

Call for Papers

IAKBS Volume III (to be published in Walter de Gruyter, GPBS Series)

Title: Reconfiguring Victims and Perpetrators: Violence and Memory in Biblical Traditions

The International Association for Korean Biblical Studies (IAKBS) invites paper proposals for its third edited volume, (potentially) to be published in the GPBS series by Walter de Gruyter. This volume investigates how victim identity is constructed, mobilized, and politically repositioned within biblical texts, particularly in relation to violence, nationalism, and political memory. The guiding concern of this volume is not confined to a single historical case or a single theoretical lens. Across modernity, communities have formed collective identities through the remembrance of suffering, and victimhood has often functioned as a resource for cohesion and legitimacy. At the same time, victimhood discourse may link past injury to present perceptions of threat, intensify boundaries, or reconfigure others as latent dangers—dynamics that require careful, case-sensitive analysis rather than presupposed conclusions. As one illustrative example, the irony whereby Jewish memory as victims of the Holocaust is politically repositioned within Middle Eastern contexts—so that a perpetrator–victim configuration rooted in Europe is relocated into the scene of conflict with Palestinians, and victim memory can be converted into a logic that legitimates new forms of exclusion and violence—foregrounds how memory can be reworked within new socio-political arenas. In a different historical register, the Korean case of the Northwest Youth League (Seobuk Cheongnyeondan) likewise invites analysis of how experiences of victimization may later be entangled with the performance or legitimation of violence. Such cases sharpen the question of how victim and perpetrator positions may be narratively and politically reconfigured.

This volume brings these questions into sustained dialogue with biblical studies. Biblical literature repeatedly narrates communities as oppressed, endangered, or on the brink of annihilation. Yet these same texts also depict the transformation of victim narratives into instruments of retaliation, conquest, territorial consolidation, or political legitimation. Traditions such as the Exodus, conquest narratives, royal ideology, and the Book of Esther provide crucial sites for examining the intersection of victimhood, violence, state formation, and political memory.

Submissions are encouraged to link exegetical work on a specific biblical text (or corpus), directly or indirectly, with critical investigation of victim–perpetrator dynamics and their narrative reconfiguration within contexts of violence and socio-political memory. Contributors may draw, as appropriate, on memory studies, political theology, nationalism studies, theories of violence, reception history, or related approaches; the volume welcomes methodological plurality and does not presume a single argumentative endpoint.

Submission details

Proposal: Title and abstract (4–5 sentences)

Proposal deadline: March 29, 2026

Full paper deadline: December 30, 2026

Please send proposals to

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Information about IAKBS is available at <https://iakbs.org/>. Selected papers will undergo peer review prior to publication in the GPBS series. Further information on the GPBS series is available at <https://www.degruyterbrill.com/serial/gpbs-b/html?lang=en>.