

INTERPRETING EXILE

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INTERPRETING EXILE

Displacement and Deportation in Biblical and Modern Contexts

INTERPRETING EXILE
DISPLACEMENT AND DEPORTATION IN BIBLICAL
AND MODERN CONTEXTS

Edited by

Brad E. Kelle,

Frank Ritchel Ames,

and

Jacob L. Wright

Foreword by Rainer Albertz

Society of Biblical Literature
Atlanta

INTERPRETING EXILE
Displacement and Deportation in Biblical and Modern Contexts

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Interpreting exile : interdisciplinary studies of displacement and deportation in biblical and modern contexts / edited by Brad Kelle, Frank R. Ames, and Jacob L. Wright.

p. cm. — (Society of Biblical Literature ancient Israel and its literature ; v. 10)

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-58983-604-4 (paper binding : alk. paper) — ISBN 978-1-58983-605-1 (electronic format)

1. Jews—History—Babylonian captivity, 598–515 B.C. 2. Bible. O.T.—Criticism, interpretation, etc. 3. Exile (Punishment) in literature. 4. Exiles—History. I. Kelle, Brad E., 1973– II. Ames, Frank Ritchel. III. Wright, Jacob L.

BS1199.B3 I58 2011

221.8'305906914—dc22

2011039403

Printed on acid-free, recycled paper conforming to
ANSI/NISO Z39.48-1992 (R1997) and ISO 9706:1994
standards for paper permanence.



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ABBREVIATIONS

AASOR	Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
AB	Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i> . Edited by D. N. Freedman. 6 vols. New York: Doubleday, 1992.
ABG	Arbeiten zur Bibel und ihrer Geschichte
ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
ADPV	Abhandlungen des deutschen Palästinavereins
AfOB	Archiv für Orientforschung; Beiheft
AnBib	Analecta biblica
ANET	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> . Edited by J. B. Pritchard. 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
<i>Ant.</i>	Josephus, <i>Jewish Antiquities</i>
AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AOTC	Abingdon Old Testament Commentaries
ASOR	American Schools of Oriental Research
ATANT	Abhandlungen zur Theologie des Alten und Neuen Testaments
ATD	Das Alte Testament Deutsch
<i>Atiqot</i>	' <i>Atiqot</i>
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BAIAS	<i>Bulletin of the Anglo-Israel Archeological Society</i>
BAR	<i>Biblical Archeology Review</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
BBB	Bonner Biblische Beiträge
BETL	Bibliotheca ephemeridum theologiarum lovaniensium
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
<i>BibInt</i>	<i>Biblical Interpretation</i>
BInS	Biblical Interpretation Series

BJS	Brown Judaic Studies
BMJ	<i>British Medical Journal</i>
BMW	The Bible in the Modern World
BN	<i>Biblische Notizen</i>
BTA	Bible and Theology in Africa
BTB	<i>Biblical Theology Bulletin</i>
BWANT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament
BWAT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten Testament
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
BZAW	Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CAD	<i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> . Edited by Martha T. Roth. 21 vols. Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 1956–2009.
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CC	Continental Commentaries
CDC	Centers for Disease Control
CHANE	Culture and History of the Ancient Near East
COS	<i>The Context of Scripture</i> . Edited by W. W. Hallo. 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997–2002.
CurBS	<i>Currents in Research: Biblical Studies</i>
DSM	<i>Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders</i>
Dtr	Deuteronomistic (History; Writer)
EdF	Erträge der Forschung
EncJud	<i>Encyclopaedia Judaica</i> . 2nd edition. Edited by F. Skolnik. 22 vols. Detroit: Macmillan, 2007.
ErIsr	<i>Eretz-Israel</i>
FAT	Forschungen zum Alten Testament
FCB	Feminist Companion to the Bible
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FOTL	Forms of the Old Testament Literature
FRLANT	Forschungen zur Religion und Literatur des Alten und Neuen Testaments
GCT	Gender, Culture, Theory
HALOT	Koehler, L., W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm, <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Translated and edited under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. 4 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1994–1999.

