Ancient Israelite Literature In Its Cultural Context

A Survey of the Old Testament Laminated Sheet

Oral Tradition in Ancient Israel

The first full-length study of the evolution of self and agency in ancient Israelite anthropology. Conceptions of “the self” have received significant recent attention in philosophy, anthropology, and cultural history. Scholars argue that the introspective self of the modern West is a distinctive phenomenon that cannot be projected back onto the cultures of antiquity. While acknowledging such differences is vital, it can lead to an inaccurate flattening of the ancient self. In this study, Carol A. Newsom explores the assumptions that govern ancient Israelite views of the self and its moral agency before the fall of Judah, as well as striking developments during the Second Temple period. She demonstrates how the collective trauma of the destruction of the Temple catalyzed changes in the experience of the self in Israelite literature, including first-person singular prayers, notions of self-alienation, and emerging understandings of a defective heart and self. Examining novel forms of spirituality as well as sectarian texts, Newsom chronicles the evolving toward gua in ancient Israelite literature, unveiling how introspection in Second Temple Judaism both parallels and differs from forms of introspective selfhood in Greek-Roman cultures.

The Wise Men of Ancient Israel and Their Proverbs

Over a hundred years ago, Wellhausen attempted to prove that the Priestly legal sections of the Pentateuch reflect postexilic Judaism and must be considered a deviation from the prophetic religion preceding it. In this study, Weinfeld points out the fallacies in Wellhausen’s thesis, making a case for the antiquity of the Priestly Code. Particular a.

Prophets, Prophecy, and Ancient Israelite Historiography

Scripture in Context II

Ancient Near Eastern Literature and the Hebrew Scriptures about the Fatherhood of God

The Companion to Ancient Israel offers an innovative overview of ancient Israelite culture and history, richly informed by a variety of approaches and fields. Distinguished scholars provide original contributions that explore the tradition in all its complexity, multiplicity and diversity. A methodologically sophisticated overview of ancient Israelite culture that provides insights into political and social history, culture, and methodology. Explores what we can say about the cultures and history of the people of Israel and Judah, but also investigates how we know what we know. Presents fresh insights, richly informed by a variety of approaches and fields. Delves into religion as lived, an approach that asks about the everyday lives of ordinary people and the material cultures that they construct and experience. Each essay is an original contribution to the subject.

The People of Ancient Israel

Providing a comprehensive study of “oral tradition” in Israel, this volume acquaints the reader with the creation, form, and function of oral tradition in the ancient world. The author presents cases of oral/written interaction that provide the best ethnographic analogies for ancient Israel and insights from these suggest a model of transmission in oral-written societies valid for ancient Israel. Miller reconstructs what ancient Israelite oral literature would have been and considers criteria for identifying orally derived material in the narrative books of the Old Testament, marking several passages as highly probable oral derivations. Using ethnographic data and ancient Near Eastern examples, he proposes performance settings for this material. The epilogue treats the contentious topic of historicity and shows that orally derived texts are not more historically reliable than other texts in the Bible.

Oral World and Written Word

Archaeology won’t prove or disprove the Bible’s truth claims. But archaeology, combined with other bodies of evidence like historical geography, extrabiblical texts, anthropological insights, and careful study of the writings of ancient Israel, allow us to reconstruct a reasonable picture of the ancient Israelites: how they lived, what they thought, and what their Scriptures mean. In Studying the Ancient Israelites, a seasoned professor uses accessible writing and an inviting page design to introduce students and serious readers to the foundations of our understanding of the people of the Old Testament.

Law, Power, and Justice in Ancient Israel

The Religions of Ancient Israel

Biblical Interpretation in Ancient Israel

Ancient Near Eastern Literature and the Hebrew Scriptures About the Fatherhood of God discusses some of the main-caster-gods- concepts of the peoples of the Ancient Near East, then examines the eighteen occurrences of God’s fatherhood specifically mentioned in Hebrew Scripture. From these sources, the book develops a theology of God’s fatherhood that honors both ancient and modern scrutiny. Although many scholars have explored the subject of the fatherhood of God—mostly from the perspective of nonbiblical disciplines, and through the lens of Greco-Roman mythology—this book takes into account the wealth of material from the ancient Near East, the birthplace of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Studying the Ancient Israelites

Ngisian explores the diverse literary antecedents of the Old Testament as well as the Apocrypha – books excluded from the canonical Hebrew text but included in the Septuagint.

