

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.

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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*.

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ISAAC KALIMI

Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz



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To the blessed memory of my beloved father,
Rabbi Nisan Kalimi,
איש חכם, תם וישר, ירא אלהים וסר מרע,
who passed away in the night of Yom Kippur,
October 30, 2017.

יהי שמו וזכרו מבורך תמיד לעולם ועד
חבל על דאבדין ולא משתכחין.

And

To Professor Peter Machinist,
with compliments,

עוד ינובון בשיבה דשנים ורעננים יהיו
Psalms 92:15

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Abbreviations

ABR	<i>Australian Biblical Review</i>
AfO	<i>Archiv für Orientforschung</i>
AJSL	<i>The American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures</i>
BA	<i>The Biblical Archaeologist</i>
BAR	<i>Biblical Archaeology Review</i>
BASOR	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
Beit Mikra	<i>Beit Mikra: Journal for the Study of the Bible and Its World</i> , quarterly founded by the Israel Society for Biblical Research
BZ	<i>Biblische Zeitschrift</i>
CAD	I. J. Gelb, et al. (eds.), <i>The Assyrian Dictionary of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago</i> (Chicago: Oriental Institute and Glückstadt: J. J. Augustin, 1956–2010).
CBQ	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
CurBR	<i>Currents in Biblical Research</i>
CurBS	<i>Currents in Research: Biblical Studies</i>
ExpTim	<i>The Expository Times</i>
HTR	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
HUCA	<i>Hebrew Union College Annual</i>
IEJ	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
IOS	<i>Israel Oriental Studies</i>
JANER	<i>Journal of Ancient Near Eastern Religions</i>
JANESCU	<i>Journal of the Ancient Near Eastern Society of Columbia University</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JBL	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
JCS	<i>Journal of Cuneiform Studies</i>

JNES	<i>Journal of Near Eastern Studies</i>
JS	<i>Journal for Semitics</i>
JSIJ	<i>Jewish Studies, an Internet Journal</i>
JSOR	<i>Journal of the Society of Oriental Research</i>
JSOT	<i>Journal for the Study of the Old Testament</i>
JTS	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
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	<i>Near Eastern Archaeology</i> (formerly <i>Biblical Archaeologist</i>)
PEQ	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
RB	<i>Revue biblique</i>
RSO	<i>Rivista degli studi orientali</i>
SJOT	<i>Scandinavian Journal of the Old Testament</i>
ST	<i>Studia Theologica: Nordic Journal of Theology</i>
TRu	<i>Theologische Rundschau</i>
TynBul	<i>Tyndale Bulletin</i>
TZ	<i>Theologische Zeitschrift</i>
VT	<i>Vetus Testamentum</i>
WTJ	<i>Westminster Theological Journal</i>
ZA	<i>Zeitschrift für Assyriologie und Vorderasiatische Archäologie</i>
ZAH	<i>Zeitschrift für Althebraistik</i>
ZÄS	<i>Zeitschrift für ägyptische Sprache und Altertumskunde</i>
ZAW	<i>Zeitschrift für die alttestamentliche Wissenschaft</i>
ZDPV	<i>Zeitschrift des Deutschen Palästina-Vereins</i>

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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Jer	Jeremiah
Ezek	Ezekiel
Hos	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obad	Obadiah
Jon	Jonah
Mic	Micah
Nah	Nahum
Hab	Habakkuk
Zeph	Zephaniah
Hag	Haggai
Zech	Zechariah
Mal	Malachi
Ps	Psalms
Prov	Proverbs
Job	Job
Song	Song of Songs
Ruth	Ruth
Lam	Lamentations
Qoh / Eccl	Qohelet / Ecclesiastes
Esth	Esther
Dan	Daniel
Ezra	Ezra
Neh	Nehemiah
1–2 Chr	1–2 Chronicles
1–2–3–4 Macc	1–2–3–4 Maccabees
1–2 Esdr	1–2 Esdras
Sir	<i>The Wisdom of Ben Sira</i> / Sirach / Ecclesiasticus
Matt	Matthew
Mark	Mark
Luke	Luke
John	John
Acts	Acts of the Apostles
Rom	Romans
1–2 Cor	1–2 Corinthians
Gal	Galatians
Eph	Ephesians
Phil	Philippians
Col	Colossians

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.

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 Barbaro, Senior Content Manager at Cambridge University Press, for their friendly cooperation and for the design of the volume.

¹ See I. Kalimi, “Human and Musical Sounds and Their Hearing Elsewhere as a Literary Device in the Biblical Narratives,” *VT* 60 (2010), pp. 565–570; idem, “King Solomon: His Birth and Names in the Second Temple Period Literature,” *Bib* 93 (2012), pp. 481–499; idem, “The Rise of Solomon in the Ancient Israelite Historiography,” in J. Verheyden (ed.), *The Figure of Solomon in Jewish, Christian and Islamic Tradition: King, Sage and Architect*, Themes in Biblical Narrative 16 (Leiden: E. J. Brill, 2013), pp. 7–44; and, idem, “Reexamining 2 Samuel 10–12: Redaction History *versus* Compositional Unity,” *CBQ* 78 (2016), pp. 24–46; and, idem, “Love of God and *Apologia* for a King: Solomon’s Birth Story in Its Biblical and Ancient Near Eastern Contexts,” *JANER* 17 (2017), pp. 28–63.