



OTSR9302: Reading Colloquium in OT Historiography and Biblical Archaeology

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Biblical Studies
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Dr. R. Dennis Cole

Professor of Old Testament Hebrew and Archaeology
Dodd Faculty Building 201
504-282-4455 ext 3248
rdcole@nobts.edu

SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Ph.D. reading colloquia in Old Testament expose 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will comprehend the larger scope of OT studies in the areas covered by the readings as an augment to the material covered in the OT seminars.
2. Students will value the contributions and viewpoints of a wide number of scholars in Old Testament and Archaeological studies for their own understanding of God's Word.
3. Students will utilize their research skills in preparing and presenting the results of their studies. By this larger exposure to the field students will be better prepared for teaching and researching across the breadth of the discipline of Biblical Studies.

TEXTBOOKS:

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. **See listings under Course Schedule.**

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.

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

AUGUST Introduction and Assignments – VIA EMAIL

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

Part A History & Historiography of Ancient Israel

SEPTEMBER 1

A History of Israel, John Bright

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

Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument and the Crisis of Biblical Israel. V. Philips Long and David W. Baker

In Search of History: Historiography in the Ancient World and the Origins of Biblical History. John van Seters

Philosophy and Writing History in Ancient Israel. Megan Bishop Moore

The Books of Kings: Sources, Composition, Historiography, and Reception (Vetus Testamentum Supp). Andre Lemaire & Baruch Halpern

1. All members read the books. 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.
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?
- 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.?

**Part B Current Issues in Historiography of Ancient Israel:
SEPTEMBER 29**

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. +
Ancient Israel in Sinai (2 SHORT BOOKS) James K. Hoffmeier
*The Land Before the Kingdom of Israel: A History of the Southern
 Levant and the People Who Populated It.* Brendon C. Benz
*Reconsidering Israel and Judah: Recent Studies on the Deuteronomistic
 History,* Knoppers, Gary B, & J. Gordon McConville, Eds.
The First Historians: The Hebrew Bible and History Baruch Halpern

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
 - § Apologetic approaches to the use of history
 - § Compare and Contrast Kitchen’s approach vs. Provan et. al.
 - § Which evangelical history of Israel is better?

THE BIBLE AND ARCHAEOLOGY

OCTOBER 27

Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Amihai Mazar
Archaeology of the Land of the Bible, Vol. II. The Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian Periods (732-332 BCE). Ephraim Stern
The Archaeology of Ancient Israel. Amnon Ben-Tor, ed.
Archaeology and the Old Testament. Alfred Hoerth
The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land. Thomas Levy, ed.
Egypt, Canaan, & Israel in Ancient Times. Donald B. Redford

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. Biblicalists

DECEMBER 1 Critical Questions in Biblical Archaeology

Who Were the Early Israelites and Where Did They Come From?

William G. Dever

What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It?: What Archeology Can Tell Us About the Reality of Ancient Israel.

William G. Dever

The Quest for the Historical Israel: Debating Archaeology and the History of Early Israel. Israel Finkelstein, Amihai Mazar, Brian Schmidt.

The Archaeology of Israel: Constructing the Past, Interpreting the Present. N. Silberman and D. Small. Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.

The Forgotten Kingdom: The Archaeology and History of the Northern Kingdom. Israel Finkelstein

Who was Ancient Israel?

How & When did Israel emerge as a nation?

Issues and Debates

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 Univ. Press, 1997. Rev. 1999.
- _____. *Ancient Israel in Sinai: The Evidence for the Wilderness Tradition*. Oxford Univ. Press, 2011.
- 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

- Benz, Brendon C. *The Land Before the Kingdom of Israel: A History of the Southern Levant and the People Who Populated It*. HACL 7. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2017.
- 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.
- 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.
- Dever, William G. *What Did the Biblical Writers Know and When Did They Know It?: What Archeology Can Tell Us About the Reality of Ancient Israel*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.
- Halpern, Baruch. *The First Historians: The Hebrew Bible and History*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.

- Kitchen, K. A. *On the Reliability of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.
- Knoppers, Gary B, and J. Gordon McConville, Eds. *Reconsidering Israel and Judah: Recent Studies on the Deuteronomistic History*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study Old Testament Series. Eisenbrauns, 2000,
- Long, V. Philips and David W. Baker, *Windows into Old Testament History: Evidence, Argument and the Crisis of Biblical Israel*. Eerdmans, 2002.
- Long, V. Philips, *The Art of Biblical History*. Foundations in Biblical Interpretation. Zondervan 1994.
- Long, V. Philips. *Israel's Past in Present Research: Essays on Ancient Israelite Historiography*. Sources for Biblical and Theological Study Old Testament Series. Eisenbrauns, Eisenbrauns, 2009.
- Moore, Megan Bishop. *Philosophy and Writing History in Ancient Israel*. Library of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies . T & T Clark, 2002.
- Provan, Iain, V. Phillips Long, and Tremper Longman III. *A Biblical History of Israel*. Westminster, 2003.
- Seters, John van. *In Search of History: Historiography in the Ancient World and the Origins of Biblical History*. Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 1997. Original: New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1983.

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

- Avraham Biran 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.