HISTORICAL ROOTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT (1200–63 BCE)





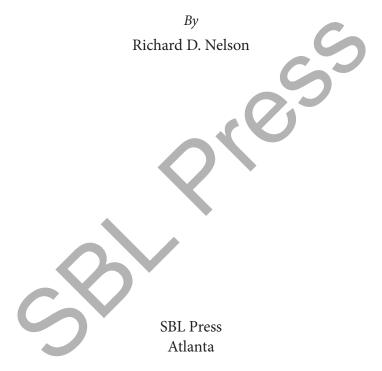


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PREFACE

It is to John Bright (1908–1995) that I owe my first real exposure to the demanding task of recovering and recounting the historical context of the Old Testament. In 1971 he served as my advisor for a master's-level thesis on the Zion psalms. He was the first to make me fully appreciate that the *map* offered by the Bible by no means represents the actual *territory* of history. His guidance concerning the range and interpretation of primary sources and his insistence on rigorous and logically defensible methodology proved to be invaluable for my later scholarship and teaching. William H. Hallo, in a 1980 summer seminar sponsored by National Endowment for the Humanities, introduced me to the riches of Mesopotamian history and culture and to his *comparative method*, which coordinates source documents and the Bible. With an understanding that both the conclusions and the flaws of this present work are entirely my own, it is dedicated to these two sages.

ABBREVIATIONS

ABRL Anchor Bible Reference Library

ADPV Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins

Ag. Ap. Flavius Josephus, Against Apion

ANET Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament.

Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3rd ed. Princeton: Princ-

eton University Press, 1969.

Ant. Flavius Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews
ASOR American Schools of Oriental Research

b. Babylonian Talmud

BBRSup Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplements

BibOr Biblica et orientalia

BZAW Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissen-

schaft

CHANE Culture and History of the Ancient Near East

COS Context of Scripture. Edited by W. W. Hallo and K. L.

Younger. 3 vols. Leiden: Brill, 1997-2002.

BAS Book of the Acts of Solomon

DH Deuteronomistic History, Deuteronomistic Historian

Esv English Standard Version

EV English version

FAT Forschungen zum Alten Testament

Hist. Herodotus, Histories

IKL Israel King List JKL Judah King List

J.W. Flavius Josephus, Jewish War

JSJSup Supplements to the Journal for the Study of Judaism JSOTSup Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement

Series

LC Low Chronology
LB Late Bronze Age

LHB/OTS Library of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies

LSTS Library of Second Temple Studies

LXX Septuagint m. Mishnah

MB Middle Bronze Age

Menah. Menahot

MT Masoretic Text

NAB New American Bible

NASB New American Standard Bible
NIV New International Version
NIB New Jerusalem Bible

NJPS Tanak: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation

according to the Traditional Hebrew Text

NRSV New Revised Standard Version
OBO Orbis Biblicus et Orientalis
OLA Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta

OTL Old Testament Library

Qidd. Qiddušin Roš Haš. Roš Haššanah Sanh. Sanhedrin

SBLABS Society of Biblical Literature Archaeology and Biblical

Studies

SBLSBL Society of Biblical Literature Studies in Biblical Literature

SBLSymS Society of Biblical Literature Symposium Series

SemeiaSt Semeia Studies

SNTSMS Society for New Testament Study Monograph Series SOTSMS Society for Old Testament Study Monograph Series

t. Tosefta

VTSup Vetus Testamentum Supplements

y. Jerusalem Talmud

Yebam. Yebamot