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Lorberbaum, Yair. *Disempowered King: Monarchy in Classical Jewish Literature*. Translated by Jonathan Chipman. London: Continuum, 2011. \$44.95. (9781441140883).

Professor Lorberbaum of Bar Ilan University examines the treatment of the concept of kingship in the Bible and Talmudic literature. He identifies three perspectives. Direct theocracy envisions any ongoing human political authority as a betrayal of the God of Israel, believing if the Torah is followed, there is no need for a permanent governmental structure. Royal theology considers the king as chosen by God and, in some real sense, representing Him. The third approach is a rather limited view of the powers of the king. All three interpretations are found in the Bible and the Talmud, but the third one dominates the Talmudic literature, according to Professor Lorberbaum. Recommended for academic collections.

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