

The Early History Of God Yahweh And The Other Deities In Ancient Israel

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The Religion of Ancient Israel
Temples and Temple-service in Ancient Israel
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A History of Ancient Israel and Judah
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a classic introduction to the life world of israel unmissable f or all studying the hebrew scriptures

the historical and literary questions about ancient israel that traditionally have preoccupied biblical scholars have often overlooked the social realities of life experienced by the vast majority of the population of ancient israel volumes in the library of ancient israel draw on multiple disciplines such as archaeology anthropology sociology and literary criticism to illumine the everyday realities and social subtleties these ancient cultures experienced this series employs sophisticated methods resulting in original contributions that depict the reality of the people behind the hebrew bible and interprets these scholarly insights for a wide variety of readers individually and collectively these books will expand our vision of the culture and society of ancient israel thereby generating new appreciation for its impact up to the present patrick miller investigates the role religion played in an expanding circle of influences in ancient israel the family village tribe and nation state he situates israel s religion in context where a variety of social forces affected beliefs and where popular cults openly competed with the official religion miller makes extensive use of both epigraphic and artefactual evidence as he deftly probes the complexities of iron age culture and society and their enduring

significance for people today

an award winning study which analyzes the phenomenon of textual analysis in ancient israel exploring the tradition of exegesis prior to the development of biblical interpretation in early classical judaism and the earliest christian communities

a significant achievement this book moves our understanding of the history of israel forward as dramatically as john bright s a history of israel martin noth s history of israel and william f albright s from the stone age ot cristianity did at an earlier period

religion in ancient israel didn t develop in a vacuum it was influenced by the near eastern culture around it as much as it in turn influenced that culture dearman explores that dynamic interplay in this thought provoking study using archaeological and literary evidence both biblical and extrabiblical he shows how distinctive old testament traditions such as the paradoxical role of the prophets flourished in the interaction of israelite religion with cultural and political forces while other traditions languished religion and culture in ancient israel by j andrew dearman is the comprehensive study of religious forms and customs that has been needed by the discipline for many years dearman s work is a mixture of traditional and social scientific examinations of the world of ancient israel and its social matrix from its opening use of clifford geertz definition of religion a tone is set but not one that over interprets the available sources there is no parallelomania here no exaggeration of archaeological data no theological agenda and no attempt to rehash albright or gottwald instead dearman provides a fresh approach geared to both a historical and a literary examination of religious forms and phenomena in ancient israel the goal of any textbook is to provide 1 information in a systematic manner and 2 to hold the interest of the reader so that the author s message gets across to his or her audience dearman has succeeded well with both of these victor matthews professor of religious studies southwest missouri state university

when this provocative text was first published lemche presented a new model of how we should understand israelite society its history and its religion lemche argues first that israel was the result of a social development among the canaanite population of palestine in the second half of the second millennium bce this implies that israelite religion was originally canaanite and that what we think of as typically jewish religion did not arise until c 500 bce lemche s radical reassessment of israelite history is based on the conviction that the old testament contains hardly any historical sources older than the seventh century bce the early history of israel must therefore be reconstructed from archaeological results and non biblical evidence not from the old testament in this new edition lemche provides an extensive new introduction and bibliography considering how the field has developed since the work first appeared

the book begins by providing a brief history and overview of social scientific analysis of the old testament to bring the reader up to speed with the current scholarship the remaining chapters are divided into three parts the first part of the book chapters 3 9 apply social scientific models to general issues in old testament research issues such as tribalism polygamy rituals and in particular sacrifice the practice of exchange and the acquisition of wealth in the biblical world three models of patron and client limited wealth and honour and shame are used the second part chapters 10 16 apply social scientific models to particular texts including micah 1 3 and micah 6 9 15 on economic states the use of euphemisms for male genetalia in deuteronomy 25 11 12 using cross cultural sociolinguistic research the sacrifice of jephthah s daughter is examined in an honour and shame framework examining judges 10 to 11 and in 2 samuels 10 13 the social dynamic of challenge and response is examined in relation to david s sacking of rabbah chapter 14

looks at ezekiel and the call to be a prophet and uses the social scientific disciplines of cultural anthropology and cognitive neuroscience to analyse the call to better understand and appreciate this event symbols of war are examined in the final chapter in this part in maccabees 1 applying anthropological theories of war the third part of the book chapters 18 20 focuses on hermeneutical issues looking first at psychological interpretations then identity theory and political interpretations and finally at the role of social sciences as a whole in biblical interpretation philip f esler is professor of biblical criticism in the university of st andrews st andrews scotland uk among his recent publications are galatians 1998 conflict and identity in romans the social setting of paul s letter 2003 and with jane boyd visibility and biblical text interpreting velazquez christ with martha and mary as a test case 2004 he is also editor of the early christian world two volumes 2000

this volume of essays draws together specialists in the field to explain illustrate and analyze this religious diversity in ancient israel

worship in ancient israel is a history of worship in israel from the age of the patriarchs until the new testament period the author begins by discussing the faith of the patriarchs and the ways in which the worship of yahweh came into israel he goes on to discuss aspects of this worship during the monarchy the cult the temple psalmody and the relation of prophecy to liturgy the institution of the synagogue is then considered and the final chapter of the book deals with the forms and the spirit of worship professor rowley reviews all the current arguments upon the subject with his usual sound judgement it is my hope he says that i may have stimulated interest in an aspect of old testament study which has been far too long neglected and which is today commanding the increasing interest of scholars worship in ancient israel is an expansion of the edward cadbury lectures delivered in the university of birmingham in 1965

