

TOWARD A POETICS OF THE BIBLICAL MIND:
LANGUAGE, CULTURE, AND COGNITION
(COGNITIVE APPROACH TO BIBLICAL LITERATURE)

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Abstract

My objective, as a Hauser Global Fellow/Gruss Scholar at NYU, is to develop a new exegetical approach for investigating the relationship of language, culture, and cognition in antiquity. To do so, I shall employ recent studies in cognitive linguistics in order to examine the distinctive worldview and self-understanding of ancient Israel as reflected in biblical metaphorical language. My overall goal is thereby to offer a methodological model for a systematic and empirical analysis of this subject, thus contributing not only to biblical or Judaic studies but also to cultural and anthropological studies as a whole.

In my paper, I shall first explain the cognitive linguistic account of metaphor. I shall next illustrate how this discipline can be applied to the study of the relationship among language, culture, and cognition. I shall then exemplify how this cognitive approach can enhance our understanding of this relationship in biblical literature.