Old Testament Today

In this volume Paula McNutt provides a synthesis of recent research on the nature and development of the society of ancient Israel. Focusing on Israelite history from the tribal period through the time of Persian domination, McNutt employs a social-scientific perspective to examine recent reconstructions of the social and cultural contexts that nurtured the literature of the Hebrew Bible. She also offers a helpful overview of the components and dynamics of ancient Israelite society. By investigating the intricate social processes that sustained the society of ancient Israel, McNutt enables the reader to discern the forces at work during key periods of transition and transformation in early Israelite history.

Language Contact, Colonial Administration, and the Construction of Identity in Ancient Israel

In Language Contact, Colonial Administration, and the Construction of Identity in Ancient Israel, Boyd offers the first book-length incorporation of language contact theory with data from the Bible. It allows for a reexamination of the nature of contact between biblical authors and the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Achaemenid empires.

The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Ancient Israel
Ancient Israelite Literature In Its Cultural Context

"In the summertime of 1978 and 1980, William W. Hallo directed two National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminars, both of which had the title: 'Biblical History in its Near Eastern Setting.' These seminars, conducted at Yale University, have now resulted in two related collections of essays. This second collection, Scriptures in Context II, had its origins in the 1980 seminar. Both seminars investigated in chronological sequence the major phases of ancient Near Eastern history and focused on the history, literary traditions, and religion of ancient Israel within the context of its cultural environs. A major concern was to recognize and explore the implications of the way in which the native biblical and extra-biblical literary traditions rendered account of themselves. The methodology followed in the seminars and the resulting essays is a contextual approach. This approach to the study of biblical history, literature, and religion is concerned not only to discover illuminating and insightful parallels between biblical and extrabiblical sources, but also to note and recognize the implications of significant and important differences." - Jacket.

From Ancient Writings to Sacred Texts

Many today find the Old Testament a closed book. The cultural issues seem insurmountable and we are easily baffled by that which seems obscure. Furthermore, without knowledge of the ancient culture we can easily impose our own culture on the text, potentially distorting it. This series invites you to enter the Old Testament with a company of guides that will give new insights into these cherished writings. Features include: • Over 2000 photographs, drawings, maps, diagrams and charts provide a visual feast that breathes fresh life into the text. • Passage-by-passage commentary presents archaeological findings, historical explanations, geographic insights, notes on manners and customs, and more. • Analyzes the literature of the ancient Near East and opens your eyes to new depths of understanding both familiar and unfamiliar passages. • Written by an international team of 38 specialists, all top scholars in background studies.

Genesis

Ancient Israelite and Early Jewish literature offers more than simply an introduction to the Hebrew Bible. Increased interest in Israel's history as accessible to the religion of Ancient Israel and background to the New Testament demands an introduction that guides the reader through the maze of Jewish literature dating from the Hellenistic and Early Roman periods in addition to the Hebrew Bible.

Ancient Israel in Sinai

The 18 essays by members of the Canadian Society for Biblical Studies published in this volume showcase the work of leading authorities on ancient Israelite and Jewish historiography as it intersects with the phenomenon of prophecy. A deep divide exists between the traditions of historiography and prophecy in the academic study of the Hebrew Bible, and the concern of the contributors is to close that gap, to expose the close relationship between these two traditions in the literature of the Hebrew Bible. The first section of the book explores prophecy and prophets in ancient Israelite and Jewish historiographic books (Deuteronomy, Chronicles, Ezra/Neheum). Second Temples Judaism.

The Place of the Law in the Religion of Ancient Israel

This is the most far-reaching interdisciplinary investigation into the religion of ancient Israel ever attempted. The author draws on textual readings, archaeological and historical data and epigraphy to determine what is known about the Israelite religions during the Iron Age (1200-586 BCE). The evidence is synthesized within the structure of an Israelite society and its social organization, tribes, land, traditional ways of the Israelites, and a national deity. Professor Zevit has originated this interpretative matrix through insights, ideas, and models developed in the academic study of religion and history within the context of the humanities. He is strikingly original, for instance, in his contention that much of the Priestly was composed in praise of daos rather than Yahweh. Through his book, the author has set a precedent which should encourage dialogues and cooperative study between all ancient historians and archaeologists, but particularly between Iron Age archaeologists and biblical scholars. The work challenges many conclusions of previous scholarship about the nature of the Israelites’ religion.

War in the Hebrew Bible

The Mythic Mind follows the tradition of works which insist on the necessity for a comparative dimension in the study of ancient Israel. The Israelite world-view was essentially a West Semitic world-view in origin, with additional deeply embedded influences from Egypt and Mesopotamia, though it produced its own distinctive character by way of synthesis and reaction. The essays in this volume explore various aspects of this process, historically and cosmologically, commonly challenging received views developed in the academic study of religion and history within the context of the humanities. The focus of the Mythic Mind is to explore the similarities and differences in the world-views of ancient Israel and the other ancient Near Eastern cultures.