this work offers a reconstruction of the politics of ancient israel within the wider political environment of the ancient near east gottwald begins by questioning the view of some biblical scholars that the primary factor influencing israel s political evolution was its religion

a number of histories of israel have been written over the past few decades yet the basic methodological questions are not always addressed how do we write such a history and how can we know anything about the history of israel in ancient israel lester l grabbe sets out to summarize what we know through a survey of sources and how we know it by a discussion of methodology and by evaluating the evidence grabbe s aim is not to offer a history as such but rather to collect together and analyze the materials necessary for writing such a history his approach therefore allows the reader the freedom and equips them with the essential methodological tools to use the valuable and wide ranging evidence presented in this volume to draw their own conclusions the most basic question about the history of ancient israel how do we know what we know leads to the fundamental questions of the study what are the sources for the history of israel and how do we evaluate them how do we make them speak to us through the fog of centuries grabbe focuses on original sources including inscriptions papyri and archaeology he examines the problems involved in historical methodology and deals with the major issues surrounding the use of the biblical text when writing a history of this period ancient israel makes an original contribution to the field but also provides an enlightening overview and critique of current scholarly debate it can therefore serve as a handbook or reference point for those wanting a catalog of original sources scholarship and secondary studies its user friendly structure and grabbe s clarity of style make this book eminently accessible not only to students of biblical studies and ancient history but also to the interested lay reader

guides readers through the themes central texts prayers festivals and practices of ancient israel s worship traditions in the old testament

daily life in ancient israel customs and traditions of the old testament step into the world of the old testament and discover how ordinary people lived worked and worshiped in the land of israel daily life in ancient israel brings the bible s background to life showing the customs and traditions that shaped family community and faith from farming the land and preparing meals to celebrating festivals and observing the sabbath this book reveals the rhythms of life that gave context to the stories of scripture drawing from archaeology history and the biblical text this study explores what life was really like in ancient villages towns and fields it opens a window into the daily routines of shepherds farmers craftsmen and priests offering readers a deeper understanding of the culture in which the old testament was written inside this book you ll explore how families and households were structured in ancient israel agricultural practices food preparation and the importance of bread wine and oil clothing housing and tools of everyday life in villages and cities the cycle of festivals and holy days from passover to the feast of tabernacles religious practices at home in the synagogue and at the temple the role of work trade and craftsmanship in sustaining communities social customs such as hospitality marriage and community justice from the shepherd s pasture to the temple courts in jerusalem daily life in ancient israel paints a vivid picture of the world behind the scriptures this book helps readers connect with the bible on a deeper level by understanding the culture traditions and rhythms that shaped the people of god

during the past several decades family and household religion has become a topic of old testament scholarship in its own right fed by what were initially three distinct approaches the religious historical approach the gender oriented approach and the archaeological approach the first pursues answers to questions of the commonality and difference between varieties of family religion and describes the household and family religions of mesopotamia syria ugarit israel philistia egypt greece and rome gender oriented approaches also contribute uniquely important insights to family and household religion pioneers of this sort of investigation show that although women in ancient israelite societies were very restricted in their participation in the official cult there were familial rituals performed in domestic environments in which women played prominent roles especially as related to fertility childbirth and food preparation archaeologists have worked to illuminate many aspects of this family religion as enacted by and related to the nuclear family unit and have found evidence that domestic cults were more important in israel than has previously been understood one might even conceive of every family as having actively partaken in ritual activities within its domestic environment family and household religion in ancient israel and the levant analyzes the appropriateness of the combined term family and household religion and identifies the types of family that existed in ancient israel on the basis of both literary and archaeological evidence comparative evidence from iron age philistia transjordan syria and phoenicia is presented this monumental book presents a typology of cult places that extends from domestic cults to local sanctuaries and state temples it details family religious beliefs as expressed in the almost 3 000 individual hebrew personal names that have so far been recorded in epigraphic and biblical material the hebrew onomasticon is further compared with 1 400 ammonite moabite aramean and phoenician names these data encompass the vast majority of known hebrew personal names and a substantial sample of the names from surrounding cultures in this impressive compilation of evidence the authors describe the variety of rites performed by families at home at a neighborhood shrine or at work burial rituals and the ritual care for the dead are examined a comprehensive bibliography extensive appendixes and several helpful indexes round out the masterful textual

material to form a one volume compendium that no scholar of ancient israelite religion and archaeology can afford not to own

in ancient israelite literature exile is seen as a central turning point within the course of the history of israel in these texts the exile is a central ideological concept it serves to explain the destruction of the monarchic polities and the social and economic disasters associated with them in terms that yhwh punished israel judah for having abandoned his ways as it develops an image of an unjust israel it creates one of a just deity but yhwh is not only imagined as just but also as loving and forgiving for the exile is presented as a transitory state exile is deeply intertwined with its discursive counterpart the certain return as the exile comes to be understood as a necessary purification or preparation for a renewal of yhwh s proper relationship with israel the seemingly unpleasant exilic conditions begin discursively to shape an image of yhwh as loving israel and teaching it exile is dystopia but one that carries in itself all the seeds of utopia the concept of exile continued to exercise an important influence in the discourses of israel in the second temple period and was eventually influential in the production of eschatological visions

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