

Ph.D. Reading Colloquium OTSR9302: Fall 2014

Historiography and Biblical Archaeology

Dr. R. Dennis Cole

I. DESCRIPTION:

The Ph.D. reading colloquiums in Old Testament consists of exposing students to various readings in the field of Old Testament. This colloquium centers on readings in the areas of Biblical Archaeology and the History of Israel. Besides one preliminary meeting at the beginning of the semester, the colloquium will meet once a month during the semester for discussion periods (4 times). The meetings will focus on the discussion of key concepts and critical issues of entire books as well as shorter selections from other related works. Key articles read by all colloquium members and the presentation and discussion by all colloquium members will be expected at each meeting.

II. GOALS:

The goal of the colloquium is that the students will grasp the larger scope of OT studies in the areas covered by the readings as an augment to the material covered in the OT seminars. This larger exposure to the field will assist students to be better prepared for teaching and researching across the breadth of the discipline of Biblical Studies.

III. TEXTS:

The texts for the colloquium are listed below. Colloquium members should note the meeting assignments with regard to which books will be covered at which stage of the semester.

1. *A History of Israel* by John Bright. Philadelphia: Westminster Press (4th Edition), 1981.
*There is a 4th edition, please use this edition if you do not have a copy of this text.
2. *A Biblical History of Israel* by Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman III. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2003 (ISBN 0-664-22090-8).
3. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* by K.A. Kitchen. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2003 (ISBN 0-8028-4960-1).
4. *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader* edited by Suzanne Richard. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2003 (ISBN 1-57506-083-3).

CORE VALUES ADDRESSED:

1. Doctrinal Integrity - Understanding the Biblical World in order to better read and comprehend the content and meaning of God's Word
2. Characteristic Excellence - Development of excellent skills in knowledge and discernment for interpreting Scripture rightly in its original contexts and communicating those truths with the Church

III. REQUIREMENTS:

- A.** All colloquium members are to read the required texts as stipulated in the schedule of meetings below. For one book per meeting, a brief review of the text should be brought to class as per the class assignments below. Normally the review should include the following items: bibliographic data, a clear statement of the purpose and thesis of the book, a summary of the development of the book, and a reaction/criticism of the book. In addition, a listing of at least 3 reviews of the book in academic journals should be included. (4-5 typed pages, single spaced)
- B.** Colloquium members are expected to participate actively in the discussions of the readings. Failure to participate will greatly affect the final grade for the colloquium.
- C.** Due to the nature of the colloquium, absences are not generally allowed. Work is still due on the day of the assignment as per the schedule of meetings below even if the student is absent from the meeting.

IV. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

Aug Introduction and Assignments

Discussion of the format and assignments.

Discussion Questions:

- What is Biblical Archaeology? Is it a science or biblical studies?
- Why Study Historiography?
- Recent Trends in the Writing of Histories of Israel

Sep History of Israel

Part A *A History of Israel*, John Bright

1. All members read the book. A review is required (see above under course requirements for the format and content of the review). Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work plus give input from the reviews that they consulted on the work.
2. Be prepared to discuss the major period of OT History and major issues of debate and interpretation within each period. Be particularly ready to engage Brown's introduction and his appendix.
3. Discussion Questions:
 - § Why is History important to Old Testament Studies? Theology?
 - § What is the relationship between archaeology and biblical studies?
 - § What are the strengths and weaknesses of Bright's book?
 - § Are issues of historiography important to ministry? Preaching? Teaching?
 - § Do you still think the "Albrightian/Historical-Critical Method" is a relevant approach to Old Testament Studies?
 - § What is the relationship between historical approaches to the text versus literary analyses?

Part B **Current Issues in Historiography and Histories of Ancient Israel:**

A Biblical History of Israel, Iain Provan, V. Philips Long, Tremper Longman.

4. All members read the book. A review is required (see above under course requirements for the format and content of the review).
5. Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work, although discussion will be focused on Part I: Issues in Historiography.
6. Discussion Questions:
 - § What is your reaction to the approaches of Soggin and Miller/Hayes as presented in Provan, et. al.?
 - § Compare and contrast Provan et. al. with Bright's *History of Israel*?
 - § What are the strengths and weaknesses of Provan et. al.?

