

**Robert Alter** is one of the greatest living commentators on the Hebrew Bible primarily seeing the text as a work of literature unparalleled in the ancient world. We were pleased to have him present a detailed reflection on the story of David and Bathsheba (II Samuel 11-12). The following are resources for learning more.

**Books:**

*The Hebrew Bible: A Translation with Commentary*, (Three volumes), 2018

A monumental work. Without doubt the best translation of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) in English. Alter previously translated Genesis, The Story of David (I and II Samuel), Psalms, and the Torah, but the entire three volumes represents the capstone of his career and well worth having on the shelf of Bible nerds.

*The Art of Biblical Narrative*, Basic, 1981, Revised and updated 2011

Many scholars believe this book changed the focus of biblical studies from deconstructing sources beneath the text, to appreciating afresh the full text as we have received it as a work of literary art.

*The Art of Biblical Poetry*, Basic, 1981, Revised and updated 2011

A companion volume to *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, Alter helps us see the poetry of the Bible through his literary eyes.

*The Art of Bible Translation*, Princeton, 2019

Alter discusses not only what he learned as a translator of the Hebrew Bible, but also the many challenges, puzzles and richness of conveying this ancient text into English.

**Two video presentations:**

The Challenges of Translating the Bible, from the University of Chicago (2015)

Translating the Bible – A Conversation, The Center for Jewish History (2019)

## Michal, Daughter of Saul: Her Side of the Story

Marti J Steussy

### Bibliography

#### Recommended Translations of 2 Samuel

- \*Robert Alter, *The Hebrew Bible* (Norton, 2019), or *The David Story* (Norton, 2000).
- \*Everett Fox, *The Early Prophets* (Schocken, 2014), or *Give Us a King!* (Schocken, 1999).

#### Multiple Voices in Scripture

- \*James A. Sanders, *Canon and Community* (Fortress 1984; reprint Wipf and Stock, 2000).

#### My Own Work on the David Stories

- \**David: Biblical Portraits of Power* (University of South Carolina Press, 1999)
- \**Samuel and His God* (University of South Carolina Press, 2010)

#### Michal

- \*David J. A. Clines and Tamara C. Eskanazi, eds., *Telling Queen Michal's Story* (Sheffield Academic Press, 1991)
- J. J. Glück. "Merab or Michal?" *Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft* 77 (1965): 72-81.
- \*Jon D. Levenson and Baruch Halpern. "The Political Import of David's Marriages." *Journal of Biblical Literature* 99 (1980): 507-28.

#### Genre in the Books of Samuel

- David M. Gunn, *The Story of King David: Genre and Interpretation* (University of Sheffield Press, 1978).
- \*Walter Brueggemann, "2 Samuel 21-24: An Appendix of Deconstruction?" *Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 50 (1988): 383-97.

\*Asterisked items are relatively accessible to the general reader.