HALOT-SE	Koehler, L., W. Baumgartner, and J. J. Stamm, <i>The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> . Study edition. Translated and edited under the supervision of M. E. J. Richardson. 2 vols. Leiden: Brill, 2001.
HAR	<i>Hebrew Annual Review</i>
HBT	<i>Horizons in Biblical Theology</i>
HCOT	Historical Commentary on the Old Testament
Hen	<i>Henoch</i>
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
IBC	Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching
ICC	International Critical Commentary
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
Int	<i>Interpretation</i>
JAMA	<i>Journal of the American Medical Association</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JHS	<i>Journal of Hebrew Scriptures</i>
JHNES	Johns Hopkins Near Eastern Studies
JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JPT	<i>Journal of Pastoral Theology</i>
JRA	<i>Journal of Religion in Africa</i>
JSJSup	Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series
JSS	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
KAI	<i>Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften</i> . H. Donner and W. Röllig. 2d ed. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz, 1966–1969.
KAT	Kommentar zum Alten Testament
LAI	Library of Ancient Israel
LHBOTS	Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies
LSJ	Liddell, H. G., R. Scott, H. S. Jones, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> . 9th ed. with revised supplement. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.
MMWR	<i>Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report</i>

<i>NEAEHL</i>	Stern, Ephraim, ed. <i>The New Encyclopedia of Archaeological Excavations in the Holy Land</i> . 4 vols. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1993.
NBBC	New Beacon Bible Commentary
NCB	New Century Bible
<i>NEA</i>	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology</i>
<i>NIB</i>	<i>The New Interpreter's Bible</i> . 13 vols. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994–2004.
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
<i>NIDOTTE</i>	<i>New International Dictionary of Old Testament Theology and Exegesis</i> . Edited by W. A. VanGemeren. 5 vols. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
NRSV	New Revised Standard Version
OBO	Orbis biblicus et orientalis
OBT	Overtures to Biblical Theology
OTL	Old Testament Library
OTM	Oxford Theological Monographs
OTS	Old Testament Studies
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
<i>PNAS</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Israeli National Academy of Sciences</i>
<i>Proof</i>	<i>Prooftexts: A Journal of Jewish Literary History</i>
<i>PRSt</i>	<i>Perspectives in Religious Studies</i>
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
<i>Qad</i>	<i>Qadmoniot</i>
RANE	Records of the Ancient Near East
<i>RB</i>	<i>Revue biblique</i>
<i>RevExp</i>	<i>Review and Expositor</i>
RIMA	The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Assyrian Periods
RSV	Revised Standard Version
SAA	State Archives of Assyria
SAHL	Studies in the Archaeology and History of the Levant
SBLABS	Society of Biblical Literature Archaeology and Biblical Studies
SBLAcBib	Society of Biblical Literature Academia Biblica
SBLAIL	Society of Biblical Literature Ancient Israel and Its Literature
SBLBAC	Society of Biblical Literature The Bible and American Culture
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series

SBLEJL	Society of Biblical Literature Early Judaism and Its Literature
SBLMS	Society of Biblical Literature Monograph Series
SBLRBS	Society of Biblical Literature Resources for Biblical Study
SBLStBL	Society of Biblical Literature Studies in Biblical Literature
SBLSymS	Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series
SBLWAW	Society of Biblical Literature Writings from the Ancient World
SemeiaSt	Semeia Studies
SHANE	Studies in the History of the Ancient Near East
SHBC	Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentaries
<i>SJOT</i>	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
SO	Symbolae osloenses
STAR	Studies in Theology and Religion
STW	Suhrkamp Taschenbuch Wissenschaft
SWBA	Social World of Biblical Antiquity
TA	<i>Tel Aviv</i>
<i>Transeu</i>	<i>Transeuphratène</i>
<i>TynBul</i>	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
UF	<i>Ugarit-Forschungen</i>
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
VAB	Vorderasiatische Bibliothek
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
VTSup	Supplements to Vetus Testamentum
YOSR	Yale Oriental Series, Researches
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZDPV	<i>Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>

FOREWORD

Rainer Albertz

The present volume, which emerged from the ongoing discussion of the SBL Warfare in Ancient Israel Section, is a remarkable enterprise. It intends to examine the exile of ancient Israel and Judah in conjunction with the general phenomenon of exile in its various ancient and modern manifestations. This enterprise, which tries to include a wide range of interdisciplinary and comparative explorations, promises to be fertile for producing both a better understanding of ancient Israel's exilic experience and a higher sensitivity toward modern refugees and migrant peoples through the means of biblical texts.

