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978-0-521-11541-4 - Gibeon and Israel: The Role of Gibeon and the Gibeonites in
the Political and Religious History of Early Israel

Joseph Blenkinsopp

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THE ROLE OF GIBEON AND THE GIBEONITES IN THE POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF EARLY ISRAEL

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PREFACE

The following monograph grew out of a long-standing interest in the Gibeonite problem, especially in its relations to the cultic history of early Israel. It soon becomes apparent to anyone studying the Old Testament tradition with respect to the Gibeonite cities and their inhabitants that many larger questions are involved: the obscure history of the ark before its transfer to Jerusalem, the role of the local sanctuaries, the political and religious significance of Saul, the early history of Benjamin before its assimilation into the Davidic state system. Discussion of these larger issues in this context is not of course new; but it is hoped that a new look at what may fairly be called the Gibeonite problem will contribute to our knowledge of early Israel, and in particular the obscure half-century which preceded the accession of David.

Some aspects of these issues were discussed in a paper read several years ago before the Catholic Biblical Association in London under the title 'The Enigma of Gibeon'. More directly, this study is based on a thesis submitted to the Faculty of Theology of the University of Oxford in fulfilment of requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The present study is, in effect, an abbreviated and revised version of that thesis which is catalogued under the title 'Gibeon and the Gibeonites from the Settlement to Solomon'.

I wish to express my thanks and appreciation to the many who, over the last few years, have helped me with their comments and criticism. I owe a particular debt to the Revd G. Henton Davies, Principal of Regent's Park College, who supervised my work at Oxford and commented on it in detail. During the same period I also profited much from the critical acumen of the Revd Professor H. F. D. Sparks, Chairman of the Faculty of Theology. Professor James B. Pritchard of the University of Pennsylvania, whose excavations at el-Jîb have placed all Old Testament scholars in his debt, took time off from a busy career to read the present work in manuscript

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and make valuable comments. Discussions at an early stage with the Revd Professors Joseph Coppens and Henri Cazelles proved invaluable and thanks are also due to Professor G. E. Mendenhall of the University of Michigan who kindly sent me a copy of an unpublished paper together with comments on an important aspect of the Gibeonite problem. I wish, finally, to express appreciation to the Revd Professor J. A. Emerton, editor of the present monograph series, who accepted the manuscript for publication.

JOSEPH BLENKINSOPP

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ABBREVIATIONS

- A.A.S.O.R.* *Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
A.J.S.L. *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*
Anal.Or. *Analecta Orientalia*
A.N.E.T. *Ancient Near Eastern Texts relating to the Old Testament*, ed. J. B. Pritchard, 2nd edn, Princeton, 1955
A.O. *Archiv Orientalní*
A.T.D. *Das Alte Testament Deutsch*
B.A. *The Biblical Archaeologist*
B.A.S.O.R. *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*
B.D.B. F. Brown, S. R. Driver, C. A. Briggs, *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*, Oxford, 1907
B.H. R. Kittel, *Biblia Hebraica* (3rd edn)
Bib. *Biblica*
B.I.E.S. *Bulletin of the Israel Exploration Society*
B.Ĵ.P.E.S. *Bulletin of the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society*
B.Ĵ.R.L. *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*
B.W.A.N.T. *Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten und Neuen Testament*
B.Z.A.W. *Beihefte zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft*
C.A.H. *The Cambridge Ancient History* (2nd edn, 1963; vols. I and II in fascicle)
C.B.Q. *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly*
Comm.Viat. *Communio Viatorum*
E.T.L. *Ephemerides Theologicae Lovanienses*
E.Tr. *English Translation*
H.U.C.A. *Hebrew Union College Annual*
I.C.C. *International Critical Commentary*
I.D.B. *The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, New York and Nashville, 1962
I.E.Ĵ. *Israel Exploration Journal*

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ABBREVIATIONS

<i>J.A.O.S.</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>J.B.L.</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>J.C.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>
<i>J.N.E.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
<i>J.P.O.S.</i>	<i>Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society</i>
<i>J.Q.R.</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>J.S.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
<i>J.T.S.</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>K.S.</i>	A. Alt, <i>Kleine Schriften zur Geschichte des Volkes Israel</i> , 3 vols., Munich, 1953–9
<i>M.T.</i>	The Massoretic Text
<i>Norsk T.T.</i>	<i>Norsk Teologisk Tidsskrift</i>
<i>O.L.Ž.</i>	<i>Orientalistische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>Orient.</i>	<i>Orientalia</i>
<i>O.S.</i>	<i>Oudtestamentische Studiën</i>
<i>P.E.Q.</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i> (earlier <i>Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement</i>)
<i>P.Ĵ.B.</i>	<i>Palästinajahrbuch des deutschen evangelischen Instituts für Altertumswissenschaft des Heiligen Landes zu Jerusalem</i>
<i>R.A.</i>	<i>Revue d'Assyriologie et d'Archéologie orientale</i>
<i>R.B.</i>	<i>Revue Biblique</i>
<i>R.E.S.</i>	<i>Revue des Études Sémitiques</i>
<i>Rev.Bib.</i>	<i>Revista Biblica</i>
<i>R.G.G.</i>	<i>Die Religion in Geschichte und Gegenwart</i> (3rd edn)
<i>R.H.A.</i>	<i>Revue Hittite et Asiatique</i>
<i>R.H.R.</i>	<i>Revue de l'Histoire des Religions</i>
<i>R.S.V.</i>	The Revised Standard Version
<i>S.A.T.</i>	Die Schriften des Alten Testaments
<i>S.D.B.</i>	Supplement to <i>Dictionnaire de la Bible</i>
<i>St.Th.</i>	<i>Studia Theologica</i> , Lund
<i>S.V.T.</i>	Supplements to <i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
<i>Symm.</i>	Symmachus
<i>Syr.</i>	Syriac version
<i>T.L.Ž.</i>	<i>Theologische Literaturzeitung</i>
<i>T.Ž.</i>	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>V.D.</i>	<i>Verbum Domini</i>

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<i>V.T.</i>	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
<i>Z.A.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>
<i>Z.A.W.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
<i>Z.D.M.G.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift der deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>
<i>Z.D.P.V.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift des deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>
<i>Z.K.W.K.L.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für kirchliche Wissenschaft und kirchliches Leben</i>
<i>Z.T.K.</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für Theologie und Kirche</i>