82
2.3.2		83
2.3.3		86
2.3.4		91
	History, Apologetics, Ideology, or Literature	99
2.3.6	2 Samuel 5	103
2.4. T	he Distinction between Different Kinds of Narratives	109
2.4.1.	2 Samuel 1 and 12	110
2.	4.1.1. The Amalekite Messenger's Narrative	111
2.	4.1.2. Nathan's Narrative	113
2.	4.1.3. The Extradiegetical Narratives	
	about the Amalekite and about Nathan	115
2.5. S	tory and History	116
2.5.1.	Narratology and the Distinction between History	
	and Fiction	118
2.5.2	History and Literature in the Old Testament	-123
2.6. S	ummary	128
Chapter 3		
	LLING: SENSE AND REFERENCE	129
3.1. T	hree Notions of the Reading of Narratives	129
3.1.1		
	or "Paintings"?	131
3.	1.1.1. A Window to a World	132
	1.1.2. A Painting	135
3.1.2		137
3.1.3	•	
	of Samuel	138
	1.3.1. Rosenberg's Method: Saul and David	140
3.	1.3.2. A Literary Interpretation According	
	to Rosenberg	144

Contents vii

3.2. Gap-Filling and the Drawing of Implications	148
3.2.1. Disquieting Interpretations and Silly Questions	151
3.2.2. Gapping: Fiction and Nonfiction	152
3.2.3. Bar-Efrat on Time Gaps in the Story of David	
and Absalom	157
3.3. Literary or Historical Interpretations: A Series of Examples	160
3.3.1. To Take the Internal Perspective	161
3.3.2. Gap-Filling, the Drawing of Implications,	
and the Reading Process	165
3.3.2.1. Adele Berlin on Genesis 37	166
3.3.2.2. Yairah Amit on David and Nabal	169
3.3.2.3. J. P. Fokkelman on Gideon	170
3.3.3. Gap-Filling, Theories about Reading, and Suggested	
Reinterpretations	172
3.3.3.1. Yairah Amit on David	172
3.3.3.2. Yairah Amit on 1 Samuel 13	174
3.3.3.3. J. P. Fokkelman on 1 Samuel 8–10	175
3.4. The Amalekite Messenger: 2 Samuel 1	179
3.4.1. Is the Amalekite Lying?	179
3.4.2. Arguments Supporting the Suggestion	
that the Amalekite Lies	181
3.4.3. A Reconstruction of the Events on Mount Gilboa	184
3.4.4. What Was David Thinking?	189
3.4.5. Robert Polzin on 2 Samuel 1:	
A Deeper Understanding or a Reinterpretation	191
3.5. Some Concluding Remarks	196
<u> </u>	
Chapter 4	
TWO NODES: NARRATORS AND PERSPECTIVE	199
4.1. The Teller of the Biblical Narratives	201
4.1.1. Anonymity, Omniscience, and Historiography	203
4.1.2. Authors, Implied Authors, and Narrators	205
4.1.3. The Author and the Narrator	205
4.1.4. The Narrator and the Implied Author	206
4.1.5. The Implied Author and the Narrator	
in Biblical Literary Criticism	208
4.1.6. The Narrator and the Ideological Perspective	
of the Text	210
4.1.7. Narrative Techniques or Unintended Features?	212
4.1.7.1. An Ironic Text	216
4.1.7.2. A Dialogic Narrative	219
4.1.7.3. An Unreliable Narrator	222
4.1.7.4. Storytelling, the Implied Author, and the Narrator	225
4.1.8. Storytelling and the Teller	227
Story terring and the renor	

4.2.	Perspective, Point of View, Focalization	230
4.2	2.1. Focalization and Restriction of Field	231
4.2	2.2. An Unavoidable Bias	233
4.2	2.3. Perspective on the Micro Level	234
4.2	2.4. Perspective and Knowledge	237
4.2	2.5. Perspective: An Elusive Concept	239
4.2	2.6. Leaders and Fathers: 1 Samuel 4 and 2 Samuel 18	239
4.2	2.7. Perspective and Irony	243
4.2	2.8. The Sympathetic Imagination	244
4.2	2.9. Amnon, Tamar, and Absalom	246
Chapte	r 5	
INTERPRETERS, THEORIES, AND TEXTS		252
5.1.	A Literary Study of Old Testament Narratives	252
5.2.	Narratology and a Non-Literary Reading:	
	A Paradoxical Result	256
5.3.	Storytelling and the Web of Life	261
5.4.	The Critics	264
Bibliog	graphy	266
Index of References		275
Index of Authors		278