

The Oxford History of the Biblical World

From Oxford University Press



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In this impressive volume, leading scholars offer compelling glimpses into the biblical world, the world in which prophets, poets, sages, and historians created one of our most important texts--the Bible.

For more than a century, archaeologists have been unearthing the tombs, temples, texts, and artifacts of the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean world. Using new approaches, contemporary scholars have begun to synthesize this material with the biblical traditions. *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* incorporates the best of this scholarship, and in chronologically ordered chapters presents the reader with a readable and integrated study of the history, art, architecture, languages, literatures, and religion of biblical Israel and early Judaism and Christianity in their larger cultural contexts. The authors also examine such issues as the roles of women, the tensions between urban and rural settings, royal and kinship social structures, and official and popular religions of the region. Understanding the biblical world is a vital part of understanding the Bible. Broad, authoritative, and engaging, *The Oxford History of the Biblical World* will illuminate for any reader the ancient world from which the Bible emerged.



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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Coogan (religious studies, Stonehill Coll.) has assembled a dozen scholars with impressive credentials in ancient Near Eastern studies to assist him in creating this work of immense scope. These contributors bring varied perspectives to their work as they draw from new primary and secondary sources based on recent archaeological excavations (often their own) and on translations of texts such as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Organized chronologically, the essays explore the many cultures of ancient Canaan, Israel, Judea, and Palestine from 10,000 B.C.E. to the rise of Islam in the seventh century C.E. Illustrations, maps, charts, chronologies, and bibliographies enhance the uniformly well-written essays. But the strengths of the work are its currency and breadth of coverage and perspective. Appropriate for all libraries with collections in religion or Near Eastern studies, and of particular interest to students of biblical history and archaeology. [For another book edited by Coogan, see The Illustrated Guide to World Religions, reviewed on p. 72.?Ed.]?Linda V. Carlisle, Southern Illinois Univ., Edwardsvill.

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Review

"The Oxford History of the Biblical World is first-class. It merits the highest praise for the best one-volume work on the Biblical World in the world. It covers the vast sweep of the biblical story with great economy in wordage, but misses nothing of importance."--David Noel Freedman, Department of History, University of California, San Diego

"The book is excellent from every point of view."--Philip J. King, Boston College

Review

"The Oxford History of the Biblical World rewards careful study and casual browsing. For those willing to open their minds to the evidence and nuanced argument about the origins of faiths that have shaped our world, it is a worthy investment of time in the study of the timeless."--David Lauter, L.A. Times (on the hardcover edition)

"A judicious and well-illustrated survey of the entire scope of Biblical history."--*The Providence Sunday Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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