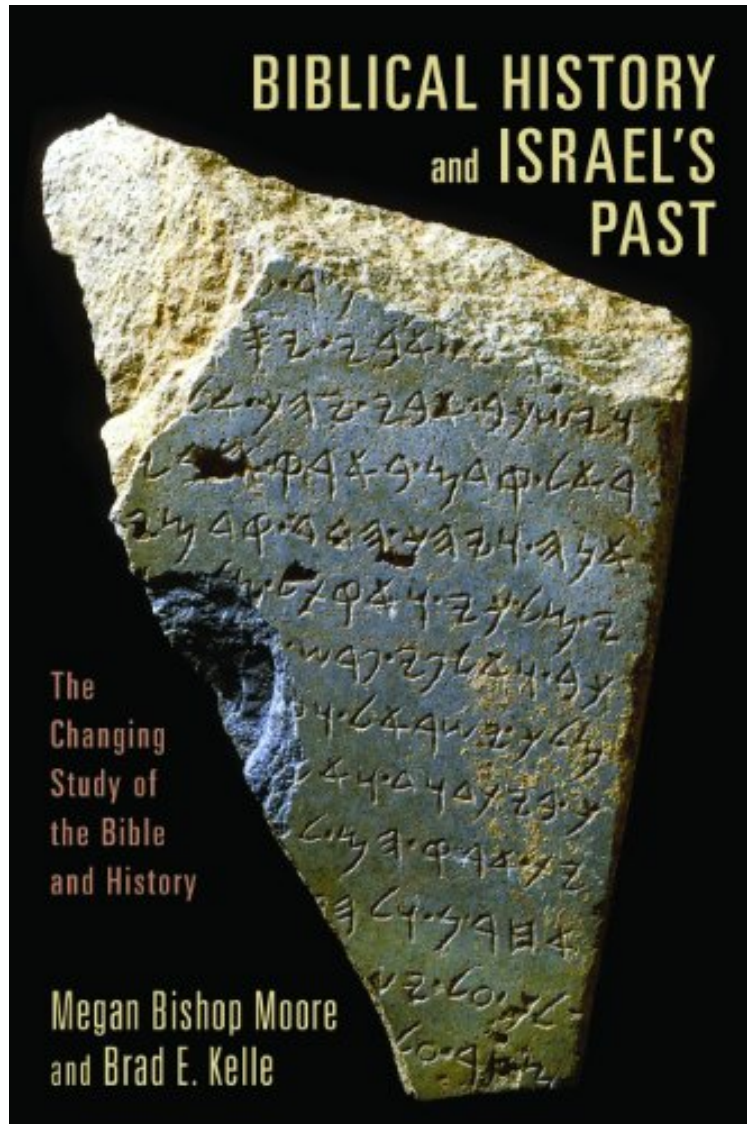


# Biblical History and Israels Past: The Changing Study of the Bible and History

*Megan Bishop Moore, Brad E. Kelle*  
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**Megan Bishop Moore, Brad E. Kelle : Biblical History and Israels Past: The Changing Study of the Bible and History** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Biblical History and Israels Past: The Changing Study of the Bible and History:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. For the interested amateur Bible student like me, this is very usefulBy Andrew McLarenFor the interested amateur Bible student like me, this is very useful, broad-ranging survery