The Biography of Ancient Israel

This book surveys within the various literary genres (cosmologies, personal archives and epics, hymns, and prophecies) parallels between the Bible and Ancient Near Eastern literature.

The World of Ancient Israel

In his pathbreaking Israel in Egypt James K. Hoffmeier sought to refute the claims of scholars who doubt the historical accuracy of the biblical account of the Israelite sojourn in Egypt. Analyzing a wealth of textual, archaeological, and geographical evidence, he put forth a thorough defense of the biblical tradition. Hoffmeier now turns his attention to the Wilderness narratives of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers. As director of the North Sinai Archaeological Project, Hoffmeier has led several excavations that have uncovered important new evidence supporting the Wilderness narratives, including a major New Kingdom fort at Tell el-Borg that was occupied during the Israelite exodus. Hoffmeier employs these archaeological findings to shed new light on the route of the exodus from Egypt. He also investigates the location of Mount Sinai, and offers a rebuttal to those who have sought to locate it in northern Arabia and not in the Sinai peninsula as traditionally thought. Hoffmeier addresses here and when the Israelites could have lived in Sinai, as well as whether it would have been possible for Moses to write down the law received at Mount Sinai. Building on the new evidence for the Israelite sojourn in Egypt, Hoffmeier explores the Egyptian influence on the Wilderness tradition. For example, he finds Egyptian elements in Israelite religious practices, including the use of the tabernacle, and points to a significant number of Egyptian personal names among the generation of the exodus. The origin of Israel is a subject of much debate and the wilderness tradition has been sought to explain by those who challenge its credibility. In Ancient Israel in Sinai, Hoffmeier brings the Wilderness tradition to the forefront and makes a case for its authenticity based on solid evidence and intelligent analysis.

An Ancient Israelite Historian

This full-color textbook shows college students how the Old Testament uniquely reveals the God of the universe.

Religious Diversity in Ancient Israel and Judah

A series of Bible study guides following the format and content of the NIV Application Commentaries Series. Each study looks at the original meaning, bridging contexts, and contemporary significance of the text, and offers small group participants a better understanding and relevant application of the biblical material to their daily lives.

Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context

This book discuss women in a polytheistic and monotheistic society by analyzing their social and religious position according to the literary and non-literary texts of Ugarit and Israel.

The Minor Prophets

An award-winning study which analyzes the phenomenon of textual analysis in ancient Israel, exploring the tradition of exegetes prior to the development of biblical interpretation in early classical Judaism and the earliest Christian communities.

Ancient Israel and its Literature

The Creation of History in Ancient Israel demonstrates how the historian can start to piece together the history of ancient Israel using the Hebrew Bible as a source.

The Origin Tradition of Ancient Israel

Students of the Old Testament may not know everything they need to know, but they do know there’s a lot they need to know! Whether studying for exams or delving into Old Testament Scriptures, students need critical information at their fingertips. Instead, it’s usually scattered throughout textbooks, self-made crib sheets, and sticky-notes on their computer monitors. Now there’s a better way: The Zondervan Get an A! Study Guides to A Survey of the Old Testament is a company of guides that will give new insights into these cherished writings. Features include: • Over 2000 photographs, drawings, maps, diagrams and charts provide a visual feast that breathes fresh life into the text. • Passage-by-passage commentary presents archaeological findings, historical explanations, geographic insights, notes on manners and customs, and more. • Analyzes the literature of the ancient Near East and opens your eyes to new depths of understanding both familiar and unfamiliar passages. • Written by an international team of 38 specialists, all top scholars in background studies.

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Incense in Ancient Israel

From Epic to Canon

This volume of essays draws together specialists in the field to explore, illustrate and analyze this religious diversity in Ancient Israel.

Reconstructing the Society of Ancient Israel

For more than three decades, Thomas L. Thompson has written at the intersection of biblical theology and archaeology. Origin of Tradition of Ancient Asia important questions about history in general and Israel’s history in particular—including, perhaps most importantly, at what point Israel’s history begins. After surveying the recent literature on the subject, Thompson closely examines the Pentateuchal tradition as a narrative of Israel’s history, and offers detailed exegesis of the historical narratives in Genesis and Exodus, including Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, and the sojourn in the wilderness. He closes with a discussion of chronology and historiography.