October **A History of Israel in the Context of the ANE:**

On the Reliability of the Old Testament, Kenneth Kitchen
Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition. James K. Hoffmeier

1. All members read the books. Students should be prepared to discuss the work in the context of an evangelical response to Revisionist Trends.
2. Students should be able to discuss the following topics.
 - § Biblical History in the Context of World History
 - § The Biblical text as historical narrative vs. sacred history
 - § Apologetical approaches to the use of history
 - § Compare and Contrast Kitchen's approach vs. Provan et. al.
 - § Which evangelical history of Israel is better?

November **Biblical Archaeology:**

Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader, S. Richard (ed.)
Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, A. Mazar

1. All members read the books. Students should be prepared to discuss the books, particularly the section on Method and Theory in NEA.
2. Students should read pages 1-412 in NEA
Students should be able to discuss the following topics.
 - § Archaeological Method and Theory
 - § Archaeological Data and Theory vs. Textual Data
 - § Can a History of Israel be written only with archaeological data?
 - § Methodological paradigms: Compare and Contrast the research design of archaeologists vs. Biblicists

December **Critical Questions in Biblical Archaeology**

Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?
William G. Dever

The Quest for the Historical Israel: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel. Israel Finkelstein, Amihai Mazar, Brian Schmidt.
Who was Ancient Israel?
How & When did Israel emerge as a nation?

OLD TESTAMENT READING LIST

OTSR 9302 Supervised Reading Colloquium: Biblical Archaeology and History

Biblical Backgrounds and ANE History

Brisco, Thomas. *Holman Bible Atlas*. Broadman & Holman, 1998

Hallo, William W., and William Kelly Simpson. *The Ancient Near East: A History*. 2nd ed. Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1997.

Hoffmeier, James K. *Israel in Egypt: The Evidence for the Authenticity of the Exodus Tradition*. Oxford, 1997.

King, Philip and Stager, Lawrence E. *Life in Biblical Israel*. Westminster John Knox, 2001.

Redford, Donald B. *Egypt, Canaan, & Israel in Ancient Times*. Princeton Univ., 1992.

Reference: Anson Rainey & R. Steven Notley. *The Sacred Bridge: Carta's Atlas of the Biblical World - An overview of the Ancient Levant*. Jerusalem: Carta, 2006.

Reference: Hallo, William W. and K. Larson Younger, eds. *The Context of Scripture: Volumes I-III*. Brill, 1997, 2000, 2003.

Biblical Archaeology

Dever, William G. *Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Levy, Thomas, ed. *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. Facts on File, 1995.

Mazar, Amihai. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, 10,000-586 BCE*. New York: Doubleday, 1990.

Richard, Suzanne, ed. *Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader*. Winona Lake, IN: Eisenbrauns, 2003.

Reference: Stern, Ephraim. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Vol. II. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE)*. Doubleday, 2001.

History and Historiography

Bright, John. *A History of Israel*. 4th ed. Philadelphia: Westminster, 2000.

Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Provan, Iain, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Westminster, 2003. Selections: First four chapters

V. ADDITIONAL SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

General Overviews

- Ben-Tor, Amnon, ed. *The Archaeology of Ancient Israel*. Yale University Press, 1992.
- Hoerth, Alfred. *Archaeology and the Old Testament*. Baker 1998.
- Levy, Thomas E., ed. *The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land*. Facts on File, 1995.
- Mazar, A. *Archaeology of the Land of the Bible: 10,000 – 586 B.C.E.* Doubleday, 1990.
- Moorey, P.R.S., *A Century of Biblical Archaeology*. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

Method and Theory

- Aviram Biram and Joseph Aviram (eds.). *Biblical Archaeology Today, 1990*. Israel Exploration Society, 1993.
- K.R. Dark. *Theoretical Archaeology*. Cornell University Press, 1995.
- Ellis, Linda, ed. *Archaeological Method and Theory: An Encyclopedia*. Garland Publishing, 2000.
- Leo G. Perdue, Lawrence E. Toombs, Gary Lance Johnson (eds.). *Archaeology and Biblical Interpretation*. John Knox Press, 1987.
- Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn. *Archaeology: Theories Methods and Practice*. Thames and Hudson, 1996.

Critical and Current Issues

- Neil Asher Silberman and David Small, eds. *The Archaeology of Israel: Constructing the Past, Interpreting the Present*. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.