

emphasizes pieces such as the seventh-century Ketef Hinnom amulets to demonstrate the strength of Israelite monotheism.

While the presentation of the evidence is quite thorough, it is unavoidable that some sections will soon need updating due to new archaeological and other findings that continue to add to the discussion. One thinks especially of the excavations and discoveries at eleventh-century Khirbet Qeiyafa twenty miles from Jerusalem, which have been subject to much polemic recently in regard to religion in the transitional period of Iron Age I to II and the reliability of the Bible's portrait of a United Monarchy. For a new examination of family and household religion, see R. Albertz and R. Schmitt, *Family and Household Religion in Ancient Israel and the Levant* (Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2012); and for religious diversity, especially poly-Yahwism, within the distinct nations of Judah and Israel, see F. Stavrakopoulou and J. Barton, *Religious Diversity in Ancient Israel and Judah* (New York: T & T Clark International, 2010).

In sum, Hess succeeds in his stated goal: "The purpose of the present study will be to identify the major sources relevant to questions of Israelite religion in the biblical and extrabiblical texts, and in the archaeology of Israel. Rather than a final answer to the questions, this work seeks to provide a beginning point for the reader in the detailed but key questions of early Israelite religions" (p. 79). Still, the main reader that Hess has in mind is probably someone who approaches the subject from a traditionally conservative point of view. For that reader, the book will be very provocative, and that is a significant consequence of this work. Moreover, for the reader of the Bible who is already well versed in critical theories of scholarship, the book is still an excellent source for a fairly comprehensive overview of the evidence.

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Homeland and Exile: Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Studies in Honour of Bustenay Oded. Edited by GERSHON GALIL, MARK GELLER, and ALAN MILLARD. Supplements to *Vetus Testamentum*, vol. 140. Leiden: BRILL, 2009. Pp. xxiv + 643. \$262.

This volume honors Bustenay Oded on his seventy-fifth birthday. Oded retired from the University of Haifa in 2002 after teaching there since 1966, but his long career as a leading scholar of the history of ancient Israel has continued well past his retirement and includes his work, *The Early History of the Babylonian Exile (8th–6th Centuries B.C.E.)* (Haifa: Pardes, 2010 [Hebrew]). This collective volume in his honor offers thirty contributions that include some new text editions or revised interpretations and many valuable perspectives on solving various problems or reframing certain issues in the fields of Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern Studies.

The book begins with a short preface of two pages, followed by a bibliography of Oded's work. There is, unfortunately, no general introduction to the volume, an omitted feature that some readers will lament as a missed opportunity by the editors to provide context and perspective on the contributions individually and as a whole. The rest of the book is divided into two parts: Part one, "Ancient Near Eastern Studies," with fourteen chapters, and part two, "Biblical Studies," with sixteen chapters. Contributions in each part appear in the alphabetical order of the authors' last names.

Part one begins with a contribution by B. Becking (pp. 3–12), in which he gives a new interpretation of the seven-line Moabite inscription from Bêt Har³oš (first edited in S. Ahituv, "A New Moabite Inscription," *ISMA* 2 [2003]: 3–10). Also in this section are two text editions: B. Faist's edition of a new Neo-Assyrian sale document featuring an Elamite deportee (pp. 59–69), and J. Novotny and G. Van Buylaere's edition of Šin-šarru-iškun's Cylinder B, an inscription recording this king's restoration of a temple (probably Ezida) in Calah (pp. 215–43). Matters concerning the Assyrian military or administration are treated by F. M. Fales ("The Assyrian Words for '[Foot] Soldier'," pp. 71–94);

G. Galil ("Appropriation of Land by Officials in the Neo-Assyrian Period," pp. 95–119); and S. C. Melville ("A New Look at the End of the Assyrian Empire," pp. 179–201). The latter contribution explores the stagnation of Assyrian military strategies and the failure of the Assyrian state to adapt to the new and unfamiliar tactics of the Medes as an explanation for Assyria's demise.

