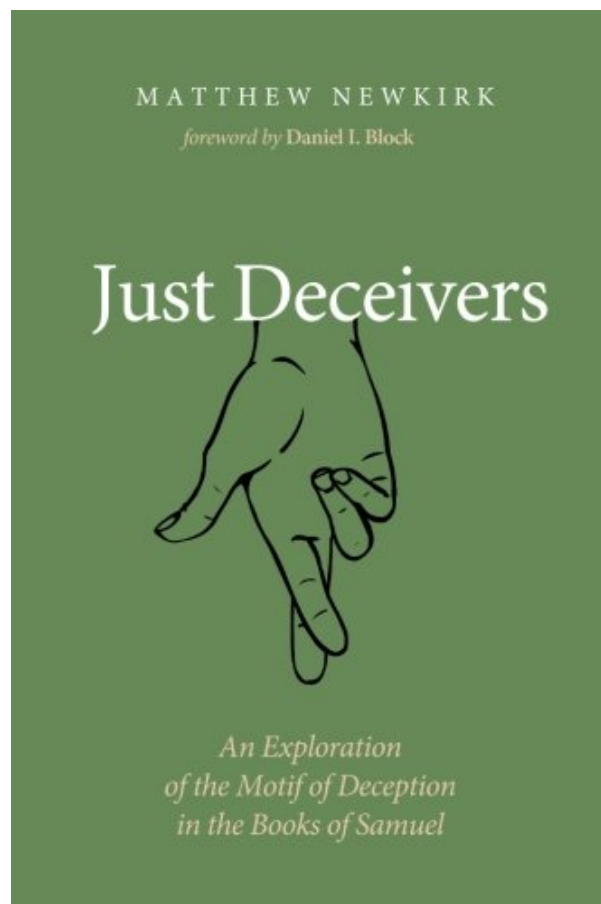


JUST DECEIVERS: AN EXPLORATION OF THE MOTIF OF DECEPTION IN THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL BY MATTHEW NEWKIRK



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MATTHEW NEWKIRK

foreword by Daniel I. Block

Just Deceivers



*An Exploration
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Review

"In Just Deceivers, Newkirk tackles a tough topic--how are Bible readers to come to terms with the surprisingly numerous accounts of deception in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. Combining careful research, a broad acquaintance with pertinent primary and secondary literature, a lucid and inviting writing style, and sound judgment throughout, Newkirk's book should find a place on the reading lists not only of students of the books of Samuel but of all who have ever puzzled over 'lying episodes' in the Bible."

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Does the Bible allow us to deceive? Is it ever right to lie? These are perennial questions that have been discussed and debated by theologians for centuries with little consensus. Entering this conversation, *Just Deceivers* provides a fresh analysis of this important topic through a comprehensive examination of the motif of deception in the books of Samuel. While many studies have explored deception in other Old Testament texts-especially the patriarchal narratives of Genesis-and a few articles have initiated examination of this motif in Samuel, *Just Deceivers* builds upon this groundwork and offers an exhaustive treatment of this theme in this important portion of the Hebrew Bible. Newkirk takes the reader through the books of Samuel, investigating every occurrence of deception in the narrative, exploring how the author depicts these various acts of deception, and then synthesizing the results to offer an exegetically based theology of deception. In so doing, this study both challenges commonly held views concerning the Bible's stance on falsehood and illustrates the importance of attending to the sophisticated literary character of biblical narrative.

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