Animosity, the Bible, and Us: Some European, North American, and South African Perspectives

Edited by John T. Fitzgerald, Fika J. van Rensburg, and Herrie F. van Rooy

Animosity, in its various forms, including enmity, war, homicide, domestic violence, religious hostility, and retaliation, is a perennial problem that has plagued every form of interpersonal and international relationship since the dawn of human existence. The essays in this volume, offering perspectives from three continents, examine how animosity is understood and presented in the biblical text and its historical and literary contexts. The authors recognize at the same time that the Bible itself and how it has been used have sometimes contributed to the problem of animosity and thus seek to glean any insights that might address this problem in the contemporary world, which today is a pressing global concern.

John T. Fitzgerald is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Miami and Professor Extraordinary at North-West University in South Africa. He is the author or editor of many volumes, including Passions and Moral Progress in Greco-Roman Thought (Routledge) and The Writings of St. Paul: Annotated Texts, Reception, and Criticism (Norton), and the past General Editor of the SBL Writings from the Greco-Roman World series. Fika J. van Rensburg is Professor of New Testament and Director of the School of Biblical Studies and Ancient Languages in the Faculty of Theology at North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa. His recent publications include Making a Sermon: A Guide for Reformed Exegesis and Preaching (Potchefstroom Theological Publications), and "Metaphors in the Soteriology in 1 Peter: Identifying and Interpreting the Salvific Imageries," in Salvation in the New Testament (ed. J. G. van der Watt; Brill). Herrie F. van Rooy is Professor of Old Testament in the Faculty of Theology at North-West University and the author or editor of a number of titles, including Studies on the Syriac Apocryphal Psalms (Oxford University Press) and Past, Present, Future: The Deuteronomistic History and the Prophets (Brill).
War and Violence in the Old Testament World: Various Views
Eben Scheffler

The World’s First Murder: Violence and Justice in Genesis 4:1–16
Eric Peels

The Enemies in the Headings of the Psalms: A Comparison of Jewish and Christian Interpretation
Herrie F. van Rooy

Disputes about the Calendar in Jewish Apocalyptic Literature and Its Basis
Marius Nel

Animosity in Targumic Literature
Eveline van Staaldhuine-Sulman

Domestic Violence in the Ancient World: Preliminary Considerations and the Problem of Wife-Beating
John T. Fitzgerald

Animosity against Jewish and Pagan Magic in the Acts of the Apostles
Rainer G. H. Reuter

Paul and the Others: Insiders, Outsiders, and Animosity
Jeremy Punt

Switching Universes: Moving from a Cosmology of Fear and Animosity to One of Reconciliation in Colossians
J. J. Fritz Krüger

Useless Commandment: Animosity toward the Earlier Covenant in Hebrews
Outi Leppä

No Retaliation! An Ethical Analysis of the Exhortation in 1 Peter 3:9 Not to Repay Evil with Evil
Fika J. van Rensburg

Animosity in the Johannine Epistles: A Difference in the Interpretation of a Shared Tradition
Dirk G. van der Merwe

Hostility against the Wealth of Babylon: Revelation 17:1–19:10
Paul B. Decock

Animosity and (Voluntary) Martyrdom: The Power of the Powerless
Henk Bakker

Assessment—Animosity, the Bible, and Us: A Few Tentative Remarks
Herrie F. van Rooy