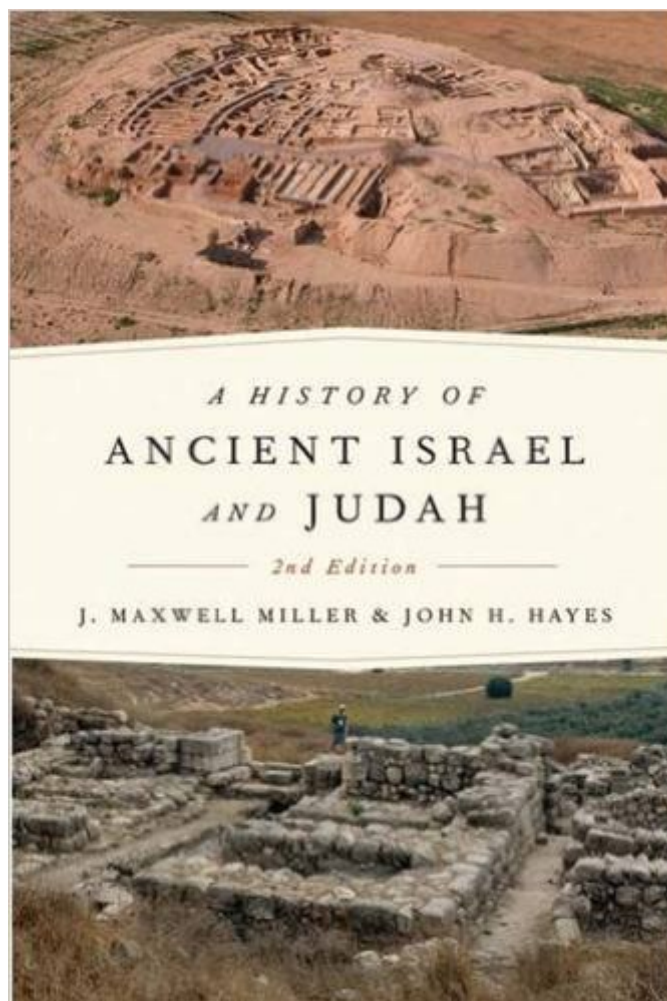


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A History Of Ancient Israel And Judah, Second Edition



Synopsis

This classic textbook, widely used for over two decades, constructs a history of ancient Israel and Judah through a thorough investigation of epigraphical, archaeological, and biblical sources.

Approaching biblical history as history, Miller and Hayes examine the political and economic factors that give context to the Israelite monarchy's actions and the biblical writers' accounts. Now updated with the latest research and critical discoveries, including the Tel Dan Inscription, and considering the lively debate surrounding the reliability of biblical accounts, Miller and Hayes's judicious and even-handed portrayal gives detailed attention to the nature, strengths, and limitations of various forms of evidence for understanding Israel's origins and early history. The new edition also includes thirty-four new maps, helpful notes, and numerous charts and photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I first encountered this textbook in Seminary, when I was studying the Old Testament. This is not intended to be a commentary, rather it is intended to explore the history within the timeline conceived. The issue is that this particular history is between 2000 and 3000 years old. Miller and Hayes are willing to confront discrepancies, look at historical realities, and help us to better understand how all of these complex factors build into the Old Testament we have today. If you are looking for a scholarly work on what we understand about the history of the area in which the Old Testament is set, this is the "gold standard" to have in your library. However, if you are looking for a commentary on the background of the Old Testament, I recommend that you consider The IVP

Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament which will be much more applicable to your studies.

In its first edition in the late 1980s, this textbook was one of the first to absorb and acknowledge the implications of archaeological studies in Syria-Palestine. It was one of the first to deny that the Biblical narratives had a unique and privileged place in reconstructing the history of Israel/Judah. The second edition has kept pace with current research, without being partisan in the many debates currently raging through Syro-Palestinian archaeology and Israelite history. This is a definitive and comprehensive study, a major work of scholarship. Some other reviewers have chastised it for tedium. Well, yes, that charge can be laid against it, but really, what are these reviewers looking for? A comic strip history of Israel/Judah? Pop-up videos? Jokes? I've read a lot of academic works, and this one is by no means the driest I have read. Indeed, I find it fairly easy reading. The text is supplemented by many timelines and ancillary boxes, such as extensive quotes from Assyrian and Babylonian sources. The only let down are the maps, which are very poorly reproduced. This text is a standard in many bible study courses. I would recommend this to anyone wanting to read a comprehensive history with a progressive slant. For those who want a southern American Baptist alternative that politely but firmly declines to engage with all the archaeological advances made since 1950, and the literary-critical scholarship since 1850, I would recommend Longman and Dillard's *An Introduction to the Old Testament: Second Edition*.

Miller and Hayes take a decidedly historical approach in their history of Ancient Israel and Judah. The discerning reader will recognize that their task is not to provide an apologetic for the Biblical record, but rather to discuss the events and personalities of the Ancient Near East based on the available historical and archeological evidence. The reader who is interested in history will find this an valuable academic text. The reader who is looking for commentary on the theological history contained in the Bible will do better to purchase a good commentary on the Biblical book of their choosing. For the thoughtful Christian interested in a history of ancient Israel and Judah, this book will be a resource that fills in the historical context out of which the Biblical texts arose. Said simply: 'A History of Ancient Israel and Judah' speaks from a disciplined, historical method; where the Bible offers historical facts, it does so not as a strict historical exercise, but as means to theological exploration of God and God's people. With this in mind, the thoughtful Christian will benefit from reading both the Bible and 'A History of Ancient Israel and Judah.'

Great book for learning about biblical Israel

Exactly as expected

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