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Homicide in the Biblical World

Homicide in the Biblical World analyzes the treatment of homicide in the Hebrew Bible and demonstrates that it is directly linked to the unique social structure and religion of ancient Israel. Close parallels between biblical law and ancient Near Eastern law are evident in the laws of the ox that gored and the pregnant woman who was assaulted, but when the total picture of the process by which homicide was adjudicated comes into view, what is most noticeable is how little of it is similar to ancient Near Eastern law. This book reconstructs biblical law from both legal and narrative texts and analyzes both law collections and documents from actual legal cases from the ancient Near East.

Pamela Barmash is Assistant Professor of Hebrew Bible and Biblical Hebrew at Washington University in St. Louis. She received her Ph.D. from Harvard University and her rabbinic ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She has published in various journals, including *Vetus Testamentum*, *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, *Jewish Quarterly Review*, *Journal of Biblical Literature*, and *Hebrew Studies*.

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*To my mother and father,
Sarah J. and Isadore Barmash*

...וְתִפְאֶרֶת בְּנִים אֲבוֹתָם.

*“...and the glory of children is their parents.”
(Proverbs 17:6)*

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Abbreviations



AASOR	Annual of the American Schools of Oriental Research
AB	The Anchor Bible
ABD	<i>Anchor Bible Dictionary</i>
ABL	Robert Francis Harper, <i>Assyrian and Babylonian Letters Belonging to the Kouyunjik Collection of the British Museum</i> (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1892–1914)
ADD	C. H. W. Johns, <i>Assyrian Deeds and Documents</i> (Cambridge: Deighton, Bell, and Co., 1901, 1924)
AfO	<i>Archiv für Orientforschung</i>
AHw	Wolfram von Soden, <i>Assyrisches Handwörterbuch</i> (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1959–1981)
ANET ³	<i>Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament</i> (ed. J. B. Pritchard; 3d edition; Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1969)
AnOr	Analecta Orientalia
AnSt	<i>Anatolian Studies</i>

AOAT	Alter Orient und Altes Testament
AOS	American Oriental Series
ARM	Archives royales de Mari
ARMT	Archives royales de Mari, transcrite et traduite
<i>ArOr</i>	<i>Archiv Orientalni</i>
<i>AuOr</i>	<i>Aula orientis</i>
b.	Babylonian Talmud
BA	<i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
b.e.	bottom edge of tablet
BBSt	L. W. King, <i>Babylonian Boundary Stones and Memorial Tablets in the British Museum</i> (London: British Museum, 1912)
BDB	F. Brown, S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, <i>A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1907)
<i>Bib</i>	<i>Biblica</i>
BM	Symbol for tablets in the British Museum
BWAT	Beiträge zur Wissenschaft vom Alten Testament
BZAW	Beiheft zur Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
CAD	<i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the University of Chicago</i> (Chicago: Oriental Institute, 1956–)
CahRB	Cahiers de la Revue biblique
CANE	<i>Civilizations of the Ancient Near East</i> (ed. Jack M. Sasson; New York: Scribners, 1995)
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CC	Continental Commentaries
CCT	Cuneiform Texts from Cappadocian Tablets in the British Museum
CIJ	Corpus inscriptionum judaicarum
CT	Cuneiform Texts
CTH	Emmanuel Laroche, <i>Catalogue des textes hittites</i> (Paris: Klincksieck, 1971)
CTN	Cuneiform Texts from Nimrud