A Brief Survey of the Bible Study Guide

Intended primarily as a textbook for undergraduates, this volume has the following major divisions, each divided into chapters: I. "An Introduction to the People" (including the "essential stages" of the biblical material, methods of analysis, and the geographical setting); II. "The Origin of the People" (including a brief history of Old Testament criticism, the patriarchal traditions, the exodus event, and the covenant at Sinai); III. "The Growth of the People" (from the wilderness period to the time of Elijah); IV. "The Denomin of the People" (from the emergence of the literary prophets to the time of exile); V. "The Renewal of the People" (from Second Isaiah through the end of the Old Testament period). There is an extensive bibliography (arranged topically and by chapter), index of authors and subjects, and photos and maps scattered appropriately throughout the volume. Book jacket.

Women in Ugarit and Israel

John Walton, professor of Old Testament at Wheaton College, and Mark Strauss, professor of New Testament at Bethel Seminary San Diego, provide participants with an overview of the key themes, events, and characters in the entire Bible.

The People of Ancient Israel

Using socio-anthropological theory and archaeological evidence, Knight argues that while the laws in the Hebrew Bible tend to reflect the interests of those in power, the majority of ancient Israelites—located in villages—developed their own unwritten customary laws to regulate behavior and resolve legal conflicts in their own communities. This book includes numerous examples from village, city, and cult.—from publisher’s description

The Spirit within Me

Encapsulating as it does research that has been undertaken on the sociological, anthropological and political aspects of the history of ancient Israel, this important book is designed to follow in the tradition of works in the series sponsored by The Society for Old Testament Study which began with the publication of The People and the Book in 1925. The World of Ancient Israel is especially concerned to explore in greater depth than comparable studies the areas and degrees of overlap between approaches to the subject of Old Testament research adopted by scholars and students of theology and the social sciences. Increasing numbers of scholars have recognized the valuable insights that can be gained from a cross-disciplinary approach, and it is becoming clear that the early biblical traditions about the formation of the Israelite state must be examined in the light of comparative anthropology if useful historical conclusions are to be drawn from them.

The Mythic Mind

Texts about war pervade the Hebrew Bible, raising challenging questions in religious and political ethics. The war passages that readers find most disquieting are those in which God demands the total annihilation of the enemy without regard to gender, age, or military status. The ideology of the "ban," however, is only one among a range of attitudes towards war preserved in the ancient Israelite literary tradition. Applying insights from anthropological, comparative literature, and feminist studies, Niditch considers a wide spectrum of war ideologies in the Hebrew Bible, seeking in each case to discover why and how these views might have made sense to biblical writers, who themselves can be seen to wrestle with the ethics of violence. The study of war thus also illuminates the social and cultural history of Israel, as war texts are found to map the world views of biblical writers from various periods and settings. Reviewing ways in which modern scholars have interpreted this controversial material, Niditch sheds further light on the normative assumptions that shape our understanding of ancient Israel. More widely, this work explores how human beings attempt to justify killing and violence while concentrating on the tones, textures, meanings, and messages of a particular corpus in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Ancient Israelite and Early Jewish Literature

This book surveys within the various literary genres (cosmologies, personal archives and epics, hymns, and prayers) parallels between the Bible and Ancient Near Eastern literature.

Ancient Israelite Literature in Its Cultural Context

This collection continues the study of ancient Judaism.

Religion, Literature, and Society in Ancient Israel, Formative Christianity and Judaism

"Pardes has a remarkable gift for asking new questions about familiar texts and providing fresh insights into old problems. By looking closely at the key metaphors and the narrative details of the biblical story of the formation of the Israelite nation, she has teased out of the text a compelling biography,"—Robert Alter, Professor of Hebrew and Comparative Literature, University of California, Berkeley "Ilana Pardes elegantly recasts the mythic story of Israel's origins as original as it is brilliant. This is a book for every reader of the Bible who wishes 'to wrest tradition away from a conformism that is about to overpower it.'"—David Biale, author of Eros and the Jews "This is a wonderful book and a delight to read. The idea of treating the exodus story as a collective biography is quite original, and makes possible a genuinely illuminating reading of the story."—Michael Walzer, author of Exodus and Revolution

The Creation of History in Ancient Israel

Winner of the Centennial Book Award from the Tuttleman Family Foundation of Gratz College In From Epic to Canon, Frank Moore Cross discusses specific issues that illuminate central questions about the Hebrew Bible and those who created and preserved it. He challenges the persistent attempt to read Protestant theological polish against law into ancient Israel. Cross uncovers the continuities between the institutions of kinship and of covenant, which he describes as "extended kinship." He examines the social structures of ancient Israel and reveals that beneath its later social and cultural accretions, the concept of covenant—as opposed to codified law—was a vital part of Israel’s earliest institutions. He then draws parallels between the expression of kinship and covenant among the Israelites and that practiced by other ancient societies, as well as in primitive societies.