Both M. Cogan and the late V. A. Hurowitz present literary studies (respectively "Literary-Critical Issues in the Hebrew Bible from an Assyriological Perspective: Literary-Ideological Alterations," pp. 13–25, and "A Monument to Imperial Control—Literary Observations on the Thompson Prism of Esarhaddon [Nineveh A]," pp. 121–65). The assemblage of Assyriological papers is nicely rounded out by M. Dandamayev ("Ardiya, an Eanna Temple Prebendary," pp. 29–34), A. R. Millard ("Assyria, Aramaeans and Aramaic," pp. 203–14), and D. B. Weisberg ("A 'Dinner at the Palace' during Nebuchadnezzar's Reign," pp. 261–68).

Three final contributions in part one deal with the Mediterranean generally or with Egypt. M. Dietrich offers a piece entitled "Trumpet Snails and Purple Snails as an Indication of the Transfer of Religion and Technology in the Eastern-Mediterranean Region" (pp. 35–57). In addition, N. Shupak reviews human types in Egyptian wisdom literature (pp. 245–60), and A. Lemaire discusses the question of Pharaoh Shoshenq's activities in Samaria and Jerusalem (pp. 167–77).

In part two, "Biblical Studies," several chapters deal with specific biblical books or problems within them. For instance, R. Albertz suggests reasons for dating the Deuteronomistic Historian to the second half of the sixth century B.C.E. (pp. 271–96), while E. Otto deals with anti-Achaemenid propaganda in Deuteronomy (pp. 547–58). H. N. Rösel looks at the Book of Joshua and the problem of whether or not there was ever a Hexateuch (pp. 559–70). Y. Amit explains the book of Judges in terms of a pre-deuteronomistic Judahite indictment of the northern kingdom dating to the eighth century B.C.E. ("The Book of Judges: Dating and Meaning," pp. 297–322), and J. Sasson discusses the ways in which some modern satirical readings of the Ehud story in the same book are stretched too far ("Ethically Cultured Interpretations: The Case of Eglon's Murder [Judges 3]," pp. 571–95).

Both M. Garsiel and R. S. Hess write on King David (respectively "The Valley of Elah Battle and the Duel of David with Goliath: Between History and Artistic Theological Historiography," pp. 391–426, and "David and Abishag: The Purpose of 1 Kings 1:1–4," pp. 427–38). A chapter by E. H. Merrill about the identity of the pharaoh in the biblical exodus story (pp. 533–45) offers little that is new to this particular debate.

The Latter Prophets are represented by contributions on Zephaniah and Micah (D. Kahn, "The Historical Setting of Zephaniah's Oracles against the Nations," pp. 439–53, and S. Vargon, "The Prayer for the Restoration of the Israelite Kingdom in the Book of Micah—Literary Analysis and the Historical Background," pp. 597–618). Other chapters deal with Nehemiah (J. Fleishman, "To Stop Nehemiah from Building the Jerusalem Wall—Jewish Aristocrats Triggered an Economic Crisis," pp. 361–90) and Tobit (D. Dimant, "Tobit in Galilee," pp. 347–59).

Some chapters in part two deal with broader issues within Biblical Studies. Z. Kallai writes on "Biblical Narrative and Historical Method" (pp. 455–67), and A. Berlin, in "Did the Jews Worship Idols in Babylonia?" (pp. 323–33), concludes that the expression "to serve other gods" was not always to be taken literally. J. Day takes up the topic of "Cain and the Kenites" (pp. 335–46). P. Machinist's contribution could have been placed in either of the volume's two parts; his "Road Not Taken: Wellhausen and Assyriology" (pp. 469–531) is an absorbing piece on Wellhausen's lack of interest in the ancient Near Eastern archaeological and textual findings of his day.

The editors of this volume and its contributors are to be congratulated for their fine work. Their book offers a variety of topics, generally of high quality and great interest, and is certainly an excellent tribute to Bustenay Oded by his friends and colleagues.

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