ABBREVIATIONS

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DMOA	Documenta et Monumenta Orientis Antiqui
DO	Symbol for tablets in Musée National de Damas
EA	El-Amarna
<i>EI</i>	<i>Eretz Israel</i>
GKC	Wilhelm Gesenius, E. Kautzsch, E. Cowley, <i>Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1910)
HL	Hittite Laws
HSM	Harvard Semitic Monographs
HSS	Harvard Semitic Series
ICC	International Critical Commentary
IDB	<i>The Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible</i> (ed. G. A. Buttrick; Nashville: Abingdon, 1962)
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>Int</i>	<i>Interpretation</i>
ITT	Inventaire des Tablettes de Tello
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JCS</i>	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JNES</i>	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
<i>JSOT</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JSOTSup	Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series
KAI	H. Donner and W. Röllig, <i>Kanaanäische und aramäische Inschriften</i> (Wiesbaden: Otto Harrassowitz, 1964)
KBo	Keilschrifttexte aus Boghazköi
KUB	Keilschrifturkunden aus Boghazköi
l.e.	left edge of tablet
LE	Laws of Eshnunna
LH	Laws of Hammurapi
LL	Laws of Lipit-Ishtar
LOx	Laws about Rented Oxen
LU	Laws of Ur-Nammu

LXX	Septuagint
m.	Mishnah
MAL	Middle Assyrian Laws
MANE	Monographs on the Ancient Near East
MRS	Mission de Ras Shamra
NABU	<i>Nouvelles assyriologiques brèves et utilitaires</i>
ND	Symbol for tablets excavated at Nimrud
NEB	New English Bible
NICOT	New International Commentary on the Old Testament
NSG	Adam Falkenstein, <i>Die Neusumerische Gerichtsurkunden</i> (Munich: Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1956)
NJV	New Jewish Version = TANAKH, <i>The Holy Scriptures: The New JPS Translation According to the Traditional Hebrew Text</i> (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society, 1988)
obv.	obverse of tablet
OEANE	<i>Oxford Encyclopedia of the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East</i> (ed. Eric M. Meyers; New York: Oxford University Press, 1997)
OIP	Oriental Institute Publications
Or	<i>Orientalia</i> , n.s.
OTL	Old Testament Library
PBS	Publications of the Babylonian Section
PPA	J. N. Postgate, <i>The Governor's Palace Archive</i> (Hertford, U.K.: British School of Archaeology in Iraq, 1973)
PRU	<i>Le palais royal d'Ugarit</i> (ed. Jean Nougayrol; Paris: Imprimerie nationale, 1955–)
RA	<i>Revue d'assyriologie et d'archéologie orientale</i>
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
rev.	reverse of tablet
RIDA	<i>Revue internationale des droits de l'antiquité</i>
RIMA	The Royal Inscriptions of Mesopotamia, Assyria Periods
RLA	<i>Reallexikon der Assyriologie und vorderasiatische Archäologie</i> (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 1932–)
RS	Ras es-Shamra

ABBREVIATIONS

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RSV	Revised Standard Version
SAA	State Archives of Assyria
SAAS	State Archives of Assyria Studies
SBL	Society of Biblical Literature
SBLDS	Society of Biblical Literature Dissertation Series
ScrHier	Scripta Hierosolymitana
Si.	Symbol for tablets excavated from Sippar
SLEx	Sumerian Laws Exercise tablet
SLHF	Sumerian Laws Handbook of Forms
SVT	Supplements of Vetus Testamentum
TCL	Textes cunéiformes, Musée du Louvre
TEO	Henri de Genouillac, <i>Textes économiques d'Oumma de l'époque d'Our</i> (TCL 5; Paris: Librairie Orientaliste/Paul Geuthner, 1922)
TUAT	Texte aus der Umwelt des Alten Testaments
Ukg.	Symbol for Urukagina texts
VAT	Symbol for tablets in the Vorderasiatische Teil der Staatlichen Museen, Berlin
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WMANT	Wissenschaftliche Monographien zum Alten und Neuen Testament
YBC	Symbol for tablets in the Yale Babylonian Collection
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZSS	<i>Zeitschrift der Savigny-Stiftung, Romanischen Abteilung</i>

Symbols in Cuneiform Transliterations

[]	gaps or reconstructed text
< >	scribal omissions
<< >>	scribal superfluity
x	cuneiform sign that cannot be read

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