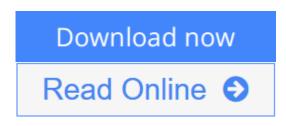


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IMAGINING THE OTHER

AND CONSTRUCTING Israelite identity In the Early Second Temple Period

EDITED BY EHUD BEN ZVI AND DIANA V. EDELMAN



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This volume sheds light on how particular constructions of the 'Other'contributed to an ongoing process of defining what 'Israel' or an 'Israelite'was or was supposed to be in literature taken to be authoritative in the latePersian and Early Hellenistic periods. It asks, who is an insider and who anoutsider? Are boundaries permeable? Are there different ideas expressed withinindividual books? What about constructions of the (partial) 'Other' frominside, e.g., women, people whose body did not fit social constructions ofnormalness? It includes chapters dealing with theoretical issues and casestudies, and addresses similar issues from the perspective of groups in thelate Second Temple period so as to shed light on processes of continuity anddiscontinuity on these matters. Preliminary forms of five of the contributions werepresented in Thessaloniki in 2011 in the research programme, 'Production andReception of Authoritative Books in the Persian and Hellenistic Period,' at theAnnual Meeting of European Association of Biblical Studies (EABS).

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## Imagining the Other and Constructing Israelite Identity in the Early Second Temple Period (The Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies) From Ingramcontent Bibliography

- Rank: #3771080 in Books
- Brand: Ingramcontent
- Published on: 2014-11-20
- Released on: 2014-11-20
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 233.93" h x .81" w x 6.14" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 360 pages

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#### About the Author

Ehud Ben Zvi is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Diana V. Edelman is a senior lecturer in the Department of Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield.

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