Writing and Rewriting the Story of Solomon in Ancient Israel

Solomon’s image as a wise king and the founder of the Temple in Jerusalem has become a fixture of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic literature. Yet, there are essential differences between the various portraits of Solomon that are presented in the Hebrew Bible. In this volume, Isaac Kalimi explores these differences, which reflect divergent historical contexts, theological and didactic concepts, stylistic and literary techniques, and compositional methods among biblical historians. He highlights the uniqueness of each portrayal of Solomon – his character, birth, early life, ascension, and Temple building – through a close comparison of the early and late biblical historiographies. Whereas the authors of Samuel-Kings stay close to their sources and offer an apology for Solomon’s kingship, including its more questionable aspects, the Chronicler freely rewrites his sources in order to present the life of Solomon as he wished it to be. The present volume will serve scholars and students seeking to understand biblical texts within their ancient Near Eastern contexts.

Isaac Kalimi is Gutenberg Research University Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies and History of Ancient Israel, and Fellow of the Gutenberg Research College, at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz; Foreign Member of the Belgian Royal Academy for Overseas Sciences, and Honorary Member of the Scandinavian Society for Iranian Studies.

Kalimi is one of the world’s leading scholars in his fields. He is also regarded as a pioneer of intercultural and interdisciplinary scientific exchange between Jewish and Christian theologies. Kalimi has published numerous books and articles, including *The Reshaping of Ancient Israelite History in Chronicles* (recipient of the 2006 R. B. Y. Scott Book Award by the Canadian Society of Biblical Studies), *An Ancient Israelite Historian, The Retelling of Chronicles in Jewish Tradition and Literature, Fighting Over the Bible, and Metathesis in the Hebrew Bible*. 
Writing and Rewriting the Story of Solomon in Ancient Israel

ISAAC KALIMI
Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz
To the blessed memory of my beloved father,
Rabbi Nisan Kalimi,
who passed away in the night of Yom Kippur,
October 30, 2017.

And

To Professor Peter Machinist,
with compliments,

Psalms 92:15
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2 Shishak Inscription at Karnak  22
3 Tel Dan Inscription  24
4 Coronation of Solomon, Jean Pichore (1503), Paris, Bibliotheque Mazarine Ms. 1581 folio 154  239
5 King Solomon, Cathedral of Monreale, Monreale (Sicily, Italy)  306
Abbreviations

ABR   Australian Biblical Review
AfO   Archiv für Orientforschung
AJSL  The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures
BA    The Biblical Archaeologist
BAR   Biblical Archaeology Review
BASOR Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research
Beit Mikra Beit Mikra: Journal for the Study of the Bible and Its World, quarterly founded by the Israel Society for Biblical Research
BZ    Biblische Zeitschrift
CBQ   Catholic Biblical Quarterly
CurBR Currents in Biblical Research
CurBS Currents in Research: Biblical Studies
ExpTim The Expository Times
HTR   Harvard Theological Review
HUCA  Hebrew Union College Annual
IEJ   Israel Exploration Journal
IOS   Israel Oriental Studies
JANER Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions
JANESCUC Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society of Columbia University
JAOS  Journal of the American Oriental Society
JBL   Journal of Biblical Literature
JCS   Journal of Cuneiform Studies
Abbreviations

JNES Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JS Journal for Semitics
JSIJ Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal
JSOR Journal of the Society of Oriental Research
JSOT Journal for the Study of the Old Testament
JTS Journal of Theological Studies
LXX The Septuagint Greek translation of the Hebrew Bible
MT The Masoretic Text, the traditional text of the Hebrew Bible, as preserved by the Jewish Masoretic scribes
NEA Near Eastern Archaeology
(Formerly Biblical Archaeologist)
PEQ Palestine Exploration Quarterly
RB Revue biblique
RSO Rivista degli studi orientali
SJOT Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament
ST Studia Theologica: Nordic Journal of Theology
TRu Theologische Rundschau
TynBul Tyndale Bulletin
TZ Theologische Zeitschrift
VT Vetus Testamentum
WTJ Westminster Theological Journal
ZA Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie
ZAH Zeitschrift für Althebraistik
ZÄS Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde
ZAW Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft
ZDPV Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins

