

Ph.D. Reading Colloquium OTSR9302: Spring 2006

Historiography and Biblical Archaeology

Dr. Steven Ortiz

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)

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, no absences are 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. Two missed meetings will result in having to repeat the colloquium.

IV. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

Feb 3rd 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

Feb. 17th A History of Israel

A History of Israel, 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?

Mar 17th Current Issues in Historiography and Histories of Ancient Israel

A Biblical History of Israel, Provan et. al.

1. All members read the book. A review is required (see above under course requirements for the format and content of the review).
2. Students should be prepared to discuss the entire work, although discussion will be focused on Part I: Issues in Historiography.
3. 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 Ancient Israel?
 - What are the strengths and weaknesses of Provan et. al.?

April 17th A History of Israel in the Context of the ANE
On the Reliability of the Old Testament, Kitchen

1. All members read the book. 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
 - Kitchen's presentation of data
 - Compare and Contrast Kitchen's approach vs. Provan et. al.
 - Which evangelical history of Israel is better?

April 28th Biblical Archaeology
Near Eastern Archaeology: A Reader, Richard (ed.)

1. All members read the book. Students should be prepared to discuss the book, particularly the section on Method and Theory.
2. Students should read pages 1-412 (Dr. Ortiz will narrow the reading at the first meeting).
3. 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.

V. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY
BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

General Overviews

Ben-Tor, Ammon, 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.