Marzouk's "Egypt as a Monster in the Book of Ezekial" (Book Review)

Lisa Cutforth-Anderson
Alberta Bible College

*The Christian Librarian* is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [http://www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl](http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl)

**Recommended Citation**


This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in *The Christian Librarian* by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.
communities found in the writings of the apostolic fathers. The specific texts that are analyzed are the Didache, First Clement, Epistles of Ignatius of Antioch, Shepherd of Hermas, and Epistle of Barnabas.

There are essays which survey the sacramental practices and customs of the early Christian communities up to the time of Justin Martyr and essays that argue that Paul’s epistles and First Clement are responding to conflicts within Christian communities due to governance. Another essay asks, “Why in the Shepherd of Hermas is the focus concerning baptism more on existing Christians than on baptizing new converts?”; while a second essay on Hermas explores demographic structures of early Christians in Rome.

All of the essays contain excellent footnotes. Beginning on page 223 is an index of the ancient sources used in this volume. Sources are divided by type of literature: Christian scriptures, early Christian non-biblical sources, Jewish literature, and Greek–Roman. In addition to the indexes of sources there are indexes for modern authors cited and a thematic index.

This book should be useful to upper-level undergraduate students, graduate students, and professional researchers.

---

Egypt as a Monster in the Book of Ezekiel,  
ISBN 9783161532450  
Reviewed by Lisa Cutforth-Anderson, Learning Resource Coordinator and Old Testament Professor, Alberta Bible College, Calgary, AB

Safwat Marzouk writes this scholarly volume from a unique perspective. He is an Egyptian Christian trying to answer the question of why Ezekiel portrays Egypt as a monster. This answer is crucial for today’s Egyptian Christians who wish to be loyal to both their native country and their Lord who inspired Ezekiel to portray Egypt as a villain, acting against His own people. His in-depth, well-documented and indexed research offers a convincing solution to this problem. He traces the use of monster imagery in ancient Near Eastern literature and other biblical books to argue convincingly for a different focus on the exodus retelling in Ezekiel: in opposition to the liberation story presented in the book of Exodus. In Exodus, Egypt plays the role of oppressor. In Ezekiel, Egypt plays the role of the other, a monster, to encourage Israel to cling to Yahweh as Saviour, not Egypt. In minute detail, he traces the literary development of monsters in literature that is contemporary to the Babylonian exile. The monster, or other, is repulsive because it takes the worst of our failings and exaggerates them to the point of revulsion.
There are several grammatical and punctuation errors throughout, yet the volume is easy to understand. However, it is so detailed and academic that it would not be suitable for less than graduate level or doctoral explorations of the monster motif in scripture. Marzouk holds a Ph. D. in biblical studies and is an ordained Presbyterian pastor with the Synod of the Nile. From his introduction, it is evident that this subject is a passion of his, and his educational qualifications have well prepared him to present this convincing argument for Egypt’s portrayal in Ezekiel. He employs complex sentence structure and complex academic terms, making the book much too heavy for undergraduate studies. To aid with understanding Marzouk’s complex writing, though, he continually relates each new development to his thesis to aid in the flow of his building argument. This volume is a fascinating read, yet written for a limited audience.

Evaluating and Supporting Early Childhood Teachers,
ISBN 9781605543666
Reviewed by Diana Leibbrandt, Retired Elementary Educator, Colorado Springs, CO

This book is an extremely helpful resource illustrating that the evaluation of teachers must be coupled with the support for positive change as well as the encouragement of educational leaders. It has many empowering surveys and forms which lead to an organized approach for the evaluator and teacher, with ways to strengthen a teacher’s confidence and skill in the classroom. With the use of these well-presented ideas and strategies, the evaluation skills of the supervisor will also improve.

Using the ideas presented in this book would encourage communication and create an atmosphere of cooperation between leaders and teachers. This can only translate to more student growth in a positive classroom setting.

All of the evaluation techniques for educational leaders are put forth in a no-nonsense format; they are concise and clearly thought out. This would be an excellent resource for all educational leaders, those just starting their careers and veterans alike.