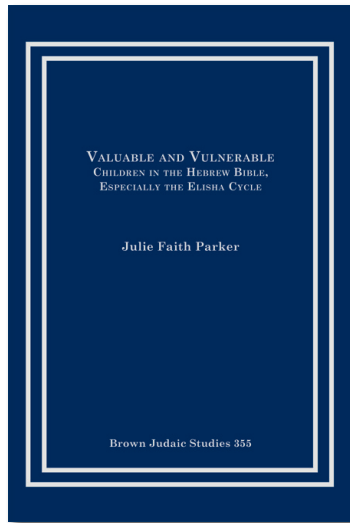


BROWN JUDAIC STUDIES

NEW TITLE PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT



November 2013, 268 pages
Brown Judaic Studies 355

Hardcover \$54.95
ISBN 9781930675858
eISBN 9781930675865

Valuable and Vulnerable: Children in the Hebrew Bible, Especially the Elisha Cycle

Julie Faith Parker

Just as women in the Bible have been overlooked for much of interpretative history, children in the Bible have fascinating and compelling stories that scholars have largely ignored. This groundbreaking book focuses on children in the Hebrew Bible. The author argues that the biblical writers recognized children as different from adults and used these ideas to shape their stories. She provides conceptual and historical frameworks for understanding children and childhood, and examines Hebrew terms related to children and youth. The book introduces a new methodology of childist interpretation and applies it to the Elisha cycle (2 Kings 2-8), which contains forty-nine child characters. Combining literary insights with social-scientific evidence, the author demonstrates that children play critical roles in the world of the text as well as the culture that produced it.

Julie Faith Parker is Visiting Assistant Professor at Andover Newton Theological School and a 2013 Society of Biblical Literature Regional Scholar.

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