

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

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OLD TESTAMENT (1200–63 BCE)

By
Richard D. Nelson

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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.

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABRL	Anchor Bible Reference Library
ADPV	Abhandlungen des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins
<i>Ag. Ap.</i>	Flavius Josephus, <i>Against Apion</i>
ANET	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament.</i> Edited by James B. Pritchard. 3rd ed. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969.
<i>Ant.</i>	Flavius Josephus, <i>Antiquities of the Jews</i>
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 Wissenschaft
CHANE	Culture and History of the Ancient Near East
COS	<i>Context of Scripture.</i> 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
<i>Hist.</i>	Herodotus, <i>Histories</i>
IKL	Israel King List
JKL	Judah King List
<i>J.W.</i>	Flavius Josephus, <i>Jewish War</i>
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
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible
NJPS	<i>Tanak: The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation according to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i>
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
SBL SBL	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