

# The Cult Of Asherah In Ancient Israel And Judah Evidence For A Hebrew Goddess

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History and Ideology in Ancient Israel  
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an award winning study which analyzes the phenomenon of textual analysis in ancient israel exploring the tradition of exegesis prior to the development of biblical interpretation in early classical judaism and the earliest christian communities

a significant achievement this book moves our understanding of the history of israel forward as dramatically as john bright s a history of israel martin noth s history of israel and william f albright s from the stone age ot cristianity did at an earlier period

the book begins by providing a brief history and overview of social scientific analysis of the old testament to bring the reader up to speed with the current scholarship the remaining chapters are divided into three parts the first part of the book chapters 3 9 apply social scientific models to general issues in old testament research issues such as tribalism polygamy rituals and in particular sacrifice the practice of exchange and the acquisition of wealth in the biblical world three models of patron and client limited wealth and honour and shame are used the second part chapters 10 16 apply social scientific models to particular texts including micah 1 3 and micah 6 9 15 on economic states the use of euphemisms for male genitalia in deuteronomy 25 11 12 using cross cultural sociolinguistic research the sacrifice of jephthah s daughter is examined in an honour and shame framework examining judges 10 to 11 and in 2 samuels 10 13 the social dynamic of challenge and response is examined in relation to david s sacking of rabbah chapter 14 looks at ezekiel and the call to be a prophet and uses the social scientific disciplines of cultural anthropology and cognitive neuroscience to analyse the call to better understand and appreciate this event symbols of war are examined in the final chapter in this part in maccabees 1 applying anthropological theories of war the third part of the book chapters 18 20 focuses on hermeneutical issues looking first at psychological interpretations then identity theory and political interpretations and finally at the role of social sciences as a whole in biblical interpretation philip f esler is professor of biblical criticism in the university of st andrews st andrews scotland uk among his recent publications are galatians 1998 conflict and identity in romans the social setting of paul s letter 2003 and with jane boyd visibility and biblical text interpreting velazquez christ with martha and mary as a test case 2004 he is also editor of the early christian world two volumes 2000

a revision of the author s thesis princeton 1970 presented under title the city in the old testament

the historical and literary questions about ancient israel that traditionally have preoccupied biblical scholars have often overlooked the social realities of life experienced by the vast majority of the population of ancient israel volumes in the library of ancient israel draw on multiple disciplines such as archaeology anthropology sociology and literary criticism to illumine the everyday realities and social subtleties these ancient cultures experienced this series employs

sophisticated methods resulting in original contributions that depict the reality of the people behind the hebrew bible and interprets these scholarly insights for a wide variety of readers individually and collectively these books will expand our vision of the culture and society of ancient israel thereby generating new appreciation for its impact up to the present patrick miller investigates the role religion played in an expanding circle of influences in ancient israel the family village tribe and nation state he situates israel s religion in context where a variety of social forces affected beliefs and where popular cults openly competed with the official religion miller makes extensive use of both epigraphic and artefactual evidence as he deftly probes the complexities of iron age culture and society and their enduring significance for people today

this volume of essays draws together specialists in the field to explain illustrate and analyze this religious diversity in ancient israel

in ancient israelite literature exile is seen as a central turning point within the course of the history of israel in these texts the exile is a central ideological concept it serves to explain the destruction of the monarchic polities and the social and economic disasters associated with them in terms that yhwh punished israel judah for having abandoned his ways as it develops an image of an unjust israel it creates one of a just deity but yhwh is not only imagined as just but also as loving and forgiving for the exile is presented as a transitory state exile is deeply intertwined with its discursive counterpart the certain return as the exile comes to be understood as a necessary purification or preparation for a renewal of yhwh s proper relationship with israel the seemingly unpleasant exilic conditions begin discursively to shape an image of yhwh as loving israel and teaching it exile is dystopia but one that carries in itself all the seeds of utopia the concept of exile continued to exercise an important influence in the discourses of israel in the second temple period and was eventually influential in the production of eschatological visions

this major work re examines prophecy and the prophets in ancient israel with essays ranging all the way from israel s ancient near eastern background right up to the new testament the majority of essays concentrate on prophecy and the prophets in the old testament which are approached from a remarkable number of different angles particular attention is paid to the following subjects prophecy amongst israel s ancient near east neighbours female prophets in both israel and the ancient near east israelite prophecy in the light of sociological anthropological and psychological approaches deuteronomy 18 9 22 the prophets and scripture elijah elisha and prophetic succession the theology of amos hosea and the baal cult the sign of immanuel the rewriting of isaiah in isaiah 28 31 deuterio isaiah and monotheism jeremiah and god aniconism and anthropomorphism in ezekiel habakkuk s dialogue with god and the language of legal disputation zephaniah and the book of the twelve hypothesis structure and meaning in malachi prophecy and psalmody prophecy in chronicles

prophecy in the new testament

in this reprint of the revised edition of his well known harvard dissertation the author traces the historical development of the oracle against a foreign nation from its origin in the early military traditions of israel down to its refinement as a form of prophetic speech christensen begins with early material related to oracular divination and moves chronologically through israelite history down to the early sixth century bce observing in the process two major transformations of the war oracle

the creation of history in ancient israel demonstrates how the historian can start to piece together the history of ancient israel using the hebrew bible as a source

a number of histories of israel have been written over the past few decades yet the basic methodological questions are not always addressed how do we write such a history and how can we know anything about the history of israel in ancient israel lester l grabbe sets out to summarize what we know through a survey of sources and how we know it by a discussion of methodology and by evaluating the evidence grabbe s aim is not to offer a history as such but rather to collect together and analyze the materials necessary for writing such a history his approach therefore allows the reader the freedom and equips them with the essential methodological tools to use the valuable and wide ranging evidence presented in this volume to draw their own conclusions the most basic question about the history of ancient israel how do we know what we know leads to the fundamental questions of the study what are the sources for the history of israel and how do we evaluate them how do we make them speak to us through the fog of centuries grabbe focuses on original sources including inscriptions papyri and archaeology he examines the problems involved in historical methodology and deals with the major issues surrounding the use of the biblical text when writing a history of this period ancient israel makes an original contribution to the field but also provides an enlightening overview and critique of current scholarly debate it can therefore serve as a handbook or reference point for those wanting a catalog of original sources scholarship and secondary studies its user friendly structure and grabbe s clarity of style make this book eminently accessible not only to students of biblical studies and ancient history but also to the interested lay reader

in this book william dever addresses the question that must guide every good historian of ancient israel what was life really like in those days writing as an expert archaeologist who is also a secular humanist dever relies on archaeological data over and above the hebrew bible for primary source material he

focuses on the lives of ordinary people in the eighth century b c e not kings priests or prophets people who left behind rich troves of archaeological information but who are practically invisible in typical histories of ancient israel résumé de l éditeur

worship in ancient israel is a history of worship in israel from the age of the patriarchs until the new testament period the author begins by discussing the faith of the patriarchs and the ways in which the worship of yahweh came into israel he goes on to discuss aspects of this worship during the monarchy the cult the temple psalmody and the relation of prophecy to liturgy the institution of the synagogue is then considered and the final chapter of the book deals with the forms and the spirit of worship professor rowley reviews all the current arguments upon the subject with his usual sound judgement it is my hope he says that i may have stimulated interest in an aspect of old testament study which has been far too long neglected and which is today commanding the increasing interest of scholars worship in ancient israel is an expansion of the edward cadbury lectures delivered in the university of birmingham in 1965

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