

Rowe, Jonathan Y., *Michal's Moral Dilemma: A Literary, Anthropological And Ethical Interpretation* (LHBOTS, 533; New York/London: T & T Clark, 2011), Pp. Xiv + 255. £70.00. ISBN 978-0-567-27179-2.

In *Michal's Moral Dilemma*, R. uses tools from Old Testament studies, social anthropology and ethics to explore the moral dilemma that Michal faces in 1 Samuel 19 when she has to choose between deceiving her father to save David's life and lying about her reason for the deception on one hand, and giving up David for the sake of loyalty to her family and her father Saul on the other. Apart from the introduction in which he sets the stage for the study, R.'s book spans six chapters, with the first focusing on the conflict between morality and value in the Old Testament. Chapters two, three and four form an extensive but essential methodological introduction in which R. delineates an exegetical method and carefully positions his approach in the light of the conclusions of other commentators. In chapter five, deservedly the longest chapter (82 pages), R. carefully examines the moral challenge facing Michal when she lied to Saul in order to save David's life, and concludes that the choice that Michal made to save David's life over loyalty to her father Saul is counter-cultural. The concluding chapter six explores the contradicting values that emanate from Michal's actions and Saul's reactions. R. suggests that there is a need to understand the social world of the authors and implied readers if we are to understand the import of Michal's action. R.'s ingenious and innovative skills, bringing on board three different disciplines in this study, opens new doors to interdisciplinary study of biblical texts.

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