The main problem for a proper understanding of the exile of ancient Israel and Judah is the paucity and fragmented character of our historical sources. Nearly nothing is known about the deportees from the northern kingdom during the years 732-720 B.C.E. This is likewise true for the deportees from the southern kingdom of the year 701 B.C.E., who are mentioned in Sennacherib's inscription and illustrated on his famous Lachish relief, but not mentioned in the Bible and therefore almost forgotten. A little bit more is known about the Judean deportees under Neo-Babylonian rule (597, 587, and 582 B.C.E.), and our knowledge of their further destiny in Babylonia will perhaps increase once the cuneiform tablets from *āl-Yaḥūdu* and *Našar* have been published. But since this so-called "Babylonian exile" constitutes a lacuna in the Bible's historiographical texts, we know only some events of its beginning and its possible end, while the period in between is nearly unknown. Fortunately, archaeology can provide some estimations of how life went on in Judah during this period, although they are still disputed. Because of this historical uncertainty, some recent scholars have regarded the Babylonian exile as a mere myth and downplayed its significance. Yet the fact that this event provoked a sudden increase of biblical literature in Babylonia and Judah that tried

to cope with the catastrophe and find an orientation for a new beginning speaks against these recent assessments. The present volume, which includes results from sociological, anthropological, and psychological studies on the one hand and from cross-cultural migration, diaspora, and disaster studies on the other hand, may not only help to fill some of the gaps of our historical knowledge, but also provide us with the possibility of a more realistic estimation of the economic, social, psychological, and theological difficulties with which Judeans—both in exile and remaining in the land—probably had to cope.

A deepened understanding of biblical texts that emerged from the crisis of exile can also provide Jews and Christians with a higher degree of sensitivity for dealing with comparable catastrophes and migration or refugee problems in modern societies. Those who have learned to analyze the hardship of the Judean exiles may be better prepared to distance themselves from their native societies and to sympathize with foreign refugees or dislocated people. The present volume shows some impressive examples in this direction. When I wrote *Israel in Exile*, I did not consider that I am a refugee of World War II. I have no memory of my home in Upper Silesia, now Poland, from which my mother carried me westward when I was one and a half years old. Nonetheless, the sense of being a refugee that I felt throughout my life wherever I lived in Germany could have provided a little more sensitivity toward the severe psychological and religious problems that the Babylonian exiles must have experienced, although they seem to have been economically and legally integrated in a manner similar to what I experienced. I had never thought of this conjunction before, but the present volume revealed to me this possible hermeneutical predisposition.

A book that promotes such an interdisciplinary approach must cope with many methodological questions. Archaeology, historiography, sociology, and psychology all have their own methods; their results have to be brought into contact very carefully. Cross-cultural comparisons between ancient and modern societies always need some critical reflection about whether phenomena are truly comparable or can only be compared on a rather abstract or metaphorical level, if at all. Daniel L. Smith-Christopher's contribution in this volume correctly states that "we all make social and psychological assumptions when we interpret historical texts." An advantage of this book is that it endeavors to explicate and clarify these unconscious assumptions and reflect upon their appropriateness. I thank the editors, Brad E. Kelle, Frank Ritzel Ames, and Jacob L. Wright, for

tackling this demanding project and hope that it will amplify our knowledge on the phenomenon of exile in all of its dimensions and foster the methodological reflections of such an explicitly interdisciplinary approach.

Rainer Albertz

Münster, June 2011