of Biblical scholarship. I probably won't ever get around to reading Martin Noth (for example) in the original, so this book let me put him, and all the other scholars discussed, in perspective. The authors seem to know their material; I was confident I was reading an informed view reflecting current academic scholarship. The book gives a very balanced view of the "Minimalist vs Maximalist" debate; letting the reader decide for themselves. As other reviews note, the BIG shortcoming of this book is its writing style: very long-winded, repetitive and often tedious. The language is quite accessible and clear - there's so damn much of it! A good editor would have shunk the text down to at least half its current length. Despite that, I am glad I bought the book; I learnt a lot from it. Just be prepared to scan quickly through paragraphs and pages of filler, looking for the good bits. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic piece; as someone who has read many, many of the original sources with which Moore and Kelle work, this book brings everything together well. A must have for seminary and divinity students, pastors, and aspiring biblical scholars. 16 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Comprehensive accessible survey, if long-winded. By Dr Garry. Simply a great survey, easy to read even by those (like me) who are new to the field. I'm an interested amateur researching the topic towards making a teaching resource chart of Old Testament history. When doing such research, a major problem an ingenuer such as myself encounters is sorting out the nutters; or, if you like, weighing the various factions. For example, I had earlier read Israel Finkelstein's *The Bible Unearthed: Archaeology's New Vision of Ancient Israel and the Origin of Its Sacred Texts* but I had no idea if he was a reputable scholar, or just some nutcase with an interesting-but-easily-refuted-idea, like David Rohl (*A Test of Time*). The archaeology of ancient Palestine/Israel is a subject riven by political and religious agendas. What, exactly, is the current state of the field? This book is an easy-to-read survey of the archaeology and historiography of ancient Palestine/Israel, from the early 20th century to date. It makes no claims to original research, and uses no technical verbiage. It shows how all the major archaeologists in the field fit into the grand picture, and how interpretations of Israel/Palestine's past have changed in the light of new evidence over the past 50 years. It clearly identifies the various factions. This is invaluable for further reading. This survey clearly locates Finkelstein, for example, in scholarship. What surprised me most was how rapidly scholarship has moved in the past few decades. In 1980, the Old Testament was taken to be a reliable historical source by everyone in the field, and the whole purpose of Middle Eastern archaeology was to find the evidence for specific events in the OT; such as the Exodus, Joshua's destruction of Jericho, or Solomon's temple. By 1990 that was being questioned, and by 2000, all that had gone. Archaeology had moved from justifying a specific text to standing on its own two feet, with an independent agenda. I was also surprised to read how recently modern techniques have been deployed in the field, such as radiocarbon dating, a technology available for 60 years. The authors tippy-toe around the core issue, but the brute fact is that until about 1990 it was nigh on politically impossible for archaeologists and other researchers to even question the narratives in the Old Testament. Techniques such as radiocarbon dating were avoided lest they question the historicity of this narrative. The book is long-winded, repetitive, and ungracefully written: you will quote it for its facts, but never for its turn of phrase. If you are reading other books on the subject, this one will help you locate that author in the field of biblical studies. It is a treasure-trove of information, though. I recommend it to any interested layperson, and were I teaching this subject, I would make it a mandatory text for entry-level graduates.

Although scholars have for centuries primarily been interested in using the study of ancient Israel to explain, illuminate, and clarify the biblical story, Megan Bishop Moore and Brad E. Kelle describe how scholars today seek more and more to tell the story of the past on its own terms, drawing from both biblical and extrabiblical sources to illuminate ancient Israel and its neighbors without privileging the biblical perspective. *Biblical History and Israel's Past* provides a comprehensive survey of how study of the Old Testament and the history of Israel has changed since the middle of the twentieth century. Moore and Kelle discuss significant trends in scholarship, trace the development of ideas since the 1970s, and summarize major scholars, viewpoints, issues, and developments.

John H. Hayes coauthor of *A History of Ancient Israel and Judah* This excellent, comprehensive, and well-written volume will be an invaluable aid to students and an indispensable reference for scholars. Philip Davies author of *The Origins of Biblical Israel* The rapidly changing scenario of biblical history is certainly in need of a clear, balanced, and comprehensive explanation. This book fills that requirement, providing a first-class resource for the scholar and the student, and I can recommend no better book for a new generation of biblical historians. *Biblical History and Israel's Past* will not be sitting on my bookshelf. It will lie permanently on my desk. . . . A splendid achievement. Brent A. Strawn coeditor of *Qumran Studies: New Approaches, New Questions* In this highly readable and remarkably comprehensive study, Megan Moore and Brad Kelle have put in their debt all biblical scholars, whether or not they are specialists in the study of ancient and/or biblical history. The book is a one-stop shop in the changing state of the study of Israel's past since 1970, but it also includes Moore and Kelle's own judicious commentary and prognostications for the future. This volume is not to be missed! *Bibliotheca Sacra* This well-written and well-published volume is essential to anyone eager to keep abreast of the current issues and trends in Old Testament scholarship. *Religious Studies* Well-written and informative. . . . The book should serve well an advanced undergraduate classroom as well as graduate and

seminary courses on the history of Israel and Judah. Expository Times Moore and Kelle have provided the much-needed service of gathering the bulk of the debates and arguments on Israel's past and its relationship to the Bible into one place. This book could serve as both an effective course textbook and a reference work, and it will continue to be a meaningful resource for years to come. Catholic Biblical Quarterly Provides a comprehensive state-of-the-art survey for the discipline of biblical history and it provides a resource for the new approaches and methodologies that have burgeoned since 1970. . . . Scholars and students alike will want to have this volume within arms reach as they engage in the story of Israel's past. The Bible Today This is one research-laden book that makes compelling reading. It deserves a prize, and should be on the shelf of every practitioner of biblical interpretation, history, and theology. of Biblical Literature This is an important book. . . . It is informative and clearly written, and it summarizes complex discussions in digestible formats. . . . I hope that this book will find an abundance of readers. Choice (American Library Association) This clearly written book presents a detailed, comprehensive survey of the many debates taking place among scholars who study ancient Israel from a historical-critical perspective. . . . The volume is important reading for anyone interested in understanding the wide range of viewpoints and the various trends within this important area of study over the past four decades. Recommended.