BIBLICAL BOOKS

Gen Genesis
Exod Exodus
Lev Leviticus
Num Numbers
Deut Deuteronomy
Josh Joshua
Judg Judges
1–2 Sam 1–2 Samuel
1–2 Kgs 1–2 Kings
Isa Isaiah
### Abbreviations

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### Abbreviations

| 1–2 Thess | 1–2 Thessalonians |
| 1–2 Tim  | 1–2 Timothy       |
| Tit      | Titus             |
| Phlm     | Philemon          |
| Heb      | Hebrews           |
| Jas      | James             |
| 1–2 Pet  | 1–2 Peter         |
| 1–2–3 John | 1–2–3 John     |
| Jude     | Jude (Judas)      |
| Rev      | Revelation        |
Preface

The volume *Writing and Rewriting the Story of Solomon in Ancient Israel* offers the fruit of half a decade of research and reflection on the well-known Israelite monarch, Solomon. It was written during my time at several eminent European institutions, including while I was Fulbright Distinguished Professor at the University of Salzburg (Austria, 2011), Fellow of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts (Brussels, 2013), Fellow of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (Uppsala, 2014/15), and Gutenberg Research University Professor of Hebrew Bible/Old Testament Studies and History of Ancient Israel at Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz (since October 2013). Some chapters were delivered as guest lectures at various universities and international conferences: I was honored to read Chapter Four at the Faculty of Theology, Uppsala University, Sweden, on February 12, 2015; Chapter Five was delivered at the 75th International Conference of the Catholic Biblical Association at the University of Notre Dame on July 30, 2012; I read Chapter Seven at the International Conference on *King Solomon in the Bible, Judaism, Christianity and Islam*, which was held at the Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) in cooperation with the University of Nijmegen (The Netherlands), on September 30, 2009; I lectured on Chapter Nine at Philipps University of Marburg, on May 20, 2016, and I delivered Chapter Ten at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Oxford, and at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, on March 3 and 5, 2014.
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Preface

Earlier forms of some chapters have been previously published in different places.¹ For the sake of this volume, however, they have all been thoroughly revised, greatly expanded, updated, and synthesized. This volume represents my comprehensive view, in one place, regarding various issues on King Solomon in the ancient Israelite historical writings.

Though Chapters Two and Three address a hot topic at the moment, I hope that readers will not neglect the foremost significance of the rest of this volume, which is focused primarily on the literary and historiographical methods of the early and late biblical authors.

In order to be accessible to the broadest possible audience, while also remaining useful to a broad range of scholars, all primary sources are presented both in their original languages and with an English translation. Except where otherwise noted, all translations from non-English languages are my own.

My sincere appreciation goes to the president of Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Professor Dr. Georg Krausch, to the former director of the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Professor Dr. Marc De Mey, and to the principal of the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Professor Dr. Björn Wittrock, for their kind invitations and gracious hospitality.

My thanks go also to Professor Dr. Joseph Verheyden of the Catholic University of Leuven, Professor John Barton of the University of Oxford, Dr. Katharine J. Dell of the University of Cambridge, Professor Dr. Göran Eidevall of Uppsala University, and Dr. Martina Kepper of Philipps University of Marburg, for their kind invitations. Further, I would like to express my thanks to my talented assistant, Dr. Ken S. Brown, for reading the manuscript and providing a number of useful suggestions, and to Dr. Beatrice Rehl, Director of Publishing, Humanities, at Cambridge University Press, and for Ms. Katherine Tengco Barboro, Senior Content Manager at Cambridge University Press, for their friendly cooperation and for the design of the volume.