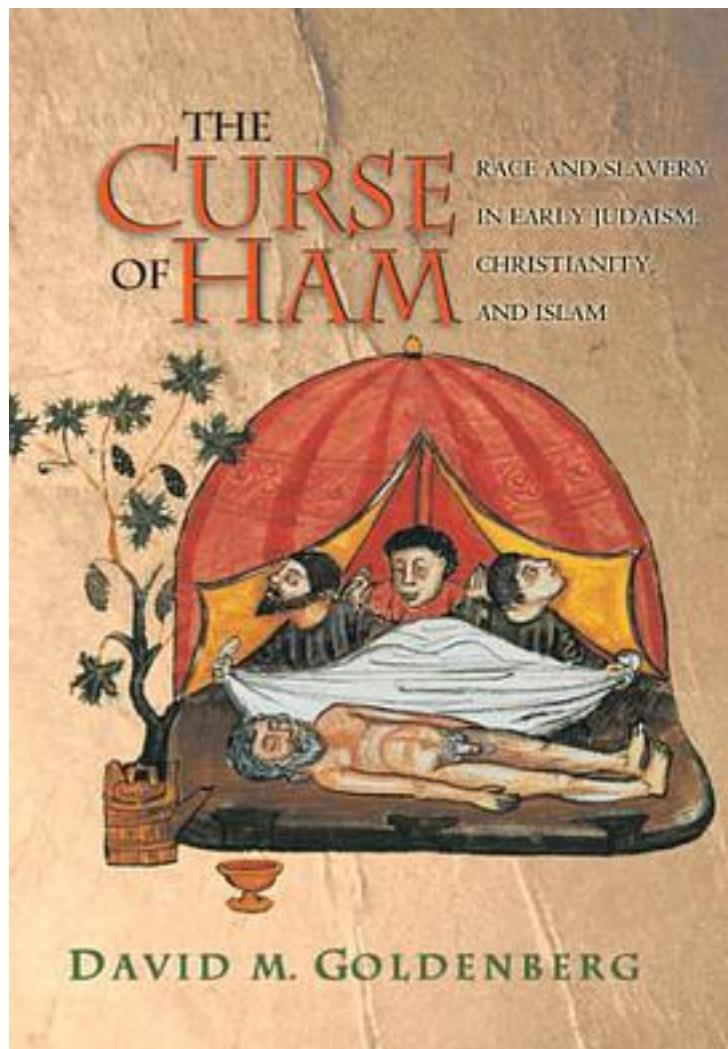


The Curse of Ham



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How old is prejudice against black people? Were the racist attitudes that fueled the Atlantic slave trade firmly in place 700 years before the European discovery of sub-Saharan Africa? In this groundbreaking book, David Goldenberg seeks to discover how dark-skinned people, especially black Africans, were portrayed in the Bible and by those who interpreted the Bible - Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Unprecedented in rigor and breadth, his investigation covers a 1,500-year period, from ancient Israel (around 800 B.C.E.) to the eighth century C.E., after the birth of Islam. By tracing the development of anti-Black sentiment during this time, Goldenberg uncovers views about race, color, and slavery that took shape over the centuries - most centrally, the belief that the biblical Ham and his descendants, the black Africans, had been cursed by God with eternal slavery. Goldenberg begins by examining a host of references to black Africans in biblical and postbiblical Jewish literature. From there, he moves the inquiry from Black as an ethnic group to black as color, and early Jewish attitudes toward dark skin color. He goes on to ask when the black African first became identified as slave in the Near East, and, in a powerful culmination, discusses the resounding influence of this identification on Jewish, Christian, and Islamic thinking, noting each tradition's exegetical treatment of pertinent biblical passages. Authoritative, fluidly written, and situated at a richly illuminating nexus of images, attitudes, and history, "The Curse of Ham" is sure to have a profound and lasting impact on the perennial debate over the roots of racism and slavery, and on the study of early Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

作者介绍:

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标签

Slavery

Genesis

Bible/Race

评论

两百页正文，两百页注释，这书学术得让人羡慕嫉妒和抓狂。但是阅读的艰难，翻尾注

的不便，对作者由衷的妒忌，都是读高质量学术书必须付出的代价。古代文字主要涉及古希伯来、古希腊、拉丁、阿拉伯文，时间跨度为一千五百年，旧约成书到穆斯林崛起。阅读文献的方式是地毯式，穷尽式，无遗漏式。连提到唐代文学（离作者的领域差十万八千里）中的黑奴，还居然为两行正文列出七八种研究文献。以语文学取胜，材料排比很有严格，很系统，解决问题干净彻底，是今后该题目的必读书。好奇这书写了多少年。书中推重的是Snowden, Thompson和Bernard Lewis。封底出版社说groundbreaking，不为过。结尾吹响捍卫犹太传统的号角，声音略显尖利。有时太过专业。但就我能读通的地方，无论如何要拜服。

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书评

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