Sanna Saari
Doctoral Student
University of Helsinki
sanna.saari@helsinki.fi

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The Iconography of Narratives and a Case Study of the Lion in 1 Kings 13:11–32

Summary

The working-title for the dissertation project is "The Iconography of Narratives: Three Cases of Lions in the Hebrew Bible Prose". This research accepts the ancient Near Eastern images as a valuable source for Biblical exegesis. The starting point of the research is a theme that is attested in both narratives of the Hebrew Bible and in the visual material of the ancient Near East. The selected theme is the image of a lion. The specific aim of the project is to bring narratological tools to iconographic exegesis, in order to observe the Hebrew Bible narratives as whole literary constellations. The research conducts three case studies on the subject matter. These are Judges 14, 1 Kings 13:11-32 and Daniel 6.

Texts and images are two different medias, which impact and interact with one another. In order to have a better understanding of the cultural sphere, where the Hebrew Bible texts were composed and transmitted, we need knowledge of both textual and visual representations. In that way we are able to enhance our interpretations of often problematic passages of the Hebrew Bible. This research also ponders the methodological questions of image-text relationship, and synchronization of approaches (the iconographic exegesis and narrative criticism). The contribution of this research is a template of the analysis for iconographic exegesis of Biblical narratives, since this kind of analytical tool has not emerged before this work.

In the current paper, 1 Kings 13:11-32 will be analyzed as a methodological test case. In a way, the paper is a summary of the whole dissertation and the main attempt in this paper is to demonstrate how the template of the analysis functions.

Current disposition of the dissertation, the underlined chapters are discussed in the paper:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. AIM OF THIS RESEARCH
1.2. RESEARCH HISTORY – FROM FRAGMENTS TO CONSTELLATIONS
1.3. THE IMAGE-TEXT RELATIONSHIP
1.4. ANCIENT NARRATIVES – MODERN TOOLS
1.5. THE TEMPLATE OF THE ANALYSIS

2. SOURCES

2.1. OUTLINING OF SOURCES
2.2. JUDGES 14, 1 KINGS 13:11-32 AND DANIEL 6
2.3. THE LION IMAGERY IN THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

3. ANALYSIS

3.1. JUDGES 14
- 3.1.1. INTRODUCTION
- 3.1.2. ANALYSIS
  - *3.1.2.1. Literary Constellation*
  - 3.1.2.2. *The Iconic Structure and the Lion Motifs in the Narrative*
  - *3.1.2.3. Iconographic Congruencies*
  - *3.1.2.4. The Lion Imagery in Judges 14*

3.2. 1 KINGS 13:11-32
- 3.2.1. INTRODUCTION
- 3.2.2. ANALYSIS
  - *3.2.2.1. Literary Constellation*
  - 3.2.2.2. *The Iconic Structure and the Lion Motifs in the Narrative*
  - *3.2.2.3. Iconographic Congruencies*
  - *3.2.2.4. The Lion Imagery in 1 Kings 13:11-32*

3.3. DANIEL 6
- 3.3.1. INTRODUCTION
- 3.3.2. ANALYSIS
  - *3.3.2.1. Literary Constellation*
  - 3.3.2.2. *The Iconic Structure and the Lion Motifs in the Narrative*
  - *3.3.2.3. Iconographic Congruencies*
  - *3.3.2.4. The Lion Imagery in Daniel 6*

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1. REFLECTION ON THE RESULTS
4.2. EVALUATION OF THE ANALYSIS TECHNIQUE